

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 22nd November, 1923.

	PAGE
Urgency Motion: Fremantle Dairy Herds, outbreak of disease ...	1575
Questions: Hospital accommodation, Busselton and Karridale ...	1583
I.A.B. clients, protection against process ...	1583
Fremantle cattle disease, precautions ...	1584
Temporary reserves, Government policy ...	1584
Group settlements, schools ...	1584
Pastoral lessees ...	1584
Papers: Captain Purcell dismissal ...	1584
Hills: Native Mission Stations, 38. ...	1584
Public Institutions and Friendly Societies	
Lands Improvement Act Amendment, 38. ...	1584
Gnowangerup Reserves, 38. ...	1584
Amendments Incorporation, 38. ...	1584
Anzac Day, 38. ...	1584
Stamp Act Amendment, 28., com. report ...	1584
General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act Continuance, 28., com. report ...	1585
Insurance Companies Act Amendment, 28., com. report ...	1586
Merredin Reserves, 28., com. report ...	1586
Busselton-Margaret River Railway Deviation, 28., com. report ...	1586
Land Tax and Income Tax, 28., com. ...	1587
Land Act Amendment, 28., com. ...	1590
Flinders Bay-Margaret River Railway Deviation, 28., com. report ...	1590
Yarramony-Newcastle Railway, 28., com. report ...	1591
Veterinary Surgeons Act Amendment, com. ...	1596
Resolution: Cancer, treatment at Perth Hospital ...	1592

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

URGENCY MOTION—STOCK DISEASE, FREMANTLE DISTRICT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received the following communication from the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum):—

Mr. Speaker,—I desire to inform you it is my intention when the House meets this afternoon to move, as a matter of urgency, "That the House do now adjourn," in order that the attention of the House may be drawn to the serious outbreak of disease in the dairy herds in the Fremantle district.

It will be necessary, under Standing Order No. 47a, for seven members to rise in their places to enable the hon. member to proceed with this motion.

Seven members having risen in their places,

Mr. McCALLUM (South Fremantle) [4.34]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

At the outset I want to assure the House and the Government that there is no intention on my part to create a scare or a panic. My main desire is to secure a declaration from the Government as to what they are doing regarding the outbreak of disease among the Fremantle dairy herds, and what they propose to do to relieve the position that has

cropped up in my electorate. I know that the Minister has issued certain instructions, and that he has been to South Fremantle on two occasions to look into matters for himself. I know that he has issued orders which, if carried out, will, I believe, be fairly effective. I went to the district this morning and left there at 1 o'clock. I know that some of the orders he issued have not been given effect to. I desire that the policy of the Government shall be made known to the House and, by this means, to the public, so that the instructions of the Minister shall be made effective. There is a very serious position in the Fremantle district, and heart-rending scenes have been witnessed. Men who have given their lives to building up their business and establishing assets, now see the result of their labours completely wiped out. The whole of their herds have gone; their business connections have been wiped out, and they have been left stranded. I witnessed the other morning the painful scene of three big, strong men crying like children because of the misfortune that had befallen them. Their life's work had gone overnight; their herds had been destroyed. At the present time over 100 cows have either died from the disease or have been destroyed, and during to-day, so far as I could learn this morning, another 30 or 40 affected cows will have to be destroyed before night. Certain decisions have been reached by the Minister, and he has been good enough to tell me what they were and what action he proposed to take. As a result of my visit to the district this morning, I know that some of his instructions have not been carried out. To-day dead cows were lying in the yards of dairies, practically at the back door of some of the houses. At one place 14 dead cows were lying within 20 yards of the back door and had been lying there since yesterday morning. Unless they are removed quickly there will be an outbreak of another plague in that populous district. In view of the present hot spell it cannot be believed that dead beasts can lie about without serious consequences to the people in that district. I know that the Minister issued instructions that the dead cows were to be burnt, but I found that only two men were employed on this task. Already about 100 cows are to be burnt and despite that fact, only two men have been engaged to cart firewood—they are getting their supplies from the freezing works—bring tar out from town, and attend to the fires which are necessary to destroy over 100 beasts. To ask two men to do that work effectively is to strive after the impossible.

The Minister for Agriculture: I do not think it is right to say that.

Mr. McCALLUM: That was the position up to 1 o'clock to-day! The inspector of the local board of health who is in charge of the work asked me if I thought it would be within his power to put more men on to cope with the work without first ringing up the Minister. I found out the position for my-

self, and there can be no question about it. These men are working for Daly, who was there himself supervising the operations. To ask these men to do what they are endeavouring to cope with, is to ask them to do the impossible. They were working all night, and when I saw them they were tired and worn out. They cannot continue working through to-night. I hope more men will be put on at once. I suggested to the Stock Department official who was in charge, that he should see Mr. Weir immediately and seek authority to engage more men to assist in cleaning up the district. I suggested that in engaging men he should make use of the services of those whose herds had been destroyed and now had no business to attend to. Two barrels of tar only were obtained to assist in the task of destroying over 100 head of stock. When I spoke to the official on that point he said: "I had to pay more for the tar than the Fremantle Council are quoted in their contract, and I did not feel inclined to buy more tar." Fancy playing with an important matter like this just for the sake of a shilling or two in the price of tar! I do not suggest for a moment that that is the Minister's idea. I simply mention the fact to show what is in the mind of those on the spot who are dealing with this matter. If ever there was an occurrence demanding the exercise of autocratic power, it is this one. Even if the responsible official went to extremes, it would be far better than to allow matters to drift and for very little to be done, as was the position this morning.

Member: It requires a man of initiative who will act.

Mr. McCALLUM: In the various paddocks there are dead stock and excreta. In one block, comprising less than half an acre, there were about 50 dead cows. Hon. members can imagine how much excreta there would be lying about that paddock. A flock of crows was there early this morning, and I am told that crows are carriers. Then there were dogs about. I know that the Minister issued instructions that all dogs were to be chained up. They were not chained up, for at 1 p.m. dogs were running about sniffing the dead beasts. In one instance the dogs had actually attacked a dead cow. If this condition of affairs is to continue, it must be remembered that the dogs follow the milk carts around in the morning, and it can readily be understood how the disease may spread in such circumstances. It can also be understood how difficult it will be to cope with the disease unless stronger measures than those in force so far are adopted. The disease started in a dairy owned by a man named Smith. Four calves and a bull were first affected.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is not so.

Mr. McCALLUM: That is what I was told this morning.

The Minister for Agriculture: It started with a cow.

Mr. Latham: A cow died first.

Mr. McCALLUM: Well, that may be correct.

The Minister for Agriculture: I was under the impression that the position was as you stated it, but the dairyman told me half an hour ago that it started with one of his cows.

The Premier: The fact remains that the disease is there.

Mr. McCALLUM: The reason why I mention the point is that this man advised me this morning that the only imported fodder he had on the premises was some bran from South Australia. He told me that he had one and a-half tons of the bran, and, as his herd had been wiped out, he could not pay for it, and had arranged with the warehouse to take the bran back.

The Minister for Agriculture: He will not be allowed to do that.

Mr. McCALLUM: I told him to stop it at once. I advised him to get in touch with Mr. Weir immediately and ascertain what he was to do. In the meantime I advised him to cancel the arrangements he had made for the return of the bran, and that the bran should not leave the dairy until he consulted Mr. Weir, who would be down during the day. The trouble is that the men concerned do not know where they are, because they have no definite instructions. No orders have been issued to them, and no authoritative statement has been made to the dairymen as to how they should act and what control is actually exercised over them. The men who were there this morning attending to the burning of the carcasses—and who were there yesterday and all last night—are not changing their clothes or boots before going to their homes. I am advised that the disease is capable of being carried about in one's clothes. Certainly the boots worn by men walking about amongst the dead carcasses ought not to be worn anywhere else. We are told that the disease is not communicable to human beings. But there is in the district a dairy with from five to a dozen dead cows in the yard, and the owner of that dairy served milk around the district this morning. That is not right. The risk is too great. When I spoke to the dairyman, he said to me, "What am I to do? I have no instruction. No orders have been given that I am not to go around with the milk. Half my stock has gone, and the great bulk of the remainder will have to be shot before the day is out." He is not going to cease business until he knows where he stands with the Government. Other cows are roaming around the district, some of them all the way from East Fremantle, feeding in the same commonage where the cows now dead were feeding a day or two ago.

The Minister for Mines: They ought all to be shot.

Mr. McCALLUM: Of course. Another thing: I suppose the Minister for Agriculture has seen, as I have seen, that the dogs have not been chained up.

Mr. Latham: I did not see one loose dog there.

Mr. McCALLUM: Numbers of dogs were running about when I was there. Mr. Weston, who was there with Dr. Dale, drew my attention to a dairyman coming across the hill with four loose dogs herding up the cows. Around Morrison's yard, in which 20 carcasses were lying, there were five or six loose dogs. None had been chained up when I left. I should like to hear from the Minister a declaration as to the district quarantined. I understand that a day or two ago a declaration was issued to the effect that the district was under quarantine, but nobody seems to know the boundaries of the quarantined area. Messrs. Elder Smith have a number of sheep not 200 yards from Morrison's. Are they to be permitted to remove those sheep? I am told that in all likelihood those sheep will be removed to-day. Also I should like to know the Government's attitude as to stock being landed at Robb's Jetty from North-West boats. What is to happen to them?

Mr. Harrison: I thought the season had closed.

Mr. McCALLUM: I understand some stock are still coming down. When put off the boats they are allowed to roam about the paddocks behind the jetty. Again, I am advised it is necessary to entirely destroy all trace of the disease, which, of course, can only be done by completely destroying the carcasses. I think all of Smith's stock, instead of being incinerated, were buried, and that, too, without any lime. Also quite a number have been buried without lime in Shepherd's paddock. Rinderpest, we are told, lies dormant in the soil for a considerable time, and in a prolific season resumes its activities. If this be really the dreaded disease, all dead stock should be, not buried, but incinerated. If, as is said, stock has been buried without lime down there, the bodies ought to be exhumed and burnt. Another point: authority was given to one dairyman to round up stock in the district affected, but he was not even armed with a written authority. At the first attempt he made to get hold of a beast, he was challenged for his authority to take the animal. Unarmed with proper written authority from the department, he is in a most difficult position. Up to date there has been no patrol around the district. I urge the Minister to institute a strict patrol both day and night, to see that no cattle pass either into or out of the district.

Mr. Harrison: That is most important.

Mr. McCALLUM: The patrol ought to be most strict because, if any of the stock get out of the district, the trouble may be increased a thousandfold. The situation demands a strong patrol. Also I desire to have there a man with full authority to act immediately he sees that action is required. That man should not have to await instructions from someone else as to what to do. There is no need to impress on the House the possibilities of the disease spreading, and what it will mean to the State if it gets beyond control. The House is aware of the importance of that. If this disease gets

away to the wheat belt, to the Murchison, to the North-West amongst the big herds, it will mean a tremendous setback to our progress as a State. A good deal of credit is due to the men in the district, who have had their herds depleted, for their unselfish action in using every endeavour to prevent the spread of the disease.

Mr. Latham: That is so.

Mr. McCALLUM: One dairyman down there had under offer to a man in the wheat belt a truckload of heifers. He did not forward them, because he felt it would be running a risk, notwithstanding that he was advised by a man supposed to be qualified that the disease was not contagious. To-day not one of those heifers is alive. Another dairyman was to have put a number into the market last week, but felt he would be doing wrong in sending them out. None of those heifers is alive to-day. So it will be seen that those men have conscientiously done the right thing and have suffered in the interests of the State. I hope to hear from the Minister that the Government will be prepared to compensate the dairymen for the losses they have sustained, since their losses are in the interests of the State. It is not their fault that the disease has come in. Probably its coming has been due to laxity in Commonwealth or State departments. The district is one of the healthiest in Australia, being on the side of a hill overlooking the Indian Ocean.

