

ing made to meet expenditure under Special Acts. Am I to understand that interest will be paid by increasing the overdraft in London or that the payment of interest is being held back for the time being?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I am afraid I cannot answer the hon. member with any degree of reliability. I have no information on the subject, except that the Consolidated Revenue figures do not include expenditure under Special Acts, such expenditure not being provided for under Supply Bills.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2, Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Bill read a third time and passed.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Companies Act Amendment.

2, Agricultural Products.

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT—CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [6.5] In order to enable members to take part in the Centenary celebrations during the next fortnight, I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday, the 15th October.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.6 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 26th September, 1929.

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

QUESTION—VERMIN ACT, TAX REDUCTION.

Mr. LINDSAY asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Does he intend to carry out the recommendation of the Advisory Board to reduce the rate of Vermin tax by 50 per cent.? 2, Does he intend to amend the Act this session to give Vermin Boards power to employ trappers and pay them out of the fund?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Agriculture) replied: Both the matters mentioned in Questions 1 and 2 are at the present time receiving consideration.

QUESTION—ELECTORAL ROLLS.

Mr. LATHAM asked the Minister for Justice: 1, What amount of money has been made available to the Chief Electoral Officer for the compilation of the Electoral Rolls (a) in the metropolitan area; (b) in the country area; (c) in the mining area? 2, Does he consider sufficient assistance is employed correctly to complete the country rolls in time for the next general election?

The PREMIER (for The Minister for Justice) replied: 1, No part of any of the vote is specially allotted to the metropolitan, country, or mining areas. 2, Yes.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY BILL SELECT COMMITTEE.

Extension of Time.

On motion by the Minister for Health, the time for bringing up the report was extended until the 15th October.

BILL—ALSATIAN DOGS.

Introduced by Mr. Lindsay and read a first time.

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 2), £1,210,000.

Standing Orders Suspension.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [4.35]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees, and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day.

Question put and passed.

Message.

Message from the Governor received read, recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved into Committee of Supply, Mr. Panton in the Chair.

The PREMIER: I move—

That there be granted to His Majesty on account of the service of the year ending 30th June, 1930, a sum not exceeding £1,210,000.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

Committee of Ways and Means.

The House having resolved into Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. Panton in the Chair,

The PREMIER: I move—

That towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending 30th June, 1930, a sum not exceeding £950,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, £250,000 from moneys to the credit of the General Loan Fund, and £10,000 from the Government Property Sales Fund.

Mr. SAMPSON: I understand this is the customary measure brought forward at this period of the year to enable the Government to carry on. No doubt the Committee would have appreciated receiving a little information from the Premier in respect to various matters, for instance, as to the outlook for the forthcoming harvest.

The Premier: I did that last week on the Budget.

Mr. SAMPSON: I thought in view of the recent rains that had fallen—

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is out of order. He can deal only with the allocation of the money involved in the motion. He cannot discuss the rights and wrongs of the allocation.

Mr. SAMPSON. I merely suggest that a little further information might be forthcoming.

The CHAIRMAN: You should have asked for that on the previous motion.

Mr. SAMPSON: I hope the application of this money will prove advantageous in respect to what is ahead of us.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is only trying to get round the matter by means of a subterfuge. To start a general discussion on the question of whether or not the money should come out of Consolidated Revenue is only an attempt to get at the matter in another way.

Mr. SAMPSON: I do not want to do anything in the nature of a subterfuge. I merely express the opinion that some further details might have been given to us.

The Premier: In view of my Budget speech last week, that is the most extraordinary and stupid request I have ever heard.

Mr. SAMPSON: In view of the importance of the position, which has developed during the last two days, I thought an opportunity might have presented itself to the Premier to make some remarks for the information of members.

The Premier: That is one of the burdens of acting leadership.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

Bill introduced, etc.

In accordance with the foregoing resolutions, Bill introduced, passed through all stages without debate, and transmitted to the Council.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

1, Companies Act Amendment.

2, Agricultural Products.

Transmitted to the Council.

BILL—ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—PEARLING ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 18th September.

