

of the schedule, namely, wheat, flour, oatmeal, rice, barley, pollard, bran, oats, maize, hay, etc. Clause 3 deals with the appointment of the Commission and gives the Governor power to appoint a Commission for the purpose of investigating the distribution, export and prices of foodstuffs. Clause 4 makes provision that returns shall be supplied to the Commission. All persons having in their possession a quantity of any of the foodstuffs and other commodities specified in the first column of the schedule greater than the quantity specified in the second column of the schedule or greater than is prescribed by regulations, must make returns to the Commission. Clause 5 provides a penalty for furnishing false returns, and Clause 6 stipulates that no proceedings shall be taken without the consent of the Attorney General. Clause 7 sets forth that the measure shall operate only during such period as is determined by the Governor and only during the time when a state of war exists. 1 move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—BUNBURY MOTOR 'BUS SERVICE.

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.7] moved—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 25th August.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 5.8 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 18th August, 1914.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Minister for Works: By-laws of Armadale-Kelmseot Roads Board and Goomalling Roads Board under the Roads Act, 1911.

By the Premier: 1, Regulations under the Government Savings Bank Act, 1906. 2, Report of State Labour Bureau for the year ended 30th June, 1914.

BILL—MELVILLE TRAMWAYS.

Returned from the Legislative Council with an amendment.

QUESTION—HOLIDAY, KALGOORLIE CUP MEETING.

Mr. McLEOD (without notice) asked the Premier: Have the civil servants at Kalgoorlie been refused a holiday tomorrow?

The PREMIER replied: The statement that a holiday has been refused is not correct. The resident magistrate at Kalgoorlie was informed by the Public Service Commissioner some time since that the holiday usually granted for the Kalgoorlie cup meeting will apply tomorrow, as in previous years.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.38]: 1 move—

That during the present session so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as to admit of the introduction of Bills without notice, and of the passing of the same through all their stages in one day.

I may explain that the immediate object of this motion is to enable me to introduce a Bill which the Government have been requested by the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth to introduce, for the control of foodstuffs during war time. Hon. members will observe that the proposed Bill applies also to the State Royal Commission now sitting.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Have we not passed the suspension of the Standing Orders already?

The PREMIER: No; it was passed only for the day. I wish to give an assurance to the leader of the Opposition, and to hon. members opposite, that no measures except such as I shall have consulted the leader of the Opposition upon will be introduced under this motion. I shall not introduce measures under it without first obtaining the consent of the leader of the Opposition.

Question passed.

BILL.—FOOD STUFFS COMMISSION.

All stages.

Introduced by the Premier and read a first time.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.40] in moving the second reading said: In connection with this Bill, it will be remembered by hon. members that some little time since the Prime Minister called together a Conference of State Premiers to meet in Melbourne. That Conference was attended by the Prime Minister and other members of the Federal Ministry, by the leader of the Federal Opposition and Mr. Hughes, and by the Premiers of all the States with the exception of Western Australia. In my own case it was impossible to attend that Conference, owing to the shortness of the notice given. I may say, however, that I appreciate the fact that at a time such as this it would not be possible, perhaps, to allow matters to stand over until such time as would permit of the Premier of every State attending. I have raised no objection to the fact that the Conference was held in my absence. I gave the Prime Minister to understand that any matters

