

benefits laid down in the rules of the various societies, the relevant provisions being set out in Section 12 of the Act and Regulation 70, the latter being intended to implement the provisions of the section. For many years there has been no difficulty in regard to compliance with the provisions of this section, which sets out in Subsection (4) the following:—

“Societies and branches which have been reported to possess a surplus at the last valuation made under this Act, and whose scales of contributions for new members have been certified to as adequate by—

- (a) the Registrar; or
- (b) any public valuer under this Act; or
- (c) any actuary approved by the Registrar,

may apply all interest over and above four and a half per centum per annum accruing from capital funds invested to such purposes as may be approved by the society or branch, as the case may be, and the Registrar. When any funds are invested in Government securities of the State of Western Australia, or in debentures or other securities of the corporation of any municipality in Western Australia, and the interest accruing from such investment is less than four and a half, but not less than four per centum per annum, then for the purposes of this paragraph the investment shall be deemed to be and treated as producing interest at four and a half per centum per annum.”

Regulation 70 goes on to say that the interest at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum referred to shall be calculated on the total amount of any particular fund at the beginning of the year. This regulation, with the section, has been interpreted by the Deputy Registrar of Friendly Societies to mean that the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. interest shall be calculated on the balance of the fund at the beginning of the year, such investment to include moneys in the Savings Bank, funds derived thereby to be applied to the benefit fund, any surplus to be used for other purposes, including management.

Recently, however, a prominent friendly society refused to comply with the requirements, and joined issue with the Deputy Registrar on the interpretation by stating that investment does not cover moneys in the Savings Bank and by challenging the legality of Regulation 70 which, it alleges, is inconsistent with the provisions of the Act. In 1945 the society calculated the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to be applied to the benefit fund on its investments excluding moneys in the Savings Bank and, as result, the

benefit fund is deficient by an amount of approximately £900.

The action of the society is supported by its legal adviser and, on the matter being referred to the Crown Law Department, some doubt arose as to the success of a prosecution if one were launched and also as to the legality of Regulation 70. The Solicitor General therefore recommends that the provisions of the regulation be inserted in the Act so that there will be no further doubt. Such insertion would mean that it would be mandatory for the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. interest to be calculated on the opening balance of the benefit funds, including bank deposits, at the beginning of the year. That is an explanation of the proposed amendment. We wish to ensure that these benefit funds shall be solvent, and it is therefore in the interests of members of friendly societies that there should be no mistake as to what is meant.

I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

*House adjourned at 5.20 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Thursday, 12th September, 1946.*

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

## QUESTIONS.

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS REPORT.

#### *As to Availability for Estimates Discussion.*

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON asked the Treasurer:

1, Whether he appreciates how difficult it is to thoroughly analyse State economy from the budgetary angle until the report of the Public Accounts is available to the House?

2, Does he realise that the early introduction of the Annual Estimates does not assist Parliament in its endeavours to check the Budget for the reasons set out in question No. 1.

3, Will he give an assurance that the general debate on the Budget will not close until after the report of the Public Accounts is tabled?

The TREASURER replied:

1, 2, and 3, It is not possible to ensure the Auditor General's Report being presented simultaneously with the Budget, but there is no doubt that the report will be available to the House as soon as completed by the Auditor General.

### KATANNING HOSPITAL.

#### *As to Staffing and Closing of Wards.*

Mr. WATTS asked the Minister for Health:

1, Is he aware of the difficulties occasioned by the shortage of staff at Katanning Government Hospital?

2, What is the difference in numbers between the present staff at that hospital and the normal staff for same, including (a) nursing and (b) domestic staff?

3, What steps have been taken to provide additional staff to cope with the present position, and what extra staff (a) nursing and (b) domestic will be provided in consequence of such steps?

4, Will the additional staff to be provided be sufficient satisfactorily to cope with the work required at the hospital and, if not, what steps will be taken to ensure a full staff?

5, Will extra staff be provided immediately? If not, why not?

6, Have any wards (in consequence of staff shortage), at the hospital been closed to his knowledge, and if so, what wards, and will same be re-opened, and when?

The MINISTER replied:

1, Yes.

2, Nursing—normal nine, present five; domestic—normal seven, present seven.

3, Consistent advertisement, personal approach to possible appointees, and offer of the positions at Katanning to applicants for employment.

4, and 5, There is a general shortage throughout all hospitals of at least—seven matrons, 95 trained nurses, 26 domestics.

These deficiencies will increase when the 44-hour week commences next month.

6, Not to my knowledge.

### TRAMWAY EMPLOYEES.

#### *As to Provision of Amenities.*

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Railways:

1, Has approval been given for the erection of a building to provide general amenities for the employees of the Tramway Department?

2, If not, why not?

3, If so, what is the anticipated cost of the building and installations?

4, What area and facilities do the plans envisage?

5, When is it proposed that the work will be—(a) commenced, (b) concluded?

The MINISTER replied:

1, This proposition is included as an item in the list of new works to be financed from Loan funds, now under consideration by the Treasury.

2, Answered by No. 1.

3, Original estimate £13,000, but revised proposals now under consideration, giving additional kitchen and dining room accommodation, will increase the amount to £16,000.

4, Two-storeyed building, totalling approximately 15,000 sq. ft. of floorage, embracing new offices, lavatories, change and locker room, reading room, recreation room, lecture room, kitchen, canteen and mess room to accommodate 144 persons.

5, (a) As soon as men and materials are available; (b) within 12 months of commencement.

### **BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.**

#### **1, Bookmakers.**

Introduced by the Minister for Mines.

#### **2, Road Districts Act Amendment.**

Introduced by Mr. Watts.

### **BILL—MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT AMENDMENT.**

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

### **BILL—TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT.**

#### *In Committee.*

Resumed from the previous day. Mr. Rodoreda in the Chair; the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported after Clause 1 had been agreed to.

Clauses 2 and 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Amendment of Section 8:

Mr. DONEY: There is no call whatever for this provision. The present method is quite suitable and I cannot recollect having heard a single objection to it. This prompts the question: Why change it? During the second reading, I said that the Minister had no good reason for proposing the very harsh treatment foreshadowed in the clause. In reply the Minister said that taxi drivers licensed in one district sometimes transferred themselves and their activities to another part of the State. Why should they not do that? They are but exercising the right of free men in a free community to move wherever they wish and engage in a legal and competitive business. The reason given by the Minister was entirely insufficient to justify the change. I would ask the Committee to vote against the clause, but I have no great hope that my plea would result in its being deleted. In order not to make any mistake, therefore, I intend to submit several amendments. I move an amendment—

That in lines 5 and 6 of paragraph (b) of the proviso the words "on a particular occasion or on casual occasions" be struck out.

Those two terms—"particular occasion" and "casual occasions"—may be interpreted in one of a score of ways. What we have to find out from the Minister is exactly what particular interpretation he has in his mind. I am assuming that if the words are deleted, taxi owners could apply to other and generally neighbouring local governing bodies for permission to run in those territories for the full period of the license, whatever it might be. But if the words are allowed to remain, written permission would need to be sought in respect of every trip. It can be taken for granted, I think, that 90 per cent. of these taxi trips would be of a very urgent nature.

I point out to the Committee that a great deal of time would be occupied in securing written permission from local authorities. An exchange of letters—even an exchange of telephone talks or telegrams—is likely to take up a considerable period. In the case of letters, two or three days might elapse, at the end of which time I have no doubt the passenger concerned would have made the trip by train or in some other way. These long taxi trips arise more frequently as a result of bereavement than from any other cause, and it is plain that the delays that might occur if the Bill is not amended, would be too long altogether. I hope the Minister will appreciate that a taxi-car can run today from Narrogin to Perth with a load of passengers and bring those same people back to the spot from which they started when they have completed their business. Under the Bill, as I read it, that same load of passengers may be taken to Perth and, of course, brought back again. But it nearly always happens that some members of such a party complete their trip when they arrive at their journey's end.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is too much loud conversation taking place.

Mr. DONEY: Under the Bill, it is not possible for the taxi driver to bring back new passengers. Even if he were so enabled, he would first have to secure permission in writing from several local authorities through whose territory he would need to pass. In respect of a journey from Perth to Narrogin, that would entail correspondence with some seven or eight local governing bodies. If a taxi driver is debarred from taking a load from Perth back to the

spot whence he came, I should say that, in order to cover himself, he will charge the passengers he has taken to the city considerably more for the single journey. There is this argument against the new plan, too: That while some of the road boards might give their written authority, there are others who would not and that would make a pretty sad mess of the trip. Again, if the new methods as set out in the Bill are adhered to, there will be this strange effect: A taxi being required to make a journey from Narrogin town to a spot half-a-mile out of the town and therefore within the territory locally governed by the road board, the driver could not make that journey, absurd though it may seem. Nor could he accept a commission to travel outside the town into the road board area in order to bring back one person or two, three or more people.

