The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East—in reply) [5.12]: I think I can satisfy the hon. member on the two points he has raised. The governors who are to retire on the 30th day of April in each year will be one of the governors appointed on the nomination of the Old Boys' Association, and two of the others. The position in regard to the six governors appointed by the Government will not be altered. The three governors appointed on the nomination of the Old Boys' Association will be appointed in just the same way for a period of three years, and one will retire each year at the end of April. When the three retirements take place one nomination will come from the Old Boys' Association and two from the Government.

Hon. J. Duffell: The Old Boys' Association will not interfere with the reappointments.?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The position of the six governors will not be affected at all. So far as the other secondary schools are concerned, I cannot see that they will be affected at all, as the hon. member fears. We are not interested in the board of the Scotch College or in that of the Guildford Grammar School. Moreover, they do not require an Act of Parliament to enable them to do anything. The properties on which the schools are built are their own, and they can do as they like. They are purely their own institutions conducted by different bodies, and the Government have no interest in them, financial or otherwise. This Bill makes no difference whatever in their position. After the passing of the measure they will still be able to do exactly as they please.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. Ewing in the Chair, the Minister for Education in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Retirement of governors:

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Mr. Duffell's point is one which may require a little further elucidation. The clause is not as clear as it might be, nor does it give expression to what is the obvious intention of the draftsman. It is open to the interpretation that two of the three governors to retire will be two of the governors appointed by the Government. The intention would have been much clearer had this clause stated that two of the governors appointed under the High School Appointment Act shall retire on the 30th April and that one of the governors appointed under this measure shall similarly retire.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: I see no difficulty in the matter at all. The clause says that three governors shall retire each year, and that one of the governors appointed under this measure shall retire. The only place where two other governors can be obtained is among the governors appointed by the Government. The clause seems to me perfectly clear.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The clause is perfectly clear. Moreover Subclause (2) says who shall retire; namely, those who have been longest in office.

Hon. J. Nicholson: But that might apply also to the three governors under this measure.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 4, 5—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 5.25 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 2nd September, 1920.

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

QUESTION—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE BOARD.

Machinery and Netting Prices.

Mr. HARRISON asked the Premier: 1, What were the prices of the following to Industries Assistance Board clients in 1916: —(a) Massey reaper and binder, also reaper-thresher; (b) Sunshine 6ft. harvester, 17-disc drill, four-furrow disc plough, and ten-twin discs cultivator; (c) wire netting—(36in. sheep) and rabbit proof (48in.)? 2, What are the quoted prices to Industries Assistance Board clients in 1920 for the above machines and wire netting?

The PREMIER replied: 1, (a) Massey reaper and binder—price to I.A.B., 1916, £49; reaper-threshers—1916, £151. (b) Sunshine 6ft. harvester, 1916, 1st payment, £113 15s.; 3 payments £128 15s. 4-furrow disc

plough, 1st payment, £42; 3 payments, £47 10s. 17-disc drills are not made by the Sunshine Company, but 16-disc drills are supplied—Cash 1916, price £52; terms, £59 10s.; 1920, £79 cash. 10 twin disc cultivators—in 1916 this firm supplied a Sun twin disc cultivator at a cost of £40 5s. cash, terms £45 5s. This implement has been done away with as unsatisfactory, and to-day this firm supply a Sundercut 10 twin disc implement, improved pattern, at £69. (c) Wire netting —36in. sheep, in 1916 was approximately £33 10s. per mile; to-day, approximately £50 per mile. As regards 48in. rabbit netting, this was not and is not on the W.A. market. 42in. was supplied in 1916 at approximately £47 per mile; to-day, approximately £70 per mile. All wire netting shows a 50 per cent. rise since 1916. 2. (a) Massey reaper and binder—price to I.A.B., 1920, early delivery, £79 10s.; late delivery, £99. Reaper-threshers—1920, early delivery, £209; late delivery, £213. (b) Sunshine 6ft. harvester—1920, £160 cash. Four furrow disc plough—£61 cash.

QUESTION—HOE PRINTING MACHINE.

Mr. LUTEY asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Who was the official concerned who sold the Hoe rotary machine to the "Sunday Times" without reference to any member of the Ministry? 2, Has he been reprimanded or commended by the Minister for his action? 3, When did the "Sunday Times" Company commence to dismantle and remove the machine? 4, Has the amount, £500, been paid yet? 5, If so, on what date was it paid? 6, What were the reasons which actuated the Government of the day in purchasing the machine for £5,800? 7, What amount did the "Sunday Times" Company receive for the whole of the land, buildings, and machinery when resumed? 8, Was the Government Printer ever asked to report on the machine? 9, Is it a fact that the member for North Perth is the managing director of the "Sunday Times"?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, The Commissioner of Railways. 2, No. 3, 7th June, 1920. 4, Yes. 5, Cheque was received on the 4th June, 1920, subject to confirmation of sale. 6, The Company claimed that the machinery was included in the resumption, and on the advice of the Solicitor General, who stated that a claim for fixed machinery could be sustained, the then Government admitted the claim. 7, £33,356. 8, Yes. 9, I do not know.

QUESTION—LOYAL CITIZENS' MEETING.

Ministerial Explanation.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [4.36]: Referring to the questions recently asked by the member for Leederville (Mr. Veryard) with regard to Mr. Michael O'Dea, inquiries have been made, and I now propose to read extracts from police reports on the subjects:—

Sergeant Lewis: "I know Mick O'Dea. He was three rows of seats away from Monaghan, and nearer the centre of the building. I did not see him take any part in the disturbance, and I did not hear him say anything; but he may have done so and I did not hear it."

Constable Culmsee: "I did not see Mick O'Dea in the hall. I have known him for the past 20 years. I saw him coming down the steps after the meeting. If he had taken a prominent part in the meeting, I would have seen him."

Constable McDonald: "I saw Mick O'Dea, the undertaker, there. He was seated near the back, at the centre passage, and away from the principal interjectors. I did not hear him say or do anything. I saw him take no part in the disturbance."

I think this information clears Mr. O'Dea.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Carriers.

2, City of Perth Endowment Lands.

Introduced by the Attorney General.

BILL—PUBLIC SERVICE APPEAL BOARD.

Second Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. P. Draper—West Perth) [4.42]: in moving the second reading said: There is no necessity, I think, for me to remind hon. members of recent events which led up to the late strike of public servants, or of what followed upon that strike. The appeal board, for which I am asking legislative authority to be obtained, had been agreed upon before the strike occurred. I think we all recognise now that a great deal of loss and suffering is caused to the community through the absence of some authority with power to settle disputes which may arise between the employer and the employee. In this instance the Government may be regarded as the employer, and the public servants and teachers, to whom this board will apply, may be regarded as the employees. It is desirable that a board should be constituted with a representative of each party to any dispute which may occur, sitting with a judge of the Supreme Court as chairman. The principle is not new. In fact, there is at the present time a board for public servants under the Public Service Act. That board has jurisdiction over two classes of matters. It has a jurisdiction over discipline as regards punishments which may be inflicted upon public servants, as regards recommendations for dismissals of public servants, and as regards fines imposed upon public servants. It is not proposed in any

way to deal with that board in this Bill. That board, at any rate until altered by amendment of the Public Service Act, will remain as it is. There was also under the Public Service Act, which of course applies only to the public servants and not to the teachers, a board which had power to deal with the classification of a public servant. That board consisted of a representative of the Government and a representative of the civil service, presided over by the judge of the Industrial Arbitration Court. That board has been found to be inadequate to meet the difficulties which have arisen. It was established by Act No. 10 of 1912, which amended the Public Service Act in that respect, and gave power to appeal against classification. Directly that board commenced its sittings, a good deal of dissatisfaction arose because the public servants considered that that board had the right to deal with their salaries, but the court immediately decided, and rightly so, that it had no power to deal with salaries, but merely had power to deal with classification. Now classification in the public service consisted of those who were entitled to receive salaries within a certain range. I am not giving the exact figures, but one classification might take in a range of salaries from £200 to £300, another from £300 to £400, and another from £400 to £500 a year. In each classification there were certain grades, and a man's salary depended upon the grade in which he was placed in any particular classification. The public service, therefore, found that when they came to appeal as regards the grade in any particular classification in which they were placed, which really affected the salary, the court had no jurisdiction, and this, members will recollect, caused many heartburnings at the time. The teachers had no board. Further than that, there have been from time to time various causes of dispute between the teachers and the Crown and between the public service and the Crown, to remedy which no board existed at all. Anomalies have arisen from time to time, as members will understand, and further grievances arose by reason of the interpretation placed upon the Act and upon the regulations by the Public Service Commissioner or by the Minister for Education, and from these decisions, as regards the interpretation of the Act or of regulations, there was no appeal. Then, again, the provisions of the Act dealing with temporary employees under the Public Service Act have not, it is said, always been carried out but, to anyone who has any knowledge of the public service, there appears to be a good deal of force in this complaint. Wages men have also been employed—men placed on wages sheets not, technically speaking, as temporary employees under the Public Service Act, but yet placed on wages sheets for many years. I was told of one instance of a man who is probably known to all members, who has really been on the wages sheet for 20 years and, during that period, has undoubtedly been doing work which would have entitled him to be placed upon the permanent staff of the civil service. Another cause of complaint has arisen when dealing with pensions to which civil servants claim to be entitled under the Superannuation Act. Those who were in the permanent civil service in an established capacity before the passing of the Public Service Act were entitled to a pension. The Public Service Act did not take away the pension rights of those persons, but those who have entered the service since the passing of the Act are not entitled to any pension. The question whether under the Superannuation Act a man was entitled to a pension or not, was one solely for the decision of the Governor-in-Council and, as members can imagine, the pensions have not always been granted upon any consistent principle.