which arose out of the Conference would receive the careful consideration of the Government of this State, and that so far as lay in our power we would fall in with the decisions of the Conference. The present Bill represents one of those decisions, and I am giving effect to it as early as it is possible to do so. The Bill as distributed merely provides for the appointment of a Royal Commission, and the powers of that Commission would merely be to call upon persons who are holders of food stuffs, or other commodities mentioned in the schedule, in greater quantities than those set out in the second column of the schedule, to make returns of such food stuffs and commodities to the State Royal Commission and also to the Food Stuffs Royal Commission. No action can arise out of the furnishing of such returns, except as the result of legislation which may subsequently be passed either by the Federal or by the State authorities. In this case it is intended that such legislation, if required, shall be passed by the Federal authorities. It is not our intention to appoint any further Commission, but merely to appoint the members of the present State Royal Commission to be members of the Food Stuffs Royal Commission, and they will carry on as hitherto, except that they will call upon persons liable to do so under this Bill, to make returns. The Bill provides penalties for failure to make returns in the case of people who are in possession of greater quantities of food stuffs and commodities than the quantities mentioned in the schedule, and it also provides penalties for making false returns. I have consulted the leader of the Opposition on the measure, and he has agreed, under the circumstances, that the Bill should be passed, although it does not confer anything like the same powers as we have given to our State Royal Commission. In order to act in unison with the other States and the Commonwealth Government, we have thought it advisable to pass this Bill, and so fall into line with the other States and the Federal Government as regards this particular matter. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex)— [4.43]: I think this is one of the measures that we shall need to pass from time to time. As the Premier has pointed out, the Bill has been recommended by the Conference of Premiers with the Federal Government which was held in Melbourne, and the other States are passing similar legislation at the request of the Commonwealth Government. The Premier was good enough to consult me yesterday in connection with the measure, and I have gone through the draft which he handed to me. I think the Bill is one that we can pass as it stands, and is one that is required by our present Royal Commission. It is necessary that that Commission should have full knowledge, during the present crisis, of food stuffs within our borders. It is necessary that a proper account shall be kept of food stuffs, so that the Commission may know where to lay their hands upon any stocks of food stuffs owned by Australian citizens. Therefore, I think that we ought to put the Bill through. It will be very useful for our own purposes, as well as useful for the purposes of the Commonwealth Government. The penalties under the Bill for withholding information, it will be observed, are fairly stiff. I think they are pretty well taken from the Bill which we passed a fortnight ago. However, it is no use having legislation of this description unless we also provide penalties which will enforce observance. I have no objection to take to the penalties. I think that the House may well pass the Bill as it stands.

Mr. S. STUBBS (Wagin) [4.44]: The principle of this Bill is all right, but I want to know where I am going to come in as a business man.

The Premier: You come in as a person or firm.

Mr. S. STUBBS: I want to know the position I shall be in after the lapse of two or three months, if my life is spared. With the assistance of one of the best financial institutions in the State I have advanced large sums of money to enable a number of people to put in crops and pay their way, and pay me some of the

money they have owed me for years and years. I would like to know whether I shall be compelled to sell that wheat at the market price which will be ruling for it, provided we are not able to export it.

Hon. Frank Wilson: But this only provides for the making of returns.

The Attorney General: It is only to let the Federal authorities know what you have in stock.

Mr. S. STUBBS: We have given a Royal Commission power already. Do I understand that I will be allowed to export wheat to, say, Japan, or am I to be compelled to keep it in the State and sell it at 2s. 9d. a bushel or whatever the ruling rate may be with the local millers?

The Premier: Under existing circumstances I should be inclined to regard Japan as a favoured nation.

Mr. S. STUBBS: Would I be allowed under this and the previous measure which we have passed to treat with Japan if she offered me 4s. for my wheat, and to export it to Japan?

The Minister for Lands: It all depends on the circumstances at that particular time.

Hon. Frank Wilson: And the information as to stocks, furnished under this measure.

Mr. S. STUBBS: So long as it is perfectly understood that no restriction is intended by this or the previous measure to prevent business people from trading with favoured nations for the export of wheat I have nothing more to say.

Mr. A. A. Wilson: Provided we have plenty of wheat here.

Mr. S. STUBBS: The last two or three years we have increased our output of wheat to such an extent that we have now 9 or 10 million bushels for export annually. And I take it for granted that if we get favourable rains we shall have another good harvest this year. We should be careful that we do not pass legislation which will cripple the industries of the State; that is all I wish to be sure of.