MR. TEESDALE (Roebourne) [4.52]:

As most members are aware, the Bill was passed by the Legislative Council for the purpose of enabling pearls that are fished outside the waters of the State, to be sold in Western Australia. In another place it was stated that the amendments embodied in the measure were asked for by the Pearl-ers' Association. It is well known that both the present Government and the Mitchell Government did all they possibly could to assist the industry and to help those engaged in it. The last important amendment made to the Pearling Act was for the prevention of dummyming and I think hon. members heard enough on that occasion about the dummyming business to know what it means. Having passed the amendment on that score, as suggested by the Pearl-ers' Association, we hoped that we had made the position clear and had done everything to prevent the dummyming of boats about which complaints had been made. But what did we find a few months afterwards? We had the spectacle of about 30 boats bolting lock stock and barrel to where they could engage in dummyming with impunity. After tightening up our legislation so that it could not go on here, giving the right of inspec-

tion of books so that bank balances could be disclosed and enable a knowledge to be gained of the transactions engaged in, these people found the door closed against them, and they cleared to a place where dummyming is the order of the day. And now they ask us for facilities to carry out their desire to bring their dummy pearls into Western Australia and sell them here because no one has any money in Darwin! It was said in the Legislative Council that the pearl-ers had asked for the Bill. I want to know what pearl-ers have got to do with pearls apart from those that they get themselves.

Mr. Panton: Do they ever get any themselves?

Mr. TEESDALE: It is strange that they are interesting themselves in this matter. It looks to me as though they want to send their dummied pearls by passing them on through renegade whites for sale in these parts. I will not be a party to facilitating that sort of business. It has also been said that the Bill will facilitate marketing operations in Broome and that it will increase the amount of money in circulation. That is positive tripe! Perfect rot! Pearl buyers come from England and France every year, and they stay in Broome where they have their furnished houses. They are there to buy pearls fished in our waters. I do not know whether pearls from Darwin or the Dutch Indies are likely to increase the status of Western Australian stones in the world's markets. We have a splendid reputation for our stones. I would explain that we refer to pearls as stones. When I mention stones I mean pearls, not stones. We have no precious stones up there, but we have some precious scoundrels! Pearling operations are not confined to Broome. When I first went up North my electorate represented the lock, stock and barrel of the pearling industry. Broome was not heard of in those days. Cossack was the place where the ships could be seen lying off the coast. The shipping lies there now, I might add, waiting to get ashore. At that time Cossack was the important centre of the pearling industry and in those days we had no difficulty about dummyming or snide pearl buying. It is only during the last few years when the State has made such progress that we have had this sort of thing. To lend point to that remark, I could mention an instance in which it was illustrated. This dummyming business is going on in Darwin and Thursday Island. Under the exist-

ing conditions there are white owners, who are a little bit tired of battling outside in the boats. They now prefer to sit ashore in their white suits comfortably lounging in chairs on their spacious verandahs. They look like capitalists. They lease their boats to Jap divers and their crews. These Japs are represented in the Japanese Club at Broome and are also the representatives of a crowd in Japan. That is the way they work. For 40 years the white pearlers in Broome have not had sufficient energy or interest to provide themselves with a club house. They are content to meet in the hotel bar. For the last 25 years the Japanese have had their club, a most gorgeous little affair. In that club it is possible to hear some most interesting conversations going on about how to treat the white people who enable them to earn a living and send fat cheques home to Japan. That, however, is by the way. I want to show what a friendly unanimous crowd we are in Broome. Instances such as this are known: A man was dining with another when a knock was heard at the back door. The person outside asked to see the guest who was at dinner. The guest went to the back door and made arrangements to meet the person next morning because he had for sale a nice stone filched from the boat of his host. That is the sort of thing that goes on.

Mr. Coverley: You are not complimentary to the Inspector of Fisheries.

Mr. TEESDALE: I am sorry if I have conveyed that idea to the member for Kimberley (Mr. Coverley), because nothing further is from my mind. I have nothing to say against the Inspector of Fisheries at all. He is a capable man. I have known him since he was a bit of a boy. I had something to do with the position he occupies at present. I am sorry if by my crude manner of speech, I have given the member for Kimberley that impression; I have not the polish of some members of this House. However, the pearling boats are handed over to Japanese divers and their men. They open all the shells that are obtained and retain as their own property the pearls that are found. That is a most extraordinary business. They actually own the whole of the pearls they recover, but have an understanding with the white owner that they will sell to him all the pearlshell secured, at a rate of about £110 per ton.