Mr. Pickering: That is so.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: If members went through all the pensions which have been granted, they would find it very difficult to recognise that any consistent principle had been established in all the cases upon which the Governor-in-Council had held that a person was employed in an established capacity in the permanent civil service. I am using the words of Section 1 of the Superannuation Act.

Mr. Pickering: There was one consistent principle and that was not to give the pension when the Government could escape payment.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I am glad the hon. member has found one consistent principle. As an instance the words "established capacity in the permanent civil service" would not apply, and properly so, to a man who was simply temporarily employed. When the public works policy was first commenced to any considerable extent, about 1894—that was when the Government began to borrow money for the execution of public works—it was necessary to increase the staff, especially of engineers, to carry out the works. The men, who were paid out of loan moneys, were appointed temporarily and, in the ordinary course of events, when the works had been completed they would have left the service and gone away, and no possible claim for a pension could have arisen. But there were many men who came here temporarily, did the work they came here to do and, as further loan works were undertaken, were kept on, and many men were here for as long as 20 years.

The Minister for Works: One of them for 27 years.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: These men have complained that, though they were temporarily employed, they had been treated all along as though they were on the permanent staff and, therefore, they argued that they were entitled to pensions. That question came before the Governor-in-Council and the Governor-in-Council did not always give consistent decisions. I need hardly remind mem-

bers that neither the civil servants nor the teachers can go before the Arbitration Court. From what members know of the service—and any member who has held office will bear me out—I have said sufficient to show that there is not only a justification but a necessity, not only for the civil servants and the teachers, but for the State to have some board to which those who have grievances can go and so that the board can decide what remedy shall be applied to those grievances. The clauses in this Bill are rather complicated. Each clause is very important. I would ask members not to suggest amendments to this Bill without first giving them full consideration. An amendment, if made haphazardly, might have a far wider effect than is intended. I am not suggesting that the House should not amend the Bill if amendment is considered desirable, but I do ask members to carefully consider the effect of any amendment before moving it. I desire to refer to the clauses of the Bill so that members may gain some idea of the points which are involved. Clause 2 defines a public servant and also refers to the teachers. There are two further definitions which are important. It has been thought that those who are temporarily employed under the provisions of the Public Service Act should have a right of appeal, provided they have been working under the Act for a reasonable time. It is proposed, therefore, to allow any person who has been temporarily employed under Section 36 of the Public Service Act, and who has been employed continuously for at least 12 months next preceding the appeal, to rank as a public servant under the Public Service Act for the purpose of appeal. Paragraph (d) makes a similar provision for those who are temporarily employed on the teaching staff of the Education Department. It was not possible to use exactly the same words in that paragraph as when dealing with temporary employees in the public service departments, because the teachers have their holidays the same as the scholars and, if we stipulated the period of 12 months when dealing with teachers temporarily employed, we would cut out a great many of them. The educational year is divided into 45 weeks, and any person temporarily employed as a teacher just before the Christmas vacation would, at the end of that term, cease to be employed. Under those circumstances it can be easily understood that it would not be fair to fix a period of 12 months continuous employment for teachers. There are a certain number of teachers in the Education Department who are always kept for this work on the temporary staff, and so the Bill provides that 40 weeks in the year shall be regarded as a full educational year. Through no fault of their own they may not be temporarily employed for a few weeks. As regards those temporarily employed, they will have the right to go to this court if they have been employed for at least 40 weeks during the 12 months next preceding their appeal. Now we come to the board. The board is constituted by a representative of the teachers, by a representative of the Crown, and also by a Supreme Court judge to act as chairman. When dealing with a dispute and the appellant is a public servant, as distinct from a teacher, there is a similar provision. There is a representative of the public service, a representative of the Crown, and also a judge to act as chairman. It will be obvious to many members who know the working of the Education Department and the public service that sometimes a question will arise which is common to both services. In that case the board of appeal will consist of the representatives of the public service and the teachers, two representatives of the Crown, and a Supreme Court judge.

Hon. T. Walker: Can you think of any instance where the double representation would be required?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Perhaps not at this moment.

Mr. Munsie: Where will the Crown get their representative from; will he be a member of the civil service as well?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The Crown can employ anyone it likes, and so can the civil service and the teachers. The board has been appointed. It cannot at present give any decision which is binding on anybody, and cannot do so until this Bill becomes law. The board has been provisionally appointed because in a matter of this kind time is of importance. We are told that there will be many appeals, and there is a great deal of work which can be done by the board provisionally which will save time. They can certainly hear evidence and they can practically do everything. But their decisions will not be binding unless Parliament passes the Bill, and approves of the authority which is given to them. Hon. members will see a proviso in Clause 3 to this effect. At present the representatives of the service and of the teachers have been appointed for six months. They will be reappointed at the end of that term, and their tenure of office will then be for 12 months. Clause 5 deals with the appointment of deputies. We now come to Clause 6, which deals with the jurisdiction of the board, and is perhaps the most important in the whole of the Bill. It will be noticed in paragraph (a) of Subclause 1, that appeals by public servants from the decisions of the Public Service Commissioner, or the Minister for Education, as regards classification, reclassification, or salary, can be made to the board. The classification of the public servants at present is made by the Governor-in-Council, but the procedure adopted there under the Public Service Act is rather cumbersome. The Public Service Commissioner at present makes a proposal. That proposal is then gazetted for three weeks, and then the public servants have the right of appeal against it before it goes to the Governor-in-Council. In this case, in order to simplify the procedure, the classi-

fication is to be made by the Commissioner and the appeal is direct from his classification. The Minister for Education at present makes the classification of teachers. That is why the appeal is given here from the Minister for Education as regards classification. Further than that, the board has power to decide appeals which involve the interpretation or application of the provisions of any Act or regulation governing the service of the public servants or class of public servants. The public service in the Act includes teachers. In addition to that, as the classification of those under the civil service is now vested in the Public Service Commissioner, it is now necessary to give the Minister also an appeal against that classification. No appeal is necessary by the Minister as regards the classification of teachers because he himself makes it. Provision for this will be seen in paragraph (b) of Subclause 1. Paragraph (c) deals with appeals against any alleged anomaly which may affect the public servant in respect to his classification, or salary, or position. When we come to the Committee stage, on that point I will give examples to members as to what these words will cover. As regards anomalies, it will be noticed that the board has jurisdiction in certain circumstances to redress an anomaly retrospectively from July 1919. Anomalies may have arisen at any time during the last few years, but power is given to redress them for 12 months prior to July of this year.

Hon. T. Walker: How would you define an anomaly?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I will deal with that later. Further than that we have also paragraph (d). This provision was inserted to meet the claims of the civil service and the teachers when they went out on strike for a 33⅓ per cent. immediate increase. They said "We cannot wait for the board to sit to appeal against the classification, because only a certain portion of us have been classified. In the meantime, we require immediate relief, and we therefore claim as a condition precedent to going back to work that we should receive now, on the spot, a 33⅓ per cent. increase." It was, of course, impossible for the Government to entertain any proposal of the sort. Ultimately it was arranged, if there were any men who had not been classified since the 30th June, that those people who were waiting for their classification and under the necessity of obtaining some immediate relief from the board, should in the meantime have the right to apply to the board to obtain this. The next paragraph deals again with one of the terms upon which the strike was settled, this being that there was to be no victimisation. The public service and the teachers asked that any grievance of that nature, where they claimed that there had been victimisation, should be referred to the board. We can hardly see that any claim as to victimisation is likely to arise, and the Government have no reason to object, if a claim should arise, to its being referred to the board. It is, at all events, a guarantee that the terms of the settlement will be carried out. Subclause 2 is again of importance. Apart from those permanently employed in the public service, and those temporarily employed, and properly so employed under the Public Service Act, there are wages men in the ordinary sense of the term employed in some departments. These wages men cannot as civil servants go to the Arbitration Court. They are not, unless the Government chose to consent, in any way within an analagous award which may have been made by the Arbitration Court. Sometimes there is more than one award which is said to be analogous to another, and sometimes there is none. Provision is made here that in a case of that kind, where there may be two awards which by analogy apply, the board may say which of these awards was to apply. Further, if there is no award at all which applies, these wages men have the right to appeal to the board. It does not seem to me that there would be many cases which would not be met by some award, which has been made in the ordinary course of the jurisdiction of the Arbitration Court. However, the provision was asked for and there was no objection to its going in. The two paragraphs of Subclause 3 deal with those who have been kept on wages for a term of not less than five years continuously——

Mr. Duff: That is a long time, is it not?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: And whose duties are similar to those of an officer on the permanent staff. These persons may apply to the Public Service Commissioner for appointment to the permanent staff. The Public Service Commissioner will then hear and determine any application, and if he refuses he must set out in writing his facts. If those facts are improperly found, an appeal will lie to the appeal board as regards all material facts.