The PREMIER (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe—in reply) [4.48]: The question raised

by the hon. member has no application to the operation of this measure. The Bill only provides that the Royal Commission may call for returns from persons who have in their possession greater quantities of food stuffs than those set out in the schedule. Such persons will be required to make returns. No other action at all can be taken under this measure. The question raised by the hon. member has to do rather with the Bill we have already passed. There is no desire on the part of the Royal Commission or the Government to prevent the export of any of our commodities to any country, except that of an enemy, if we do not require such commodities locally. Probably we shall have more wheat to export this year than we had last. Already I have approved, under the measure which we passed a fortnight ago, of the export of cattle from the Nor'-West to certain islands, such cattle not being necessary to our local market. I propose to adopt the same policy in regard to other commodities which will not be required locally. The attitude adopted by the Royal Commission in regard to the matters which have given rise to this Bill and the preceding measure is to attend to them, without any friction or pressure, by merely consulting with the people concerned, and I think all these matters will be arranged on similar lines.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etcetera.

Mr. McDowall in the Chair, the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 4—agreed to.

Clause 5—Furnishing false returns:

Mr. MUNSIE: The clause reads, "Any person wilfully furnishing a false return, etc." Would not the clause be improved by the deletion of the word "wilfully"?

Hon. Frank Wilson: You would not punish a person for having made a mistake?

Mr. MUNSIE: I do not wish to do that, but with the word "wilfully" included, it will be necessary to prove two charges when any action is taken under the clause.

The PREMIER: The word objected to is essential to the protection of the tradespeople, anyone of whom might easily sign a return, careful subsequent perusal of which would disclose a clerical or some other technical error. I think it wise to guard a man against the consequences of such a mistake. We make provision that if he sends in a wilfully false return he suffers the penalty; unless it is wilfully false we do not wish to punish him.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 6, 7—agreed to.

Schedule, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

BILL.—BUNBURY MOTOR 'BUS SERVICE.

Second Reading.

Mr. THOMAS (Bunbury) [4.55] in moving the second reading said: This is a very simple measure, entirely of a non-contentious character. It has been rendered necessary by the rapid growth of Bunbury, and the demand for better means of transit. At the request of property holders the municipal council has agreed to purchase motor 'buses for the use of the municipality. A referendum was taken and the proposal was agreed to by an overwhelming majority. There is absolutely no opposition in Bunbury itself to the project. My reason for asking to have the Bill brought on at the present time is that were it delayed any further it would be necessary to go through the whole process again, to advertise and take another referendum. The proposal cannot result in anything but benefit to the municipality of Bunbury, and, as far as I know, there is absolutely no opposition whatever to it. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex) [4.57]: The hon. member was good

enough to send me a copy of the measure. I see no reason to refuse the powers asked for in the Bill. I take it we all want to assist the local authorities to provide up-to-date means of transit. I have read the clauses through, and there is nothing in them to which objection can be taken, except it be Clause 2, which provides that the municipality shall have power to undertake the business of carrying passengers, and luggage as parcels, within the municipal district; and it then goes on to say, "and within such extended area as may be approved by the Governor." I only wish to draw attention to the power given here to extend the area beyond the municipal boundaries. What is the need for it? Perhaps the hon. member can tell us, and assure us that it is safe to give that power—because it may be encroaching upon the district of a neighbouring local authority. This is the only point in the Bill to which I can take any objection or upon which I would desire to ask a question.

Mr. THOMAS (Bunbury—in reply) [4.59]: There is a reason for the provision. It is not very important. Just outside the municipal boundaries is the new cemetery which has been provided.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I thought perhaps it contemplated the racecourse.

Mr. THOMAS: That might apply also. It is anticipated that in the future it may be necessary to enable them to run their 'buses out that far. I am given to understand that is the only reason for the provision. It is not likely to in any way conflict with any other people who may desire to ply for hire in that direction.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etcetera.

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

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

ADJOURNMENT—NON-CONTENTIOUS MATTERS.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill—Ivanhoe) [5.2]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 25th August.

I may explain that I propose, between now and the time of meeting again, to confer with the leader of the Opposition in order that by that time we may have on the Notice Paper those Bills which are of a non-contentious nature, so that we may pass them through their remaining stages.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 5.3 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 25th August, 1914.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Amendment of the Regulations of the Fremantle Harbour Trust. 2, Amendment of the Regulations of the Education Department. 3, Annual report for 1913 of the Medical, Health, Factories and Early Closing Departments.

BILL — COTTESLOE MUNICIPAL RATES VALIDATION.

Read a third time and passed.