

That the last paragraph be struck out.

The PREMIER: The meaning of the words is quite plain. We cannot specify all possible entertainments, and so we must make a general provision like this. The tax might be evaded by admitting people free of charge at the door and securing payment later on. This is merely a dragnet provision and is essential to meet those entertainments which cannot be specified.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: To tax every little Sunday entertainment under a provision of this kind is disgraceful. I ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Schedule put and passed.

Third Schedule, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

House adjourned at 11.2 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 25th February, 1915.

	PAGE
Papers presented	1735
Question: Unemployed, assistance ..	1735
Joint Select Committee, Money Bills Procedure ..	1735
Motions: Unemployed Executive ..	1734
Timber Industry ..	1740
Leave of Absence ..	1737
Bills: Income and Public Entertainments ..	1737
Taxation, ln. 2r. ..	1737
Government Electric Works, Assembly's ..	1745
Message ..	1745
Vermin Boards Act Amendment, Request for ..	1743
Conference ..	1743

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Education Department—Amendment to regula-

tions. 2, Copy of balance sheet of the State Sawmills to 30th June, 1914. 3, Balance sheet of the Boya Quarry to 30th June, 1913, and to 30th June, 1914. 4, Health Act 1911, (a) By-laws of the Carnarvon Local Board of Health, (b) By-laws of the Mount Margaret Road Board.

QUESTION—UNEMPLOYED, ASSISTANCE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.32]: The reply I gave to the hon. Mr. McLarty on Tuesday last did not appear to me to be very clear; so I am furnishing him with information which I trust will be easily understood. The cost of meals was £1,745 16s. 3d., rations supplied cost £1,743 3s. 8d., and the cost of providing sleeping accommodation amounted to £459 9s. 9d.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE, MONEY BILLS PROCEDURE.

Hon. D. G. Gawler brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into Money Bills procedure. Report received and read.

MOTION—UNEMPLOYED EXECUTIVE.

To be heard at the Bar.

Hon. J. CORNELL (South) [4.37]: I desire to ask leave of the House, under Standing Order 103, to move the following motion without notice:—

That A. Brown, the Chairman, and C. Owen, the Secretary of the Unemployed Executive Committee, of Perth, be heard at the Bar of the House, in order to place before the House the position of the men and the grievous disabilities under which they are placed through unemployment.

All I desire to do is to make a statement. I have consulted an officer of this House, who has consulted with an officer of another place, as to the correct way in which to move in this direction, and these

two gentlemen, after conferring, have advised me that this is, they think, the correct method and manner in which to deal with the matter. I formally, therefore, ask leave of the House to move this motion.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Before I put the motion asking for leave, I may call hon. member's attention to the fact that, in my opinion, this is not the correct method of approaching the House. From the authorities which I have, in the limited time at my disposal, been able to consult, I am of opinion that the only persons who can be heard at the Bar of the House are those persons who are called by Parliament as witnesses. The correct method that should be adopted by the hon. member is to present a petition. A petition might be presented by him, or any other hon. member, complying with the Standing Orders relating to petitions, which the hon. member will find starting at Standing Order 66. If, therefore, leave is given and the hon. member moves his motion, I fear it will be of no effect, because, under my ruling, I do not think these gentlemen can be brought to the Bar of the House. The only way to present the grievances is, in my opinion, by petition. Does the hon. member wish to proceed with his motion?

Hon. J. CORNELL: I thank you, Sir, for the information. The desire is that these persons should be heard here to-day. I would have followed the procedure of a petition, probably, only that the petition was not placed in my hands within the time laid down under the Standing Orders, namely, three hours before the House sat. As you rule, Sir, that this is the only method that can be adopted here, namely that of a petition—

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I rule that the gentlemen cannot be heard at the Bar of the House unless Parliament calls them as witnesses.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Then a motion by this House that they should be heard would be of no avail?

Hon. D. G. Gawler: You can do it by petition.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Would I be in order in asking the House to assist me in

this direction? It is suggested that we might call them as witnesses. I see no way out of the difficulty in the circumstances, however, and it is apparently no good getting the leave of the House, as you, Sir, rule that if leave is granted the men cannot be heard.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is so.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I will not ask leave to move this motion, but will proceed on Tuesday next to go through the formula of presenting a petition.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Hon. J. Cornell leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to Hon. R. D. Ardagh (North-East) on the ground of ill-health.