The Premier: Foreign ships are continually coming into Fremantle.

Mr. McCALLUM: Yes, but that is not the fault of the dairymen, and if their herds have to be destroyed in the interests of the State, I hope the State will see to it that those men are not at a loss. It is not merely the loss of their herds. Their businesses have gone. Only six months ago one man paid £1,600 to go into the business. To-day he is wiped out. Even if those men be re-equipped with stock, their business connections have been destroyed. It is a question, not only of the interests of the State, but also of the interests of the Commonwealth. When it comes to meeting the liability, expenditure should not be allowed to stand in the way. The best expert knowledge and advice should be secured, and the Commonwealth should be asked to assist in compensating the sufferers, while, of course, effective steps should be taken to eradicate the disease. I hope we shall have from the Minister for Agriculture a declaration as to what has been done and what it is proposed to do. I have no desire to hamper the Minister in any way, or create anything in the nature of a scare. I am desirous that the disease should be confined to the small area in which it is at present. But when down there this morning, I was not satisfied with the measures taken, in fact I was disgusted.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. H. K. Maley—Greenough) [4.53]: I can appreciate the anxiety of the hon. member about this disease that has overtaken the

dairy herds in his district, and which is easily capable of doing tremendous damage throughout the State. But I do not think it right for the hon. member to say that only two men are employed destroying the carcasses. When I was down there with him two days ago, all animals—40 or 50—showing any symptoms of disease were segregated in the area the hon. member has described. With the exception of three or four carcasses reserved for the purpose of further bacteriological examination by Dr. Dale and his assistants, nearly the whole of those 40 or 50 carcasses had been almost completely incinerated when I was there this afternoon. There is no doubt that the bullet did get a little ahead of the firestick. This afternoon when I was down there to see how my very definite instructions were being carried out, I found they had destroyed the affected cattle, but those that had not all been burnt would be burnt this afternoon.

Mr. McCallum: There were only two men engaged.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: We have engaged considerably more. We have engaged the men whose herds have been affected. It is only right to give them employment, seeing that through a visitation we have not experienced before, their business has been wiped clean out. Yesterday we thought it would be wise to destroy the cows in the particular area where the five herds were congregated if any were showing signs of disease. To-day we have decided to destroy the whole of the cattle in that area. It is a very drastic but necessary step, and is being complied with. I assure the House that by to-morrow night all the cattle in the infested area will have been destroyed and completely burnt up. As to the cows that died and were buried before the seriousness of the outbreak was realised, the carcasses will be exhumed and burnt, and the premises, paddocks, and everything liable to spread contagion will be burnt or thoroughly cleaned up.

Mr. McCallum: Do you include goats, sheep, and pigs?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Pigs and horses are not susceptible to the disease. Yesterday afternoon it was found that a small herd of goats had been affected. Specific instructions have been issued to destroy all stock of the ruminating type in that area, and no other stock will be permitted to enter the area.

Mr. Harrison: The disease has not been definitely identified.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No. I wish to warn the public that they will be kept strictly out of the infested area. It is not right that they should be poking in and out of the premises when contagion may be spread by contact. A quarantine area was proclaimed this morning extending from the south mole at Fremantle up the Swan River to Canning Bridge, then south to the Jandakot railway reserve, and from there straight across to the southern part of the naval base.

No stock will be permitted to enter or leave that area.

Hon. P. Collier: It will need to be closely patrolled.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I am coming to that. The Commissioner of Police has stationed police at the North Fremantle railway bridge and the Canning bridge to effectively deal with any movement of stock. Any stock going to the Fremantle abattoirs for slaughter, instead of being driven from Midland Junction, will have to be trained direct, and any stock arriving in the State will have to be landed at North Fremantle, outside the quarantine area. The dairymen that have been deprived of their living are being engaged as stock patrol men, and are being sworn in as special constables. It will be their duty to prevent the public from entering the affected area where the work of destruction is being carried out. They will also patrol the southern portion of the area, together with a police patrol. We suspect the disease is rinderpest, though the point has not been definitely established. The bacteriological or pathological examination has not enabled that to be finally determined. The experts, who have been provided with all the assistance they require, say that all the indications point to its being rinderpest, but as they have no knowledge of the disease, they will not say definitely that it is or is not. We have wired the acting-Prime Minister asking that he should immediately send over a Commonwealth veterinary officer with a knowledge of the disease. If our suspicions are confirmed, it is vitally necessary that the Federal Government, in the interests of the whole of the Commonwealth, should assist us to cope with the outbreak. The member for Fremantle in the House of Representatives is leaving for Melbourne to-night to personally urge upon the Federal Government the necessity for their co-operating with us, and recognising their obligations to compensate the dairymen concerned for the tremendous loss they have suffered by the wholesale destruction ordered by the State Government. A day or two ago I issued instructions regarding dogs and other animals capable of spreading the disease by contact. This afternoon I did not see a dog in the district.

Mr. McCallum: Mr. Weston and Dr. Dale kicked up a noise about the dogs. I saw dozens of them.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Those instructions were issued and I believe they have been complied with. I have admitted that the bullets got a little ahead of the firestick, but Pearce's holding will have been completely cleaned up this afternoon, and the whole of the cattle in the infested area will have been completely destroyed by to-morrow night. The measures taken by us are drastic, but they are absolutely necessary in the interests of the whole country. On the question of compensation it is the ordinary function of Government to see that citizens who, by such a calamity are deprived

of their living, are not denied redress. The situation at present is difficult. Under the Stock Diseases Act it is provided that no compensation shall be paid in respect of ordinary diseases such as tuberculosis and pleuro-pneumonia if extreme measures be necessary to protect the public health. This, however, is a different matter, and the hon. member need have no fear of the Government not extending the greatest consideration to those dairymen. I think I may safely say the Government will devise some means whereby those men may be re-established in their business. They may not be re-established in the same district, as dairying will not be permitted in the affected area for at least another 12 months. We have to take this precaution because we are dealing with a disease of which we have had no previous experience.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You mean in the area where the disease is?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The fact of our having proclaimed a wide quarantine area does not mean that the precaution I have indicated will be applied wholesale. If the disease spread beyond the area at present affected and we had to face compensation claims for the wholesale slaughter of stock throughout the State, well it would be beyond the powers of the Government.

Mr. Gibson: Will not the Federal Government assist the State to compensate those dairymen.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: We are endeavouring to enlist the sympathy of the Federal Government, and are pointing out their obligations.

Mr. McCallum: Are you burning all that grass?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: We are going to burn grass, material, and in fact everything in the particular area. We have started a special inquiry in the hope of tracing the source of the disease. So far as I can judge by the facts submitted to me, it is almost impossible to ascertain the cause. No imported foodstuffs have been used in the district apart from some Australian linseed and South Australian bran. Whether chaff bags have been taken to the district from boats coming from Java, I do not know. We are doing all that is humanly possible to combat the outbreak, though I can quite understand the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) in his anxiety feeling that the measures might have been given effect to more expeditiously. The Government fully appreciate how inimical is such a disease to the interests of the State, and they view this visitation with greater anxiety than anything in the experience of the State. I stress the fact that we are adopting the most drastic measures. If it be possible to speed up as the hon. member suggests, we shall spare no expense to do so. I am glad he has taken this opportunity to bring the matter before the House. It is his function to bring

this forward. If it is necessary to employ 20 times the number of men now engaged, they will be employed.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Williams-Narrogin) [5.16]: I thank the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) for having brought this matter forward. It has already caused a great deal of anxiety in all parts of the State where dairying and pastoral pursuits are being carried on. Since coming to the House this afternoon I have received the following telegram from Mr. James, the mayor of Narrogin—

Dairying industry greatly concerned re disease among Fremantle stock and suggest get Minister prohibit all movements of stock from and to affected area to clean districts.

The Government and the Minister appear to have taken very prompt and proper action in dealing with this outbreak. I hope the Minister will see that the instructions he has given are strictly enforced within the quarantined area. I hope, too, that the destruction of stock there will proceed as quickly as he has indicated he desires to have it destroyed. We all recognise the importance of the matter to the dairying and pastoral men in the State, and appreciate the prompt action taken by the Government to prevent the spread of the disease.

Mr. LATHAM (York) [5.18]: I accompanied the Minister on his visit to the infected area. I could not help being struck by the splendid co-operation that was shown to exist between the dairymen concerned and the officials of the Department. The dairymen were doing all they could to assist the Government to carry out the instructions issued by the Minister and his officers. Their general conduct was one of the finest examples of its kind I have ever seen. These people are making a tremendous sacrifice and the position has evidently somewhat unnerved them, but notwithstanding this they are co-operating with the Government in a remarkable manner. There should be a greater speeding up in the destruction of the carcasses of the cattle. I saw a beast suffering from the disease, and witnessed the killing, and I could not help feeling that more expedition should be used in burning the carcass. I saw no stray dogs in the infected area. Outside the necessity for speeding up the destruction of the bodies, everything possible is being done to combat the trouble. A policeman is stationed on the bridge guarding the approach to the area. With the ready co-operation of the local dairymen no doubt the outbreak will be prevented from spreading to any district beyond.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [5.20]: I represent a district that is dependent for its development on the dairying industry. I greatly appreciate the action of the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) in bringing this matter forward. I also appre-

ciate the prompt action taken by the Minister concerned. It was very gratifying to hear the statement of the Minister this afternoon. This House would stand behind the Government and endorse any steps they might take, no matter what the cost may be, that will ultimately lead to the eradication of this disease. We have no definite assurance from the Minister as to the nature of the disease. Whatever it is, it must be serious, and, if allowed to spread, would do the utmost harm to the State. As our group settlement policy is dependent for its success upon the dairying industry, it would cause a most serious setback to it if the disease spread. I hope all possible steps will be taken to stop the movement of stock from the district, and thus prevent any infection in the clean areas. If, by the means that are being taken, the disease can be eradicated in its early stages, the country will be under a great debt of gratitude to the Minister for his effective handling of the position.

Mr. GIBSON (Fremantle) [5.22]: Further steps have been taken this afternoon to put on extra men to carry out the work suggested by the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum). Yesterday a difficulty occurred from the fact that many beasts were slaughtered without due preparation being made for the supply of the necessary firewood to burn the carcasses. No expense is being spared in carrying out this work. Mr. Weir has already instructed his staff to this effect. Men are being employed to see that the work of destruction is expedited. They will be on duty all night, and the fires will be kept going. The Government are to be complimented upon the celerity they have shown in the handling of this unfortunate outbreak. The stock experts of the State were ignorant as to the nature of the disease, but they have taken the right course in treating it as if it were the rinderpest of South Africa. Everything possible is being done to prevent the spread of the disease, whatever it may be. The assurance of the Minister with respect to compensation for the dairymen concerned will, I am sure, be received with approval throughout the House. Further, as the matter affects the cattle herds of the Commonwealth, an application should be made to the Federal Government for assistance. Members may rest assured that every effort will be put forward to stamp out the disease.

