

who are suffering most are not getting the benefit. Now that the Premier is interested in farming, I want to assure him that if unfortunately he should meet with the same experience as my friend who lost 22 fine sheep, he will realise that something could be done by having an expert trapper in his district. A question repeatedly asked by the member for Avon (Mr. Griffiths) contemplates an amendment of the Hire Purchase Agreement Act. Something should be done in the interests, not only of those who have entered into such agreements, but also of the outside public. The present position is very unsatisfactory, and we are told that we can take the conditions or leave them. Under an ordinary bill of sale notice has to be given before it can be registered. It is time that some similar procedure was adopted for the registration of hire purchase agreements. There is also a further phase seen in the position of a man who, having purchased a machine and paid quite a number of instalments, is not able to complete them. The machine is repossessed, but he is held responsible for the full payment, notwithstanding that he has lost his machine. I commend to the Minister for Justice the Canadian Act, which has been submitted to his department by the member for Avon. For nearly 10 years this matter has been brought up time and time again. While I have been criticising the Minister for Works over some of his actions, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Premier for having practically fulfilled his promise—the plans are prepared—to provide for the town and district of Katanning suitable public buildings to replace the existing structure which, as the Premier realises, is totally inadequate to the requirements of the district. As far as possible and without fear or favour, we should endeavour to increase the production of Western Australia; because the more we can increase production, the more work shall we be providing for the people. If only we can get a true spirit of co-operation, I feel sure the prospects of Western Australia will be brighter than ever before. Thank God, apparently we are going to have a good season. If we get the season we anticipate, and the estimated quantity of wheat, I believe the Minister for Railways after the next harvest will be able to tell a very different story when he submits his yearly balance. We as a party are only too willing and anxious to

co-operate with the Government in doing the very best we can to make this State progress, and to see that work is provided for everyone who wants it. People, however, must be willing to work when employment is offered to them. Whilst we may differ, and differ materially, upon matters of policy, I think it is the desire of all sections of the community to see that Western Australia goes ahead and flourishes, and that employment is available to such an extent that no person need go without it.

On motion by the Premier, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 8.16 p.m.*

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## Legislative Council.

*Thursday, 1st August, 1929.*

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

### QUESTION—RETIRING ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

Hon. Sir EDWARD WITTENOOM asked the Chief Secretary: What was the amount of (a) retiring allowances, and (b) pensions paid by the Government during the financial year ended the 30th June last?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: For year ended 30th June, 1929—(a) £1,436 5s. 8d.; (b) £64,107 13s. 1d. The additional information requested yesterday by the hon. member is not available to the State Government, it being Commonwealth expenditure.

**COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.**

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.35]: I move—

That the following sessional committees be appointed:—

Standing Orders: The President, the Chief Secretary, Hon. J. Cornall, Hon. A. Lovekin, and Hon. J. Nicholson.

Library: The President, Hon. J. Ewing, and Hon. A. J. H. Saw.

Printing: The President, the Honorary Minister, and Hon. A. Lovekin.

Joint House: The President, Hon. J. Cornall, Hon. E. H. Gray, Hon. G. A. Kempton, and Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom.

**HON. SIR EDWARD WITTENOOM**

(North) [4.36]: I should like to make a few remarks regarding the Joint House Committee. I have served on the Joint House Committee for a good many years. One of the duties of the committee is to see that the catering is satisfactory to members. I think members will agree that that is done. Another duty is to see that the price of refreshments is reasonable. That also is done. Another duty is to see that the House is kept in proper order. I should like to remind the House that ten members constitute the committee, five being selected from each House, and they are supposed to comprise reasonably clever members. The Assembly representation is headed by the Speaker and the Legislative Council representation is headed by the President. Therefore, one can understand that the consideration of questions occupying the attention of the committee would be in the interests of Parliament. I think all will admit that the House Committee have done good work in the directions I have mentioned, but there are occasional opportunities for doing things to improve the place, prevent its getting shabby, and keep it in proper order so that people might be proud of it. Occasionally we have to make application to the Treasury for certain sums of money beyond those we have in hand, and those applications are turned down, so that the committee are treated practically like schoolboys. I maintain that the House Committee, selected as it has been from the cleverest members of each House, should receive more consideration. I do not know who is responsible for turning down our recommendations, whether it is the Treasurer or those associated with him, but occasionally we ask for certain things and are told we cannot have them.