BILL—INCOME AND PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS TAXATION.

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

Second reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.43] in moving the second reading said: The purpose of this measure is to furnish necessary funds to provide work and render assistance in other directions for the relief of distress caused by the abnormal condition of affairs in which the State is placed to-day. Many forms of taxation were available to the Government but members will, I think, when they have looked into the Bill, agree that the two sources of taxation chosen will supply the money required and at the same time bear more lightly upon the people than other forms of taxation which might have been selected. Dealing first with the tax on incomes: this is a tax in addition to the already existing income tax, a super-tax, with the difference that the tax now proposed is levied on the income derived from the current financial year, whereas the existing income tax is levied on incomes earned during last year. The suggestion may be made

that this tax should rightly be levied on last year's income, but the unfairness of such a proposal is demonstrated when it is remembered that the incomes of many persons have practically disappeared, and others have diminished, during the last 12 months. In its main feature the Bill recognises that every person in receipt of an income, earned by his own exertion, exceeding £156 per annum, should contribute portion of such income towards the assistance of those in need and whose necessities are due to the prevailing national disasters. Incomes up to £156 per annum are exempted absolutely; and there is a provision that the person in receipt of £157, or £1 above the maximum exemption shall not pay the full assessment of £1 11s. 8d., but shall pay £1 only. The reason for that is apparent. If such person were charged the full amount of tax, his net income would be reduced below the amount of taxable income under the Bill. It may be repeated that if a person's income has fallen during the year below £156, quite irrespective of what he may have to pay under the existing taxation on last year's income, he is not to be called upon to contribute under this measure. Under present prevailing conditions, additional funds are necessary in order to provide for the requirements of the people. Provision has already been made for the man on the land. He can, under existing legislation, be supplied with stores, seed wheat, manures, etc., to enable him to continue his operations. But there are hundreds, probably thousands, in the community who to-day find their means of livelihood gone through no fault whatever of their own. This Bill enables the Government to come to the assistance of those people. If it be right to help those engaged in industry in times like the present, surely it is equally right to help others in want from similar causes, but who have not the claim that they are engaged in industries.

Hon. D. G. Gawler: Farmers are not helped by taxation.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: They are helped by monetary contributions.

Hon. D. G. Gawler: Out of the national funds.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: They are lent money and if the interest and principal are not paid the taxpayers have to foot the Bill.

Hon. D. G. Gawler: The special tax is not supposed to help them.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is provided in the Bill that, subject to an appropriation by Parliament, and there must be an appropriation, the money raised under this taxation measure shall be applied to the carrying out of public works so as to profitably employ the surplus labour in the State, or to such other purpose approved by resolution of both Houses of Parliament.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: How are you going to get it when we are not sitting?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: We can only wait until the opportunity is afforded us. Clause 13 shows distinctly that the tax is earmarked. It does not become part of the Consolidated Revenue. It was one of the objections to the war emergency tax when it was presented to this Chamber that the intention was to provide means for the reduction of the deficit. The money raised will be paid into a special fund at the Treasury, and a schedule showing how it is proposed to expend the money must be approved by Parliament. But if the Bill becomes law the Government propose to anticipate the revenue derivable under the measure, for the reason that the bulk of taxation under the Bill will not become payable until after 30th June next. Supplementary Estimates will be presented, and so soon as those have been passed, the Government will proceed with some of the works. It is intended to make many of the works reproductive, such as feeder roads, which hitherto have been held up for want of funds. The departments have been instructed to prepare schemes of works, as it is desired to spend as much as possible of the money derived from this tax in providing labour rather than in the purchase of material. The Government have been criticised in some quarters for having

reduced the hours of certain Government workers. I recognise the present is not the time for justification of that administrative act, but I desire to point out that the only alternative before the Government in this connection was retrenchment. If that alternative had been adopted it would have meant increasing the number of unemployed and misery in many homes.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: That did not effect any saving of money.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It certainly did.

Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom: No, because you had to put on a greater number of men.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: So far as I know, no new men have been appointed in consequence of the shortening of the hours of labour, so that there must follow a decrease in the expenditure. The object of this Bill is to avoid such an unfair position arising in consequence of the drought and war. If an employee of the Government is giving the same full service as in normal times, he should not be called upon to accept something less than ordinary payment in return. Careful thought has been given to the question in all its aspects, and the Government have arrived at the conclusion that the only method of providing for the present position is by way of a tax which shall be borne in proportion to their means by all sections of the community. There is only one section exempt and that is the section which is only earning a bare livelihood at the present time. All those receiving less than £156 a year will be exempt from the operations of this Bill. For the information of members there has been attached to the Bill tabulated statements of the incidence of the proposed tax, showing the amounts payable in respect of different incomes weekly, fortnightly, monthly, half-yearly and yearly. Provision is made in the Bill for a rebate of not more than 5 per cent to those taxpayers who elect to pay their tax in advance by monthly instalments. If this be done it will have a twofold benefit. In the first place it will be easier for the individual, and secondly,

it will supply immediate funds for the purposes of the Bill. In the graduation of taxation under the Bill there is no sudden leap in the amount payable, but it rises from pound to pound of income until a maximum of 8 per cent. is reached. The further proposal in the Bill is to tax amusements. It is felt that persons who can in the present condition of the State afford to pay up to 10s. for admission to a racecourse in search of amusement or 1s. or 6d. as the case may be, for admission to a picture entertainment, should not object to contributing one penny on each shilling paid in the form of admission money. While this provision applies to all forms of entertainment, the Commissioner of Taxation is empowered to exempt entertainments organised for purely charitable purposes. Companies will come in under this Bill, but so that they shall not be unfairly treated, it is provided that they shall be treated in respect of this taxation as individuals. As members know, under the Dividend Duties Act companies pay 1s. in the pound on profit irrespective of the amount; individuals under the existing Income Tax Act pay at the rate of 4d. in the pound. Both those imposts will stand, but under this taxation measure the company and the individual will be treated alike. If a company's profits exceed £200 under existing conditions it would pay 1s. in the pound plus the amount payable under this tax. But if the total exceeds the amount which an individual would pay when in receipt of a salary of £200, the difference will be deducted so long as the amount payable does not fall short of the liability under the Dividend Duties Act alone. In other words, the Government seek to put the company on the same basis as the individual if the super-tax hits the company harder than the individual. For instance, if under the Dividend Duties Act a company paid £50 taxation, and under this measure £25, a total of £75, and if an individual paid £25 under the Income Tax Act on an income equalling the company's profits and £25 under this measure, a total of £50, provision is made to reduce the company's contribution to £50. A

company must pay the minimum of the taxation provided under the Dividend Duties Act. The deductions provided in the existing income tax are provided also in this Bill with one or two exceptions. One difference is that the exemption in this Bill is fixed at £156 instead of £200 as in the existing Act. Further deductions permitted are £10 for each child and amounts paid by way of premiums on life assurance. The operation of the taxation provision of the Bill is limited to the year 1915. When the Bill reaches the Committee stage I shall be glad to explain the different clauses to hon. members. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. H. P. Colebatch, debate adjourned.

MOTION—TIMBER INDUSTRY.

Debate resumed from 23rd February on motion by Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM, "That the present position of the timber industry should immediately be taken into consideration by Parliament."

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM (North—in reply) [4.58]: Before the debate closes I would like to make a few remarks in connection with the criticisms which have been offered by various speakers on my statement, and I would again ask the Press to give as fair a report of what I have to say as they did of the speeches which were delivered by hon. members. As there appears to have been a misconception in regard to the motion, I will read it. It merely says, "That the present position of the timber industry should immediately be taken into consideration by Parliament." Statements have been made by various speakers that in submitting this motion a request was made that the men engaged in the industry should have their wages reduced by 50 per cent. and, as indirectly stated by the Colonial Secretary, that a present should be made by the Government to the company. Nothing in the motion can be construed into a request of that kind, and I will repeat the facts which led up to