That is an absurd consequence, for which I am sure the Minister would not like to be responsible. On a Saturday or on a Sunday, moreover, it would not be possible to contact the secretary of a road board or a town clerk of a council; in which case, being without the necessary written permission, a taxi driver could not make a trip anywhere. As I read the Bill, this restriction in regard to being permitted to operate only in one's own territory would not operate in the metropolitan area. The one license from the licensing authority in the metropolitan area—that is, the Traffic Branch of the Police Department—would enable the licensee to travel over all the municipal and road board districts in the metropolitan area. I do not think that last objection was mentioned by anyone during the second reading debate, and I hope the Minister will give some attention to it.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** I do not think any valid argument can be put forward against the principle contained in this clause.

**Mr. Watts:** I do not think any valid argument can be adduced in favour of it.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** That is not surprising, seeing that the Leader of the Opposition has been having a holiday in the country in recent times and has come back full of dash.

**Mr. Watts:** I do not know about having a holiday.

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** I think we should leave in the hands of each local authority a reasonable measure of control over the number of taxi-cars to operate within its territory. When the local authority at Narrogin, for instance, licenses half-a-dozen taxi-cars, it licenses taxi-cars owned by local citizens, and licenses the number it considers fair and reasonable, keeping in mind the ability of each of those persons to earn a living. If we are going to allow taxi-car owners from other districts, who have been licensed in other districts, to go into the Narrogin district at their own discretion and squat there and compete with the local people, without authority from anybody, that will be most unfair to the local taxi-car operators.

I have been somewhat impressed by the arguments put forward by the member for Williams-Narrogin against three parts of the clause. I think, with him, that the words "on a particular occasion or on casual occasions," appearing twice in paragraph (b) of the proviso might well be struck out, provided some other words are inserted in that paragraph in lieu. I also agree that the last part of paragraph (c) of the proviso might well be struck out. If the words "on a particular occasion or on casual occasions" are struck out I suggest that there be inserted after the word "do" in line 10 of paragraph (b) of the proviso the words "for a stated period or periods." That would allow the local authority concerned to give permission in writing for a stated period, or for stated periods.

**Mr. Doney:** For instance, the duration of the license?

**THE MINISTER FOR WORKS:** According to what the local authority thought reasonable in the circumstances. I would also suggest that after the word "authority" in line 13 of that paragraph there should be inserted the words "for such stated period or periods." That would give the local authority, other than that in which the taxi-car was licensed, discretion to issue a permit in writing for a stated period or stated periods, according to the judgment of the authority concerned. I think that is a reasonable compromise which overcomes the objections raised by the member for Williams-Narrogin. It gives the local authority concerned the right to issue in writing a permit for one month, three

months, six months, nine months or eleven months. It is only right that the decision as to how long a taxi-car from one district shall operate in another territory should be left to the local authority concerned to determine. I hope the member for Williams-Narrogin will accept my suggested amendments in place of those that he has in mind, one of which he has already moved.

Mr. WATTS: When I objected that there was no valid reason for the retention of those words I thought the Minister would insist on their retention. I misunderstood him. I think the compromise that he suggests is reasonable, though as the clause reads at present the arguments of the member for Williams-Narrogin are sound. The system that has operated for many years has not caused much heartburning or difficulty, and we should exercise great care in making restrictions of this kind. If the Committee and the member for Williams-Narrogin accept the compromise suggested, I am convinced that will be much better than the present clause, and there will be some arguments to justify the retention of the remainder of the wording.

Mr. McDONALD: When the Bill was introduced I sought to obtain the opinions of those operating taxis, as to the desirability or otherwise of this clause. They were hostile to it. I was not able to give them any specific reason why it should be included in the Act. Since the Minister's explanation last night I have not had time to discover what they think about it, though I wrote immediately in order to obtain some representative opinion. There is something in what the Minister said about piracy by taxi drivers in districts where the number of taxis licensed by the local authority is sufficient to meet the requirements of the district, but whether that reason is strong enough, in the opinion of those who operate taxis, I do not know.

At present I am not prepared to support the clause, even with the proposed amendments. I do not know sufficient about it to form a valid opinion at present, without further information from those whose livelihood is affected by it. I think that by this clause the Minister is attempting to achieve what may be a desirable end by difficult means. The Commonwealth Constitution lays down that trade and intercourse between States shall be absolutely free and we do

not want to divide up the State of Western Australia into a series of small areas such as exist in Eastern Europe, with jealous restrictions on the entry into one district of persons normally operating in another district. Under the Minister's proposed amendments a tourist would not be able to hire a taxi-car to make a trip through Bunbury, Busselton, Bridgetown, Kojonup, Albany and back to Perth without the taxi driver having to obtain the consent of all the local authorities whose districts would be traversed.

The Minister for Works: That is not so. The taxi driver would not require such consent for a return journey.

Mr. McDONALD: I have overlooked that provision. However, the taxi driver might desire to operate for a time in the districts he traversed, and he would be put to the delay and inconvenience of acquiring the necessary permits, even if, as the member for Williams-Narrogin said, he went only half a mile inside the territory of another local authority. I think some safeguard against unfair trespass by taxi-cars could be devised in a simpler way, and that the suggestion that the central authority might police the measure to some extent is worthy of consideration. The central traffic authority might ensure by this permit system that there would be no unfair plying for hire or reward by any taxi-cars in any district. In the case of a man who might be registered in Bunbury or Northam, some responsibility would have to rest upon his local authority to ensure that he did not unduly leave his home district to ply in another area. I would like some more information on the point. The objective of the Minister may have some merit, but I am not sure that he could not devise some more workable scheme than that set out in the Bill.

Mr. DONEY: I think the Minister's amendment has had the effect of removing the major objections to the clause as it stands, and it will now be possible for two local governing bodies to have an agreement between them covering up to 12 months or some other suitable period during which the licenses will operate. I assume the Minister would raise no bar to that as it would be entirely at the discretion of local governing authorities themselves.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I move an amendment—

That in line 10 of paragraph (b) after the word "do" the words "for a stated period or periods" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I move an amendment—

That in line 13 after the word "authority" the words "for such stated period or periods" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. DONEY: I move an amendment—

That in lines 13 and 14 the words "on such particular occasion or casual occasions" be struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. DONEY: I move an amendment—

That at the end of paragraph (c) the words "but so that no fare or charge is solicited or accepted for any journey which begins outside of the district of the licensing authority which issued the license" be struck out.

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

Clause 5—Amendment of Section 9:

Mr. DONEY: I move an amendment—

That in line 1 after the word "Act" the words "shall from and after the passing of this Act apply and have effect only outside the metropolitan area. Within the metropolitan area the following provisions shall apply" be inserted.

If the amendment be agreed to, I shall move to strike out the remaining preliminary words which read—"is repealed and a section is inserted in lieu thereof as follows." The effect of the amendments I propose will make the clause apply to the metropolitan area only, leaving the country districts to remain as at present. This deals with the quarterly licensing period. There may be ample reasons why the change to the new system should take place in the metropolitan area, and I have no doubt that the authorities at the Traffic Branch of the Police Department and the motorists, who on occasion have to wait for days at a time to secure their licenses, will welcome the spread of the licensing period.

Mr. Watts: That will be the ultimate effect.

Mr. DONEY: Yes, the full effect will not be felt immediately. It will take a few years

before the position stabilises itself. I would like to know whether the Minister has received any requests from country districts for the provisions of the Bill to be made effective in those areas. I have received an objection to the Bill from one country district, and I believe other members have received more. The Minister may be able to tell the Committee whether the Road Boards Association or the Country Municipal Association have indicated their desire for a similar change to become effective in the rural districts.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I certainly oppose the amendment. This is not a Bill to amend the Road Districts Act or the Municipal Corporations Act; it deals with the Traffic Act.

Mr. Doney: But the Minister knows the close association there is between the Traffic Act and the duties of municipal and road board officials.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The number of people in a district who would be caused some slight additional work under the new system of licensing would be insignificant compared with the number of motorists in that particular district. Even if I had received objections to this part of the Bill from every local authority in the country, I do not think that would necessarily justify me in deciding it should be abandoned.

Mr. Doney: But would you listen to any representations from the country?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I would listen very much more to the owners of motor vehicles in country districts because this portion of the Bill is designed to extend to motorists in all parts of the State greater convenience and consideration. The percentage of employees of local governing bodies affected compared with the motorists concerned would be about 1 or 2 per cent. Members would surely give much greater consideration to the interests of the owners of motor vehicles than to the secretary and employees of local authorities. Motor vehicle owners contribute considerable revenue to local authorities and in return should be entitled to the most convenient and advantageous system of licensing. The fact that a few employees of local authorities might be inconvenienced is an altogether insufficient argument to put forward, especially when

the new system will meet the convenience of thousands of motor vehicle owners. I have sufficient confidence in local government officers in the country to believe they will find little or no difficulty in adjusting themselves to the new system, as they would be receiving the license fees in smaller instalments during each month of the year. The argument advanced against payment in this way is that the boards would not be able accurately to forecast their revenue and expenditure, as they have been able to do in past years. That argument is illogical.

Hon. N. Keenan: But it exists.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The secretary of a road board or the town clerk of a municipality would have a very good idea of the number of vehicles used in his district and consequently would know the revenue that would be payable in respect of license fees during the year. I ask the Committee not to agree to the amendment because of the obvious advantages that will accrue to motor vehicle owners in the country by the adoption of this system.

