

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 24th January, 1918.

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.50 p.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (3)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Public Education Act Amendment.
 - 2, Health Act Amendment.
 - 3, Apprentices.
- Introduced by the Colonial Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.34]: I move—

“That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 5th February.”

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.35 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

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

[For “Questions on Notice” and “Papers Presented,” see “Votes and Proceedings.”]

QUESTION—REPATRIATION, RIVERTON ESTATE.

Mr. THOMSON (without notice) asked Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Is the Minister prepared to place on the Table all papers in connection with the Riverton Estate.

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: I have here the file referring to the Riverton Estate and containing the reports of various officers, together with that of the Government analyst. I move—

“That the papers do lie on the Table.”

Question put and passed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by the PREMIER, leave of absence to the end of the session was granted to Mr. Wilson on the ground of active service with the military forces of the Commonwealth.

BILLS (6)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Sewerage Works Validation (introduced by the Minister for Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage).
- 2, Curator of Intestates Estates (introduced by the Attorney General).
- 3, Electoral Act Amendment (introduced by the Attorney General).
- 4, Licensing Acts Continuation (introduced by the Attorney General).
- 5, Industries Assistance Act Continuation (introduced by the Attorney General).
- 6, Dentists Act Amendment (introduced by Hon. T. Walker).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Third Day—Conclusion.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. HICKMOTT (Pingelly) [5.5]: I was very pleased last evening to hear the replies given by the Attorney General to the questions asked, and also the speeches made by hon. members with reference to the repatriation of our returned soldiers. In going through the country we often hear complaints as to what the Government are doing with respect to this matter. Recently in travelling by train between here and Brookton I was informed that a widow with five or six children, whose husband had been killed at the war, was living in one of the Metropolitan-Suburban areas on an allowance of something less than 30s. a week.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That could not be true, surely.

Mr. HICKMOTT: I hope not, but if it is true it is a scandalous thing. We have our valiant men who have volunteered to give their services, many of whom have paid the extreme penalty, for their King and country and for our protection, and surely the dependants of these men should be better looked after than this unfortunate woman appears to have been. I hope that inquiries will be made to ascertain the truth of the matter. There is also the case of a returned soldier suffering from shell shock, who has a wife and children living at either Claremont or Subiaco. The soldier remained at home after his return for some 10 days, and the doctor then said he had delusions, and instead of some proper place being found for him where he could be properly attended to, he was placed in a ward in the Claremont Asylum. This seems to me to be a very extreme action to take.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You would not assist me to amend the Act when I wanted to.

Mr. HICKMOTT: This information was given to me by the wife of this soldier, and as far as she knew there was nothing wrong with her husband. He had been at home for 10 days, and was sent to the asylum for the reasons I have stated. When one comes across instances like this related by the very persons affected, it does seem that although something is being done for our returned soldiers, something very much better should be done. It is the business of the Government to look after returned soldiers, while the Federal Government find the wherewithal