Mr. Willcock: Why that length of time?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: We will discuss that in Committee. Subclause 4 deals with the qualification of persons to claim allowances under the Superannuation Act. Under this, if a dispute arises, the board can say whether a person has been appointed in an established capacity in the permanent civil service, and it can also say the length of time which a person has so served in such capacity. The next two clauses are matters of procedure. Clause 9 is of importance as regards future classifications. As members are aware, a classification was made shortly after the 30th June of this year which covers a large number of those employed in the public service and also a large number of teachers. But, as I have said, many will have to wait for subsequent classifications to meet their cases. Clause 9 provides that when those classifications are made they shall date back to the 30th June last. Those classifications, both in the public service and in the Education Department, are now proceeding. The

next clause of importance is Clause 14, which preserves the rights and privileges and continuity of service to public servants and teachers who took part in the late strike. Clause 15 provides a penalty for strikes in future. Clause 16 provides for the making of regulations. It will be noticed that regulations are to be made prescribing the time in which appeals and applications to the board are to be made. That is a necessary procedure where a court is exercising judicial functions. Paragraph (d) of the same clause is of importance because it fixes the remunertion of members of the board, other than the chairman. Paragraph (e) is a general clause to give effect by regulations to the Act in order to carry it out. When an Act is passed, sometimes matters occur for which, possibly, machinery is not provided. It is always advisable in cases of this kind to supplement the machinery by regulations. The repeals to which I draw the attention of hon. members are, first, the repeal of Section 10 of the Public Service Act, which, under the old system, gave persons employed in the public service the right to appeal against the classification of the Public Service Commissioner. That procedure will now be altered, because the Public Service Commissioner himself will do the classifications, whereas formerly he only made proposals. The repeal of Section 19 is another important repeal, because in the past officers of the administrative division were not subject to classification. Their salaries were fixed by Parliament. It is now proposed to repeal that section, make their salaries subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commissioner as regards classification, and give them the same right of appeal which other persons employed in the service have. The other sections which it is proposed to repeal are merely of a machinery nature. The Bill requires a good deal of consideration. Subject to what I have said, it is, I think, largely a Committee measure, and I trust that before the Committee stage is reached hon. members will give careful consideration to its provisions. It is of vital importance to the State to have satisfactory provisions for settling disputes between the Government and those who are employed by the Government, either in the public service or in the Education Department. No doubt a good deal of misunderstanding has arisen during the past 10 years. It is of no use referring to what has gone. We have to try to remedy any bona fide grievances which have arisen, and to try to prevent those grievances arising in future. I feel that if the Bill is passed, at any rate the public service, the teachers and the Crown itself will be placed on a very much more satisfactory footing, and the relations between them will be much more cordial than they have been during the last few years. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. T. Walker, debate adjourned.

BILL—ARCHITECTS.

Second Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. P. Draper—West Perth) [5.23] in moving the second reading said: The Bill seeks to bring in new legislation on a subject regarding which no Act appears to have been passed in Western Australia. An Act dealing with architects and regulating their privileges and their charges has been adopted in New Zealand, but I am not aware of any Act of the sort in Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is setting up another close corporation.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The reason for bringing in the Act is the necessity for controlling what the member for North-East Fremantle terms a close corporation. It is just as necessary to protect the public in regard to the architecture of buildings in which we live as it is to protect the public in respect of those who treat the public medically or those who serve them in a legal capacity.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A skilled tradesman can draw a set of plans just as well as can an architect.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Under the Bill the charges of architects are regulated by the Governor-in-Council. It is no new departure to introduce a Bill of this nature. At the present time we have Bills dealing with legal practitioners, with doctors, with chemists, with surveyors and with dentists.

The Minister for Works: And other trade unions.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL. I do not put the lawyers, the surveyors, the dentists and the doctors upon the same footing as members of trades unions. Trades unions exist to protect themselves. An architect, no doubt, is protected to some extent by an Act, but he does not derive from it the same advantages as a trade unionist gets by joining a union; his position is analogous rather to that of the surveyor or the doctor or the chemist.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The architects have a union, only they call it by another name.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: But they have not the power of a trades union.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You erect a building and see.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Without coming under the control of the State, anybody can call himself an architect, charge a person for drawing up plans and, if he be a man of no skill, it is likely that the house will come tumbling down about somebody's ears. Under the Bill the control of the architects is to be vested in a board consisting of eight architects. No architect will be allowed to practice unless he is registered under the Act. It will be seen that the qualifications of an architect are set out in Clause 15. There is to be a provisional board appointed, this being necessary in order to register those who at present are carrying on the work of architects in this State. When

that first registration has been complied with, the functions of the provisional board will cease and a new board will come into existence, elected by the registered architects themselves. The qualifications for registration of those who are practising at present are as follows: they must be of the age of 21 years, they must be resident in Western Australia and of good character. Those three essentials are required, and in addition those persons must be members of the West Australian Institute of Architects or some other institute of architects of equal standing. Most countries have an institute of architects or some corresponding association. Architects who are not members of an institute are required to be of the age of 21 years, to be resident in Western Australia and to be of good character, and they must also, for 12 months prior to the Act coming into operation, have practised as architects in Western Australia, and must be able to satisfy the board in respect of their skill. For a third class of architects, they must have assisted architects in Western Australia for at least seven years prior to the passing of the Act, and must be able to satisfy the board in respect of their skill. They will then be entitled to register. We make provision not only for those who belong to recognised institutes but for those persons who have practised for 12 months as architects, or who have assisted an architect in Western Australia for seven years prior to the passing of the Act. In each case the board must be satisfied of the applicants' skill, and provided this is done, such persons are entitled to be registered. So far I have dealt with those architects who are practising at the present time. The provisional board will look after the first registration, and that provisional board is to be elected by the council of the West Australian Institute of Architects. As soon as they have done their work, a new board elected by the registered architects will come into existence, and they will have to deal with the future registration of architects. The qualifications of the future registration by the elected board are set out in Clause 16. There we have similar qualification as regards residence in Western Australia and of good character, and the person applying for registration must have passed the examination of certain institutes and had at least four years' professional and practical experience as an assistant to an architect or, before the commencement of the Act, must have been registered as an associate or licentiate of the Royal Institute of British Architects in London, or of the West Australian Institute of Architects, or of some other institute of a like nature. Clause 16 really provides for the qualification of architects for registration after those now practising in Western Australia have been registered by the provisional board. Clause 18 provides that, if a person is refused registration, he has a right of appeal to the Supreme Court. When we protect a registered body by statute, it is always necessary to make provision for appeal to a court. I think this provision is to be found in every Act which deals with professions.

Mr. Munsie: It does not apply to the dentists' board.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I do not know whether that provision was included in the old Act.