Mr. Watts: Those advantages are mostly imaginary.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Everything is in favour of applying the system to the whole State.

Mr. DONEY: I always thought that the Government was just as glad to accept the voice of road boards and country municipalities as reflecting country opinion as we on this side of the Chamber.

The Minister for Works: Not in connection with this matter.

Mr. DONEY: Is the Minister entitled to discriminate in favour of this particular matter? Obviously, it bears on traffic and traffic is in the charge of country local governing bodies, which should be entitled to speak on the subject. I take it that when the Minister accepted this principle he listened to the Traffic Branch of the Police Department and considered representations made by the Royal Automobile Club. I do not swear that that is so, but it is likely. I am not complaining of it.

The Minister for Works: The main consideration was the interest and convenience of the motor vehicle owners.

Mr. DONEY: I am not contesting that, either; but will the Minister intimate to me

by what means he secured the views of the country motor vehicle owners on this matter?

Hon. J. C. WILLCOCK: I oppose the amendment, but on somewhat different grounds from those of the Minister, although I agree with his viewpoint. It would be a big mistake to have a system which did not operate uniformly throughout the State. For instance, if I, being the owner of a motorcar, go to Northam to reside, I would have to pay a license fee for three months, notwithstanding that I had already paid a fee which included two months of that period. That would be a distinct hardship. I agree with the Minister when he said that he did not think the country town clerk or country road board secretary would suffer hardship or inconvenience because of the introduction of this system of licensing. The effect would be to spread the work over the 12 months.

Mr. WATTS: I am in sympathy with the objective of the member for Williams-Narrogin. I cannot conceive of any great advantage that would be conferred on motor vehicle owners in the country districts by this proposal in the Bill. If I could, I would gladly concede the point that we should not concern ourselves so much about the difficulties that the proposed system might impose on local authorities. But when no particular advantage is being conferred upon motor vehicle owners, then the question of considering the local authority and its staff arises. It is well known and has been freely demonstrated this year that in the metropolitan area there has been very grave congestion, and it has been impossible for licenses to be issued in the time prescribed by law. In fact, I think many motorists who applied for licenses received an intimation to that effect from the Traffic Branch. That might have been because of circumstances which were unusual, such as the failure of the current to turn the necessary machinery. In any event, I am assured there is considerable congestion because of the large number of licenses to be dealt with in one month.

That does not apply in the districts of local authorities. If we have roughly 50 per cent. of the licenses in the metropolitan area, there are many thousands coming under one controlling body. We have roughly the same number of licenses in rural dis-

tricts coming under something like 135 local authorities; so it is quite obvious that that number of licenses is split up into 135 unequal parts, and the difficulty in each district is negligible by comparison with what is in existence in the Police Traffic Branch because of the congestion in the metropolitan area. So there do not appear to me to be the same considerations applying to rural districts as apply in the metropolitan area. I therefore turn to the question: What is the convenience that will be conferred on the country motorist? Subject to the remarks of the member for Geraldton—and I propose to submit an amendment to rectify the position—in regard to the vehicle that transfers from one district to another and which is not a new vehicle, I see very little need for a change in regard to country motorists.

A new vehicle can be licensed from the time the license is taken out to the end of the year. The only difficulty is in respect of the used vehicle coming from another district. It is possible to obtain a license for a quarter, for six months or for 12 months. Many motorists prefer the six-monthly period, particularly country motorists; and in consequence, the work at country centres is not all congested into July. Much of it comes in December and the quarterly periods as well. I know of no demand by country motorists for licenses to run from the date on which a vehicle is obtained, or any date that happens to suit them, and in the existing circumstances, as virtually all the licenses have been taken out in July, or alternatively at the half-yearly period, it will be a large number of years, in view of the present difficulty of obtaining new motor vehicles, before this change can have any effect at all. People whose licenses were taken out in July this year for a yearly period will take them out in July of next year and so on ad infinitum until they get new vehicles. Those who took them out to January next year will do the same in the following July, if they have a half-yearly license.

As there is no demand of which I know from country districts and no great inconvenience is suffered by country motorists, in sharp distinction to the metropolitan motorists, it seems to be a question of taking into consideration what is the effect on the local authorities. I have discussed this

question with a number of local authorities in the last few days; and, while they are not antagonistic to the Minister's proposal and are prepared to give it consideration, they do not see how it will be of benefit. They do say it will have an effect on their ability to estimate their annual revenue and in consequence their annual expenditure. It is also going to occasion great difficulty in the policing of the question of licensed vehicles. In some instances their districts are widely scattered and their people are a long way apart. If in a few years' time the system is operating under which licenses are falling due every day of the year, the provision in this measure, that if one does not return the number plates within a fortnight one must pay three months' license by way of penalty, is going to fall harshly on some country motorists, who come from scattered areas into the township where they get their licenses, and find they are a day or two late.

Hon. J. C. Willcock: Would that be enforced strictly?

Mr. WATTS: I am not going to say that a local authority will not enforce the law. It is reprehensible if it does not. A law should be such as to be capable of enforcement.

Hon. J. C. Willcock: In a reasonable way.

Mr. WATTS: I do not agree with that. If a law says something shall be done in 14 days and it is not done until 22 days, the provisions of the law should be applied. Certainly, some road board officers will make certain they get the extra amount; so there is a case to be stated on the ground of a certain inconvenience being caused to country motorists. It therefore seems that the case of the member for Williams-Narrogin for the exclusion of rural districts from this proposal for the time being has a great deal more substance than has so far been admitted by either of the members who have spoken from the Government side of the Chamber. I move—

That the amendment be amended by adding after the word "area" in line 3 the following words: but subject to the following amendments:—

(1) Subsection (2) is amended by adding in paragraph (f) of the subsection after the word "trailer" the words "or road tractor."



(2) Subsection (6) is amended—

(i) by deleting from the third line of paragraph (a) of the subsection the word "a" and substituting in lieu thereof the word "any";

(ii) by deleting from paragraph (a) of the subsection the words "which is new when purchased by the owner applying for the licence and has never previously been licensed";

(iii) by deleting paragraph (b) of the subsection.

(3) Subsection (7) is amended by inserting after the word "trailer" in the first line of the subsection the words "or road tractor."

The 1941 amending Act provided that a trailer could be licensed for a period of not less than one month or greater than three months from the date of application, but it did not include the road tractor which pulls the trailer. The justification for this amendment was that the trailers are in many cases used only for three months at a time; that they are used for a short period to carry the harvest or to cart wool; and that they are not used for the remainder of the year. So Parliament decided to allow local authorities to license these trailers for three months. I consider, however, that the tractors that haul the trailers should be similarly licensed.

Another part of the amendment on the amendment covers the objection raised by the member for Geraldton. It will have the effect of allowing, in conjunction with the third part of the amendment on the amendment, either a new or a used vehicle to be licensed in conformity with the provisions that will apply in the metropolitan area. The third part of my amendment is consequential on the first. The object of these amendments is—one, that a road tractor, as well as a trailer, may be licensed for a short period and, two, as mentioned by the member for Geraldton, that a used vehicle transferred to a new district as well as a vehicle brought to a district, might be licensed from the time of being brought there for the remainder of the year, thereby removing the objection, which is a valid one, raised by the hon. member.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I might not have any objection to the amendment on the amendment, but, if the Leader of the Opposition is anxious to have it carried, he would be wise to try to prevail upon his

colleague, the member for Williams-Narrogin to withdraw his amendment.

Amendment on amendment put and negatived.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	14
Noes	..	..	..	22
				—
Majority against	..			8
				—

#### AYES.

Mr. Abbott  
Mrs. Cardell-Oliver  
Mr. Hill  
Mr. Keenan  
Mr. Mann  
Mr. McDonald  
Mr. McLarty

Mr. North  
Mr. Seward  
Mr. Telfer  
Mr. Thorn  
Mr. Watts  
Mr. Willmott  
Mr. Doney

(Teller.)

#### NOES.

Mr. Collier  
Mr. Coverley  
Mr. Graham  
Mr. Hawke  
Mr. J. Hegney  
Mr. Johnson  
Mr. Leahy  
Mr. Marshall  
Mr. Millington  
Mr. Needham  
Mr. Nulsen

Mr. Owen  
Mr. Panton  
Mr. Rend  
Mr. Shears  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. Styants  
Mr. Tonkin  
Mr. Trint  
Mr. Willcock  
Mr. Withers  
Mr. Wilson

(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

Mr. DONEY: As a result of the division there is no purpose in my proceeding with the next two amendments standing in my name on the notice paper.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: When the member for Roebourne spoke on the second reading debate last night, he suggested that we might give consideration to eliminating the right, which motorists at present have, to license either for a three-monthly period or for a nine-monthly period.

Mr. Watts: This will be inconvenient.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I am just saying what the member for Roebourne suggested. I obtained from the Metropolitan Traffic Office today the figures covering the number of motor vehicles licensed since the 1st July, and the periods for which each particular number of vehicles has been licensed. It might be of interest to members to have the information. There were 3,220 motor vehicles, representing 9.7 per cent. of the total, licensed for a quarter only; 7,761, representing 23.2 per cent. of the total were

licensed for six months; one motor vehicle, representing less than no per cent.—

Mr. Watts: It could not be that.