It started first at £100 per ton. One or two of the fellows were doing very well and some others went up to Broome and in order to get a cut raised the price a fiver. A little while afterwards they raised it another fiver. Sooner or later, of course, if this goes on there will be nothing in it. At one time all this shell used to go to London, where the continental and British manufacturers bought at open auction what they wanted for their trade requirements. To-day the Yankee octopus that is throttling every branch of industry it can get its tentacles on, has come into the game. All but two of the masters in Broome have sold their shell during the last year to a Yankee firm at a flat rate of £180 per ton. So the dummies are paying £110 per ton for their shell and selling it at £180 to this Yankee firm who, with their huge wealth, much of which they have filched from the Old Country, can smash anything they go in for or so fix it that it is worth nothing to anybody else. That is the position to which they have reduced the industry to-day. If it were not for a few loyal shellers who are still working in Broome, I would advocate closing up the grounds altogether, because they are of very little use to Britishers. Before the war we had 340 pearling boats working on the coast. To-day there are 97 boats spread over the whole of the coast from Onslow and Cossack to Broome. This will give members an idea of how that splendid industry has degenerated in a very few years. I may add that it will be worse before it is better. The Broome pearlers that have gone to other places are now trying to arrange to have their pearls sold in Broome in the presence of a fisheries inspector. Actually they are being sold to-day quite freely, without any restriction. There is no question about that. On the North-West coast we have always a few degenerate whites ready to be cats-paws for coloured men. Those stones are coming down now to Broome and are being quietly handed around amongst the pearl buyers. But there is a certain danger about that, because we do not allow pearls from outside the 27th parallel to be sold unless there is an official present to register the sale, and so on. I am not opposed to that. I hope members will appreciate the fact that if they pass this amendment they will be helping the dum-

miers that have taken their boats and trade away up to Darwin. As they cannot sell their pearls there, they want to send them down to Broome and so depreciate the value of the stones already on sale in Broome. Because the more pearls there are available, the smaller the price offered by the buyers. If in a season there are not many stones available, the buyers always make a decent rise in their offers; but if there is to be a large number of stones from outside it will serve to reduce the price for others. Therefore I am opposed to the proposition. In regard to another amendment, which refers to the third schedule, I may say that to-day all the boats no matter of what tonnage, are charged the same rate for licenses. As an indication of how we catered for the Broome pearlers when they went in for double-engined boats and secured twice the quantity of shell, I may say we did not increase the cost of their licenses. We allowed them to take twice the quantity of shell for the same license. How some of those one-pump boat owners manage to live, I do not know. All they can earn is just sufficient for tucker and, perhaps, a few snifters. I should like to see the license fee of those boats reduced. The man with a one-diver boat should be charged less than the man with two boats, who is pretty financial and has a £400 engine in his boat. Such a reduction might be beneficial in the way of inducing people to put on try divers. Those with double-engined boats will not be bothered to break in try divers, for the staging is a little tricky. In consequence the old divers have a positive monopoly. When first they start they arrange amongst themselves what lay they are to have. Before an owner starts out he must secure a diver at the price fixed by the Japs. Generally at the end of the season there is an unholy rush to secure each other's divers, of course at an enhanced price. This try diving is likely to be beneficial, inasmuch as it will break up the existing monopoly of divers who can demand any advance they like. For the Japanese have complete control and have made everything too uncomfortable for the Koepangers and Malays. Now the Japanese are trying to get the Chinese out. Those Chinese are pretty successful, but I do not think they have the aptitude for diving that the Jap has. He is

very small, compact and strong, and so he can stand this heavy work. And the Japanese have made it so uncomfortable for all other nationalities that to-day they practically run the whole thing. One has to be very deferential to his diver, and if the diver should decide to have a bit of a spell in Broome, he says the water is too dirty for diving or that he is sick and that the boat had better go to Broome. In those circumstances the owner had better go to Broome, because if he does not his diver will certainly fall sick. I wish the House to understand that if they pass the amendment allowing of the sale of these dummied pearls in Broome they will be doing an injustice to all loyal Broome pearlers. As to the boats, I should like to see the smaller craft granted licenses at a reduced fee. If I were in a position to do it, I would make it pretty hot for those dummiers when they come back from Darwin. I would add to their license fees a sum exactly equivalent to the reduction in the fees for the smaller boats. I am opposed to giving any facilities whatever to the dummiers who have gone out of the country and will not come back again until it suits their purpose.

MR. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [5.10]: I presume the hon. member, in making the statements he has made to us, has had advice from people who know. He says the passing of the Bill will assist the dummier. We have it on the assurance of the Honorary Minister, who introduced the Bill in another place, and on the assurance of the Minister for Agriculture, who in this House moved the second reading, that both these amendments have been asked for by the Pearlers' Association.