Mr. Munsie: No; an appeal is not provided for there.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: We shall deal with that matter later on.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How would a local authority approve of plans submitted to it, if it had not an architect as provided for in the Bill?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: In addition the board have the right, by an order of the Supreme Court, to cancel the registration of an architect on the ground of fraud in obtaining registration, or for loss of qualification, or if the person concerned has been convicted of any crime or is guilty of improper practices which are set out in Clauses 22 and 23. Provision is also made for proper examination in architectural education. One thing I omitted to point out is that those now practising as architects in Western Australia and desiring to come under the provisions of the Bill must register within six months after the commencement of the Act. That is provided for in Clause 31. I have stated generally the objects of the Bill. There is no principle involved. It is a matter for the protection of the public.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: More likely for the protection of the architects.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: And also for the protection of the architects, but I cannot see that there will be any disadvantage to the public. When the Bill reaches Committee, members, if they so desire, will be able to amend it, provided the general provisions of the measure are not substantially altered. It is always necessary to see that the objects for which a Bill is introduced are maintained. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

BILL—FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [5.37] in moving the second reading said: I have no intention of reiterating the remarks I made last session when I introduced a similar Bill. The opportunity was then taken to explain its provisions, not with the object of passing the measure during that session, but to make its provisions widely known, in order to give those directly interested an opportunity to consider the Bill and if necessary bring under notice any matters which affected them. So far we have not heard very much, and I do not know that we have gained a great deal by adopting that course. True, one or two sections have suggested amendments, but

neither employers nor employees have taken exception to, or expressed approval of, the Bill. I take it that silence gives consent. It is now suggested that as the Bill is fairly far-reaching in its provisions, it might be desirable to refer it to a select committee. I believe that suggestion came from the Opposition. I am authorised to say that the Government have no objection to the Bill being referred to a select committee of this House, although we would have preferred a joint select committee of the two Houses. I understand, however, that our joint Standing Orders do not permit of the adoption of that course. I take it that, if members desire to discuss the general principles of the Bill, they must do so before it is read a second time. If, however, it is considered preferable to refer the Bill to a select committee, it will require to be read a second time before that can be done. My view is that it is not desirable to discuss it now. We want to be fair to those engaged in carrying on operations in shops and factories as well as to the employees, and a select committee could get a thorough understanding of the requirements. I do not desire to say more than that. I explained the provisions of the Bill fully last session.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is no alteration to the measure?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No, it is exactly the same Bill. I thought it desirable to introduce the Bill again in exactly the same form as I presented it last year, particularly as the Government have acceded to the request to refer it to a select committee. I have received some suggested amendments but they have not been embodied in the Bill. My speech in moving the second reading last session appears in "Hansard," page 1940. I suggest that the second reading be adopted and that the Bill be referred to a select committee, and then, if any further discussion is desired, it can take place on consideration of the report of the select committee. That would be better than having a long debate on the second reading, only to refer the Bill to a select committee subsequently to be fully reviewed by that body. To put the matter in proper form under our Standing Orders, I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.40]: In looking through the provisions of this Bill, I am pleased to find that the Government have embodied many of the provisions of the measure which was passed in 1913, particularly the provisions for the benefit of those employed in factories who, for many years, have been suffering under the existing factory laws. I think Parliament has been very dilatory in regard to our factories legislation. In 1906 a select committee was appointed by this House to investigate the conditions prevailing in various shops and factories in Western Australia. For some reason or other, the committee decided that the evidence should not be printed. Only the report of that select committee was presented to this House. I had the pleasure of looking over the typed copy of the evidence at the time, and I repeat what I have said previously that it was one of the greatest mistakes ever made when the select committee prohibited the publication of the evidence.

The Minister for Mines: They could have omitted the names of the witnesses.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, but the committee prohibited the priting of the whole of the evidence. If the evidence had been printed there would have been an outcry throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia and we would have had improved factories legislation in this State many years ago. We are very often inclined to look overseas to ascertain whether sweating conditions exist in the factories there. According to the evidence given before the select committee, there is scarcely any place in any part of the world where people are working under worse conditions than they were in the city of Perth in 1906. Some of the statements made at that time were appalling. A doctor gave evidence which, had it been published, would have raised an outcry from the public and would have led to the demand for legislation prohibiting a continuance of the conditions then prevailing. I notice in the Bill a provision, similar to that contained in the Bill introduced by the member for Kanowna, namely a provision to prevent sweating. It will not only prevent sweating, but will prevent work being sent out and carried out in places where in all probability infectious diseases exist. It will also ensure that people who do this out-work are paid proper wages, and give people an opportunity to realise that hitherto work has been carried out in places where disease has existed. Apart from that it will be beneficial to the general health of the public. There is also a provision, which I think since 1906 has been removed to a large extent, and that is that boys and girls, particularly girls, shall have their interests safeguarded. When girls start their employment they should get a wage. They should not be dismissed at the end of 12 months, and started off somewhere else at a lower wage than they received before. The wages are mentioned here, but they are very small at present, owing to the new conditions which exist. At the same time it is a step in the right direction, and will avoid those things which have occurred before, namely, the starting of a girl at no wages at all for the first six months, and her dismissal to make room for another when she reaches the wage-earning stage. This provision also existed in the Bill introduced by the member for Kanowna. They are necessary provisions in any country, and will be beneficial to those engaged in factories, and to the general community. There is no doubt this Bill should go before a select committee, and it has been suggested it would be better to appoint a joint committee of both Houses.

The Attorney General: That cannot be done.

The Minister for Mines: The Standing Orders do not permit it.

Hon. T. Walker: We could send a resolution asking another place to join in.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I support the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Referred to select committee.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: May I submit the point as to whether there is any method by which a joint select committee can be appointed?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not at this stage, because the Bill is still before this House in which it was introduced. If we passed a resolution requesting the appointment of a joint select committee we might possibly receive a reply from another place that we might not care about. I must proceed to put the question "That the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of considering this Bill," or for the passing of a resolution referring the Bill to a select committee of this House. One of the two things only can be adopted at this stage.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I move—

That the Bill be referred to a select committee.

Question put and passed.

Ballot taken, and the following appointed a select committee, namely, Messrs. Brown, O'Loghlen, Thomson, Willcock, with the mover (Hon. J. Scaddan), with power to call for persons and papers, to sit on days over which the House stands adjourned, and to report in three weeks time.

BILL—DENTISTS.

Second Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. P. Draper—West Perth) [6.5] in moving the second reading said: The object of this Bill is to repeal the present Act dealing with dentists, which was passed in 1894, and to bring the law into conformity with the present requirements of the State. I do not think the subject is unfamiliar to many members of the House, especially not to those who recollect the numerous attendance in the lobbies and elsewhere during the last session of Parliament. Of course, since 1894 the requirements of Western Australia have increased considerably, and I think there can be little doubt that the existing Act is too restrictive, not wide enough, does not give sufficient facilities for becoming qualified and being registered as dentists—with the natural result that the public suffer by reason of having to pay fairly high fees for the dental work which is performed, and also because in the country districts it is very difficult indeed for people to get the attendance of a dentist at all. Very often those country residents who cannot put off a visit to the dentist have to incur considerable expense in travelling to reach one. The board as incorporated under the existing Act consists of three dentists and three medical practitioners. It is proposed to alter the constitution of the board and to give the dentists more representation. The Bill proposes that the board shall consist of six members as formerly, but that two of those shall be medical practitioners and four shall be registered dentists. The board, like all boards of this nature, controls the profession and has the power to remove any dentist from the register and to prevent him from practising, subject to a right of appeal of the person removed, to the Supreme Court. Hon. members will find provision made for that in Clause 19. Under the Bill, if it becomes law, no dentist will be allowed to practice unless he is registered. Clause 20 contains the qualifications for registration. They are wide—wider, at any rate, than those in the existing Act. Firstly, they permit of persons registered under the existing Act, which this measure proposes to repeal, to be registered under the new measure. Dentists may be registered whether they are male or female. They must be at least 21 years of age, and must be of good character, and they must prove to the satisfaction of the board that they have certain qualifications, namely, that they have practised dentistry for four years, holding specified diplomas to practice—the diplomas being set out in the Bill—or that they have served an apprenticeship in Western Australia for four years as dentists and have passed the examinations prescribed by the board. Clause 21 proposes the principal innovation on the existing Act. Hon. members should note this clause, because it deals with a matter which I think has been the cause of all the heartburning and the disputes which have arisen in the dentists' profession during the last 12 months.

Hon. T. Walker: Longer.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: When Parliament rose last session, the matter was referred to the dentists' board, and I am glad to say that they got into communication with all parties; and the Bill now before the House is, with slight verbal alterations, the Bill which has been agreed upon by the board, as I understand, in conference with all parties concerned. The innovation proposed by Clause 21 can be taken by the House as acceptable to the present practising dentists.

Mr. Lambert: You must always bear in mind, of course, that these are interested parties.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Clause 21 provides that any person, whether male or female, shall be entitled to be registered as a dentist, who is above the age of 21 years, is of good character, and has observed the rules, and, further, shall satisfy the board that he has been engaged in both operative

and prosthetic dentistry in Western Australia for periods totalling six years. There is a proviso that all time spent by an applicant on active service with the Australian Imperial Forces shall be counted as part of the six years. In addition to that, he must apply for registration within six months after this measure comes into force. There is a further provision that within three years after application for registration he shall also pass to the satisfaction of the board in the subjects which are set out in the Second Schedule to the Bill. These subjects are put in a schedule because, while everybody recognises that a proper examination should be imposed, there might be difficulty in obtaining instruction in some of the subjects which some persons think ought to be included in the examination. However, the profession have agreed that the subjects in which the examination is to be passed shall be set out in a schedule, and I am given to understand that the subjects set out are satisfactory both to the medical profession and to the dentists.