Mr. Doney: The Minister can do anything.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: —or approximately no per cent., was licensed for nine months, and 22,191, representing 67.1 per cent. of the total were licensed for 12 months. Though I am not prepared to go as far as the member for Roebourne suggested last night, I am prepared to move that the word "nine" in line 6 of Subclause (2) be struck out. It is obvious that this right has no virtue under the present system and will have even less virtue under the proposed new system of licensing. I move an amendment—

That in line 6 of proposed new Subsection (2) the word "nine" be struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It was suggested to me, either during the debate or privately, that the words "The Traffic Act Amendment Act, 1946" in Subclause (3) could lead to confusion when the Bill becomes an Act, because a person reading the Act might think there was another Traffic Act Amendment made in 1946 and might search to find such a measure passed during this session. It might clarify the position if the words "This Act" were inserted after the word "of" in line 2, brackets then being placed round the words "The Traffic Act Amendment Act, 1946." The subclause would then read "Application for a license for a vehicle which is not licensed at the commencement of this Act (The Traffic Act Amendment Act, 1946) may be made at any time and the license shall commence and have effect from and including its date of issue." I move an amendment—

That in line 2 of proposed new Subsection (3) after the word "of" the words "this Act" be inserted and that the words "the Traffic Act Amendment Act, 1946," be enclosed in parenthesis.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. DONEY: I move an amendment—

That in line 10 of the proviso the word "fourteen" be struck out and the words "twenty-one" inserted in lieu.

I have no objection to the requirements set out in this clause but I think there is room for leniency as to the period for which the number plates may be retained.

The Minister for Works: I agree.

Mr. DONEY: The Minister having agreed, my further comments are not necessary.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. DONEY: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 of paragraph (a) of the proviso to proposed new Subsection (4) the word "fourteen" be struck out and the words "twenty-one" inserted in lieu.

This amendment is consequential.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. DONEY: I move an amendment—

That in paragraph (a) the words "in the case of the expired license having been a license for three months" be struck out.

Mr. Watts: The three months' maximum penalty?

Mr. DONEY: It is to make three months the maximum penalty, no matter what the period for which the offender keeps the number plates.

The Minister for Works: I agree.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. DONEY: I move an amendment—

That in paragraph (a) the words "but which in the case of the expired license having been a license for six or more months shall be the fee payable for a half year's license" be struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. DONEY: I move an amendment—

That in line 15 of paragraph (a) the words "in either case" be struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. GRAHAM: I move an amendment—

That a new subsection be inserted as follows:—"(5) The licensing authority may allocate to vehicle licenses expiring on the 30th day of June, 1947, a cycle of payments, provided that should any person object to the cycle of payments allocated, the licensing authority shall allot a cycle of payments convenient to any such person."

It follows from my remarks last night that there is nothing restrictive or mandatory in the proposal. After the amendments become law vehicle licenses will operate for periods from the date upon which they are first taken out. I desire to provide that the

license issuing authority may, if it wishes, re-allocate the dates of licenses in force at the present time. If it suited the convenience of the licensing authority, they could be distributed throughout the year to overcome any rush period. I have included the proviso that if any individual license-holder objects to the allocation made to him, then he can have the period altered back to his original date. There is no reason why the licensing of vehicles should not operate more or less along the lines applying to wireless listeners' licenses, with the additional feature that the local governing authority or the issuing authority will arrange the dates to suit its convenience. The perfect system would be for an equal number of licenses to be issued monthly throughout the year so that there would be a normal flow of work instead of, as at present, rush periods followed by slack periods.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The idea underlying the amendment suggested by the member for East Perth may have within it considerable merit. I do not know that the wording is suitable and it would be unwise to consider it at present. I suggest he withdraw it and I will undertake to discuss the matter with the representatives of the Traffic Department and the officers of the Crown Law Department. If it is thought that an amendment along the lines suggested could be suitably worded, we can recommit the Bill at the appropriate time in order to discuss it.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** In view of the Minister's statement, I ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**Mr. WATTS:** I move an amendment—

That a new subsection be added as follows:—

“(7) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, a license in respect of a road tractor or trailer may be granted for a period of one month or two months from the date on which the application is made, and when such a license is granted, the fee for such license shall be that proportion of the prescribed annual license fee for a road tractor or trailer that the period for which the license is applied for bears to a full year.”

The Minister for Works: Plus 5s.

**Mr. WATTS:** The Minister can have it that way if he likes, but I am moving the

amendment in the form I have indicated. Under the existing laws such a license can be taken out in respect of a trailer which is used for seasonal purposes as I mentioned previously. I have included road tractors because they are used for exactly the same purpose over exactly the same period, but hitherto quarterly licenses have had to be taken out in lieu of monthly licenses. By the repeal which is implicit in the amendments we have carried, that provision will cease to exist. I want it restored in order that the same conditions as have applied in the past may still apply to trailers and also to road tractors.

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** I have no objection to the amendment.

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

Clause 6—agreed to.

Clause 7—Amendment of Section 22:

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I ask that the same system should apply to drivers' licenses as to vehicle licenses. Instead of drivers having to pay their fees at the one time, there should be some spread over the year to meet the convenience of the licensing authority and show consideration to drivers. I move an amendment—

That a new subsection be added as follows:—

“(4) The licensing authority may state a date in the licensing year ending the 30th June, 1948, upon which a license under this section shall expire, and the licensing authority shall adjust the fee on a monthly basis in accordance with such allocation: Providing that should any person renewing a license under this section lodge an objection against the date allocated, the licensing authority shall allot an expiry date suitable to the person renewing the license and adjust the fee on a monthly basis accordingly.”

**The MINISTER FOR WORKS:** The same procedure could be adopted as I suggested in regard to the previous amendment. If the hon. member will supply a copy of the amendment, I will have it considered during the week-end.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 8—Amendment of Section 28:

Mr. TRIAT: I ask consideration of the suggestion I offered last night. There are cases in which hit-and-run can occur without any guilt on the part of the motorist, and it would be drastic punishment to inflict three months' imprisonment in such a case. I move an amendment—

That in line 7 after the word "the" the word "knowingly" be inserted.

I know there are objections to the use of words like "knowingly" and "wilfully," but in this provision the use of the word "knowingly" might not be so bad.

Mr. Doney: It would be as hard to determine as negligence.

Mr. TRIAT: If a motorist can prove that he had no knowledge of the accident, the magistrate should be able to exercise discretion and determine that the offence did not warrant imprisonment for three months.

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

Mr. WATTS: Whilst I am in sympathy with what the member for Mt. Magnet has in mind, I do not think he will succeed in attaining his object by the amendment. I ask myself, when does a person not knowingly run away after an accident? Surely, no-one departs or disappears from the scene of an accident of that nature without knowing that he has gone! Further, the insertion of the proposed word will make the clause extremely clumsy, even supposing it is the right word. Other amendments on the notice paper will, I think, go a long way towards making the position clear. I understand, too, that the Minister is prepared to accept some softening down of the penalty proposed by the Bill. I hope the discussion will be postponed to allow the member for Mt. Magnet to draft an amendment which will cope with the position he has in mind.

Mr. TRIAT: Since tea, this matter has been under discussion and an amendment has been framed in suitable terms. With that knowledge, I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Progress reported.

**BILL—CATTLE INDUSTRY  
COMPENSATION.**

*Second Reading.*

**THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE**

(Hon. J. T. Tonkin—North-East Fremantle) [7.37] in moving the second reading said: In 1942 there was a serious outbreak in this State of swine fever and a number of producers were faced with serious loss as the result of the compulsory destruction of their stock. It became necessary in the interests of the pig producers to establish a compensation fund; and my predecessor in office, the present Premier (Hon. F. J. S. Wise) introduced to this House the Pig Industry Compensation Bill, which subsequently became an Act. That provided for compensation to the owners of pigs and carcasses that were found to be contaminated by certain specified diseases. The fund is self-supporting.

There is also in force in the State at present the Dairy Cattle Compensation Act which resulted in the creation of a fund that has been in existence for some time. Under that Act, cows in a prescribed area surrounding the metropolitan district are destroyed if found to be suffering from tuberculosis. Compensation is payable in respect of those destroyed animals. Two-fifths of the costs of the fund is borne by the Treasury. Under the Act, dairy farmers supplying wholemilk pay 3s. annually to the fund per cow or bull over the age of one year. The amount of compensation payable is 90 per cent. of the value of the beast, but is not to exceed £15 per head. Members will recall that the Milk Bill, which was recently debated in this House, provided for the repeal—

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister is not in order in alluding to a debate during this session on another Bill.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That makes it extremely difficult for me, Mr. Speaker, because this measure is complementary to the one I have mentioned and is dependent upon the passing of that measure. If that Bill does pass, then the Dairy Cattle Compensation Act will be repealed; and it is intended, under those circumstances, that the measure now before the House will bring into operation a fund to take the place of the Dairy Cattle Compensation Fund which

would go out of existence as a result of the passing of the Bill I previously mentioned. When the Honorary Royal Commission was taking evidence in connection with vermin control, quite a lot of representations were made to it with respect to this matter. It was suggested that some fund should be established which would provide for compensation under certain conditions. Some witnesses argued that the time to bring the fund into being was when some serious outbreak of disease occurred such as was the case in connection with swine fever. Others argued that the State should not wait until then, but that preliminary steps should be taken so that the fund could be brought into being and be available for use in case of a serious outbreak of disease.