Mr. DURACK (Kimberley) [5.24]: I too, am grateful to the hon. member for calling attention to this dread disease. If, as we are told, this is an invasion of the South African rinderpest, it is one of the most serious stock diseases that has ever visited Australia. We know that this disease has decimated the herds of South Africa. During the last century it has been one of the great factors in retarding the cattle industry there. A few years ago I was in the Philippines. The authorities there were very concerned about the possibility of the introduc-

tion of the disease. They had allowed stock, which was probably carrying the germs of the disease, to be brought into the country, but the beasts were put into a strictly guarded quarantine area. Before anyone could enter this area, he was obliged to take off his boots. I had to take off mine. Just inside the quarantine ground there was a pail of disinfectant. One was given a pair of light shoes to walk in, and after one had moved around the quarantine area, one was taken back to the pail of disinfectant where the shoes were dipped. The visitor was then allowed to put on his boots, outside the area.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: So that the Minister and others who have visited the Fremantle district may possibly spread the disease.

Mr. DURACK: Possibly. I understand means have now been discovered for dealing with the disease by inoculation. Trials have been made in the north of the Philippines with the animals that have recently been introduced there. Hitherto it had not been possible to deal with the disease, but during the last few years I understand some remedy has been discovered for it. I know the Government must be fully seized of the danger of the position to the cattle herds of Western Australia. In the North-West the cattle herds are large, ranging from 100,000 head to 1,000 head. We can well understand what it would mean to the cattle industry of the North if the rinderpest made its appearance there. I understand the mortality, when the disease is rife, is 95 per cent. Whilst we cannot disregard the statements that have been made as to the possibility of this disease being rinderpest, and must exercise every precaution against its spread, I have yet to be assured that it is rinderpest. It is possible that, in view of the exceptionally good season that has been experienced in the South-West, the cattle may have developed something in the way of a local disease, such as might be due from poisoning or some other cause, and that their disaffection may resemble the signs of rinderpest.

The Minister for Agriculture: There is no case of poisoning amongst the cattle.

Mr. DURACK: When in the Kimberleys we get an exceptionally good season we find that our stock does not do as well as it does in an ordinary moderate season. That is the experience of cattle growers in the gulf country. When they get an exceptionally heavy rainfall followed by a good season it does not necessarily mean a good season for the pastoral industry. It is to be hoped the Agricultural Department will refuse to allow any animals to leave the Fremantle area to go elsewhere in the State, and that neither dogs, cats nor any other creature will be allowed out of the infected district. I am sure the Government will do everything possible to prevent the spread of the disease.

Mr. HARRISON (Avon) [5.27]: I am glad the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) has brought this matter forward.

It is one of the most serious subjects we have been called upon to discuss since I have been a member of this House. Although the measures taken for the eradication of the disease may appear to be drastic, I do not know that we are going far enough. We do not know the nature of the disease, but we think it must be the grave cattle scourge, especially grave to ruminating stock, known as rinderpest. We have not yet ascertained how long it takes for the disease to show itself in the cattle.

The Minister for Agriculture: From two to nine days.

Mr. HARRISON: Neither do we know what stock has been travelling in the quarantined area and from it, since the outbreak made its appearance.

The Minister for Agriculture: Yes, we do.

Mr. HARRISON: So much the better.

Mr. McCallum: That is known.

Mr. HARRISON: There is always a great danger from travelling stock in a case of this sort. I am pleased there has been so much eulogy of the dairymen affected. They have not put on the market a single head of stock since notice of this outbreak was given to them. For this they deserve the greatest credit, and the thanks of the rest of the cattle-men of the State.

Hon. P. Collier: Hear, hear!

Mr. HARRISON: In the Old Country the law is very drastic with regard to dealing with outbreaks of disease amongst cattle. As soon as a farmer discovers any disease amongst his cattle he must at once notify the authorities. The area is then declared infected and a veterinary surgeon is ordered to diagnose the disease. People who have not been acquainted with cattle diseases have no idea what suffering accrues from them. I saw a lot of this sort of thing in my young days. Twice on our own farm we suffered through travelling stock that was carrying the disease. Some stock was travelling from one farm to another, but the incubation period had not sufficiently advanced to show whether or not the cattle were diseased. The herd merely passed by one of our fields. In a few days our own cattle became affected with this scourge, which in that case was the foot-and-mouth disease.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know that the motion refers to foot-and-mouth disease.

Mr. HARRISON: I mention the matter to show what we have to deal with in a disease of this character, and by way of urging the Minister to take drastic measures even with regard to the control of sales. There should be a quarantine period after each sale, so that the time of incubation may elapse before the cattle are disseminated to the outlying parts of the State. It is all very well to lock the door after the damage has been done, after the disease has spread from one portion of the State to another. Too strong precautionary measures cannot be taken. The area of this State is very vast, and in nine days stock can be taken to remote districts. I do not want Western Australia to

suffer from the trouble which has occurred elsewhere. At this season of the year our climate renders it much more difficult to combat the disease than is the case in such a climate as that of the Old Country. With the present hot weather incubation will be much more rapid, though this may be an advantage in one respect. However, the disease does spread more rapidly in a hot climate than in a cold one.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.32]: We do not know the cause of the outbreak at Fremantle, but we must recognise that from the same cause this disease may make itself apparent in other districts. If the disease does appear elsewhere, that will not be because it has come from the Fremantle area, where all precautions have been and are being taken. I do hope stock owners will notify the Agricultural Department immediately they discover any signs of illness in their stock. This outbreak is a most serious matter for the State. If it has been caused by the importation of fodder, we do not know to what other districts that fodder may have been sent. The Minister for Agriculture has stated that he has put on a special officer to inquire into the question of the origin of the disease. If that can be traced, it will be a simple matter to trace any fodder which has been sent to other districts, should any have been sent. In the meantime, let me emphasise, the public ought to be very careful to notify the department immediately upon the disease making its appearance in a dairy herd. As regards the steps being taken at Fremantle, there is no question of expense, because we know what it will mean to Western Australia if the disease spreads. The Agricultural Department have been told by the Minister that they must give this question their utmost attention, and that they need not be afraid on the score of expense. I believe the officers are now doing the work of suppression of the disease as the House would have it done. They have the area of the present outbreak well in hand.

Mr. Pickering: Have the symptoms of the disease been published?

The PREMIER: At the moment we are not able to say what the disease is.

Mr. Lutey: The cattle develop a temperature.

The PREMIER: We must treat this as the most serious of all diseases. Indeed, that is what the Minister is doing. The Government are not taking any risks whatever.

Hon. P. Collier: Even if the disease be not rinderpest, the mortality to date indicates that it is just as severe.

The PREMIER: Yes; and therefore the Government are taking no risks whatever.

Hon. F. T. BROWN (Beverley) [5.36]: I wish to express my appreciation of the action of the member for South Fremantle

(Mr. McCallum) in bringing this matter before the House, and so enabling members to know exactly what is being done. I also appreciate the Minister's efforts to prevent the spread of the disease. It seems to me that he can do no more. I understand that he has personally visited the area of the outbreak more than once. With regard to issuing instructions, the important point is to see that those instructions are carried out rigidly. It appears that that is not the case in this instance, because the member for South Fremantle has told us that to-day he saw a number of dogs following dairy herds about.

The Minister for Agriculture: The dogs might come from three or four masters.

Hon. F. T. BROWN: It is the dairyman's duty to see that the dogs are destroyed. As a cattle owner I would not allow a stray dog to follow my cattle about. I am aware that it is impossible for the Minister to be continually on the spot to see that his instructions are being obeyed, but I trust he will do his utmost to ensure that his officers carry out his instructions in such a way that the spread of the disease will be prevented. I know what mortality amongst stock means. If this disease, involving a mortality of from 90 to 96 per cent., gets into the country, the effect will be utterly disastrous. I was glad to hear the Premier's request to stock owners to notify the Government immediately upon the appearance of any signs of disease in their stock. That is not done by every stock owner. The member for South Fremantle said that the dairymen in the infected district had been most unselfish, and had not allowed their stock to be sent away, as first they intended to do. Such an attitude must be highly commended. Unfortunately, it is not the attitude of every stock owner in this State. Let me refer to the seasonal disease which for a number of years we have had amongst our sheep, and which is known as the Beverley sheep disease. One goes out in the morning and finds perhaps 20 sheep lying dead, without any sign of previous struggle, out of a mob that was perfectly healthy the day before. The misnamed Beverley sheep disease was introduced into this State by imported sheep, the owner of which said nothing about it. It spread until it got into the Beverley district, and immediately I knew of its presence there I made it known. That is how the disease got its local name. We have among us to-day men who will act similarly to the importer of those sheep. They will cover up the disease, so as to be able to get rid of the balance of their stock in the meantime. They do not care about the other man: he can go hang. Any stock owner guilty of concealing the presence of disease among his stock should be prosecuted. The Minister referred to stock going from Midland Junction to the Fremantle abattoirs. He said that instead of being travelled by road—which I consider a far less dangerous method—they are going to be trucked. The trucks

will have to travel through the quarantine area. In this morning's newspaper I saw a statement by Mr. Le Souef, who undoubtedly knows something about stock diseases; and he declares that the germs can easily be carried in clothes or on boots. Thus trucks may pick up the germs in travelling through the quarantine area. The trucks will be sent back to the Midland Junction yards, where there are every week from 15,000 to 20,000 sheep for sale. Moreover, as many as 6,000 or 7,000 sheep may be sent back into the country again as stores, or as fats bought by graziers.

The Minister for Agriculture: But the trucks do not go anywhere near the sale yards.

Hon. F. T. BROWN: But they do go through the quarantine area, and affected cattle may be close to the railway line. The germs will be carried out before we are aware of it. I might purchase some sheep at the Midland yards, and use those particular trucks, with the result that the rest of my stock would get the disease. The Minister should issue instructions for the disinfecting of every truck before it leaves the quarantine area. When stock come into the quarantine area—no matter how valuable they may be, even if they are imported rams—they should not be allowed to leave it until they have been proved to be free from the disease.

The Minister for Agriculture: Imported stock will not be allowed to land anywhere else.

Hon. F. T. BROWN: I am pleased to have that assurance from the Minister. Too many precautions cannot be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The member for South Fremantle said there were some sheep already paddocked close to the scene of the mortality—some 200 sheep owned by Elder Smith. I hope that their removal will be prevented.

Mr. McCallum: I did not say how many I saw.

Hon. F. T. BROWN: If they have been removed within the last few days, I hope steps will be taken to trace them.

Mr. McCallum: They have not been removed.

Hon. F. T. BROWN: The incineration of animals is a difficult thing. I know it, and I never allow any stock to lie dead on my property; I burn them at once. That is a precaution which every stock owner should take. It is, however, extremely difficult to burn anything in a green state, more especially a large animal like a horse or a bullock. If pits are dug to burn the cattle in, the incineration requires only half the quantity of wood that is needed when one burns them in the open. I am glad this matter has been brought up. I trust that the infected area will be safely guarded, and I hope that the disease will be speedily wiped out.

Mr. McCALLUM (South Fremantle—in reply) [5.45]: I am pleased with the statements made by the Minister for Agriculture and the Premier. The one thing that surprises me is the amount of work that has been done

down there since I left the district at 1 o'clock to-day. Though the Minister declared that instructions had been issued to the dairy-men that they were to keep their dogs tied up, that was not done this morning. When Mr. Weston drew attention to this, the dairy-men expressed surprise.

The Minister for Agriculture: I gave instructions that if dogs were found roaming about they were to be shot.

Mr. McCALLUM: Well, the dairymen have not received the Minister's instructions. I did not hide my feelings when I saw those dogs about the place. All this points to the necessity for one responsible officer being placed in charge of the district to see that the Minister's instructions are carried out.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member is not going to raise new issues in his reply.