Mr. Teesdale: What have they to do with pearls? Whose pearls are they? They are Jap pearls from Darwin.

Mr. ANGELO: I cannot quite follow that. The Pearlers' Association are an association looking after the pearlers of Broome. Surely they should know what they want. However, this very alarming information we have received from the member Roebourne—

Mr. Mann: He is not altogether wrong, either.

Mr. Coverley: In the past he has had to retract every statement he ever made—and you know it.

Mr. ANGELO : There is no immediate hurry for the passing of the Bill. It could well wait a fortnight, and I should like to see the debate adjourned to give the Minister a chance to repeat his assurance that the Bill is the result of a request from the Pearlers' Association at Broome. If the Pearlers' Association have asked for the Bill, I am going to vote for it.

Mr. Teesdale: If it were the Pearl Buyers' Association, there might be something in what you say.

Mr. ANGELO: I am not at all concerned about the pearl buyers. They are well able to look after themselves. My object is to help the pearlers, and if their association have requested the Government to make an amendment of the existing laws in order to assist them in their industry, I am going to support it.

Mr. Davy: How will this help the pearlers themselves?

Mr. ANGELO: That is what we want to know. The Minister for Agriculture when moving the second reading did not tell us. I presume the boats that have left our waters for other waters are not all owned by dummi-ers; some of them no doubt are owned by legitimate pearlers, who are finding difficulty in disposing of pearls fished by their own boats. They cannot sell them in Broome, for they have been fished outside of Western Australian waters.

Mr. Sampson: Is it that the Bill is designed to more firmly establish Broome as a selling point?

Mr. ANGELO: That is the view I take of it. We know that our pearlers have to go outside of Western Australian waters frequently. Some of the pearling grounds are adjacent to our own coast, and it would be a hardship if the pearler whose boat happened to operate outside territorial waters was not allowed to sell the pearls secured there. I am with the member for Roebourne in objecting to dummying. It is a matter that has cropped up only during recent years. It did not exist when I resided in the North, but everything should be done to prevent it. I am afraid that the member for Roebourne, in his desire to limit dummying, might be doing our good friends the pearlers some harm by opposing the amendment. I have the greatest faith in the Chief Inspector of Fisheries. He knows his job and carries it out well, and I am certain he would not put up a Bill that would assist the dummi-er and hurt the legitimate pearler. If the

member for Roebourne is still doubtful, it would be well to adjourn the debate until the Minister has further investigated the position.

MR. COVERLEY (Kimberley) [5.17]: I was surprised to hear the views expressed by that supposed champion of the North-West, the member for Roebourne. On all occasions he professes to be an ardent supporter of anything that would benefit those who are trying to foster industries in the North, but on this occasion, for some reason unknown to me, he has expressed opinions that to me are surprising.

Mr. Teesdale: I went over and told you about them.

Mr. COVERLEY: He has cast aspersions on the staff in Broome.

Mr. Mann: He did not do anything of the kind.

Mr. Teesdale: That is not fair. I explained that I had no intention of so doing and how can you say I did it?

Mr. COVERLEY: From the outset the hon. member's remarks were to the effect that dummying was rampant in Broome.

Mr. Teesdale: Not now. I was speaking of the boats that have gone.

Mr. COVERLEY: That makes it worse. One-half of the boats that went from Broome to Darwin are owned by legitimate pearlers. Those boats were sent to Darwin because it was possible to get more shell there, and the other half of the boats remained in Western Australia. Darwin has very good grounds for shell, but produces very little baroque and very few pearls. Having secured some pearls, surely the pearlers are entitled to sell them. That is the position and that is all asked for under this Bill. The measure contains a provision that all the pearls are to be sold in the office of the Inspector of Fisheries. When everything is to be done fairly and above board, there should be no danger.

Mr. Teesdale: Do you oppose the buying of shell from Japanese?

Mr. COVERLEY: This Bill has nothing at all to do with dummying.

Mr. Teesdale: No; but it is the shell they want to sell.

Mr. COVERLEY: This Bill proposes two amendments, one of which is to give the legitimate pearler the right to sell his pearls in Broome. If we do not give that right, we shall lose a lot of trade.

Mr. Sampson: Those are the pearls fished outside the waters of the State?

Mr. COVERLEY: Yes. Pearls fished in Darwin waters cannot at present be handled by a bank in Western Australia. All that is asked is that the pearler, who thought fit to send half his fleet to Darwin, should have the right to sell his pearls in Broome. The member for Roebourne suggested that every pearler whose boats left Western Australia for Darwin was guilty of dummying.