The Royal Commission, in its report, recommended that this aspect should be examined and suggested that if it could be found that a fund could be established which would not require a greater payment than 1d. in the £ Australian, such fund ought to be established for the purpose of providing compensation for certain specified diseases in cattle. It was not considered desirable or necessary to make provision for sheep, inasmuch as they are not so susceptible to outbreaks of disease as are cattle. This Bill provides for a payment of up to 2d. in the £ Australian. I can give the House an assurance, however, that it is not intended to levy 2d. straightaway. The provision for a maximum of 2d. has been included in case we should experience a very serious outbreak of disease that would necessitate a large amount of money being available for compensation. It is desirable in those circumstances that power should be available to obtain the money.

It has been calculated that an initial rate of  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the £ would be sufficient as a commencement and that should enable the fund to carry on provided there is not a serious epidemic. I can assure the House there is very little likelihood, under normal circumstances, of the rate being beyond a penny; but I am asking it to agree to a maximum of 2d. so that, should a serious outbreak occur, it will be possible to obtain extra money for the fund with which to pay the resultant large amount of compensation necessary. It is intended that compensation up to 80 per cent. of the market value of a beast or carcass will be paid; but should a

beast be destroyed in the belief that it is suffering from a disease, and upon its being slaughtered it is found not to have been suffering from that disease, then 100 per cent. compensation is to be payable from the fund.

The fund is to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and the market value of the cattle will be determined by agreement between the owner and a departmental representative. If there should be any disagreement, there will be an appeal to an impartial person nominated by the Minister.

Mr. McLarty: The owner is not always present to see his cattle sold. You will allow for a representative, of course?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes. The maximum value of any beast shall be deemed to be £20 and the maximum contribution required by means of stamp duty at the rate prescribed will be 2s. 6d. per beast. The diseases to be covered immediately—other diseases can be specified subsequently—will be tuberculosis, actinomycosis and pleuro-pneumonia. I have had some figures taken out to give an indication of the incidence of disease in this State; and in view of the statements made from time to time about the way in which our cattle are diseased, those figures are very interesting. I find that of the cattle that have been totally condemned—as against those that have been only partially condemned—approximately 50 in every 10,000 have been suffering from tuberculosis.

The Premier: That does not seem sufficient reason for a scare.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It does not. It works out at .5 per cent.

Hon. J. C. Willcock: Cattle condemned?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No. Of the total number of cattle slaughtered 50 in 10,000 have been found to be completely tubercular.

Mr. Abbott: They would be slaughtered for meat.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes. That is those that have been slaughtered. Then 35 in 10,000 have had actinomycosis. There were no cases of pleuro-pneumonia. It is estimated that the compensation required each year would be £3,500 in carcasses and £500 on partial carcasses, making a total of £4,000; and it is expected that a

rate of  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the £ would be sufficient to cover that amount from the fund. So it will be seen that there is little likelihood of a greater rate than 1d. being imposed, unless we should be unfortunate enough to experience a very serious outbreak of disease like swine fever.

Mr. Mann: Or rinderpest.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:

Yes. In view of the representations which were made to the Royal Commission on vermin, which showed that there was a real demand for this fund from the producers themselves; and in view of our experience of swine fever and the necessity for having some fund from which unfortunate owners can be compensated, it is very clear that we require to make some provision along these lines; that there is the need for providing for payment of compensation to people who lose stock, firstly because such stock are diseased or, secondly, because they are obliged to destroy stock which might be the means of causing disease to travel to some other place. We are taking steps, in the interests of other people, and it would be unfair to force such producers to carry the full loss. The action the Government took to set up a fund for swine fever has been justified over and over again, and the demand which the producers are making for a cattle compensation fund shows that they have appreciated what was done in the setting up of a fund for the pig industry. This Bill extends the same principle to cattle.

Mr. McLarty: But for three diseases only.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:

There will be three diseases specified straight away, but there is nothing to prevent other diseases being added later.

Mr. McLarty: Such as tick fever.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:

Yes.

Mr. Mann: Is it for the whole of Western Australia?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:

Yes.

The Premier: This is to provide for epidemic diseases, such as tick fever, more than others.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:

We have the Dairy Cattle Compensation Fund in operation today. That will go out.

Members will recall that a Bill previously before the House made provision for the setting up of a special Dairy Cattle Compensation Fund.

Mr. Mann: That goes out.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No. There will be such a fund under the Milk Act to cover cattle destroyed under that measure. But if dairy cattle are sent to the abattoirs for slaughter and are found to be diseased compensation will be paid from the fund under this measure. Also, where officers of the Department of Agriculture find that animals are diseased they can order them to be slaughtered and compensation will be payable from the fund to be set up.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Will there be a tax on the cattle from Derby?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:

The hon. member will understand the position if I quote from a provision of the Bill. Although it covers the whole State, the parts to be covered from time to time will be specified. The Bill provides—

This Act shall apply in those portions of the State comprised within districts defined from time to time for the purposes of this Act by an Order in Council published in the "Government Gazette."

Mr. Watts: What yardstick will you use to determine the districts?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:

I do not follow.

Mr. Watts: What method will you adopt to determine the districts that will be proclaimed?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:

That is a matter for administration. I must confess I have not given consideration to it.

Mr. Watts: What circumstances are going to arise before a district is proclaimed.

The Premier: Unless you have a special provision you could include districts which could wreck the fund very quickly. The idea is to get the fund started within proclaimed districts. It could not be otherwise.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE:

That little elucidation will be of value to the House. Having said most of what I desire to say I commend the Bill to members. The need for the establishment of a fund from which compensation can be

paid has been amply demonstrated by the Pig Industry Compensation Act and also by the Dairy Cattle Compensation Fund. This simply provides that there will be a fund for cattle, apart from dairy cattle and apart from the limited area to which the Dairy Cattle Compensation Fund, which only covers prescribed areas just outside the metropolitan area, at present applies. This measure is intended to cover a much wider field. As it is desired by the producers and the principle has already proved to be sound I am confident that the House will accept it. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. McLarty, debate adjourned.

## **BILL—NURSES REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT.**

### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

**MRS. CARDELL-OLIVER** (Subiaco) [7.56]: I do not really understand the Bill as it is at present. I heard the explanation given by the Minister when he introduced the measure, but I still fail to follow certain clauses, especially one that was mentioned last night by the member for Roe-hourne. It seems to me that a trainee must start her training at 19 years and attain the age of 21 before being qualified to become a nurse for tuberculosis. On the other hand I understood the Minister to say that nurses could not start their training until they were 21. But under the clause that I have referred to they could, apparently, start at 19. Without an explanation, I feel sure there is something wrong.

I showed the Bill to two doctors today, and one said it was a wicked Bill and the other that it was a stupid Bill. I feel sure that there is another omission and that is that there does not seem to be any test to be given to the trainees, before commencing training, to see whether they are susceptible to this particular disease. In my opinion that is most necessary, because there is a test that can be given. That is all I wish to say. Perhaps in the Committee stage the Minister might elucidate some of the points that we do not understand now. As the Bill stands, I cannot vote for it.

**THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH** (Hon. E. Nulsen—Kanowna—in reply) [7.58]: I think there has been some misunderstanding in regard to the Bill, but my information has been that the trouble can be corrected by regulation. Proposed new Subsection (5c) provides—

Every person who has attained the age of 21 years, has completed the prescribed course of training and has passed the prescribed examinations shall be entitled to be registered as a tuberculosis nurse in that division of the register which relates to tuberculosis nurses, on payment of the prescribed fee.

Mr. Doney: How would you, in that case, bring in the nursing assistants? They would be too old.

**The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:** The explanation is this: They cannot qualify before they are 21 years of age—that applies to a number of other sections—but they can qualify at 22, 23 or 24 years of age. So, the position in regard to tuberculosis nursing at Wooroloo can be safeguarded by regulation. That is to say, girls cannot commence their training until they have reached the age of 21 years. I am most emphatic on that myself. I think it is unsafe, and we want to be certain about this. That is the information given to me. I do not know the exact position; I have not had much time to go into it today. I am quite satisfied to accept an amendment, provided it does not hamper the nurses, because there are nurses who might have trained at the Perth Hospital for two or three years but who, because of some mischance, have not been registered. To give such people opportunity to become tuberculosis nurses, we want some elasticity so that we may govern them by regulation. If amendments are moved—I have a couple myself—I hope there will be sufficient elasticity to deal with persons who may have spent two or three years at the Royal Perth Hospital or some other hospital, but who did not pass their examinations and consequently could not be registered.

We have also a number of assistant nurses who have worked for years, and the Nurses Registration Board might like to give them some consideration for the period of training that they have undergone. It might behoove the board to say that if such persons had 12 months' training that would be sufficient qualification for them to become tuberculosis nurses. We do not wish to remove

from the Bill any elasticity by which girls, who have trained in the Royal Perth Hospital or some other training centre for two or three years, might be given some consideration for that training if they desire to become tuberculosis nurses. Such persons might be only 21 years of age but, if the Act made rigid provision that they could not begin training until they reached 21 years of age, it would mean that they could not qualify until the age of 23 years, because the period for qualification is two years.