Mr. McCALLUM: No, except perhaps to refer to the Minister's statement that all stock in the district is to be destroyed. I wish also to refer to the question of the milk supply for Fremantle.

The Premier: We shall see to that.

Mr. McCALLUM: I wish to know how mothers and infants are to fare.

The Premier: We cannot destroy the cows without making provision for a supply of milk from elsewhere.

Mr. McCALLUM: I was wondering whether attention had been given to that matter.

The Premier: The local authorities will, of course, take a hand in that.

Mr. McCALLUM: The milk supply will have to come from beyond Fremantle.

The Premier: From Northam, or York, or Pinjarra.

Mr. McCALLUM: An organisation should be created so that the women and children will not be left without milk. Regarding the Premier's appeal to all stock owners to report sickness that may be detected in stock, it would be as well if those stock owners were advised that in the first few days of the disease there is very little to permit of its detection other than the taking of the animal's temperature. One man down there wanted to buy a cow and offered £20 for it. The owner of the cow said to him, "I could sell you the cow but I will not take you down, because I am sure the animal will be dead by next Sunday." It was then running a temperature of 106. As a matter of fact the cow is now dead. It might be as well to appeal to stock owners to frequently take the temperature of the animals and report the result. I am well pleased with the statement made by the Minister and I trust that his instructions will be given effect to. If those instructions are carried out to the letter, it is as much as we can hope for at the present. I ask leave to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

QUESTION—HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Maternity cases, Busselton and Karridale.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Premier: 1, Has he received a letter from the hon. secretary of the Red Cross Society, Busselton, drawing his attention to the urgency for adequate provision being made for maternity cases there? 2, Has he received a communication from the Rev. W. J. Foley-Whaling setting forth the serious position as regards maternity at Karridale, and submitting a scheme for the temporary alleviation of the trouble? 3, If so, will the Premier make a definite statement as to the Government's intentions in this regard, and whether or not they realise the urgency?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Yes. 3, The Government have already definitely stated that a maternity ward will be built at Busselton and a hospital at Margaret River. In reply to the concluding words, the Government know more of Group Settlement requirements than the hon. member can possibly know. It has instituted the scheme, and is carrying on with proper organisation and every determination to help group settlers, not only to succeed on their holdings, but to live in reasonable comfort, to which end facilities are provided.

QUESTION—I.A.B. CLIENTS.

Protection against legal process.

Mr. JOHNSTON asked the Premier: 1, Is he aware that certain farmers working under the Industries Assistance Board are being harassed with writs, and, in some cases, bankruptcy notices, in respect to old debts, with most excessive charges added for interest and compound interest? 2, As the Industries Assistance Board have carried these men on for some years, ranging back to 1915, and are handling the whole of the proceeds from the farming operations, what steps is it proposed to take to protect settlers from the present legal processes until their debts can be paid by the board in the usual manner? 3, Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to continue to settlers under the Industries Assistance Board the protection they enjoyed until recently under the moratorium? 4, If not, why not?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Several writs have been issued by trustees of the assigned estates of three country storekeepers. The board have no knowledge of the rate of interest charged. 2, The Industries Assistance Act affords no protection against proceedings in bankruptcy. 3, The board are now considering the matter, and will make definite recommendations to the Government at an early date. 4, Answered by No. 3.

QUESTION—STOCK DISEASE, FRE- MANTLE DISTRICT.

Government precautions.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, In view of the serious outbreak of disease amongst cattle in the Fremantle district, has he ascertained whether there has been any dealing in stock in that district entailing their transport to any other district? 2, If so, has he taken steps to trace such stock with a view to the prevention of the spread of the disease? 3, Are there any known methods for disinfecting infected districts? 4, If so, will he avail himself of such methods?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, As far as can be ascertained, not recently. 2, Answered by No. 1. 3, The hon. member's question is not quite clear; all necessary precautions are being taken. 4, Answered by No. 3.

QUESTION—TEMPORARY RESERVES, GOVERNMENT POLICY.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Premier: 1, What is the policy of the Government with regard to temporary reserves such as Sussex Location 429, and blocks similarly situated? 2, In view of the scarcity of Crown lands available for individual selection, will he cause instructions to be issued to throw such blocks open for selection? 3, If not, why not?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Locations, such as Sussex Location 429, are temporarily reserved until it is definitely ascertained whether they are required for group purposes. 2, As it has been ascertained that Location 429 is not now further required, instructions have been issued for it to be thrown open, and such action has been taken in other similar cases. A number of blocks are now open. 3, Answered by No. 2.

QUESTION—GROUP SETTLEMENTS, SCHOOLS.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Premier: 1, What is the position with regard to the provision of schools for all groups lying within the area Ludlow to Augusta? 2, What is the position with regard to accommodation for school teachers for that area? 3, Is he aware that some groups have for months been without educational facilities and that the children in some cases are running more or less wild, when they should be attending school? 4, When does he expect to have this area properly equipped?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Wherever applications for schools have been made, the Works Department have been asked to provide buildings. 2, Where satisfactory accommodation cannot be provided by settlers, the Works Department are asked to provide a

room for single teacher or quarters for married teacher. 3, In some cases it has been impossible to erect buildings, owing to transport difficulties. 4, As soon as possible.

QUESTION—PASTORAL LESSEES.

Mr. MUNSIE (without notice) asked the Premier: Will he lay on the Table of the House a return showing (a) the names of the 65 lessees who hold six million acres, which it is desired to bring under the 1948 lease tenure? (b) The locality or localities in which the leases are situated?

The PREMIER replied: I had attached to my notes the list of names of the leaseholders who have not come under the 1918 Act, but I have not those notes with me now. I will give the hon. member the list, and lay it on the Table of the House, when the Bill is being dealt with.

PAPERS—CAPTAIN PURCELL, DISMISSAL.

On motion by Mr. McCallum, ordered—

That all papers dealing with the dismissal of Captain Purcell from the Public Works Department be laid upon the Table of the House.

BILLS (5)—THIRD READING.

1. Native Mission Stations.
2. Public Institutions and Friendly Societies Lands Improvement Act Amendment.
3. Gnowangerup Reserves.
4. Amendments Incorporation.
5. Anzac Day.

Transmitted to the Council.

BILL—STAMP ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [6.0] in moving the second reading said: This is really a continuation Bill for one year. Prior to 1st January, 1917, the stamp duty on conveyances and transfers on sales was 10s. per cent. The duty was increased temporarily to 5s. per £25, which is £1 per cent., until the 30th June, 1924. It is proposed to continue this arrangement until the 30th June, 1925. The other amendment is to enable the duty on transfers of shares in co-operative and provident societies to be stamped at the rate of 6d. per £5 instead of 2s. 6d. per £25. Hon. members will realise that a man may hold one or two shares in companies of this description and transfers cannot be made at present unless there is a payment of 2s. 6d. for every £25. This is to continue until June, 1925.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What is the object in bringing forward this as a continuation Bill?

The PREMIER: I think it is the better way to deal with it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Act can always be repealed.

The PREMIER: That is so, but in this instance I think it is better to deal with it in the form suggested. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does paragraph (c) of Clause 2 contain new matter? Was it in the Bill last session?

The PREMIER: Yes, the paragraph merely reduces the amount. It is really a continuation Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of second schedule:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Bills of this description should not be continually brought forward. This legislation should be made permanent. Each session we have a number of continuation Bills. I can understand that course being adopted in connection with taxation measures, seeing that the rates of taxation may vary according to the requirements of the State. Continuation Bills should be done away with and the requirements should be embodied in permanent Acts. We cannot move amendments to continuation Bills. I hope the Premier will take this matter in hand and in future have the amendments embodied in the Act.

The PREMIER: I agree with the member for North-East Fremantle. It is a nuisance having to bring forward these Bills each session.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL — GENERAL LOAN AND IN- SCRIBED STOCK ACT CONTINU- ANCE.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [6.4] in moving the second reading said: If I had taken the advice of the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin), I should not require to place before members a Bill of this description for the second time during the current session. Formerly, when placing an amending Bill before members this session, I asked them to agree to the payment of interest at a rate not in excess of five per cent. Recently I

attended a Premiers' Conference in Melbourne and we decided we would not pay more than five per cent. for money raised in Australia. That was because we could get cheap money in the Old Country. Events move quickly nowadays, and at the present time money cannot be secured in Australia at five per cent. Unfortunately, for the moment we cannot transfer money from the Old Country, where we have cheap money available at call. As we cannot transfer it, I find it necessary to ask the House to agree to the Act passed last year, which fixed the maximum rate at six per cent. It is unfortunate, but there is no other course open. While we shall not require to borrow money for ordinary purposes, we must raise funds for the redemption of a loan of £1,000,000, falling due shortly. It would be easy to deal with it if we could transfer money from London, but, as it is, the money has to be raised in Australia and the loan has to be paid here too. I ask the House to agree to fixing the maximum rate at six per cent. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Continuance of Act No. 8 of 1923:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I understand the necessity for a second Bill this session arises from the fact that the Premier has gone on the market for a loan of £1,000,000, to be raised in Australia.

The Premier: Yes.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is contrary to the views expressed by the Premier and his supporters in past years!

The Premier: It is your own loan that we are renewing.

Hon. P. Collier: You are not compelled to float it locally.

The Premier: But we cannot transfer money from London.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: From time to time the Premier has argued that the raising of loans locally operates against the business interests of the State and Australia because the withdrawal of such money retards the development of industries.

The Premier: You see how wrong it is in this case.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is not wrong.

The Premier: You know it is wrong.

Hon. P. Collier: And the Government are making the loan free of income tax.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is the inducement because that provision cannot operate after this year. The Commonwealth have seen to that. I prefer the Bill before the Committee rather than the one we passed earlier this session. It does not make any difference; we have to pay

the price demanded for money. The last loan raised was floated at about £93.

The Premier: It cost £4 18s. per cent.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It would be far better if the public knew exactly the amount they were required to pay for every £100 borrowed. It is continually stated, when a loan has been floated, that the loan has been successful, that it has been raised at five per cent. and that money is cheap. When the returns are placed on the Table no one sees them except members of Parliament, and it is then that we find a big premium has had to be paid and that the loan has not really been a success. I presume the Premier anticipates getting the money at par and that is why he seeks the re-enactment of the 1922 Act for another 12 months.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.50 p.m.

BILL—INSURANCE COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [7.30] in moving the second reading said: Some years ago we passed an Act under which fire insurance companies had to put up at the Treasury a deposit of £5,000 before being allowed to carry on business in Western Australia. The Act applied to every company operating here. But there are in the State agencies for companies located elsewhere, and through those agencies those companies are able to carry on business without lodging the deposit required of other companies trading here. The Bill proposes to bring those outside companies into line with the companies that have lodged their deposits. In other words, agencies carrying on business in the State for companies having their offices outside the State will have to put up the deposit. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

BILL—MERREDIN RESERVES.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. H. K. Maley—Greenough) [7.34] in moving the second reading said: The Merredin Road Board holds the vesting order of reserve 14223. It is desired to extend this reserve to cover an area bordered green on the litho. The board then intends to concen-

trate its energies on the reserve by improving it and utilising it for the combined purpose of recreation, racecourse and show ground. At present racecourse reserve 13563 exists in the position coloured red on the litho. When the combined reserve is ready this racecourse will not be required, and the board desires to obtain the Crown grant, with power to sell, free of trust. There is at present an overdraft, guaranteed by certain members of the race club jointly and severally. It is desired to apply the proceeds of the sale first of all to paying off this overdraft, and secondly to the improvement of the new reserve. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

BILL—BUSSELTON-MARGARET RIVER RAILWAY DEVIATION (No. 2.)