the moving of the motion. By cables emanating from the directors in London, the management here were informed that unless the cost of production could be reduced by something like 20s. per load it would be impossible to secure orders and continue work owing to the successful competition of other timbers. The management having received this most important communication, which was practically endorsed by the Agent General and by the Government's representative in England, and as it affected the company and a very large number of workers, to say nothing of the distribution of nearly a million of money, it was considered right and proper to bring the matter before Parliament, in order to place the Government and the people in possession of the exact details. The suggestion put forward was purely a commercial one, and if it were wise in the interests of the State to continue this portion of the industry, it would be necessary to make some sacrifice all round. Now let us see how the motion was received by the various speakers who have expressed themselves. Mr. Cornell made a remark which relieved both myself and the other directors of Millars' from a great deal of anxiety. He told us it was a common thing in mining localities for mines to peter out and close down, and that the 600 or 800 men deprived of work were distributed elsewhere without the slightest inconvenience to the men.

Hon. J. Cornell: You are drawing the long bow.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: That is what the hon. member said.

Hon. J. Cornell: I did not say all of them.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: The hon. member said, in effect, that 600 or 800 men could be distributed about without making any difference.

Hon. J. Cornell: I said they were gradually absorbed in other industries.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: It was a great relief to feel that if the 1,800 men concerned in the timber industry lost their vocation they could be distributed and absorbed elsewhere. Mr. Cornell

also remarked that any industry which was not sufficiently good to pay first-class wages was not worth fostering. If that argument were carried to its logical conclusion, what would become of the farming industry in this State? This is an argument we have heard so often that we may leave it to take care of itself.

Hon. J. Cornell: There is no analogy between the farming and the timber industries.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: Regarding the remarks of Mr. Cullen, I must say that for a businesslike man, blessed with good analytical powers and critical skill and a fair amount of commercial knowledge, to give utterance to the statements he did, was indeed surprising to me. His remarks were almost unworthy of him, and I will not insult his intelligence by thinking for one moment that he believed a single word of what he said. He remarked that Millars' wanted their losses made up by rebates from the Government and their employees. The company asked nothing of the kind. In my speech there was no reference of that description, and the motion conveys nothing of the kind, either.

Hon. J. Cornell: Then how would it be done, by magic?

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: Mr. Cullen said that the grants to be made to the farmers would be repaid but no offer was made by Millars' to repay any losses incurred to keep them going. As Mr. Cornell interjected, there is no analogy between the farming and the timber industries. The farming industry is looking forward to good seasons which will enable it to recuperate and repay the advances which are being made. But there is no such prospect before the timber industry. The competition being experienced may last for good.

Hon. J. Cornell: If so, we had better shut it up to-morrow.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: We do not want to shut the timber industry up. It is becoming a vanishing industry, vanishing in point of quantity and in the brevity of the leases. The two industries cannot be compared. The farming in-

dustry with a couple of good seasons will thoroughly recuperate. The timber industry has no such prospect of recuperating, and how can we undertake to repay any losses? Mr. Cullen ridiculed the argument that creosoted pine is being used and is preventing timber-owners here from getting orders for jarrah. When there are no orders there can be no work. Whether it is twopenny halfpenny creosoted pine or Baltic pine that is competing with our jarrah does not affect the position; the fact remains that this competition prevails. Whether it is due to the inherent good qualities of the pine or to its cheapness I am not prepared to say, but it is impossible at the present cost of the production of jarrah to successfully tender against it. Mr. Cullen also told us that in many directions business men would forego their profit to keep their businesses going. This might apply to numbers of business men but it does not apply to companies of the size of Millars'. A man to keep his business going will lose probably a thousand pounds a year, but how can a company paying £25,000 in wages each month and maintaining 600 to 800 horses keep up these expenses? How could the directors justify such a policy to their shareholders? An individual might adopt such a course but a company could not. Millars' have not the Consolidated Revenue behind them, nor have they any loan funds; therefore they cannot keep on storing up large quantities of timber and losing the interest on the value represented by such stocks. It would be impossible to carry on under such circumstances, and even if an attempt to do so were made, it would necessitate making calls upon the shareholders. Otherwise where would £25,000 per month be obtained for wages with nothing coming in? Then I ask what will be the position of the railways if the £158,000 expended in freights is no longer available? I cannot understand a man of Mr. Cullen's business acumen indulging in such statements. The Colonial Secretary went into the matter fully, and I am pleased that he did so. He was interest-

ing although not altogether accurate. The first statement of note he made was that he could supply timber f.o.b. for £2 2s. a load.