Mr. Mann: They start at 19 years of age.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: If they start at 19, they can qualify at 21 but, if the Act is amended to make the commencing age 21 years, they will not be able to become qualified nurses until they reach 23 years of age. I have pointed out that there are girls who have trained for two or three years in the Royal Perth Hospital or other training centres, and I do not think they should be expected to put in another two years' training if they are over 21 years of age.

Mr. Watts: That is not what you told us on the second reading.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: I did not tell the Leader of the Opposition anything other than that they had to have two years' training, and I emphatically said that those nurses were not to start training until they were 21 years of age. I also explained clearly that in future trainees for general nursing at the Royal Perth Hospital would not be sent to Wooroloo to finish their training until they were 21 years of age, and that then they would spend only three months there instead of five or six months, as under the old system. I thought I made that clear. If this can be done by regulation, and if it is not contrary to the Act, I do not see any harm in it, as all regulations must be laid on the Table of the House. Every member has the opportunity to peruse them and to move to disallow them.

Mr. Mann: Will you give an assurance that the regulations disallowed 12 months ago will again be laid on the Table of the House?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: I am not in a position to answer the hon. member, as I do not recall the regulations to which he refers. I believe this Bill will be passed because it is essential that we have some

measure on the Statute-book providing for tuberculosis nurses. In Western Australia our nursing requirements are short by 95 nurses and six matrons, making a total of over 100. On the 23rd of this month the 48-hour week will be reduced to 44 hours, and that again will increase the shortage. The position will become acute before anything can be done. I have issued orders and directions that no person is to be employed at the Wooroloo Hospital until he or she attains the age of 21 years, and I have given instructions that all persons engaged there must undergo an x-ray examination, and that the examination must be carried out periodically.

The position in Western Australia is such that something must be done to provide for the tuberculosis patients. If we do not make an effort to train nurses for that work, I do not know how we shall be able to control the disease, to say nothing of eliminating it. The shortage of nurses exists throughout Australia. When I was in Victoria three or four months ago, I found that hospitals had been built but were without staff, and were being used to house homeless people from in and around Melbourne.

Mr. Abbott: The wages of a hospital worker cannot compare with those of a hotel worker.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: The conditions have been improved in Western Australia, but I do not think that has made much difference to the situation. The position exists not only in Australia but throughout the world, and even in America there is a shortage of 100,000 nurses.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Minister is not in order in introducing new matter in reply.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: It was only by way of reply to an interjection. I desire to thank members for receiving the Bill as they have, and to commend them for having been cautious. My predecessor was very jealous of our Western Australian nurses, and so am I. We desire to keep our standard of nursing high but, if the tuberculosis nurses do qualify, they will be serving a fine purpose in this State. They will be specialists and their services to society will be very valuable. This measure will assist us to place some of those qualified general nurses in very important positions



throughout the State. Some girls are not inclined to submit to the very arduous training required for general nursing. The training is undoubtedly hard and the profession is a difficult one. For a T.B. nurse, however, the training will not be so difficult, though it will be important. They will have to serve only two years, and quite a number who have attempted to qualify as general nurses will probably make their services available as T.B. nurses. If their services become available, the existing shortage will be greatly relieved and their work will be helpful to the department and to the State. I hope that the Bill will be passed and will come into operation soon so that we may be enabled to cope with the very serious position that exists at present.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

Mr. Rodoreda in the Chair; the Minister for Health in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Amendment of Section 5.

Mr. MANN: Even after the Minister's explanation, I am not satisfied about the proposed new Subsection (5c). It states that every person who has attained the age of 21 years and has completed the prescribed course of training shall be entitled to be registered as a T.B. nurse. Apparently the Minister intends to proceed by way of regulation. I understood that he intended to move some amendments.

The Minister for Lands: He said he would accept suitable amendments.

Mr. Watts: He said he had amendments to move.

The Minister for Health: I am prepared to accept suitable amendments.

Mr. MANN: Has the Minister any amendments to move?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: The Act has been administered for years largely by means of regulations. The clause provides that no person may qualify before she attains the age of 21 years, but she might be 23 or 25. I contend that the time of starting training may be fixed by regulation and still be consistent with the Act. To proceed in this way would give the board

greater elasticity to deal with assistant nurses and with others who have some qualifications and wish to fit themselves for this work. If we lay down a hard-and-fast rule, we shall make the position difficult for those who have the qualifications of a general nurse and who wish to become T.B. nurses without undergoing the full course. There are a few nurses who trained in the Royal Perth Hospital for two years but who, for some reason or other, have not been registered. If they wanted to become T.B. nurses, the board should be able to take into consideration the training they have received and not compel them to complete two years at Wooroloo in order to become T.B. nurses.

There are assistant nurses who have worked probably for years, and they too, may desire to become T.B. nurses. It would not be fair if they were required to train for two years at Wooroloo before becoming qualified. I am prepared to consider any amendment so long as it will not restrict the board in giving consideration to those who have done part of their training or who have finished their training and have not been registered.

Mr. MANN: I consider that the Bill has been badly drafted. Some trainees have failed in their examination and they might be 21 or 23 years of age. The member for Roebourne pointed out last night that this provision would apply to a girl who was 21 when she qualified.

The Minister for the North-West: Why not?

Mr. MANN: The proposal is that every person who has attained the age of 21 years and has completed the course of training, etc. Therefore that person must have started at the age of 19. The idea of the Minister that young girls should not be exposed to the risk of contracting T.B. will be defeated by this clause. A girl might leave school or employment and apply to be a nurse at Wooroloo, and she must be accepted at the age of 19.

Hon. J. C. Willcock: No, may be accepted!

Mr. MANN: The provision in the Bill is clear. At 21 the nurse will be qualified and therefore she must have started at 19 years of age.

The Minister for the North-West: You have been told three times by the Minister that these girls will not be permitted to go there before they are 21.

Mr. MANN: But the Minister's statement does not coincide with the provision in the Bill. There is too much left to regulations today. Two organisations—the A.T.N.A. and the Nurses' Union—are watching this matter closely. Neither of those organisations has power to appoint nurses as representatives on the Nurses' Registration Board. The nurses ballot for their two representatives on the board. Apparently, much secrecy is being observed with respect to the operations of the board, as the nurses' representatives cannot gain certain information as to its activities.

The Minister for Health: Why?

Mr. MANN: I understand that some members on the board will not allow those representatives to disclose the information.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is getting away from the clause.

Mr. MANN: I hope the Minister will re-draft the clause.

Hon. J. C. WILLCOCK: I do not think there is any difficulty in interpreting the clause. It provides that certain people can be registered as nurses if they have certain qualifications and experience. A person must be 21 years of age; and I suggest that we might insert the words "at least" before the words "twenty-one," in order to make the language quite clear. The person must also have completed a course of training and passed the prescribed examination. On possessing those three qualifications, she will be entitled to be registered as a tuberculosis nurse upon payment of the prescribed fee. There is no ambiguity about the clause.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: When does she get her training?

Hon. J. C. WILLCOCK: At any time she likes.

Mr. Abbott: And the prescribed training might be two weeks!

Hon. J. C. WILLCOCK: I would not expect that!

Mr. Abbott: I am making an absurd statement, I know.

Hon. J. C. WILLCOCK: She can start at 16, 17, 18 or 19 years of age, but she cannot secure registration under this provision until she reaches the age of twenty-one years.

Mr. Watts: The Minister says that she will not start training until she is 21.

Hon. J. C. WILLCOCK: I am giving my interpretation of the clause. Some enthusiastic girls of 16 or 17 years of age might desire to become tuberculosis nurses, but they could not secure registration until they had attained the age of 21. That is a principle which I think the Committee will adopt. We do not want young girls that have not reached the age of discretion to be nursing people suffering from tuberculosis.

Mr. Mann: And we do not want them to start nursing until they are 21 years.

Hon. J. C. WILLCOCK: We need these nurses very badly.

Mr. Mann: I agree.

Mr. ABBOTT: I cannot understand why a different procedure is followed here to determine the period of training from the procedure which is prescribed for a general nurse. Under the parent Act, it is provided that every person who has attained the age of 21 years and at the commencement of the Act holds a certificate of not less than three years training as a nurse, shall be entitled to registration, and there is a similar provision with respect to midwifery. There is no such provision in this Bill. No doubt the Minister has clearly in mind what should be done under the circumstances, but he will not be the Minister for all time. I entirely agree with his views, but he may not be here to frame the necessary regulation. The clause should be re-drafted so as to provide that there shall be a certain period of training, not less than two years, for a nurse who wishes to become a T.B. nurse, unless she has had some other training of a general nature.

The Minister for Health: Could you not leave that matter to regulation, as is the case now?

Mr. ABBOTT: The framers of the parent Act did not think such procedure would be wise. The main point is that we should make provision that a girl shall not undertake training in T.B. nursing until she has attained a certain age.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The object of the Bill is to multiply the number of nurses available for work with tubercular patients.