Mr. Teesdale: Nothing of the sort.

Mr. COVERLEY: Such a suggestion is entirely wrong.

Mr. Teesdale: I distinctly told you that the man about whom I was concerned was the one who sold shell to the Japs.

Mr. COVERLEY: We are not dealing with that. It should be our desire to assist the town of Broome as well as the legitimate pearler whose boats left Broome to fish in Darwin waters. The hon. member knows as well as I do that the great majority of the pearlery who left Western Australia are legitimate pearlery. Not 1 per cent. of them is under suspicion in my mind.

Mr. Teesdale: If you make a statement like that, you know nothing whatever about it.

Mr. COVERLEY: I have never had to retract one statement I have made concerning the North or the North-West, whereas the hon. member, to my mind, has never made a statement about the far North which he did not retract, and yet he still poses as an authority on the North.

Mr. Teesdale: The only thing I can think of is that you are not well.

Mr. COVERLEY: The hon. member took pains to explain that only 97 boats were working, whereas some years ago there were over 340. Probably unintentionally, he conveyed the impression that, owing to the dummying of which he had been speaking previously, the number of boats had been reduced from 340 odd to 97.

Mr. Teesdale: I hope you are alone in thinking that.

Mr. COVERLEY: The real reasons for the depression in the industry are the loss of the French market for pearls and the loss of the German market for shell, and that depression has been the cause of pearlery going out of the business. When the

Minister was in Broome, he was waited on by a committee of the Pearlery Association, consisting of Mr. McKenzie, chairman, Mr. J. V. Hay, secretary, Mr. Prior and Captain Gregory, chairman of the Broome Road Board. The mere mention of the names of those gentlemen should be sufficient guarantee that they would not offer suggestions that would be to the detriment of the industry or of the State. Every one of them is a good Australian, with the whole of his interests in the pearling industry of Western Australia. Not one of them could be under any suspicion whatever. It would be beneficial if the Government took steps to get the pearling laws of Australia brought into conformity with ours. It is an appalling state of affairs that pearling is governed in Darwin by one set of laws, in Western Australia by another, and in Thursday Island by another. It would be a good thing if the rest of Australia could be induced to bring their laws into conformity with ours, as that would obviate any necessity for our passing amendments to help our pearlery in the difficulty in which they find themselves. The industry is worthy of all the assistance we can give it. It is not too much to ask members of this House to remedy an unfortunate position. Legitimate pearlery of Western Australia sent boats up to Darwin for the sake of the shell itself, and when they got a few pearls, surely we should be entitled to keep the trade in Western Australia instead of driving it elsewhere. I have done my best to point out that this Bill is necessary and that it will not assist dummying in any shape or form, because the pearling inspector of Broome has to be present to see all the dealings in pearls. That, surely, should be sufficient protection for us. I hope the remarks of the member for Roebourne will not be taken too seriously, and that the Bill will receive the support it deserves.

On motion by Mr. Latham, debate adjourned.

BILL—WATER BOARDS ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Amendment.

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Panton in the Chair; the Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies in charge of the Bill.

Delete Clause 2, and insert the following in lieu thereof:—"Notwithstanding anything in the principal Act contained, the Wagin Water Board may, for the year ending the 31st day of October, 1929, impose a supplemental rate: Provided that such rate, together with any rate already imposed, shall not exceed the rating limits of such board as the law defined. Such supplemental rate, if any, shall be imposed, and the rate-book altered and added to (but without obliterating existing entries) as may be deemed necessary, on or before the 30th day of June, 1930."

THE MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: I move—

That the amendment be amended by adding the following words:—"This Act shall be deemed to have commenced and shall have effect from the 25th day of July, 1929."

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

On motion by the Minister for Water Supplies, Mr. Davy, Mr. Panton, and the mover were appointed a committee to draw up reasons for modifying the Council's amendment.

Reasons reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

BILL—TRANSFER OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT (No. 1).

Returned from the Council with amendments.

BILL—RESERVES.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 19th September; Mr. Panton in the Chair, the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

Clause 7—Reserve A7804 (partly considered):

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: Progress was reported to enable the Claremont Road Board, the Lands Department, and the Education Endowment Trustees to confer with a view to arriving at an agreement. No

progress has been made in the matter, nor do I anticipate any progress. I suggest that the clause pass as printed, and if an agreement should be come to in the future the necessary correction can be made.