Mr. O'Loghlen: The period before the examination, three years, appears to be a bit long.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It means within that period. Clause 21, therefore, is the main provision of the Bill. Under this measure dentists also have to pay an annual license fee to the board, and penalties are imposed on persons who improperly hold themselves out as entitled to practice dentistry and do practice dentistry. The clauses dealing with malpractice are Nos. 25 and 26. Clause 30 also is important, because it prevents persons practising in association with unregistered dentists. In some instances a person who has no right to practice at all has got some unregistered dentist to come in as his assistant. Clause 30 deals with that matter. The provisions of the Bill are essentially for consideration in Committee.

Mr. Pilkington: What class is Clause 21 supposed to deal with?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: People who have been trying to obtain registration for some time. Clause 21 covers the assistants and people of that description who desire to be registered, and there has for some time been a question as to what examination they should pass. They contend that they should be registered without examination.

Hon. T. Walker: They are very often the people who do the real work. They are the equivalent of managing clerks in solicitors' offices.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I would ask hon. members to bear in mind that this measure meets with the approval of the Dentists' Board, and I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Lambert debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

BILL—PARLIAMENT (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN).

Second Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. P. Draper—West Perth) [7.35] in moving the second reading said: I do not propose to take up very much time in submitting this measure to hon. members. It is part of the Constitution Act Amendment Bill which was passed by this House last session but which unfortunately did not meet with favour in another place. The object of the Bill is simply to qualify women to sit in Parliament. The necessary amendments are shown in Subclause 2 of Clause 2, amendments which must be made in the Constitution Act, 1899, in order to effect the object in view. In this House at any rate there is no dissension as regards rendering women eligible to qualify to sit in Parliament. During the last few years public opinion on this point has changed considerably. Whereas at one time many opponents were found to the proposal, there are now very few dissentients. The method of rendering the qualification of women to sit in Parliament effective, is simply to amend the Constitution by omitting the word "person" in certain sections, and inserting "'person' means an individual of either sex." The matter does not require any further explanation. I therefore move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Pilkington, debate adjourned.

BILL—BUILDING SOCIETIES.

Second reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. P. Draper—West Perth) [7.40] in moving the second reading said: The Bill which I am submitting to hon. members is one which is necessary in order to bring our legislation in connection with building societies up to date. The legislation in force in Western Australia dates back to 1863. In the other States and in England a great deal of legislation has been passed, legislation which has been found to be necessary in order to secure the operations of building societies, and to secure those people who invest money in them, people generally of moderate means, and who look upon this form of investment as something in the nature of providing a home in which to live. The conditions in Western Australia since 1863, I am glad to say, have altered considerably. The object of all building societies is shown shortly in Clause 4 of the Bill. The position is explained in a very few words, namely, the raising of a fund by the payment, subscriptions, or contributions of its members, and the receipt of deposits and loans—as provided for and safeguarded in the Bill—and the application of such fund formed in that way in assisting the members of the society in obtaining freehold or leasehold property upon which they may build, or in the mak-

ing of loans or advances to members of the society or other persons upon the security of freehold or leasehold property. Those are the well known objects of societies of this nature, objects which I think are recognised and provided for in most civilised countries. Persons of course can be assisted to build either by buying land on which they can have homes built for them, or they can borrow to build for themselves, or if they own land they can borrow money from a society with which to build. Members of building societies are of two kinds, those who buy a share maturing at some future date after payment by instalments of the value of the share—those people may be regarded as investors in building societies. The other members are those who borrow from a society to repay by instalments the money which they borrow, and thereby acquire a share in the society. Members of building societies are not wealthy people and as I said before, they regard societies as a means of thrift, as a means of acquiring a home. When we recollect that those are the objects of the societies, it will be obvious to hon. members that it is necessary that advances which are made by a society of this nature must be properly secured. A society cannot advance money on any security; it is generally restricted to advancing on first mortgages on land. Another method which it is also found necessary to adopt is that the building society must keep strict accounts, which must be properly audited, and the societies must be amply controlled by statutory enactment. In order to secure this it is necessary that any society which desires to be registered or incorporated must comply by its rules with the requirements of the Act. The Bill requires that the rules must also contain certain specified restrictions and safeguards. This has been found to be necessary, because within the last 50 years frauds have been committed upon building societies and through them. I need hardly remind members of the building society frauds in England in which a man named Jabez Balfour was associated. Hon. members may also remember the trouble which arose in building societies in Victoria on account of the land boom. A boom in any land is very likely to affect building societies to a large extent, and it is necessary therefore that advances for speculative purposes should be put out of the power of any building society. Bearing in mind the fact that we have in this State very few building societies at present, and also bearing in mind that we all hope the State is going to develop in regard both to population and building operations, the present is a convenient and necessary time to bring the statute law regarding building societies up to date. Members will see in the Bill that building societies consist of two kinds, what are known as permanent societies, and what are known as terminating societies. I do not think the difference between the two can be more concisely described than in the words contained on page 459 of volume 2 of the "Encyclopædia of the laws of England," as follows:—

> There are two kinds of societies—(1) terminating and (2) permanent. A terminating society is one which is to terminate at a fixed date or when the result specified in its rules is attained. In most terminating societies a fixed subscription is made payable by members so long as the society lasts, the object being to continue the society until the subscriptions, with the interest which has arisen from their investment, produce such an amount as may be fixed by the rules. As soon as there are sufficient funds in hand advances are made to members in anticipation of what would be payable to them on the termination of the society—the member who receives the advance giving a mortgage to secure the continued payment of the subscriptions due from him to the society—and when each member has received the amount of the share or shares for which he subscribes, the society terminates.

I do not think there is in this State any society carried on solely as a terminating building society. The definition continues—

> A permanent society, on the other hand, Is one which has no fixed date or specific result at which it is to terminate, and may therefore continue its operations for an indefinite time. In a permanent society the members take shares of a certain fixed amount, on which payment has to be made either in a lump sum or by instalments till the share is paid up in full, and the sums so paid generally carry interest. Advances are made from time to time on mortgage, of real or leasehold property, the money advanced being usually repayable in instalments composed partly of principal and partly of interest.

Those are the two kinds of societies comprised in the Bill. I think that in practice permanent societies are more common in Australia than are terminating societies. A building society is different from a joint stock company. It has no fixed capital, and its shares are issued from time to time, whereas the capital of a joint stock company is fixed and limited by its memorandum of association. Then the liability of members of a society is different. For instance, the liability of a member of a building society who has received no advance is limited to the amount actually paid by him on his share. If, on the other hand, an advance has been made to such a member, then his liability is limited to the amount of the advance he has obtained. Hon. members will see that this is set out in Clause 17. Under the present Act building societies are not incorporated, but under the Bill those societies existing in the State to-day can obtain incorporation, while as regards societies which may be established here in the future they must, before they can be registered, satisfy the registrar that their rules comply with the Act. The requirements of the Bill as regards rules are set out in Clause 9, an important clause. I refer hon. members particularly to Subclause 9 of the clause, which provides that

the rules of every society established under the Act shall set forth various formal matters, as for instance the term upon which subscription shares are to be issued, and the manner in which contributions are to be paid to the society, and withdrawals by members, with tables showing the amount due by the society for principal and interest. Another important matter is that the rules must show the purpose to which the funds of the society are to be applied, and the manner in which they are to be invested. Further, under Subclause 8, rules must show the manner in which advances are to be made and repaid, the deductions, if any, for premiums, and the conditions upon which the borrower can redeem the amount due from him before the expiration of the period for which the advance was made. Another important provision is that the rules must provide for an annual or a more frequent audit of the accounts, and an inspection by the auditors of the mortgages and other securities belonging to the society. Hon. members will see, therefore, that the rules required by the Bill are of very great importance, when we consider the protection which is to be afforded to small investors who take up shares in building societies. Clause 52 is an unusual provision. It is outside the ordinary rules of law, because it permits of an infant becoming a member of the society. Clause 90, dealing with investments, provides that a society shall not advance money on the security of any freehold or leasehold property which is subject to a prior mortgage unless the prior mortgage is in favour of the society making the advance. If any advance is made contrary to that provision, then the members of the committee or the management of the society who authorised that advance become jointly and severally liable for any loss on the advance occasioned to the society. Again, there is a provision as regards advances upon second mortgage which is confined entirely to those societies which, at the commencement of the Act, are authorised by their rules to make advances on second mortgage. That provision is very much the same as the provision in the English Act, which was made to allow Scotch building societies, which had previously been at liberty to advance on second mortgage, to continue to advance on second mortgage. But the general experience is that societies should only be allowed to advance upon the security of first mortgage. Clause 21 provides restrictions upon the amount which a society may receive by loan or deposit by its members. The object of this is to prevent the society becoming too heavily indebted to its members. Under Clause 25 the officers of a society are compelled to give security or fidelity for their conduct. An annual accounting is also required by the Bill and, in addition, the registrar is entitled to compel the inspection of the books of any society. Throughout the Bill, provision is made to render building societies financially secure. In the event of the registrar refusing to register a building society, provision is made for an appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision of the registrar. The Bill is essentially one for Committee, and I do not know that I can add anything useful to what I have said. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

BILL—CORONERS.