The Premier: And to assure that more mature nurses become tuberculosis nurses.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: With that object in view, we by-pass the provisions dealing with the training of nurses. The Bill is satisfactory from that standpoint but there is the necessity to ensure that no-one will be allowed to come in contact with the nursing of tubercular patients until she is 21 years of age. That is what the Minister says he wants.

Mr. Mann: And Dr. Henzell says so, too.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: If the clause were amended as I suggest, I think the position would be safeguarded. I have reason to know what the age of 21 means in connection with this disease. I have had a sad experience in that regard. It is remarkable, but true, that 21 years is the period when a person is most susceptible to this disease and the age at which most who contract it die as a result. It is also remarkable that if at that age one is weak in the chest and has symptoms of the disease but gets over the trouble, one can build up and become cured. I subscribe definitely to the principle that no girl shall come into contact with patients suffering from tuberculosis unless she is at least 21 years of age.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I think we are inclined to overlook the fact that the Nurses Registration Board has over the years carried out the work of training nurses under the prescribed regulations. In this instance regulations will be framed under the Bill and will be laid on the Table. I confess that last night I was worried about this particular clause and at 9.5 a.m. today I was in touch with the Health Department about it. I could not see how a girl could pass all the prescribed examinations when she was 21 years of age before she started at that age. I was assured by the people who will have control of the prescribed regulations and who will be anxiously waiting for the necessary personnel to take up the course of two years' training, that they anticipate there will be quite a number of young women who will take advantage of the opportunity. In the first place there are the girls who have been referred to as nursing assistants. They have already had

some years of experience at nursing and are highly qualified, but they have not completed the prescribed course.

Mr. Mann: Or have not passed the educational examination.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: If such girls are over 21 years of age they will be a likely field from which tuberculosis nurses can be obtained. Then there are the girls who commenced training at the Fremantle Public Hospital or the Royal Perth Hospital or under the Government four-year scheme, but did not complete the course for one reason or another. It would surely not be necessary to say to those girls that they must do another two years at a place where they had already trained for 14 months. A regulation could be framed to enable them to be tuberculosis nurses in less than two years.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Could they do that if they were under 21 years of age?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No; I indicated that these girls were over 21 years of age. I give members my assurance that, so far as I am concerned, no girl will go to Wooroloo to be a tuberculosis nurse if she is under 21 years of age. In any case the regulations that will be prescribed will be laid on the Table of the House and if we are not satisfied we can disallow them. Then there are the mental nurses, some of whom might desire to become tuberculosis nurses, and I can imagine there are quite a number of other nurses who may be tired of the continual grind at the big hospitals and might desire to take up work at Wooroloo. I appeal to the Committee to leave the matter to the Nurses' Registration Board, the members of which surely know the proper thing to do.

Mr. READ: I think this is a provision that appertains to every Act where qualifications are required. There is a prescribed course of training over a number of years, a number of lectures to be attended and qualifications to be met. Then one has to wait until one is 21 to be registered. That obtains in the pharmaceutical, dental, medical and veterinary Acts and in every Act that deals with medical matters in this country. We have the case of girls of 18 who have trained until they reached the age of 20, and then have had to leave to go home to nurse a member of the family or

have grown tired of the work. Some have attended the requisite number of lectures but have not passed certain examinations. But all have had training in one or other of our hospitals, and that is recorded in their favour. If such a person should apply for registration at Wooroloo, the Registration Board would take into account her qualifications, and perhaps she would be qualified immediately to attend to the duties required of her at Wooroloo. Then we have nurses who joined at 18 at Wooroloo—assistant nurses who have already served two years of training there. This precludes them from becoming registered until they are of the full age of 21. I do not think there is any need to fear the passing of this clause as it is.

**THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH:** After listening to the various arguments, and with a view to allaying any fear that these nurses will start training before they have reached the age of 21—although I have already given very definite instructions that they are not to start training before that age—I intend to move an amendment to add the following words to proposed new Subsection (5c):—"Provided that the minimum age for commencement of training as tuberculosis nurses shall be 21 years." That makes it very definite; it will be in the Act.

**MR. ABBOTT:** I move an amendment—

That in line 3 of proposed new Subsection (5c) after the word "training" the words "(which shall extend over a period of at least two years)" be inserted.

That does not necessarily say that they will have to do the whole of that training in a T.B. hospital but that they shall do a prescribed training extending over a period of two years. That follows the ordinary provisions of the Act. They may do six months in a general hospital, or 12 months, and that time be allocated as part of their two years. But before they can get their certificates as nurses they must have two years' training, though not necessarily as T.B. nurses. The Minister would be well advised to provide that a nurse shall do at least two years' training under an Act of Parliament so that the period cannot be altered. I suggest that we would do justice to this cause and the importance of the matter by setting out specifically the amount of training a nurse must receive in order to get her certificate as a tuberculosis nurse. Why insert such a pro-

vision in the original Act, and in the measure dealing with midwives, and not here? Why not be consistent?

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS:** Because there is a different set of circumstances altogether.

**MR. ABBOTT:** No, there is not! Surely a nurse requires two years' training before she gets her certificate?

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS:** She will get it.

**MR. ABBOTT:** A future Minister for Health might disagree with the period and make it 12 months. The period should be specified in the measure.

**MR. NEEDHAM:** I cannot follow the amendment. If the hon. member had moved to delete the word "prescribed" I could understand it. The word "prescribed" postulates that a certain period of training must be undertaken. We cannot have the word "prescribed" as well as the amendment. If the Minister would tell us what the period of training is we would know where we are. I do not know what the prescribed training of a nurse is. The member for North Perth should seek to delete the word "prescribed" and move his amendment.

**HON. J. C. WILLECOCK:** No, because it might be asked, "Where?" or "How?"

**MR. NEEDHAM:** Apparently somewhere there is a period of training stipulated. What is it?

**THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH:** For tuberculosis, two years.

**MR. WATTS:** Why not say so?

**MR. NEEDHAM:** The Minister says there is a training period of two years.

**THE PREMIER:** There will be.

**MR. ABBOTT:** By regulation.

**THE PREMIER:** Under this clause, if it is passed.

**MR. NEEDHAM:** I do not like regulations. Now that I know that there will be a prescribed period of two years, I will support the Minister rather than the member for North Perth.

**MR. WATTS:** The Minister seems to be acquiring a capacity for introducing small Bills involving the Chamber in large arguments. He has got me in a mixed frame of mind. I gather that he does not want any nurse to start tuberculosis training until she is 21 and he wants a two-year training period, but is not prepared to say so in the

Bill. If he wants such a period he might just as well say so, and we could solve this problem in about two minutes.

The Minister for Lands: If she has had no training as a nurse she would need two years, but not if she had had four or five years' training.

Mr. WATTS: She would then be over 21. The member for North Perth seeks to make it a two-year period and the member for Perth would like it to be a two-year period by regulation. I cannot find any power in the Bill to make regulations.

The Minister for Lands: The Nurses Registration Board makes them.

Mr. WATTS: Where is the power for that board to make regulations of this kind?

The Minister for Lands: It has been making them for 20 years.

Mr. WATTS: The Nurses Registration Act of 1922 provides that the Government may make regulations, among other things, such as are necessary to carry the Act into effect. Does the Minister tell me that those words give the right to make regulations of this character, taking into consideration the words that come before in the section giving power to make regulations?

The Minister for Lands: The board has been doing it for 20 years.

Mr. WATTS: Then in all probability the regulations are invalid. It seems that all the Minister has succeeded in doing with this measure is to get everyone in a tangle. If it is intended that these nurses shall not start training until they are 21, why is the wording exactly the same as for the other classes of nurses who start at 18 and can finish at 21 or 22? Section 6 of the 1944 amendment is exactly the same as this clause except that it refers to mental nurses and not to tuberculosis nurses.

The Minister for Lands: Is there anything about the examination?

Mr. WATTS: That is not the point I am after. The new Subsection (5b) in the 1944 amendment provides—

Every person who has attained the age of 21 years, has completed the prescribed course of training (which shall extend over a period of eighteen months).....shall be entitled to be registered as a midwifery nurse.

In that case a period of at least 18 months is prescribed. I take it that both those types

can complete their registration by the time they are 21, and it is the same in the case of general nursing. But here the Minister has a different plan in mind. He is not going to let them start before they are 21, but he brings down exactly the same clause as for nurses who are allowed to commence before that age. He then wonders why the Committee gets in a tangle and does not understand what he is after.

The Minister for Health: Allow me to move my amendment, which will overcome the difficulty.

Mr. WATTS: The amendment will be a wonderful achievement by the time it is finished, because it starts off by saying, "Every person who has attained the age of 21 years," and it will end by stating, "provided that she does not start her training until she is 21 years of age." If there is not a conflict in terms between those two statements, I am Minister for Health, and I am not that.

The Minister for Lands: You did not read on.

Mr. WATTS: That is the end of the clause. It says, "every person who has attained the age of twenty-one years."

The Minister for Lands: And who has done certain things.