MR. NORTH: I very much regret that the Claremont Road Board have not advised me during the last day or two that an agreement could not be reached. It was distinctly understood that the subdivisational plans would be amended in such a way that the land could be sold and the Treasurer would get his money. The board, I admit, are to blame for not having taken action during the preparation of the Bill to have the amended scheme put up in good time; but if the Treasury is to lose money owing to the clause being drawn in such a way that the board will be unable to sell the land, a grave error will be committed. Even at this eleventh hour I urge the Minister for Lands to allow the board the next fortnight, during which Parliament will stand adjourned, to obtain a survey under which the land can be sold and the Treasurer can be repaid. No man would buy the land as at present surveyed.

MR. LATHAM: If there is any dispute over the clause, then the clause should be struck out, because other reserves are to be dealt with in the measure, and considerations bearing on them are of importance. The removal of the school which has been referred to in the discussion is desired to take place during the holidays, and for that reason among others I have been anxiously awaiting the finalisation of the Bill.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: I think the member for Claremont has been misinformed. The Bill provides power to the board to sell portion of the land granted, so that the Treasurer may be recouped money advanced; but the board want more territory. The matter cannot be held up indefinitely. Having considered the matter for a long time, the board agreed upon the course indicated by the clause. Now they have discovered that it might be judicious to seek a further concession, and this involves the Education Endowment Trustees.

Clause put and passed.

New clause:

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move—

That the following new clause, to stand as Clause 8, be added:—Reserve 5744: Reserve No. 5744 (Narrogin Lot 12), now vested in the Municipality of Narrogin for a pound,

may be granted to that municipality for an estate in fee simple with power to sell and transfer the land to a purchaser; but subject to the provision and equipment by the council of another site for the pound.

Owing to the growth of the town of Narrogin the old pound is on an unsuitable site. The new clause will empower the municipality to dispose of the old site.

New clause put and passed.

Schedules 1 to 3, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1929-30.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Pantton in the Chair.

Department of the Premier continued (Hon. P. Collier, Minister):

Votes—Treasury, £20,681; Audit, £14,647; Compassionate Allowances, etc., £1,236—agreed to.

Vote—State Savings Bank, £56,528:

Mr. LATHAM: I notice that the actual revenue for 1928-29 was £22,740, whilst the estimated revenue for the present financial year is only £4,000. Why the falling off?

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Government Stores, £17,522—agreed to.

Vote—Taxation, £30,000:

Mr. LATHAM: Does the Premier intend to bring down any amendment of the Land and Income Tax Assessment Act this year?

The Premier: No.

Mr. MANN: Has the Premier dropped the idea of assuming control of the Taxation Department? Some time ago he stated that it was his intention to follow that course.

The Premier: I have abandoned the idea.

Mr. Mann: Because it was not practicable?

The Premier: It would be practicable, but I do not think it is advisable without further consideration.

Item, Commissioner of Taxation, £900:

Mr. LATHAM: I understand that we are paying £30,000 to the Commonwealth to collect our taxes. Is the Commissioner of Taxation paid out of that sum?

The Premier: No, the item would not appear as it does if he were.

Mr. LATHAM: And we pay the £30,000 in addition to the salary?

The Premier: Yes.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Workers' Homes Board, £20,218:

Mr. TEESDALE: I should like to know whether there is any restriction against workers' homes being built in the North-West. Some time ago the Premier placed an additional sum of money at the disposal of the Workers' Homes Board and it was understood that applications could be made for the erection of homes in the North-West.

The PREMIER: There has never been any real restriction against building homes in the North-West, though in the past the board did not think the investment was sound. The board's attitude has altered during the last few weeks and to my knowledge they have approved of the erection of one home in the North-West. That being the case, I take it they are prepared to entertain applications from other parts.

Mr. CORBOY: The Workers' Homes Board have been acting for the Commonwealth in connection with the building of War Service Homes, and I should like to know whether there are any restrictions against further homes being built or whether it is due to a temporary tightness of the money market that nothing is being done in that direction.

The PREMIER: Money is tight all over Australia and I have no doubt the Commonwealth are endeavouring to economise as much as possible and are restricting the expenditure of money wherever possible.

Mr. ANGELO: Two or three years ago the Workers' Homes Board had plans specially prepared for homes in the North-West to suit the climatic conditions. Unfortunately money ran out and that has been the difficulty. Recently, however, funds have been made available and I have been told that applications will now be received from the North. I know that the board received four or five from my district. If the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) knows of any person desirous of erecting homes, I am sure he will find they will receive sympathetic consideration from the board.