Second Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. P. Draper—West Perth) [8.2] in moving the second reading said: The object of this measure is to bring somewhat antiquated legislation up to date. From time to time, members have seen in the Press criticisms of the present condition of the law relating to coroners in the way of comments at coroners' inquests by coroners' juries, and also by the public. It is not the fault of coroners or of the police that anything which obtained in the past has been unfortunate, but rather is it the fault of the system which has grown up here. The present law relating to coroners was passed in 1856, and was slightly amended in 1863. I have embodied the repeal of the Fire Inquiry Act, 1887, because coroners hold inquests into the cause of fires and, in order that any coroner desiring to ascertain the statutory provisions with which he is concerned may have them in a compact form, I have embodied also the provisions contained in Section 49 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1902, and of Section 35 of the Mines Regulation Act, 1906. The two last-mentioned Acts deal with fatal accidents on mines. I think it desirable to get all the questions relating to coroners' inquests into one Act. The principal defect of the existing Act is that it leaves so much open; it leaves coroners to be guided merely by practice. The present Bill will show what a coroner can do, what he ought to do, and what he ought to refrain from doing. The principal amendment appears to me to be that a coroner, if he thinks fit, may sit without a jury. This law is not being introduced here for the first time. I understand it is the law in Victoria. Anyone who has attended coroners' inquests must have realised that, in most cases, a jury is quite unnecessary. The coroner can find the facts and is quite as capable of doing so in most cases as a jury. Provision is also made for a jury to be empanelled if necessary.

Mr. Munsie: Who is to say whether a jury is necessary or not?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I will come to that later. Another innovation is that it will not always be necessary to view the body. Sometimes this is quite unnecessary, and sometimes it is almost impracticable. The body can be viewed if required. Coroners, under this measure, will be appointed by the Governor-in-Council, and resident magistrates, police magistrates, and justices of the peace who act with the authority of the Attorney General, will have the jurisdiction of coroners. To-day any justice of the peace

can exercise the powers of a coroner. I do not desire to reflect in any way on any justice of the peace, but it is perhaps advisable that the person elected as coroner should be something more than an ordinary justice of the peace.

Mr. Jones: Hear, hear!

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: At the same time many of the justices of the peace deserve the thanks of the community for their voluntary attendance to hold inquests on cases which often must be a most unpleasant task. A majority of the justices would be very glad to be relieved of the necessity for performing this duty. Shortly, the duties of coroner are to inquire into causes of death and of fire. Clause 9 provides that it is not necessary to have a jury sitting with a coroner, but a coroner can have a jury if he wishes. Further, the Attorney General has power to order a jury to be empanelled. The fact that a coroner may have a jury if he so desires, and the fact that it is open to anyone to ask the Attorney General to order the empanelling of a jury will be sufficient safeguard, and it will do away with unnecessary inquiries before juries, as such inquiries can be conducted equally efficiently and with less expense and inconvenience by the coroner himself. Recollecting that we are making provision for coroners who hold special qualifications, I consider that there is no risk attached to the introduction of this innovation. Clause 10 provides that a coroner is not bound to view a body unless ordered to do so by the Supreme Court. He can view the body if he likes, and occasionally he may think it necessary. In most cases I think coroners will view the body, but in some cases to view the body is not only unnecessary but undesirable. If any objection is taken to the adoption of the course of not viewing the body, it is open to anyone to obtain an order from the Supreme Court to view the body. This is taken from the Victorian Act. Most of the other clauses are machinery clauses. They set forth in black and white, within the four corners of an Act, the general practice of to-day. It is advisable that coroners should be able to see in an Act of Parliament what they are required to do. Clause 13 stipulates that the coroner shall put into writing the evidence given before him, or so much as is material, and the depositions must be read over to and signed by the witnesses. If a coroner neglects to carry out his duty to hold an inquest, the Attorney General, under Clause 14, may move the court for an order requiring the coroner to hold an inquest. If a coroner finds a charge of murder or manslaughter or arson proved against any person, he may issue his warrant for the arrest of the person found guilty. The coroner may grant bail to a person found guilty in all cases except when charged with murder. The coroner will have the usual powers of a police magistrate to bind witnesses in recognisances to appear at trial. For the information of members interested in mining, I would point out that Clause 25 deals with fatal mining accidents, and partly takes the place of Section 35 of the Mines Regulation Act. Clause 26 contains similar provisions as regards fatal accidents in coal mines. On this subject, also, members may refer to Clause 31. These three clauses, Nos. 25, 26, and 31, cover the provisions which I am taking out of the Mines Regulation Act and the Coal Mines Regulation Act. The effect will be to observe the law as it stands to-day. Clause 34 provides that if a jury do not agree after six hours' deliberation, they may be discharged and a fresh jury may be empanelled. The coroner can summon witnesses and, in case of death, he shall summon the doctor who was attending the deceased immediately before death. That provision will be found in Clause 37. Clause 39 contains an importion provision dealing with cases of alleged negligent treatment. The coroner has power to direct the holding of a post-mortem examination. I ask members to note the supplemental provisions in Clause 42, Subclauses 4 and 5, to the effect that if a coroner is about to hold an inquest upon any body, but not otherwise, he may, if he thinks fit, order the body to be buried before a verdict is given and before registration of the death. A coroner holding an inquest upon the body of any infant who has died whilst in the care or charge of a person registered in respect of a nursing home under the provisions of the State Children Act, 1907-1919, shall report to the Attorney General the cause of death, and shall in his report make such remarks with respect to the matter as to him seem fit. These are the main provisions of the Bill. It is desirable to bring the law up to date, and to make the amendments which I have suggested. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Munsie, debate adjourned.

MOTION—RETURNED SOLDIERS AND PASTORAL LEASES.

Consideration of Petition.

Mr. WILLCOCK (Geraldton) [8.15]: I move—

That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that legislation should be introduced to facilitate the settlement of discharged soldiers on the pastoral leases of the Murchison.

I had the pleasure of presenting a petition from the Geraldton Branch of the Returned Soldiers' Association the other day. It would have been my duty, representing a considerable section of the electors in my constituency, to have introduced any petition they might have cared to bring under the notice of Parliament. I am heartily in accord with the petition as presented. The first petition that was got out was, as I have

already said, not in accordance with the Standing Orders of this House. Originally some 2,000 signatures were obtained. The petition was then referred to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and it was found that the wording was not in accordance with the usual procedure. The wording of the petition was then altered, but it was not deemed necessary to again obtain all the signatures. A sufficient number of signatures was obtained, and the petition has now been made out in the proper order. I hold the original petition which contains the larger number of names, but I did not present it for the reason that I have stated.

The Premier: Have only soldiers signed it?

Mr. WILLCOCK: No. The onus of getting the signatures to the petition was on the soldiers. They went to various people in the district, and they financed the whole business themselves. The returned soldier institutes are prepared to say that they can get at least 50 to 100 soldiers who are willing to take up this land, if they have an opportunity of so doing. They thought the public should also have the right to do the same thing.

The Premier: I think you have only got the names of 11 or 12 soldiers on the petition.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I do not think that on the petition itself the men said whether they were returned soldiers or not.

The Premier: I think they did.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Perhaps so in some cases, but it does not make much difference whether they are returned soldiers or not. Resolutions along the lines of the petition were carried in every returned soldiers' organisation in the district. A resolution was carried in Geraldton at a big meeting, and public meetings were also held in Geraldton, Mt. Magnet and many other centres, and resolutions carried in accordance with the spirit of the petition, and signatures were obtained from various people in these towns. The object of the petition is to make parcels of this land available to returned soldiers. From the country in and around Geraldton and the Murchison some 2,000 soldiers enlisted, and a number of these were following pastoral pursuits before they went to the war. It has to be remembered that when most of these men went away in the early stages of the war the Land Act was such that after the expiration of 7 or 8 years they would, in the ordinary course of events, have been able to come back and these lands would have reverted to the Crown, so that anything could have been done with them that it was the policy of the Government to do. While the men were away the Labour Government went out of office. The first Act passed by the succeeding administration was an Act to amend the Land Act, so that the leases could be extended from the then existing time for termination a further 21 years, namely, to 1948. In this way the men who went away were debarred on their return from an opportunity of getting hold of some of these pastoral leases. The first paragraph of the petition says—

> That by "The Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, 1918," the pastoral lessee is given the right not only to claim compensation for improvements on leases resumed, as provided in the Land Act, but also for loss or damage sustained by resumption.