Mr. WATTS: I know what the Minister wants and I wish him to achieve it, but in such a way that we will not have arguments hereafter. Rather let us have them now and so have a clause that the court can understand. The Minister should have the clause put straight and a new proposed Subsection (5c) presented to the Committee. If that were done I have no doubt it would be passed in two minutes.

Mr. ABBOTT: It is always advisable to use the same language throughout an Act. The provision reads as follows:—

"Subject as hereinafter provided every person who has attained the age of twenty-one years and has completed the prescribed course of training which shall extend over a period of at least 18 months."

I am asking the Minister to use similar language. My amendment was to follow the exact words of the existing section, "which shall extend over a period of two years." If the Minister for Health had not suggested an amendment, I proposed to do so. Let us be consistent as to the amount of train-

ing provided for nurses, instead of leaving it to be laid down by regulation. Let the period be two years, wherever the training is done.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I am becoming more mixed the further we go. When I read the words "the prescribed course of training," I thought they referred to something that had been prescribed. The passage should read "a prescribed course or training." The present wording conveys that it has already been prescribed. The mistake of the draftsman is that he has taken the wording of existing measures. In my argument I thought the course of training was prescribed under the principal Act and that it would therefore be necessary to add the words "at some other hospital," but I now find it does not refer to any existing period of training. If we say "every person who has attained the age of twenty-one years and who has completed a course of training and has passed an examination to be prescribed shall be entitled," that should make it clearer. Then we prescribe that they cannot go through the course of training at a tuberculosis hospital until they reach the age of 21 years—

The CHAIRMAN: We are discussing—

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I know that.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member resume his seat? We are discussing a period of training, and the insertion of certain words. We are not discussing the whole clause, and the hon. member has not referred to the amendment under discussion. I would like him to confine his remarks to that amendment. We are discussing the insertion of the words "which shall extend over a period of at least two years."

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Yes, but we have to analyse how those words will fit in with the wording of the measure. I want to see whether sense can be made of the insertion of those words as the clause is drafted.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member read the clause without inserting the words. It is this to which I wish to draw his attention.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: If we go on with that amendment I do not think we can put the clause into proper shape. I suggest that the Minister should now report progress.

The PREMIER: I think the clause as printed, with the addition of the words moved by the member for North Perth, will give wording almost identical with that now in the parent Act, which was moved by the present Minister for Lands, when Minister for Health, to cater for mental nurses. In that case I think the period is 18 months. My analysis of this clause leads me to believe that if those words were inserted it would give the exact position that the Minister desires to achieve at the time when tuberculosis nurses are entitled to their certificates; not necessarily the position they would reach when they initially started as trainees at Wooroloo, but the position they would have reached when entitled to certificates. Thus they may attain it after a period at Wooroloo as trainees following a period of nursing prior to their going there, or they may be entitled to a certificate as T.B. nurses after they have done the prescribed course of training covering a total of two years. The Minister could achieve his object by accepting the amendment, by moving a proviso, by means of regulation, or by insisting that every person is over 21 years and has fulfilled the other requirements. There is no obscurity and no need to report progress to re-draft the provision.

Hon. N. KEENAN: What the Premier has said is correct in every respect but one. The Minister said there are certain nurses who have not completed their training as general nurses, but who have worked as general nurses to some extent, which would qualify them as T.B. nurses with only six months' training. If we adopt a definite provision of 18 months, that idea could not be carried out.

The Premier: My allusion to 18 months was to the mental nurses mentioned in the parent Act.

Hon. N. KEENAN: The Premier suggested that the Minister should accept a definite period of two years, but the Minister does not want a definite period because certain nurses have spent perhaps three years training as general nurses and could become qualified as T.B. nurses in six months. If we provided for a definite period of training for T.B. nurses we would defeat that object, so the Minister had better be careful.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. ABBOTT: I move an amendment—

That at the end of the proposed new subsection the following proviso be added:—  
 “Provided that no trainee shall be accepted for training in a hospital specialising in tuberculosis until she shall have attained the age of 21 years.”

A person might have done portion of her training in other hospitals, but she could not do her final training until she had attained the age of 21 years. My amendment would prevent her from starting her training in a hospital specialising in T.B. until she was 21 years of age.

Mr. STYANTS: Under the amendment a great injustice might be done to a number of assistant T.B. nurses at Wooroloo if under the age of 21. It is possible that some of them might be under 21.

The Minister for Lands: More than possible.

Mr. STYANTS: Hundreds of young girls under 21 years of age have been sent to Wooroloo as portion of their training as general nurses and it is reasonable to assume that some of the assistant T.B. nurses are under 21. Unless they are provided for in the amendment, we shall have permitted them to become endangered, whatever the risk may be, and yet would preclude them from becoming trainees as T.B. nurses until they reach 21. As these girls would have been permitted to take the risk as assistant T.B. nurses, we should not require them to wait until they are 21 before beginning their training.

The member for Guildford-Midland expressed concern at girls being sent to Wooroloo before they turned 21. His protest is long overdue; I have not heard him voice it previously. Only a few weeks ago the member for Beverley stated by way of interjection that there is no more danger of contracting the disease at Wooroloo than in the hospital in Perth. After a visit to Wooroloo and a conversation with Dr. Henzell, he changed his opinion. I should like to have medical opinion on the question whether a person of 19 is any more susceptible to contracting T.B. than a person of 21. I do not think she would be, though at 21 she would be more mature and would probably take greater precautions than would a younger girl.

We should guard against doing injustice to T.B. nurses who have already served for

perhaps 12 months. I have no objection to the amendment provided that the girls who are already working as assistant T.B. nurses at Wooroloo are exempted. The period of training there should count in the two years of training. I am satisfied that there is no necessity for a two-year course in order to become an efficient T.B. nurse. That is borne out by the fact that girls training as general nurses are required to spend only two months at the sanatorium.

Mr. CROSS: I agree with the member for Kalgoorlie. During the war period, and during the time when there was a shortage of nurses, girls of 18 undertook training at the Wooroloo Sanatorium. I know of two girls who resided in South Perth and went to the sanatorium for training. They applied for a transfer to Kalgoorlie, but their request was not granted and consequently they were kept at Wooroloo. We shall have to make some provision for those intermediate girls I have mentioned. They should not have to wait until they are 21 years of age before they get the full pay of a nurse.

The Minister for Lands: A nursing trainee is now paid as much as a trained staff nurse.

Mr. CROSS: My desire is to exempt these girls from the provisions of this clause.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: The words “until she shall have attained” appear in the amendment. That presupposes that all the nurses will be women.

The Minister for Lands: I hope so.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: A movement is on foot that men shall be included. I believe some men are now training, or have trained. Does the amendment include male nurses?

Mr. ABBOTT: I think the word “she” would confine the provision to female nurses. The member for Subiaco could move to strike out the word “she” and insert in lieu the words “such trainee.”

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I move—

That the amendment be amended by striking out the word “she” and inserting the words “such trainee” in lieu.

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

Mr. CROSS: I move an amendment—

That the following further proviso be added:—"Provided also that the provisions of this section shall not apply to those assistant nurses under 21 years at present at Wooroloo T.B. Hospital."

Mr. ABBOTT: I am afraid the member for Canning does not appreciate the full meaning of his amendment. If carried, it would mean that the nurses to whom he refers could never get a certificate.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: The member for Canning would bar them altogether from the provisions of the clause.

Mr. ABBOTT: That is so.

Mr. WATTS: The member for Canning could achieve his object by saying that the provisions of the last proviso shall not apply. His desire is that they should not have to attain the age of 21 years before they can commence training.

Mr. STYANTS: I give notice of a further amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member cannot move his proposed amendment unless the member for Canning withdraws his.

Mr. CROSS: I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. STYANTS: I move an amendment—

That the following words be added to the clause:—"The foregoing provision regarding age limit shall not apply to any person already serving at Wooroloo Sanatorium as an assistant tuberculosis nurse or trainee nurse."

Mr. ABBOTT: I move—

That the amendment be amended by striking out the word "provision" and inserting the word "proviso" in lieu.

The word "provision" covers the whole section, whereas the use of the word "proviso" carries with it the limitation desired.

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

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 5 to 7, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

*House adjourned at 9.34 p.m.*

## Legislative Council.

*Tuesday, 17th September, 1946.*

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

### QUESTIONS.

#### TYPHOID FEVER.

*As to Admissions to Hospitals at Perth and Fremantle.*

Hon. J. G. HISLOP asked the Chief Secretary: Will the Minister state the number of cases of typhoid fever admitted to the Fremantle, Children's and Royal Perth Hospitals in each of the last five years?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

Royal Perth Hospital, 1941, 3; 1942, 4; 1943, 10; 1944, 4; 1945, 3. Children's Hospital, 1941, 0; 1942, 0; 1943, 4; 1944, 0; 1945, 1. Fremantle Hospital, 1941, 4; 1942, 5; 1943, 12; 1944, 3; 1945, 10.

#### MILK.

*As to Compulsory Pasteurisation.*

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT asked the Chief Secretary: Would the Minister ask the Minister for Agriculture to obtain and then lay upon the Table of this House, a report from the Commissioner of Public Health giving his views as to the advisability or otherwise of the introduction of compulsory pasteurisation to take effect at a date at which it is considered the machinery for such purpose would be available?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

Yes.