It may be that we wish to replace a dirty carpet or some other "tuppenny-ha'penny" thing—I shall not go into details—and we are refused. The time has arrived when we should have an understanding that if the House Committee possess the confidence of both Chambers, as I think they do, their recommendations should be adopted. The House Committee make recommendations only after the most careful consideration by the ten members. Decisions are not arrived at hurriedly or with a view to wasting money, but are sent to the Treasurer with the object of improving the House. Yet when our recommendations are forwarded to the Treasury, the committee, as I have stated, are treated like schoolboys. If this sort of thing is going to continue, my name can be removed from the committee. I shall not continue to be a member of the committee if, after careful consideration has been given to various matters, we are to be treated in that way. There is no doubt we have an excellent House Committee. We are an economical committee and we do not waste money. Yet our recommendations are turned down. I shall not ask for my name to be removed on this occasion, but I take this opportunity of entering a protest. If, in future, the House Committee make recommendations for the economical discharge of their duties and those recommendations are turned down, I shall have nothing further to do with the committee.

Question put and passed.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.**

*Fourth Day.*

Order of the Day read for the resumption from the previous day of the debate on the Address-in-reply.

**HON. SIR EDWARD WITTENOOM** (North) [4.42]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned till Tuesday next.

The Chief Secretary: Why?

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	12
Noes	..	..	..	..	7
					—
Majority for	..	..	..	..	5
					—

**ATTS.**

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. J. T. Franklin	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. Sir E. Wittenoom
Hon. E. H. Harris	Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. W. J. Mana	Hon. G. Fraser

(Teller.)

**NOVS.**

Hon. J. R. Brown	Hon. E. H. H. Hall
Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. A. Lovekin
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. J. Ewing
Hon. W. T. Glasheen	

(Teller.)

Motion thus passed; debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 1.16 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Thursday, 1st August, 1929.*

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

### BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1) £1,900,000.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

### QUESTIONS (2)—VERMIN ACT.

#### *Reduction of Tax.*

Mr. THOMSON (for Mr. Lindsay) asked the Premier: As the credit of the central vermin fund at the Treasury stood at £38,890 on the 30th June, will he agree to reduce the rate of tax to  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for the year ending June, 1930?

The PREMIER replied: The matter will be considered.

#### *Charge for collection of tax.*

Mr. LINDSAY asked the Premier: Is the charge made for collecting taxation, on account of the central vermin fund, paid to the Federal Government in addition to the payment fixed under the agreement for the collection of State taxes?

The PREMIER replied: No.

### QUESTION—MACHINERY, HIRE PURCHASE.

Mr. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Justice: 1, Has the attention given by the present and past Governments to the Act relating to the hire purchase of machinery resulted in any decision being arrived at to rectify certain injustices? 2, If not, can the Minister indicate whether anything tangible is likely to occur this session in the direction of making certain amendments to the Act?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE replied: 1, The matter is receiving consideration. 2, Answered by No. 1.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

#### *Fourth Day.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [4.36]: I have no wish to attempt to measure strides with the Marathon effort of the Leader of the Country Party last evening. I hope to be able to economise in time in the answering of some of the more important questions that have so far been dealt with. The hon. gentleman's speech came to us in the form of an oft-told tale. We have been familiar with it for many years. He covered the ground he has covered twice I think, in every session during the last five years. We had it on the Address-in-Reply and on the Budget debate in each of those sessions. There was really nothing new in it. We heard repeated the statement that I could be described as "Lucky Collier" in that we have had a considerable amount of financial assistance from the Federal Government during the past five years. The hon. member knows that that financial assistance has not been of any benefit to the finances of the State. It certainly has been of considerable benefit to the taxpayers of Western Australia because