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [7.40] in moving the second reading said: Last session an application was made and a Bill passed for deviation No. 1. However, when we got on with the work we found that the limits of that deviation fell a few chains short of embracing what is now found to be desirable for the construction of the line. At the extreme south end of the Busselton survey, the proposed deviation is desirable in order to provide a good junction with the Margaret River-Flinders Bay line, purchased from Millars' Trading Company some years ago. Also this proposed deviation will avoid certain steep grades and sharp curves at the extreme north of the Flinders Bay line. The ruling grade in the deviation will be 1 in 80, while the sharpest curve has a radius of 10 chains. The estimated cost is £7,000. I move,—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

Clauses 1 and 2, agreed to.

Clause 3—Deviation:

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Minister for Works frequently treats us to an eloquent panygeric on the services and work performed by the officers of his department.

Mr. Underwood: Although they are very crook.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Consequently I am unable to understand how they ever overlooked the need for this deviation when the survey was being made. This is the second time the Minister has been forced to ask for authority to deviate this line. First the original survey was made, and it was decided the line should take a certain course. It was subsequently found necessary to ask permission to deviate to a greater extent than was allowed in the original Act. The House granted that permission. Now the Minister comes along again and says he finds the deviation he asked for last year is not sufficient; and he wants to further deviate to the extent of two miles, in order to avoid cuttings and other expensive earthwork. How is it the wonderful officers in the department controlled by the Minister should have overlooked this necessity?

Mr. Underwood: They were busy just about that time.

Hon. P. COLLIER: How could they have overlooked the necessity for this deviation? The hills down there are all nice, smoothly undulating hills. Surely they have not grown since last year! Are we to suppose the officers made but a casual kind of examination and survey of the work? They have put the Minister in the humiliating position of having to come to the House and ask permission to further deviate the route. Surely there is something wrong if the responsible officers do their work in that way. It seems to indicate that only a very casual examination of the country was made. But for the fact that the Bill has been on the notice paper for several days, I might have suspected the Minister, in view of his general attitude to the Country Party, of a desire to get even with the member for Sussex.

Mr. Latham: And he is not in the Chamber.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Minister has brought on the Bill at the very moment when the official Country Party are having a meeting.

Mr. Teesdale: And has rushed it through.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, and the Bill may have an influence on the election next year. I believe the object is to deprive the new leader of the Country Party, the member for Sussex, of his seat. In all fairness the Minister ought to report progress until the meeting is over.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4 to 8, Schedule, Title—agreed to.

Bill reverted without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILL—LAND TAX AND INCOME TAX.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [7.49]: This is the usual Bill, and it calls for no comment on the second reading. In Committee I shall move some amendments, and I hope members will assist me to carry them.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Williams-Narrogin) [7.50]: The Premier in his budget speech expressed the hope that he would be able to remove the super-tax next year. Lately we have had comparisons showing how much heavier is the income tax here than in other parts of the Commonwealth. A good deal of money is being sent from Western Australia for investment in the Eastern States. It is shocking that people should be so unpatriotic as to do that in a country needing the benefit of capital so greatly as does Western Australia. I am glad the Premier made the announcement, but now is the time to do it, and to give the long-suffering taxpayer a little relief. Last year we reduced the number of income taxpayers by nearly one-half by granting exemption to a large section of the community, and that was compensated for by increasing the rate from .006d. to .007d. per pound of taxable income. This tax presses very unfairly. It was imposed only three or four years ago, and I am glad to think it did not exist when the Labour Government were in power. Since then the rate has been increased greatly, and the time is ripe to get rid of the super-tax. In Committee I hope an amendment to that effect will receive support.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam—in reply) [7.52]: I realise that income taxation here is high, higher than in any other State, but other taxes in the Eastern States, with the exception of Victoria, are higher than here. Probate duty, to mention one, is higher. Notwithstanding the high income tax here, we are the lowest taxed State per head of population with the exception of Victoria. We have to pay our way, and we must balance the ledger as quickly as possible. I should be glad if I could reduce taxation this year, but the House should not ask this of me until we get nearer to squaring the ledger. Taxation is objected to by all that have to pay it, and we have to remember that while income tax is not payable by workers in receipt of small incomes, such people are subject to other taxation. The Customs tariff is a deadly heavy burden on the working man. He has to pay Customs duties on everything worn by his wife, his children, and himself, and it cannot be said that he is not taxed.

Mr. Latham: Of course he is, but it all goes to the Commonwealth, and there are no free services for it.

The PREMIER: He is taxed in proportion to his income more heavily than is any other section of the community. I regret I cannot agree to reduce taxation this year.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 5—agreed to.

Clause 6—Super-tax of 15 per cent.:

Mr. JOHNSTON: For the reasons I gave on the second reading, I hope the Government will abolish the super-tax now by agreeing to the deletion of this clause.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The development of Australia is being retarded by heavy taxation. We must have taxation to pay certain commitments and meet certain responsibilities, but we should cut out useless expenditure and permit the money collected by way of taxation to be devoted to the development of the country. Much of the high cost of living and of commodities is due to heavy taxation. The problem confronting Governments is to reduce taxation. A reduction would mean increased development.

The Premier: There is no doubt about that.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: We can go on borrowing £3,000,000 or £4,000,000, and taxing that, too. All of it does not go into development. Some of it assists to make up the revenue. There is waste in the departments that should be cut out and taxation should be reduced.

Mr. LATHAM: I agree with the member for Williams-Narrogin in his desire to abolish the super-tax, but we have passed the Estimates and I do not see how we can reject this clause. It is useless to ask the Treasurer to forego the super-tax after he has framed his Estimates. The hon. member should have shown, when the Estimates were under discussion, how the expenditure could be reduced and still give the services required, then he could have moved for the abolition of the super-tax. I am anxious to see taxation reduced. I agreed with the member for Pilbara that until taxation is reduced we shall not get the development we want.

Mr. ANGELO: It is regrettable that the Premier did not strike out this clause. Capital is being diverted from the State because of the heavy taxation. The Premier, however, has given what I take to be a definite promise that he will next year do away with this super-tax.

Hon. P. Collier: It was not a definite promise.

Mr. ANGELO: He said he would do his best to abolish it. I hope this emergency tax will be got rid of as quickly as possible, and that the rate of taxation will also be reduced.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Seeing that members of the cross-benches are continually crying out for increased railway and other facilities, it is rather amusing to hear their remarks on this question. Our taxation has been increased largely because of the action of some members who are now opposing it. The Government cannot carry on without taxation. The Premier was quite correct when he said that per head of the population Western Australia was the lowest taxed State in Australia with the exception of Victoria. It becomes the highest taxed State only when the Federal tax is included. In Western Australia everyone who can pay must pay, whereas in Victoria many people who can pay are not compelled to do so.

Our system is the right one. If people can make more profit out of their investments in this State, they will stay here. I am not so sure that capital is going out of the State. Having passed the Estimates providing for increased expenditure, we cannot alter this Bill. Next year many railways will be under construction from which there can be no revenue for some time, and if the super tax were cut out that construction would have to be stopped.

Mr. Underwood: Why not stop it?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No one wants to pay the super tax, but we are compelled to do so in the circumstances.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It would be desirable if we could reduce the income tax, but the money is required. If we ask the Treasurer to give up an amount of revenue from taxation, we should assist him to make up the loss in another way. There is a means of doing this. The super-tax could be abolished, and the difference made up by an increase in the land tax. Our land tax system is the most antiquated and obsolete in Australia. Although land values have increased enormously in recent years, particularly in the metropolitan area, the same tax is being levied as was imposed under the original Act in 1907. There have been great improvements in Perth, and land values have gone up enormously during the past 10 or 12 years. In spite of this, the wealthy landlords are having no additional impost placed upon them in the way of land tax. Last year the total amount of land tax collected in the State was £75,000.

The Minister for Agriculture: And in Victoria £800,000.

Hon. P. COLLIER: About half of this revenue was contributed by the metropolitan area. Members of the cross benches have adopted a foolish policy in respect to land taxation. The loan expenditure last year was £3,389,000, and it is proposed to spend this year 4½ million pounds. All this money goes into the development of the country, but the city land owner receives the greatest benefit from it. Last year income tax to the amount of £390,000 was paid, and it is not fair to allow the city land owners to escape with a payment of about £37,000. While the landlord sleeps, every farmer and settler is contributing his share to the increased city land values. In some cases the landlords are living out of the State and drawing enormous incomes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Many of them pay no income tax.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The genuine farmer need not fear any increase in the land tax. Any increase paid by him would be as nothing compared with the result he would get from the increased amount that would be paid into the Treasury by the city land owners.

The Premier: That argument will not hold. The farmer pays only the higher tax of the two.

Mr. Latham: He pays both if his land is all improved.

Hon. F. T. Broun: The tax is 1d. on unimproved land and ½d. on improved land.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I suppose most of them pay very little land tax. I should say that during recent years it would be mostly income tax that was paid by the farmer. Possibly the land tax could be doubled and still the farmer would not be paying any more land tax, simply because his income tax would still be the higher of the two. But that would not be so in the case of the land owner. In 1916 the total amount collected from land tax, income tax, dividend duty, stamp duty, license fees, and total-istor tax was £407,000. Last year the total amount collected from those sources was £955,000.

The Premier: Incomes are higher than they were.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Only to a very slight extent, because Parliament has been engaged since 1915, and especially during 1918, in amending tax legislation and altering its incidence, with the result of levying higher imposts on the people. For the current financial year the taxation from these sources is estimated to amount to £1,016,000.

The Premier: It is not enough to pay for the free services now.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am not complaining. However, every one of those taxes has been largely increased of recent years because the war and other circumstances have rendered additional revenue essential. But the land tax we have not touched since 1907. Why should the land owner be exempt from the obligation to pay additional taxation—for instance, the city land owner who spends his money out of the State? Many land owners are in business, and thus pay income tax. But other land owners simply own land, without engaging in any kind of business. That applies particularly in the case of city land owners. The heavier income tax has not affected those owners. It would be only equitable to relieve the payers of income tax to the extent of, say, £100,000 and compel the land owners to make up the amount.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 7—agreed to.

New clause:

Hon. P. COLLIER: I intend to move the following new clause, which, by reason of the fact that the Bill was circulated only yesterday, I have not had an opportunity to place on the Notice Paper:—

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act to the contrary, the income tax to be charged, levied, collected and paid under this Act for the financial year ending the 30th day of June, 1924, shall be charged, levied, collected and paid on the income chargeable of the taxpayer, subject to the

following deductions therefrom:—(1) Any charge or expense other than capital expenditure incurred in the carrying on or conduct of any business, profession, trade, employment or vocation. (2) The travelling expenses incurred in producing or protecting income. (3) Donations in money or kind to Government or incorporated institutions established for benevolent, charitable, scientific or educational purposes. (4) Moneys expended or placed in the hands of trustees for educational scholarships or bursaries. (5) The sum of £50 for each child under the age of 16 years dependent upon the taxpayer. (6) The sum of £50 as travelling expenses to every member of Parliament representing a Metropolitan, Metropolitan-Suburban, or West Province or an electoral district therein; and a sum of £100 for every member of Parliament representing any other province or electoral district. The provisions of this section shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Dividend Duties Act, 1902. The deductions and allowances set out in paragraphs (1) to (6) herein shall be in addition to and an extension of those prescribed by the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act, 1907.