The Colonial Secretary: I excluded haulage.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: Either the Minister has made a mis-statement or he has been misinformed. I know that the amount he quoted is far below the cost of the timber put on trucks at the mills by other companies, and much less could it represent the f.o.b. cost. There must be some method by which the Government can do it much cheaper than the companies, if the Colonial Secretary was not wrong in his statement. Certainly the haulage is not so heavy for the Government and for new companies entering the business. They are working on new ground, and the timber is close handy for them.

The Colonial Secretary: The haulage is not included in that amount.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: Then that makes the statement worse. I am certain it could not be done for anything like that amount, unless the Government have a method of debiting charges in some other way than is done by our accountants. To contradict the statement in the cables received from London that orders could not be procured, the Colonial Secretary said the Government had orders for a quantity of wagon timber. I would like to know what that quantity is; it must be a very small order indeed, but it in no way upsets the statements contained in the cables because the little which would be sent away for wagon building and flooring would be infinitesimal. The Minister admitted that it is impossible to get orders for sleepers, but he added that it had to be remembered the Government had something to show for their money in the enormous quantities of sleepers which were in stock. Supposing a company did such an absurd thing as to cut and stack sleepers, what would be the result? The first risk would be that the sleepers would be cut in wrong sizes. When cutting haphazardly and putting sleepers into stock, this risk is always present. Then

interest on the money expended is mounting up the whole time, wages have to be paid, and all the costs have to be met, and further when buyers for the sleepers come along they would have full information of the glut of stock, and would probably arrange their prices accordingly. Therefore it is not wise for any company or the Government to keep on cutting and putting timber into stock. The Minister denied that the Government had come into competition with Millars'. Either his knowledge of these transactions must be of a very superficial nature or he has been sadly misinformed. I could easily refresh his memory by giving one or two cases of very severe competition. I do not wish to go into these matters because they are now things of the past, but I could direct his attention to a speech made in another place in which all the particulars were given, and he would realise from that how keenly the Government have come into competition, not only with Millars' but with all exporting timber companies. If this were not so, what was the object of the Government in sending an expert agent abroad to obtain orders from other parts of the world? Of course they compete with all exporting firms; naturally they do; and for that reason it is obvious that prices since that competition could not be so good as they were previously. Now Millars' and also other companies have been accused of not continuing to employ as many men as previously to the war, and of shutting up mills. But what was the reason for the reduction of the number of workers, and for the closing down of mills? Had the Government not come up against private enterprise in this direction, all the exporting companies would have been working full-handed and would have had ample orders. But when a large organisation like the Government, with any amount of money, or, at any rate, unlimited credit, behind it, enters into competition with private firms, inevitably there must be division of orders, and, likewise inevitably, the number of men employed by the private companies must decrease. I have little more to say on the question, but I desire to express

the hope that my remarks will prove to hon. members and to the public that the undertaking of Millars' and the other timber exporting companies, or in fact the timber industry, is not, as a great many people regard it, an enemy in the country, but a friend. The timber industry distributes nearly one million pounds per annum, gives employment to large numbers of workers, and introduces into the State what is practically all new money, money from abroad, from foreign countries; not our own money. In view of these considerations, I submit, the industry should be fairly supported. Having said so much, I will not labour the question further, but will ask the leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

BILL—GOVERNMENT ELECTRIC WORKS.

Assembly's Further Message.

Message from the Assembly having been received declining to make the modification requested by the Council, the Message was now considered.

In Committee.