It is only in connection with pastoral lands that this particular provision applies. In the case of agricultural land, it is necessary to pay for any improvements that are effected, but loss or damage sustained by resumption does not apply. If the Government, in the exercise of their powers in the matter of repatriation or in any other way, desire to resume some of these pastoral areas, a claim for loss or damage can be put in by the then holder of such lease. In my opinion, it is quite feasible for a man to make £5,000 a year out of many of these leases, say one of a million acres, of which there is a large number. Indeed, I am of opinion that men are making far more than that out of some of these large areas. If it was the policy of the Government to resume these particular areas, a man could claim that if he had been allowed to pursue his business as a pastoralist he could for the ensuing 27 or 28 years have made an income of £5,000, and in this way he could make up a claim for loss or damage to the extent of nearly a quarter of a million pounds.

The Premier: Why?

Mr. WILLCOCK: He could say that this represented the loss he would sustain on account of the resumption of the land, although of course he would have to prove that his income was as great as this, and that he would have lost that amount.

The Premier: You are quite wrong.

Mr. WILLCOCK: That is the interpretation that most people place upon the Act. I should like to hear from the Premier that it is an incorrect one. If a man is making £5,000 a year and his land is taken away from him, he is damaged by this resumption, and if his lease has another 27 years to run, it is only necessary to multiply the one by the other to obtain the total of the claim that he can make under this particular part of the Act.

The Premier: I wish you could prove that to be the case for the purpose of assessment.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I do not think it would be difficult to do that. If a man has good seasons and the proper amount of improvements, and he has a million acres of land for 30 years upon which to work, it is not unreasonable to suppose that he would make an income of £5,000 a year. I think I could do it myself on the Murchison if I went in for sheep raising there. Were the Government to build railways through this country, I feel sure there would be thousands of people rushing in to take it up. Paragraph 2 of the petition shows the general opinion held by the returned soldiers. The petition says—

> That the protection thus given to the squatter is excessive and detrimental to the interests of returned soldiers.

They also say—

That it is desirable that there should be power to resume and lease to discharged soldiers pastoral leases for agricultural, horticultural, grazing, or pastoral purposes.

There is, perhaps, power to resume for some purposes, but grave doubts exist as to whether it is possible to resume pastoral lands for the purpose of allowing it to be used again as pastoral land. It is set forth in the petition—

That it is desirable that 20 million acres of pastoral country adjoining the Murchison railway lines and coast line should be reserved for repatriation and closer settlement purposes.

Mr. Pickering: Would not the effect of that be to alter the whole of the pastoral leases over the whole State?

Mr. WILLCOCK: As a measure of repatriation an amendment could be made to the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act so that pastoral areas might be resumed and split up amongst returned soldiers, without there being the obnoxious provision that the squatters can claim for damages sustained by resumption.

Mr. Pickering: That would cover more than the 20 million acres asked for.

Mr. WILLCOCK: That is all they are particularly concerned about. They say they are not anxious about places remote from the railway line, the coastline or ports. They do not think in these circumstances it is a bad thing for such land to be held, but they hold the view that land which is close to a siding, from which it is possible to rail sheep within about 24 hours, should be cut up, and the returned soldiers given an opportunity of taking it. They also believe that this would be one of the most successful ways of repatriating them that could be adopted.

Mr. Smith: What area do you consider as a reasonable one for such purposes?

Mr. WILLCOCK: I am not prepared to say. Mr. Mills, in another place, instanced 20,000 acres as being a reasonable area, and he has had many years of experience of that part of the State. In my opinion a considerably larger area than that is necessary if a man is to make a success of his holding. If the land was thoroughly classified so that we knew where the good land was as apart from the bad land (of which there is very little), we should be in a better position to say how much would be required.

Mr. Smith: It all depends on the rainfall.

Mr. WILLCOCK: That, of course, is an important factor. This part of the country does suffer from droughts at periodical intervals. With good seasons all the time a man could make an excellent living there out of 20,000 acres. I have seen grass for miles two feet high growing in some of the paddocks after a downfall of rain.

The Premier: We might make that country do for wheat farming.

Mr. WILLCOCK: It does not concern me what is done with it. These pastoral areas are unnecessarily big for the people who hold them. The member for Mt. Magnet said he had been out 50 miles east on the Wongan Hills line in pastoral country, and that every time there had been a successful wheat crop in the coastal district, there had been one there as well. Eventually I think agricultural pursuits will be followed in these drier areas. The land is quite good enough for that. When men have been sinking wells I have seen places where they have gone through 10 or 12 feet of good chocolate soil. If some means could be found, either by fallowing or some other method of cultivating that land so that the moisture could be conserved in it, as is done in, say, South Africa, there is a strong probability that at some future date these lands will be used for agricultural purposes. I have known station owners who, though well aware that the land can be used for agricultural purposes, refrain from doing more than grow a little oats, because they do not want the agricultural possibilities of that country to be established. Everybody recognises that 1,000,00 acres is too much for one person to hold within 40 or 50 miles of a railway line. At a distance of 100 or 150 miles from a railway line, it is a different proposition altogether. But we have 340 miles of railway running from the coast through the Murchison district to Meekatharra, and there is an additional 100 miles from Mt. Magnet to Sandstone. All the country traversed by that line is good land. The Murchison country is a different proposition from most of the pastoral lands, inasmuch as not only every blade of grass and every bush and every shrub is good sheep feed, but even the trees are. The Murchison land is good enough for most people, and it is considered good enough by the soldiers who have sent in this petition. The soldiers consider that if this land were made available to them it would be one of the best repatriation measures that could be taken. It will be good business for the country as well as for the soldiers.

Mr. Pickering: But it cannot be done for eight years, on account of the leases.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Any leasehold can be resumed for repatriation purposes at any time. Apart from the repatriation point of view, this land should be made available for closer settlement as a matter of policy. We hear a great deal of the Government's desire to promote immigration, and yet we have huge areas of land in the Murchison, totalling about 20 million acres, occupied by 60 or 70 pastoral leaseholders. Undoubtedly that acreage could carry ten times as many pastoralists. I know the Murchison pastoralists and they all practically admit it. They are, in fact, surprised that they have been allowed to remain in possession so long. However, a certain amendment of the Land Act gave them the right to remain on their leaseholds for a longer term. I may say the