Mr. Teesdale: Have you any workers' homes in your electorate?

Mr. ANGELO: Yes, four or five.

Mr. Teesdale: You are a very lucky man.

Mr. ANGELO: Old established places like Roebourne, Carnarvon and Broome surely can offer sufficient security for the board.

Mr. Teesdale: I know of three families living in one house at Beadon.

The PREMIER: The amount of £550 which was the limit at the disposal of the board was not sufficient for the building of a home in the North-West. At the present time, however, under the Commonwealth arrangement whereby the amount of £1,800 may be advanced, the position is different.

Mr. ANGELO: It is deplorable to find that people in North-West towns occasionally are obliged to leave good jobs because they cannot make a home in those towns for their families.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Miscellaneous Services, £134,615:

Item, Refunds of Revenue not otherwise provided for, £10,500:

Mr. DAVY: Will the Treasurer explain the increase in this vote? Last year the vote was £9,000.

Mr. Latham: There is a decrease because the expenditure last year was £11,083.

The PREMIER: The explanation is that the bulk of the item is required to provide refunds of amounts collected by the Taxation Department in error. Other items include amounts paid to revenue in error.

Item, Interest and exchange, £72,000:

Mr. LATHAM: Here there is an increase of £43,301. I do not know what that covers. I suppose it is interest and exchange on money borrowed. I thought that under the Financial Agreement we were going to get the benefit of a reduction of interest.

The PREMIER: That is a different matter. Interest on bank overdrafts in this State includes a lot of small exchanges on remittances. The increased expenditure is accounted for by having to provide on advances from the Commonwealth pending loan flotations. Hitherto these advances were treated as loan proceeds and interest charged against special Acts. Owing to the hardening of the money market, increased interest on a big overdraft will be paid from this Item until loan funds are available to reduce the overdraft.

Item, Workers' Compensation Act Fund, £6,685:

Mr. DAVY: Last year the estimate on this account was £2,800. I take it that these are contributions to the fund that take the place of premiums in ordinary cases. I should have imagined these would have been debited to the particular departments whose employees were covered. Why is this large amount debited against the Treasurer, and why has the amount been increased?

The PREMIER: This is a bulk item representing contributions to the fund. Originally the money came from the respective departmental votes. The bulk item saves bookkeeping interest, and the details of the contributions are kept by the office of the Government Actuary, who controls the fund. This has been in operation for some years. As no demand was made on the fund last year, it will now cover two years' premiums.

Mr. DAVY: I thought that might be the position. Under the Forests Vote there is also a debit on account of workers' Compensation of £435.

The Premier: I will explain that on the Forests Vote.

Item, Workers' Compensation Act, medical referees, £600:

Mr. DAVY: Does this apply also to medical boards? The practice has grown up with the consent of employers and employees to miss out the medical referee and go direct to the board, this being the shortest cut to the inevitable end. When a medical referee is asked to decide a matter, one can say almost invariably that an appeal goes on to the Medical Board. Where the medical referee is cut out and the board is used, no payment is made by the Government to the board. Usually two guineas are required to cover the fee of the medical referee, but when application is made straight to the board, there is no provision for any payment, although someone has to pay eventually. I should like to know whether medical referee includes medical board. If so, I would call attention to the necessity for making provision for payment by the parties to the medical board.

The PREMIER: This does include the medical board. Under the Workers' Compensation Act the Minister may appoint a legally qualified medical practitioner to be a medical referee, or members of the medical board to carry out the purposes of the Act.

The remuneration and expense are to be paid out of funds provided by Parliament. Referees may be appointed in the case of disputes in regard to medical services as to the incapacity of the worker. It has been found necessary to increase the expenditure under this item as a great many medical boards and referees are being availed of under the Act.

Item, Aeroplane landing ground, Marble Bar, pound for pound up to £125, £125:

Mr. SAMPSON: I should like to know if this is part of the policy to provide landing grounds in various parts of the State.

The PREMIER: There is no general policy in the matter. There are exceptional circumstances about the North-West. On one occasion, since the air service started in the North, the necessity arose for an urgent call for medical assistance off the line of the plane. A serious illness had occurred and an operation was necessary. There was no landing ground at Marble Bar and the local board asked for a pound for pound subsidy in order to make one. Each case will be dealt with on its merits, but except for the North-West, I doubt if applications would be favourably received.