Hon. W. Kingsmill in the Chair; the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

No. 3—Clause 13: Add the following words:—All by-laws so made—(a.) Shall be published in the *Gazette*; (b.) Shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within fourteen days after such publication if Parliament is in session, and if not, then within fourteen days after the commencement of the next session; (c.) If either House of Parliament passes a resolution disallowing any such by-law, of which resolution notice has been given at any time within fourteen sitting days of such House after such by-law has been laid before it, such by-law shall thereupon cease to have effect, but without affecting the validity, or curing the invalidity, of any thing done, or the omission of anything in the meantime. This subsection shall apply notwithstanding that the said fourteen days or some of

them do not occur in the same session of Parliament as that in which the by-law is laid before it:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move—

That the modification be not further pressed.

Question passed; the Council's amendment not further pressed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

BILL—VERMIN BOARDS ACT AMENDMENT.

Request for Conference.

A Message having been received from the Assembly requesting a Conference with managers of the Council, the message was now considered.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.22]: I move—

That a Conference be agreed to as requested by the Legislative Assembly in its Message No. 39; that the place of holding the Conference be the President's room of the Legislative Council; that the Honourables Sir E. H. WITTENOOM and J. DUFFELL and the mover be the managers to represent the Council at the Conference requested by the Legislative Assembly; that the time of meeting be 4.45 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 2nd March.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM (North) [5.23]: Is it competent to move an amendment to the motion?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What is the amendment?

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: To substitute another name for the name of one of the proposed managers.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Certainly the hon. member can move such an amendment.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: Without wishing to say anything personal, I desire to point out that the names of the Managers appointed by the Assembly are the Hon. W. D. JOHNSON, the Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD, and the Hon. J. MITCHELL. If

the motion be carried without amendment, the Conference will, therefore, include two Ministers from the Assembly and a third Minister from here; and we all know what the opinions of Ministers are on this Bill. Those three hon. gentlemen are absolutely set in their opinions. Again, the third Assembly manager, the Hon. J. Mitchell, is, like Ministers, absolutely hostile to my views on this Bill. Therefore, I think, without any desire to make this a personal matter, that the Conference should, in fairness, be differently constituted; and I move an amendment—

That the name of the Hon. J. J. Holmes be substituted for that of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

If it is the invariable practice to appoint the leader of the House a Conference manager, I will, of course, withdraw my amendment.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I may state that from the point of view of Parliamentary procedure the amendment is quite in order.

Hon. J. CORNELL (South) [5.25]: I oppose the amendment, which is the most extraordinary amendment I have heard moved here. Further, the reasons by which it is supported are the most extraordinary that have, in my experience, been given here. It is suggested that because another place has appointed two Ministers and this place proposes to appoint a third Minister, those Ministers will all have made up their minds.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: We know they have.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Sir Edward Wittenoom practically accuses the leader of this House of having made up his mind in a certain direction, and for that reason Sir Edward Wittenoom desires the appointment of another member of this House who has made up his mind in another direction. I consider the amendment amounts to a personal reflection on the leader of the House.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: Oh, no.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I cannot place any other construction on the amendment. In my opinion, if there is one

member of this House who should take part in the Conference, it is our leader. I am aware that there have been occasions when the leader of the House has requested that he should not be appointed a manager, by reason of pressure of other work. It is true I am only a new member, but I must say that the attitude of Sir Edward Wittenoom seems to me most extraordinary. I should be glad if some older member of the House would state whether such an amendment as this has ever been moved here previously. I have a lively recollection of a set of circumstances somewhat similar to the present, arising here. When this House was dealing with the question of appointing managers for a Conference on an Arbitration Act Amendment Bill, the names of the Hon. J. E. Dodd, Sir E. H. Wittenoom, and the Hon. M. L. Moss were proposed. Mr. Moss at once rose and said the Assembly managers were the same as he had met on the same subject in a previous session, and his opinion was that those managers would not arrive at an agreement with him on the then present occasion; and he accordingly asked that he should not be appointed a manager. However, the House prevailed on Mr. Moss to act. The remarks of Mr. Moss, I wish to point out, did not move Sir Edward Wittenoom to ask leave to withdraw. I desire again to enter my emphatic protest against the reflection cast by the amendment on the leader of the House.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM (North) [5.28]: Whilst I am not in the slightest degree influenced by the speech which has just been made, I desire to ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.36 p.m.