Hon. F. T. Broun: What about the interpretation of those deductions and allowances?

Hon. P. COLLIER: The interpretation, I suppose, will have to be left to the Commissioner of Taxation. Experience has taught us that the Commissioner always interprets the Act against the taxpayer. I do not say he does it from bias or prejudice. He naturally adopts a hard interpretation in favour of the State's revenue. I do not know how we can overcome that difficulty, short of passing a very bulky measure dealing in detail with each particular business, and stating at length what is to be allowed for deduction as reasonable expenses in the conduct or carrying on of the business. However, the new clause gives a wider interpretation than has been obtained in the past. I am confident that to-day many men are charged tax on income they never get hold of, and that here is expenditure legitimately incurred in earning income, which ought to be deducted, but the deduction of which is not allowed. To-day the citizen pays tax on income he never possesses and never will possess.

The Premier: I do not think the first deduction differs very much from what is the present practice.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Probably that is so. The Taxation Department are most harassing to the ordinary citizen. One can go to law, of course, but that remedy is of no avail to the average person. Most men who know they are not getting a fair deal—if I may put it that way—from the Taxation Department pay rather than contend against the department, because they know from experience that the latter course brings them no satisfaction whatever. The Premier may take the view that in order to enable members to see the new clause on the Notice Paper, pro-

gress should be reported. I propose to move the new clause by instalments. I now move—

That the following new clause be inserted:—“Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act to the contrary, the income tax to be charged, levied, collected and paid under this Act for the financial year ending the 30th day of June, 1924, shall be charged, levied, collected and paid on the income chargeable of the taxpayer, subject to the following deduction therefrom:—(1) Any charge or expense other than capital expenditure incurred in the carrying on or conduct of any business, profession, trade, employment or vocation.”

The PREMIER: Judging from a cursory reading of the new clause, I should say that its proposals do not alter the existing law very much. Most of these exemptions and allowances find a place now in the list of deductions.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But they are not expressed very clearly in the present list.

Mr. Corboy: The new clause clarifies the position as to some deductions.

Hon. P. Collier: The principal alteration is the increase from £40 to £50 in the allowance for children.

The PREMIER: The new clause really sets out deductions now existing, except for the increase in the deduction for children. I wish people had more payments of £40 to draw.

Mr. Corboy: Unfortunately they do not draw them at all.

The PREMIER: I do not think these amendments affect the position to any material extent. Perhaps it would be better for me to look into them and subsequently tell the Committee to what extent these proposals differ from the Act.

Progress reported.

BILL—LAND ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate from the previous day.

Question put and passed.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Improvements under Parts V. and VI.:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I move—

That progress be reported.

The Premier: Why?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That was the arrangement.

Motion put and passed.

Progress reported.

BILL — FLINDERS BAY-MARGARET RIVER RAILWAY DEVIATION (No. 1).

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [8.35] in moving the second reading said: References were made earlier to the departmental officers and the work they have to carry out. In all the country traversed in the South-West, opportunities present themselves as the work proceeds, for dealing with difficulties that may not have appeared before, as improvements in grades necessitate other alterations.

Hon. P. Collier: But this line was built by a private company; it is a different matter. This was a timber line.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The line dealt with in the Bill was a timber railway acquired from Millars some years ago. The railway from Busselton to junction with the one dealt with in the Bill is progressing towards completion. If hon. members look at the railway map they will see the original timber line which ran to Jarrahdene. They will notice that it proceeds in a bow-legged style as timber lines often do, as they are required in order to secure the timber that is available, and are not built with a view to grades. The departmental officers have found that they can shorten the distance, cut out some grades, and generally improve the line. There are several steep grades that should be cut out and some sharp curves that are not desirable when the line is to be used for passenger traffic. The cost of the work contemplated by the Bill is £8,066. The length of line to be deviated is 3½ miles, the ruling grade, 1 in 60, and the sharpest curve has a radius of 10 chains. I do not know that there is anything more I need say in connection with the proposal. The departmental officials have gone carefully into the matter. It is years since the line was purchased, and it has not improved because it has not had the attention a working railway line requires. Now we are taking it in hand we wish to complete the necessary work, so that by the time the line from Busselton to Margaret River is ready for traffic, we shall be able to run trains through to the final destination. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

BILL—YARRAMONY-NEWCARNIE RAILWAY.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [8.43] in moving the second reading said: The purpose of the Bill is to authorise the construction of a railway from Yarramony to Newcarnie. The length of the line proposed is 96½ miles, the ruling grade 1 in 80, and the sharpest curve has a radius of 20 chains. It was proposed to use 45lb. rails for the line, but the Government have recently given the fullest consideration to the necessity for enabling those responsible for the working of our railways to exercise the greatest economy possible. They have come to the conclusion that for the future 60lb. rails shall be employed. This will enable the largest locomotives we have to traverse any railways so constructed, and to haul a load of anything from 20 to 30 per cent. more than can be taken over a line constructed with 45lb. rails. This is in accordance with the policy of railway construction all over the world. For many years past, of course, it has been known in Western Australia that the course I have indicated is the correct one, but financial considerations had to govern the position. In the Old Country years ago a rail of 75lbs. or 80lbs. per yard was considered to be as heavy as was likely to be required; yet to-day they are using rails of from 120lbs. to 140lbs. per yard, and they find it to be good economy. So this Government, as it has come in their time, have adopted the advice of their responsible engineers and decided that the 60 lb. rail should be used in future. If this line had been built with 45lb. rails the cost would have been £359,000. The use of 60lb. rails will increase the cost by approximately £50,000. So, when hon. members are considering the proposition, they can regard the capital cost as being approximately £400,000. At present there are two existing lines looping the area to be served, namely, the Dowerin line and the Eastern Goldfields line. Many of the people settled within the loop have to cart a distance of 25 miles, but in some instances, where the roads follow round-about routes, the carting is of a distance of anything up to 40 miles. Years ago Parliament decided that a cartage of 12½ miles was as much as it was advisable to ask of our settlers. The people settled in the fertile district between Yarramony, Yorkkrake and Newcarnie have thus been greatly handicapped by the abnormal length of their cartage. Nevertheless it has not daunted them. About two years ago I went through the district and told the settlers that the long-promised line should be surveyed. That promise has been carried out. More recently the Premier promised that the railway should be constructed on the survey. Now we have the Bill for the construction of the line. Years ago the Railway Advisory Board recommended this railway, but did not decide upon its terminus. There are three propositions for termini, Baandee, Merredin, and Newcarnie.

Mr. Latham: Would it not be better to send it to Merredin even now?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: That is for the hon. member to form an opinion upon. The question has been carefully considered by the engineers of the Works Department, by the Commissioner of Railways, and by the Government, and it has been decided that the line should go to Newcarnie instead of to Merredin. By this map hon. members will see that if the line were continued on to junction at Merredin, it would give a lot of people facilities that, however, are not nearly so urgently required as they are in the northern part of the area. Everybody in the southern portion of the district is within reasonable carting distance of one or other of the existing lines. Taking the line northwards will give the people in this area better opportunities.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But they are close to the other railway.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Again, when the trans-Australian railway is continued from Kalgoorlie to Coolgardie and down to Merredin, it will give some more conveniences to the people there. However, it is not yet within the realm of practical politics to say whether the 4ft. 8½in. gauge will take the place of the existing goldfields railway. If it should do so, then of course we have this other narrow-gauge line to act as a collecting agency for our local traffic. In going through this district, I told the people I hoped they would be sufficiently public-spirited to avoid injuring the prospects of the line by entering into a battle of routes. I pointed out to them that I had known instances of lines being delayed for many years, even actually thrown aside, because of the difficulty of reconciling the claims for the several routes. Although I spoke plainly to them, the people received my remarks in the spirit in which they were given, and have loyally kept to the undertaking. I told them the instructions I should give to the surveyors would be to put the line where it would give the best accommodation to the great bulk of the people, that they were to get a survey that would give equal opportunities to all. It is proof of the strength and reliability of the people in that district that this route has been marked down as one that the people allowed the surveyors to proceed along without hindrance of any sort. I am not so well able to speak of the quality of the land in the district as will be members representing agricultural constituencies; but as a layman I can say that previously I had no idea there was in the district so large an area of highly fertile land. I met there many old friends of mine, but I did not meet anybody who was not perfectly satisfied with his lot, hampered though he was by long cartage. They all said they required nothing but a railway. I have great respect for the men I met there. They have had to put up with great difficulties, but they are all imbued with that sturdy spirit necessary to the settling of a young country such

as Western Australia. I hope to see the railway carried through, so that the people in the district may receive full recognition of their fine qualities. The line is situated midway between the Eastern railway and the Dowerin loop-line, being from 12 to 15 miles distant from each.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Tell us the cost of the line.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: With 45lb. rails it would be £359,000, but with 60lb. rails the cost would be increased by £50,000. The member for the district will be able to give full particulars of the number of settlers and the extent of the area to be served. It will be an act of justice to build the line and so recognise the sturdy reliability of the people in that district.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are entirely wrong. They had the other railway, but it was put too far over. I know something about this.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I was not in Parliament when the other railway was authorised, and so I do not know anything about it. Perhaps the hon. member will be able to give the House full information about it. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin, debate adjourned.

RESOLUTION—CANCER, TREATMENT AT PERTH HOSPITAL.

Message previously received from the Council asking concurrence in the following resolution, now considered—

That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that the Perth Hospital should be equipped with the modern X-ray apparatus necessary for the treatment of cancer by the method known as "deep therapy."

Mr. RICHARDSON (Subiaco) [8.58]: I move—

That the House concurs in the Council's resolution.

I do this with diffidence because it is a highly technical subject, one that perhaps ought to be dealt with by a member of the medical profession. Cancer is of such a nature that everyone who takes an interest in humanity generally should use his best efforts, if not to cure, at all events to alleviate as far as possible the distress and suffering caused by it. It is impossible for me to assert that this treatment is an absolute cure. The medical profession are somewhat conservative in declaring that they have a cure for any disease, and while there is ample evidence to show that cases have been considered cured by deep therapy, the medical profession are not able to say they have been permanently cured. The whole thing is really in an experimental, or, may I say, an advanced experimental stage. Scientists after the study of a lifetime have

admitted their inability to trace the cause of cancer, and because of this it is difficult to find a cure. Until quite recently the only cures known were those brought about by the use of the surgeon's knife. In many cases, after two or three operations, the disease recurred. In 1916 two professors in Europe discovered that by using a very high voltage they could bring out a spark of 16in. in an X-ray apparatus that would penetrate further than any previously known. They concluded that they had discovered a means to cure many cases of cancer. For 20 years the X-ray treatment has been used for cancer, but prior to 1916 it was restricted to an apparatus that threw forth soft rays. By using a new machine with a voltage of over 200,000 volts, with a spark of 16in., they produced a stream of hard rays of a very high penetrative power. Since then experiments have been continued with very good results. In this House to-day we have been discussing a disease affecting cattle at Fremantle, and the opinion seemed unanimous that, no matter how many thousands of pounds may be spent, the disease must be stamped out. Following on that, I hope there will be no opposition to this motion. Probably every member can recollect some friend that suffered from cancer and the intense agony and distress that resulted not only to the patient but to his loved ones. It is for us to do all in our power to relieve suffering and distress, and I hope members will take this opportunity to insist on the Perth Hospital being supplied with this apparatus. I have some extracts from a report by Dr. Riddell, the radiologist at the great infirmary of Glasgow, and also lecturer in radiology at the University of Glasgow, who has been experimenting for a considerable time. The results given by him are simply astounding. According to his statements there is no doubt that 50 per cent. of those who otherwise would have passed out are being saved. Statistics show that 8 per cent. of the whole of the deaths in Australia are due to cancer. Thus one in every 12 deaths is due to cancer. In 1920 3,000 deaths were recorded in Australia from tuberculosis of the lungs and 4,500 deaths from cancer. We are making many efforts to reduce the death rate due to the white scourge, but how many people realise that the death rate from cancer is 50 per cent. higher than from consumption? While the death rate from cancer in Australia is 8 per cent., in Western Australia it is slightly over 9 per cent. Out of every 11 deaths that occur in Western Australia, one is due to cancer. In Melbourne many experiments have been made.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I saw in the paper the other day that this treatment was not working too successfully. It benefits only certain kinds of cancer.