people of the Murchison regard that piece of legislation as the worst land scandal ever perpetrated in this country. If one calls a public meeting on this subject in the Murchison district, one has the direct support of almost every person who is not engaged in the pastoral industry. On one measure this evening the Attorney General spoke of the development of the country. I do not think it can be called right development to have 22 million acres controlled by less than 100 people. Some blocks of 100,000 acres are run by a manager and a Chinese cook and a gin or two, apart from the shearing. In the circumstances it is very debatable what area a man could make a good living on, taking good seasons and bad seasons together. Some people say 20,000 acres is a fair thing; other people say that it is impossible to do any good on less than 250,000 acres. Inquiry would probably show that with a proper classification about 40,000 acres or 50,000 acres are sufficient to enable an ordinary individual to make a very good living indeed. I have knowledge that where a man has a large amount of capital invested in station buildings and plant, it is necessary for him to have a large area of country and a large number of stock in order to pay interest on the expenditure. In such circumstances it may be necessary that an area of 200,000 acres should be granted. On some of the agricultural lands resumed by the Government it has been found that big buildings have been erected on some of the blocks; and it is no use having big buildings and a big plant and a lot of machinery without a sufficient area to utilise the capital profitably. But I consider that on the Murchison an area of about 50,000 acres would be sufficient, particularly if care were taken to include a proportion of good land in each area, for the running of about 3,000 sheep. A man with such a property would be able to give much better supervision than a man with 40,000 or 50,000 sheep scattered over an area of 500,000 acres. There would be much less chance of losing money than under present conditions. I have explained that even the trees on the Murchison are good for feed. In drought time a man with only a couple of thousand sheep could cut down the trees so as to have sufficient feed to keep his stock alive. Further, there is a railway service right through this country; and canning and freezing works are being established at Geraldton and Fremantle. Therefore, immediately a drought occurs the sheep, even if not in good condition, can be sold instead of being lost entirely, as has been the experience in the past. At a distance of 200 or 300 miles from a railway line there is no option but to let the stock die. But one can drive sheep, even if in poor condition, a distance of 50 miles to the railway line in two or three days. Fortunately, one can tell beforehand whether there is going to be a dry season on the Murchison. There is sufficient grass to last for a good long time after the rain has failed. With regard to large pastoral holdings, let me point out, the experience we are having has been the experience of Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland. There were large estates in Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland, and each of those States found it necessary to cut up the enormous areas of pastoral holdings in order that the country might be populated and developed. In many cases the holdings have been cut up for agricultural purposes, as the Premier has suggested should be done in this case of the Murchison. However, on the Darling Downs and in the back and central districts of Queensland, estates of two or three million acres have been cut up, and where one used to see a station of those dimensions shearing about 60,000 or 70,000 sheep, one now sees about 30 or 40 stations each shearing about 40,000 sheep. From the aspect of our railway system we have to recognise that the 400 miles of railway running through this country is being run at a loss. True, the system as a whole is being run at a loss, but in the Murchison district we are running only about three trains a week. I was in the Railway Department when the Wongan Hills line was opened. That was after a drought which had lasted three or four years, during which period hardly a hoof had come off the Murchison. Almost the first train that ran over the Wongan Hills railway was a stock train, and from that time, January of 1915, to the middle of 1916, there was an average of four or five stock trains weekly over that line. People were pretty low in stock, especially as regards sheep; and they used to buy sheep in poor condition, and take them up to the Murchison, and in about eight or nine weeks those sheep would come down again as fat stock over the Wongan Hills railways. During that period the Murchison line, for once in its history, showed a big profit; and the same thing applies to the Wongan Hills line. The same thing would continue to apply if the Murchison areas were fully stocked. Then there would be more traffic. There would be more population in the Murchison, more people directly interested in the welfare of that district, people looking after small areas which could be worked by two or three men without very much trouble. Taking now the soldiers' point of view, let me point out that many of our returned soldiers are physically unable to take on agricultural lands. We have heard from the Country party the difficulties to be encountered by a man going on land for agricultural purposes, and the hard work he has to do. But the working of a pastoral area does not involve very much hard work once a man has made his improvements, and the improvements do not cost so very much money, because water can be found at a depth of 40 or 50 feet in almost any block of 40,000 or 50,000 acres.

Mr. Harrison: Resumption is costly.

Mr. WILLCOCK: True, but it would be better even to resume in order that that

country may be developed to the utmost limits of its capabilities. The capital expenditure necessary to bring agricultural land into the productive state is heavy. We are told that it means two or three thousand pounds and ten or eleven years' hard work.

Mr. Pickering: What do you estimate the cost of getting water?

Mr. WILLCOCK: I have been through many of the stations and I know that wherever water is wanted it is always possible to get it at depths of 40 to 50 feet. Most of it is got by sinking in soft country, where you can get through three or four feet a day without much trouble. So far as fencing is concerned, I recognise that will be an expensive process for two or three years to come, but I fancy it will be possible to get wire at a cheaper rate in the not very distant future. It has been demonstrated that, after wars, many things have remained at a high price for two or three years, but after that they have gradually come down and I am sufficiently optimistic to think that when the production of the world is increased, things will come down in price, though not perhaps altogether to the prices which existed before the war. This is not a new question; the subject has been debated in this House during the last three or four years, ever since a Bill was brought forward in connection with the extension of the pastoral leases. Mr. Hickey moved in the Legislative Council in the direction of power of resumption being exercised to enable land to be so resumed to be disposed of to discharged soldiers for pastoral purposes. That motion was carried by the Council but it was defeated when it came into this Chamber. If such a proposal were carried, the land could be resumed for that particular purpose, and the necessity for a petition such as the one I have submitted would not have existed. I do not intend to labour the question further; I intend to leave it to the House to decide what shall be done with it. In the dying hours of last session the member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Troy) submitted a motion on practically similar lines and occupied the attention of the House in explaining the position for a period of about an hour. His remarks will be found in "Hansard" and it will be seen that he gave various reasons for the adoption of the proposal. The interest displayed in connection with the matter on that occasion was responsible for the returned soldiers taking it up and they resolved on the preparation of the petition I have submitted. They carried the petition around the country and secured for it the signatures of between two and three thousand people. I hope the prayer of the petition will be given favourable consideration, the prayer being that the House will introduce such legislation as in its wisdom may seem proper to facilitate the settlement of discharged soldiers on the pastoral leases of the Murchison.

On motion by the Premier debate adjourned.

BILL—BROOME RATES VALIDATION.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [8.52] in moving the second reading said: Some time ago the Broome municipality was dissolved and the municipal district became merged in the Broome Road District. In December, 1918, the municipality purported to levy rates for the municipal year commencing on the 1st day of October, 1918. On the dissolution of the municipality these rates would have vested, together with other assets of the municipality, in the road board which took over the liabilities of the municipality. The municipality, however, failed strictly to comply with the requirements of the Municipal Corporations Act, in striking the rate, the mayor having omitted to sign the rate book, and it was found then that the road board had no legal power to collect the rates struck by the municipality. The amount involved is £159 6s. I am asking now that the Bill be passed to validate these rates in respect of the period from 1st October 1918, to the 1st October, 1919. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [8.55]: I have no objection to lodge against the second reading of the Bill, but what I desire to point out is that a road board has to rate on the unimproved land values, while a municipality rates on the annual value. The rates in question, from what I can gather, are rates which were owing to the municipality; they were struck by the municipality, so that it would not be possible for the road board to alter the methor of rating. The road board now controlling the Broome area will in future rate in accordance with the Roads Act, namely, on the unimproved land value, and not under the system which the municipality of Broome formerly adopted.

Mr. Munsie: All road boards do not rate on the unimproved land value.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Act lays it down distinctly that a road board must rate on the unimproved value; they cannot rate on the annual value without first getting the permission of the Minister so to do in a prescribed area.

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—Validation of rates:

Mr. MUNSIE: I take it that the Premier has had some information from the people of Broome with regard to these rates. The Premier knows that a road board cannot rate to the same extent as a municipal council. I would like to know whether he has had any expression of opinion from the people of Broome—seeing that they agreed to allow themselves to be governed by the road board

—as to whether they object to pay rates struck by the municipal council, and which will be municipal rates instead of paying rates that would have been struck by the road board.

The PREMIER: This rate ought to have been collected by the municipality while it was still in existence. The road board came into existence on the 1st January, 1919. The rate will be collected under the Municipal Corporations Act, not under the Roads Act. No objection will be offered on the part of the people concerned.

Clause put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 9.2 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 7th September, 1920.

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—PRESENTATION.

The PRESIDENT [4.31]: I have to announce to hon. members that I have waited upon His Excellency the Governor and presented to him the Address-in-reply as passed by this House. His Excellency has been pleased to return to me the following answer:

> Mr. President and hon. members of the Legislative Council. In the name and on behalf of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, I thank you for your Address. F. A. Newdegate, Governor.

QUESTION—PERTH PUBLIC HOSPITAL.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW asked the Minister for Education: 1, Since when has the Perth Public Hospital ceased to be the principal hospital for the State? 2, Are not its patients drawn from as far north as Wyndham and as far south as Esperance? 3, How many of the patients at present lying in the wards come from an area outside that of Perth and its suburbs?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Perth Pubic Hospital is still the principal hospital for the State. It has never ceased to be such. 2, Yes, patients at any centre, unable to receive treatment (more particularly special treatment, through lack of proper facilities) are, on application, admitted to the Perth Public Hospital. 3, At present there are in hospital, from an area outside Perth and suburbs, 57 patients, out of a total of 196.

QUESTION—BUTTER SUPPLIES.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM (for Hon. A. H. Panton) asked the Minister for Education: In view of the recent contract to supply the British Government with butter at 274s. per cwt., will he take steps to provide a sufficient supply of butter for local consumption at a reasonable price?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: The formation of a local committee to deal with this matter is receiving attention.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Hon. E. H. Harris, leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to Hon. J. Cornell (South) on the ground of urgent private business.

MOTION—AUSTRALIAN APPLES, EMBARGO.

Hon. J. EWING (South-West) [4.33]: I move—

> That in the opinion of this House, the State and Federal Governments should take immediate steps to have the existing embargo on Australian applies removed, and that all Australian fruits should be placed in open competition on the market.

I am moving this motion after having conferred with a considerable number of fruitgrowers and because I recognise that, during the period of the war and during last season, our fruitgrowers suffered great disabilities. There is no need for me to emphasise the fact that members of this House and the people of Western Australia generally desire to see the fruitgrowing industry flourish. Those who have been working in the industry have not had a fair deal during the last 18 months or two years but, on the other hand, have had a very bad time. They had to sacrifice their fruit. They sent it to market and, in many cases, the fruit did not realise what it cost to produce. In travelling through my district, I noticed that the verandahs of many houses were filled