Item, Caves House, cash stolen by burglars, £10:

Mr. DAVV: Have the burglars been caught?

The Premier: No.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—State Accident Insurance Office, £1,150:

Mr. LATHAM: I should like to see this vote struck out. We do not know what has been done with the money that has been made.

The Premier: The money has been invested.

Mr. LATHAM: Presumably the Government are making a loss here.

Mr. ANGELO: Perhaps the Premier will tell us the result of the operations of this office. Has it been found necessary to increase the rates and premiums, and is it anticipated they will be still further increased in the future in order to balance the ledger?

The PREMIER: The rates have increased, just as is the case with insurance companies, during the last year or two, and

during the present year. I am not going to indulge in the role of prophet as to what may happen in the future.

Mr. Mann: What benefit has been derived from the existence of this office?

The PREMIER: I have no desire to argue that matter. The office has been provided for the class of men who were not able to get insurances before.

Mr. Angelo: I thought it was because of the high rates the companies were charging.

The PREMIER: The hon. member is wrong. The companies refused to do the business, and so the Government had to do it. I did not know whether they would take it even now. During the year ended 30th June, 1929, 5,019 claims were received by the State Accident Insurance Office. Of this number, 19 related to claims submitted by men who were incapacitated as a result of industrial diseases, and of the total number received, 19 were fatal accidents. The premium income of the office amounted to £183,919, and the claims and medical expenses paid totalled £135,677. The cost of the administration of the office was £2,775. The figures include those relating to Government departments. The number of claims received through Government departments was 3,120. The premium income was £104,014, and the claims and medical expenses paid amounted to £83,848. The funds of the office at the end of the year amounted to £79,050, and of this the sum of £41,500 was invested on fixed deposit with the Government Savings Bank; £30,000 on current account with the savings bank; £4,195 on State Stock, and the balance, £3,355, is held by the Treasury on trust for the State Accident Insurance Office. Payments on account of claims and medical expenses have been heavy, particularly in regard to claims received from men in the timber industry, which amounted during the year to £15,076. A large number of Southern Europeans are employed in this branch of industry, and a considerable proportion of the claims related to major injuries, such as the loss of fingers and toes.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Council of Industrial Development, £1,204:

Mr. SAMPSON: Has consideration been given to industries such as jam making?

The Premier: It is given to anything at all where an application is made.

Vote put and passed.

This concluded the Estimates of the Treasurer.

Department of Forests (Hon. P. Collier, Minister).

Vote—Forests. £23,955.

Item, Assistant foresters, £3,000:

Mr. COVERLEY: I know of a case in which, within eighty miles of Derby, several thousand valuable sandalwood suckers were destroyed by fire. Could not the department appoint some officer to look after that area?

The Premier: The Conservator will be consulted about that.

Mr. SAMPSON: Some 12 months ago a promise was given that an experiment would be made in the production of the broad-leaf or commercial wattle in the State plantations. Has anything been done?

The Premier: I cannot say.

Mr. SAMPSON: The matter might be looked into.

Vote put and passed.

Progress reported.

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 2), £1,210,000.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT—CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [6.15]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 15th October.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.17 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 15th October, 1929.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Governor received and read, notifying assent to the undermentioned Bills:—

- 1, Agricultural Lands Purchase Act Amendment.
- 2, Divorce Act Amendment.
- 3, Industries Assistance Act Continuance.
- 4, Roads Closure.
- 5, Stamp Act Amendment.
- 6, Workers' Homes.

OBITUARY—MR. C. C. MALEY, M.L.A.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.34]: Mr. President. It is with deep regret that I ask your permission to move the following motion:—

That this House desires to place on record its sincere sympathy and condolence with the relatives of the late Mr. C. C. Maley, a member of the Legislative Assembly, who died this morning; and that the President be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to them.

We all heard to-day, with feelings of genuine sorrow, of the death of Mr. Charles Crowther Maley, the member for Irwin in the Legislative Assembly. Although Mr. Maley was not a member of this House, he was intimately known to all of us. We knew him as one who was possessed of many fine qualities. He was at personal enmity with none; and his friends were not restricted to any party, class, or creed. He was a most charitable man, and helped many in distress. As a farmer on a large scale, he set an example to all in his district in up-to-date agriculture. I had known him for very many years, and I was shocked when I heard he was ill beyond hope. Our sympathy will go out to his bereaved relatives in the unexpected sorrow which has crossed their paths.