Mr. RICHARDSON: If the hon. member raises that point, I shall have to read the opinions of some of the leading scientists. I do not wish to weary the House by doing that.

Hon. F. T. Brown: Does not radium cause cancer?

Mr. RICHARDSON: I am not talking of radium.

Hon. F. T. Broun: Is it not similar to the X-ray treatment?

Mr. RICHARDSON: No, it is entirely different, and I hope members will not confuse the two things. A leading medical man of Sydney—if any member desires his name I shall be prepared to supply it privately—has written to Dr. Saw as follows:—

The results obtained by deep X-ray therapy are extremely encouraging, so much so that we are now moving to obtain a public organisation for its performance. We do not, however, think that individual hospitals should perform the work, but propose to centralise and economise effort and expense by forming a central institution to do all this work for all hospitals and the general public.

He mentioned six of the leading surgeons of Sydney and added—

All these men avail themselves regularly of the treatment, either as supplementary to operation or to replace operations in cases beyond the reach of surgery. It is a very special job and cannot be undertaken by a resident medical officer or anybody who has not had long and accurate experience in X-ray therapeutic work.

Another letter, written to Dr. Saw by Dr. Clendinnen of Melbourne, states—

In reply to your letter regarding deep therapy, I can certainly confirm what I said to you before. The results I am obtaining are most encouraging. What I complain of most is the unsuitability of the cases. They are sent along as a last resource when they have often generalised metastasis, as well as local recurrence, after surgery has proved unsuccessful.

Dr. Clendinnen's complaint is that people hesitate to submit to this treatment until they have discovered that surgical operations have failed.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I do not attach much importance to that.

Mr. RICHARDSON: Because of that, there is reason to believe this method of treatment in many instances has not had a fair trial. Wherever it has been given a fair trial it has been successful. Dr. Clendinnen continued—

The local condition is checked and often disappears, and then the patient dies of secondaries in the liver or other organs, and one feels that if he could only get these cases in the early stages, and preferably before operation, a very great amount of good could be done. I think I said before that your great trouble may be to obtain a suitable man to run the machine, for it must certainly be under the supervision of an expert. I had an inquiry recently from a man in W.A. who was considering starting a private plant, asking my advice, and also if I would give him a course of instruction, and last week I heard that he was coming over shortly. In advising him I told him

that if the hospital were putting in a plant, I did not know if there would be sufficient work for both, but if he comes over I shall certainly tell him to see you on his return. Our two deep therapy machines for the Melbourne hospital are on their way now. We hope to have them installed soon.

There seems to be some objection to installing X-ray apparatus in the Perth Hospital. If we can save the lives of only 5 per cent. of the people suffering from cancer, it will be well worth the expenditure of a few thousand pounds. It is useless to contend that the experiments so far have failed. They have not failed. This treatment is generally regarded as giving a 30 per cent. return, and has been responsible for prolonging the lives of many people suffering from the disease in severe form. Deep therapy has rendered suffering less acute. There is a tremendous amount of cancer in Western Australia. What causes cancer has not yet been proved. Some cases have been traced to severe pressure over a length of time, and others to friction on certain parts of the body, but no definite cause can be assigned. It is sometimes said that smoking, drinking and over-eating produce cancer. Scientific men, whom we must regard as authorities, state distinctly that there is no known cause. Therefore it is all the harder to deal with this disease. Dr. Clendinnen's doubt as to there being a sufficient number of cases here to keep two machines going reminds me that two machines have already been ordered privately for Perth. Therefore, if the Government are not prepared to find the money for this X-ray apparatus for the hospital, they should seriously consider paying for the treatment of indigent patients that may present themselves at the hospital. If they will do that the hospital could send the patients on to the private medical practitioner, and have them operated on there. I need not refer to the humanitarian side of this question. Probably every member knows someone who is suffering from cancer, and knows what a dreadful disease it is. There seems to be practically no hope for any man or woman seized with it. Up to the present it has been the surgeon's knife only that has given any kind of satisfaction. Because of that I ask members to support me in this matter. Any money we spend in relieving the sufferings of humanity, even in a minor and small degree, will be money well spent. To-day we showed our consternation because of the presence of a dread disease amongst our cattle, and our sympathy towards the people affected by it. We are also doing our best to stamp out that disease. Let us, therefore, endeavour to stamp out this disease of cancer. If we can make even a step in this direction I shall feel satisfied that in moving this motion I have done my duty to my country.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. S. Sampson—Swan) [9.16]: I would utter a word of warning as to the curative effect

of deep therapy treatment. Unfortunately this is at present in its experimental stage. Although I sympathise with all that the member for Subiaco (Mr. Richardson) has said and intend to support the motion, I must express some doubt as to whether the installation of a deep therapy plant is warranted by the facts as we know them.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Are you speaking on behalf of the Medical Department?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. The extent to which cancer obtains is undoubtedly alarming, as the following figures, showing the deaths in this State from this disease for the years 1913 to 1922 will demonstrate—

1913, 178; 1914, 162; 1915, 217; 1916, 233; 1917, 203; 1918, 218; 1919, 251; 1920, 269; 1921, 278; 1922, 302.

The percentage of deaths from cancer to the total deaths is as follows—

1913, 6.07; 1914, 5.32; 1915, 7.25; 1916, 7.55; 1917, 7.13; 1918, 7.69; 1919, 6.99; 1920, 7.94; 1921, 7.99; 1922, 9.54.

The rate of deaths per thousand of the population was as follows—

1913, .56; 1914, .50; 1915, .69; 1916, .76; 1917, .66; 1918, .74; 1919, .76; 1920, .81; 1921, .83; 1922, .88.

Cancer is not a notifiable disease, so that the full extent of its ravages is unknown. A deep therapy plant will cost from £1,500 to £2,500.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is merely a flea-bite if lives can be saved.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There are different grades of plants. I understand that a cheap plant would cost about £1,500.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We do not want any cheap stuff.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The expense, however, is not great. The disease is so widespread that any effort that results in minimising its effects would be justified. It is admitted that in some cases the deep therapy treatment produces good results, but it is claimed that in cases of deep abdominal cancer the results are disappointing.

Mr. Corboy: It is worth while curing the others.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. Progress is being made with research work. Experiments are being carried on in many of the large hospitals in England and on the Continent. There is a danger, but this is being reduced as greater knowledge is obtained in the control of the plant, of overdosage, but it is now possible to secure a fairly definite regulation of the power of the spark. It is claimed by those qualified to express an opinion that deep therapy considerably reduces the red blood cells, and consequently the danger of anaemia is increased. A case of cancer may be cured, but this may bring increased trouble in other directions. It is, therefore, necessary to express a word of caution. I have no desire to damp the hope that deep therapy

offers to anyone, but no object is to be gained by doing other than placing the position as it is before the House. We have read in the paper the account of an operator who had been conducting deep therapy work. His hands were very much injured. That kind of trouble is now a thing of the past. The effect of deep therapy, as I understand it, is that the rays playing upon the body affect only the diseased tissues. That is the principle of the treatment. An X-ray tube costs approximately £75, and its life varies from 50 to 90 hours. Realising the importance of obtaining the latest information as to this form of treatment, on August 14th the Premier sent the following cable to the Agent General:—

Please supply to Health Department, Perth, all latest information obtainable London regarding success of deep X-ray therapy in treatment of cancer.

The secretary to the Agent General forwarded to the Premier a number of letters on the subject. The following communication is from W. S. Lazarus-Barlow, Professor of Experimental Pathology in the University of London:—

In reply to your letter of the 27th inst., which has been forwarded to me, I have to say that the time is not ripe for dogmatic statements concerning the value of deep X-ray therapy in cancer. The German school at Erlangen, which has done the greatest amount of work on the subject, is enthusiastic, but in the opinion of French and English, and even the majority of German authorities, is unduly so. This may be because the Erlangen school has elaborated its technique more than the others, but on the whole it is safer to adopt the less optimistic view. The site of the malignant growth and its nature appear to be of great importance, cancer of the neck, of the womb showing the greatest proportion from use of this variety of treatment. There is reason to believe, too, that it is useful in cancer of the breast after operation, and generally in cancers of which the site precludes operation (e.g., bullet or in which operation has a poor record of success, e.g., tongue, rectum, prostate). In any case the use of radium to the exclusion of X-rays or in conjunction therewith should be considered and, if deep X-rays be administered, they should be given with great caution to protect the neighbouring structures (e.g., intestines, bladder) from their action. Into questions of technique I cannot enter here, but it is generally believed that the best results are obtained when the full dose of X-rays is given within a period of about a week. If I may do so I would suggest that a cablegram in the following terms would sum up the position with fair accuracy:—Cablegram begins: Value of deep X-ray therapy appears to differ according to situation and nature of cancer, best results, womb, prostate, breast, good technique essential combined with operation or radium sometimes very beneficial ends.

The other letter is from Dr. W. Stanley Wyward of the Fulham Cancer Hospital. He writes:—

I am very pleased to give you what information I can concerning the success of deep X-ray therapy. In the first place, however, it must be understood that this matter is still in what is really an experimental stage, and no finality has yet been reached. The method has only been in use some two years or so, and it requires many years, it may be up to 20 years, before it is possible to say that a cancer is cured. Again, there are several variations in the technique each of which has some influence on the final results. The present method of deep X-ray therapy originated at Erlangen. There each patient receives only one or two periods of treatment, but the periods are long and the radiation intense. Each lasts five or six hours and the rays are focused from a series of points in succession so that no area of the skin receives a large dose of rays although the tumour, situated at the focus, receives the maximum possible. Unfortunately, grave ill-effects may follow this procedure. How it happens is by no means certain, but no small proportion of the patients suffer afterwards from very severe intoxication manifested by headache, persistent nausea with vomiting and retching and extreme prostration. When the abdomen is the part irradiated these symptoms reach their greatest intensity. The intestines are peculiarly liable to injury by X-rays and are often the seat, in consequence, of inflammation and ulceration with diarrhoea and blood and mucus in the stools. From this condition some of the patients have never recovered, but have gone steadily down hill and apparently died earlier than would otherwise have been the case. Many cures have, however, been claimed for this method, but before they can be accepted it would be necessary to submit them to the scrutiny of an impartial authority, since apart from other reasons, the criteria of cure accepted by different observers vary so widely and the possibility of mistaken diagnosis is so considerable. In any case these claims are almost or entirely confined to those working at Erlangen (as opposed to others using the Erlangen technique at other centres), and general opinion is now, I believe, fairly uniform that the method fails to effect its object. Certain it is that I personally have never seen any example of improvement from it, while I have seen several cases which received no benefit whatever, but after treatment progressed in the ordinary manner. It is, of course, obvious that there is one great difficulty common to this and every other method of deep X-ray therapy, viz., that of localising the tumour; one can only guess its exact position and on that guess-point focus the rays. In course of time this may be overcome but not yet. At the Cancer Hospital an attempt has been made to avoid the ill-effects of large doses

of X-rays by giving very intense radiation for short periods at short intervals: from 15 to 45 minutes daily or every second day according as the individual patient reacts. This has proved very successful from that point of view, but has also suggested that X-rays are not sufficient in curing cancer by reason of any lethal action on the malignant cells, but in virtue of some general reaction of the body which is inimical to them. What this reaction is is still unknown, how to determine its intensity at any given moment is extremely doubtful, and we have not yet any means of knowing what dose of X-rays will produce it in any given case. These points are all being investigated at the moment. So far we are only able to proceed by guess-work and hope for the best. We have, however, already met with several cases which have reacted in a remarkable way to this technique, and, if not cured, their condition has at least been very greatly ameliorated and their lives prolonged and rendered more tolerable. But in addition to all these vital phenomena which play so important a rôle in X-ray therapy, it appears that the actual instruments employed play almost or perhaps quite as great a part in ensuring success, e.g., the voltage of the induced current, the efficiency of the coil and the elimination of reverse currents, the type of tube, and so on. Into these matters I cannot enter as they are highly technical and I am personally concerned only with the patients, not with the apparatus used for their treatment. I could, however, find out any such details if necessary. To summarise then the present position, some extremely suggestive and encouraging results have so far been obtained at the Cancer Hospital by means of deep X-radiation by the technique there employed, but much detail yet remains to be worked out before the method can be perfected. At the same time it may properly be recommended to suitable cases of cancer, though it should never be allowed to take the first. Furthermore, only those having thorough experience of this method should ever attempt to use it or more harm than benefit may result. I hope that this brief resumé may be of service to the Honourable the Premier of Western Australia and be what he wished. In writing it I have confined myself strictly to the terms of reference, viz., deep X-ray therapy. If there is any further information he desires either on that matter or X-radiation in general I shall be pleased to furnish it if I possess it.

I felt it only right that I should read the opinions of these experts to the House. I hope before long a deep therapy plant will be installed in the Perth Hospital. The malignancy and extent of the disease are well known. Because of that it calls for the greatest sympathy on the part of members. I hope the motion will be agreed to.

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

BILL—VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Minister for Agriculture in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 25, Permits to unregistered veterinary surgeons:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I move an amendment—

That in proposed Subsection 6, line 7, "thirty" be struck out and "twenty" inserted in lieu.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The amendment proposes to reduce the radius from 30 miles to 20. But we must allow a reasonable distance from the surgery of a registered veterinary surgeon, within which unregistered veterinary surgeons may not practice, especially as travelling nowadays is so much easier and more expeditious. The radius of 30 miles should be retained.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Suppose a registered practitioner established himself within the radius of 30 miles, would the permit to the unregistered practitioner be withdrawn?

The Minister for Agriculture: In such circumstances the board may withdraw it.

Hon. P. Collier: It would certainly be withdrawn.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We know what these boards are, and how they are constituted. Roads do not run as the crow flies, and a radius of 30 miles might in practice mean a radius of 50.

The Minister for Agriculture: To-day the unregistered veterinary surgeon is shut out altogether.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Registered veterinary surgeons will not go to new districts until these have become sufficiently settled to assure the registered practitioner a good livelihood. Why should the unregistered man, who may be perfectly competent, be pushed out upon the advent of a registered practitioner?

The Minister for Agriculture: He will be pushed out only at the discretion of the board.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is, at the discretion of the registered men, according to the Minister's own argument. A radius of 20 miles, which is equal to a diameter of 40 miles, is quite sufficient to safeguard the interests of the registered man.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	13
Noes	..	..	..	15
				—
Majority against	..	..	..	2
				—

AYES.

Mr. Angwin
Mr. Broun
Mr. Chesson
Mr. Collier
Mr. Corboy
Mr. Harrison
Mr. Heron

Mr. Johnston
Mr. Lutey
Mr. Marshall
Mr. McCallum
Mr. Munste
Mr. Lambert

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angelo
Mr. Carter
Mrs. Cowan
Mr. Durack
Mr. George
Mr. Hickmott
Mr. H. K. Maley
Mr. Mann

Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Pickering
Mr. Richardson
Mr. Sampson
Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Underwood
Mr. Mullany

(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

Mr. McCALLUM: I move an amendment—

That the following be added to the clause:—"It is further provided that any reputable person who, prior to the great war, had undergone not less than three years' training in a veterinary hospital in this State, efficiently equipped and maintained for the treatment of the diseases and injuries of the domesticated animals, and who subsequently served abroad with the Australian Imperial Forces shall, on satisfactory proof of such facts being given to the board, be registered as a veterinary practitioner in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act. Provided always that application under this amendment shall be made within six months from the date of its becoming law."

The amendment covers such a case as that of which I spoke on the second reading, and therefore would remove a grave injustice now existing. In this evening's newspaper the man I have in mind is paid a very high compliment by Mr. Weston, admittedly as good a veterinary surgeon as can be found in this State. Mr. Weston's complimentary remarks referred to the man's work in connection with the outbreak of disease among cattle at Fremantle. The existing law will not permit the man to be registered, although he has the approval and support of all the stock owners in the Fremantle district.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I am in perfect agreement with the mover of the amendment as to the particular case he has mentioned. I have some knowledge of the man, and he appears to me to be very capable, and possessed of sound, commonsense, practical knowledge. I am prepared to accept the amendment subject to a little alteration. I move an amendment on the amendment—

That after "board," in line 10 of the amendment, there be inserted "and if the board in its discretion so directs."

There is no reason to believe that the board will not act as desired by the mover.

Mr. Mann: But there might be other similar cases.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Then the amendment would still be a direction to the board.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The man having served in the war, we should do this ourselves, and not leave it to be done by the board.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: There is no opposition whatever to this particular case. There may be other men similarly situated and the board should have some discretion.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Committee should make this appointment direct.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is quite unusual.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The amendment stipulates that any person admitted must have served abroad with the Australian Imperial forces.

The Minister for Agriculture: There are plenty of them.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not men who served as veterinary surgeons!

The Minister for Agriculture: The amendment does not describe the man as a "veterinary surgeon," but as a "veterinary practitioner." There is a great distinction between the two.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It also provides that any person admitted under the terms of the amendment must have undergone not less than three years' training in a veterinary hospital in this State. Are there many men who will come within that category?

Mr. Teesdale: I know one who will.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Suppose there are half a dozen or a dozen!

The Premier: You would not admit doctors in this wholesale fashion!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If a man went through his medical course and only missed registration as a medical practitioner because he went to the war, it would be right to register him and not hand over our power to a board. The position is that we are punishing qualified people because they went to the war.

The Premier: That is not so. We must have some regard for dumb animals as well as human beings.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: A man who has spent three years in a veterinary hospital must have had some training.

Mr. Latham: And he should pass some examination now before he is registered.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: He has to give satisfactory proof that he has undergone not less than three years' training in a veterinary hospital in this State.

Mr. Latham: We have to be consistent. Remember the Architects Bill!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the member for York had made such a proposal in connection with the Architects Bill I would have

supported him. We should not punish individuals because they lost their opportunity to be registered owing to their war services. The Committee should direct the board to register a man on production of proof as required by the amendment.

Mr. Underwood: Without any test or examination?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The man particularly concerned is known to the board. He would not have any difficulty in securing registration, even if the Minister's suggestion were adopted.

Mr. Pickering: The Minister gave you his assurance that the board would pass the man!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the man concerned lived in the back country the board would not have any personal experience of him, and in that case the man would probably be turned down.

Hon. F. T. BROUN: The Minister's amendment on the amendment is not necessary. I agree that only qualified men should be registered as veterinary surgeons. The member for South Fremantle's amendment is concise and clear. A man seeking registration must produce proof to the satisfaction of the board.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: A person may have been engaged with a qualified veterinary surgeon in a veterinary hospital and still not have the slightest knowledge regarding operations, the giving of medicines or anything else in connection with veterinary work, although he may have been there for three years.

Mr. Mann: Your amendment means that he must pass an examination.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It means nothing of the kind. If the member for South Fremantle's amendment be carried, it will enable a person so registered to practise anywhere in the State. That is a big concession. I admit the qualifications of the man referred to by the member for South Fremantle, and I desire to assist him. I submitted the rough notes of the hon. member's amendment to the Solicitor General, who advised that it would be wise to insert the words I have proposed. Cannot the Committee accept my assurance? I have met the member for South Fremantle more than half way.

Mr. MUNSIE: I hope the Committee will not agree to the Minister's amendment which will mean that not one of the men concerned will secure registration, because they will have to go before the board, the members of which have already refused them registration. If discretion is given to the board, the man particularly concerned will not be registered.

The PREMIER: The members of the board are not hostile to the gentleman under discussion. The board will register him willingly if the necessary power is afforded

them. They have not that power to-day. The Committee should remember that dumb animals have feelings. Hon. members would not register doctors to practise on themselves as readily as they are prepared to register veterinary surgeons. A man dealing with dumb animals should have some qualifications. The Veterinary Surgeons' Board is merely carrying out the wishes of Parliament and no power is available to permit the board to register men at present.

Mr. Munsie: The board would not register the men before examination.

The PREMIER: The amendment on the amendment says the board may register them. We must give somebody the right to judge the applicant's qualification for registration. It is wrong to believe the board is hostile to the applicants. The board is composed of reasonable men, whom we ought to trust.

Mr. PICKERING: I will support the amendment on the amendment. To-day a lot of people are travelling about the country attending to horses' mouths; why should they not all be registered? Never before have we so urgently needed expert knowledge in veterinary science, yet it is proposed to allow anybody and everybody to practice! Surely we can trust the board to do the right thing. Presently we shall have even more valuable stock than we have to-day, and so we should see to it that only skilled men are permitted to treat them in sickness or disease.

Mr. McCALLUM: The only thing I fear from the amendment on the amendment is that the board will fix a stiff examination.

The Minister for Agriculture: There is no examination.

Mr. Teesdale: It is merely the character of the applicant.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Don't you believe it!

Mr. McCALLUM: What test will the board apply?

The Premier: If the board does not comply with the Act, we can deal with the board.

Mr. McCALLUM: One of the many existing boards insists upon three languages before a man is permitted to pull a tooth. How many languages, then, will the Veterinary Surgeons' Board require before permitting a man to practise on a horse? I do not want the board to set a stiff examination.

The Minister for Agriculture: No examination is provided for. The hon. member need not fear.

Mr. McCALLUM: But I do fear that the board will apply an impossible test so as to prevent a man from securing registration.

Mr. CORBOY: There is no necessity to leave anything to the discretion of the board. Already we have boards using every conceivable means to prevent men from obtaining registration. All these boards are interested bodies, who find it to their advantage to keep their profession as restricted as possible.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	14
Noes	..	..	..	14
				<u>A tie</u>

AYES.

Mr. Angelo	Mr. H. K. Maley
Mr. Carter	Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Durack	Mr. Pickering
Mr. George	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Teesdale
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Johnston	Mr. Mullany

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Latham
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Lutey
Mr. Clydesdale	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Collier	Mr. McCallum
Mr. Corboy	Mr. Munsie
Mrs. Cowan	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Lambert	Mr. Heron

(Teller.)

The CHAIRMAN: I give my casting vote with the noes.

Amendment on the amendment thus negatived.

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

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment.

House adjourned at 10.17 p.m.