

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 22nd September, 1931.

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

WROTH BANKRUPTCY SELECT COMMITTEE.

Report Presented.

Hon. W. D. Johnson brought up the report of the select committee.

Report read and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.46]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday, 29th September, at 4.30 p.m.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.47 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 29th September, 1931.

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

OBITUARY—Mr. R. G. ARDAGH AND HON. H. STEWART, M.L.C.

Letters in Reply.

THE PRESIDENT [4.35]: I have received from the widow of the late Mr. R. G. Ardagh an expression of appreciation of

the resolution carried by the Legislative Council on the 5th August, 1931. I have also received a similar letter from the widow of the late Hon. Hector Stewart in regard to the resolution of condolence carried on the 11th August, 1931.

Sitting suspended from 4.40 to 5 p.m.

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 2), £960,000.

All Stages.

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [5.0] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is a request for Supply for the months of September and October. The total amount involved is £960,000, made up of £850,000 on account of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, £100,000 on account of the General Loan Fund, and £10,000 on account of the Government Property Sales Fund. The intention is to expend those amounts during the months of September and October along the lines of the Budget which is being delivered to-day in another place. Members are aware that economies are being effected in every possible direction. In consequence of the energies in that regard, it is somewhat pleasing to be able to say that the results for July and August of this year are only £29,773 worse than for the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure figures for July and August of this year include £76,656 more on account of unemployment, and £105,528 additional for exchange. In the circumstances the results achieved during July and August are gratifying. Another pleasing feature during July and August was the collection of additional revenue to the extent of £62,000, as compared with the revenue collected in July and August of last year. The additional revenue was received from public utilities, of which the railways contributed £42,000. The expenditure for the two months was greater by £91,900 than that of the same two months of last year. That was due mainly to the necessity for finding £182,184 additional for unemployment and exchange, but the heavy expenditure on those accounts was offset by savings totalling £91,284 in other directions. The Government are faced with the difficulty of

being unable to collect moneys due to the Treasury, and at the same time having to provide essential services to the people. At the end of last month the outstanding land rents totalled £421,168, and £181,177 was overdue on the Agricultural Land Purchase Account. Further economies are being brought about from day to day, and when the full effect of the emergency legislation is felt there should be a considerable reduction in expenditure. Then again, the State will shortly experience the benefit of reduced interest under the conversion legislation. Briefly, the results for July and August were as follows:—

		Revenue.	
		1931.	1930.
		£	£
July	451,054	374,800
August	550,597	564,639
		<u>£1,001,651</u>	<u>£939,439</u>

Increase for two months—£62,212.

		Expenditure.	
		1931.	1930.
		£	£
July	795,469	685,582
August	801,851	819,753
		<u>£1,597,320</u>	<u>£1,505,335</u>

Increase for two months—£91,985.

I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Bill read a third time and returned to the Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [5.7]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 6th October.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.8 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 29th September, 1931.

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

QUESTION—CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Payments to Widows and Orphans.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Have the Government reduced the payments made by the Child Welfare Department to widows and orphans from 9s. to 7s. per week? 2, If not, why are inspectresses recommending that a payment of 7s. per week be made to widows? 3, If this reduction has been made, when did it come into operation?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, No. 2, The inspectors are not recommending payment of 7s. per week. 3, Answered by 1 and 2.

QUESTION—RAILWAYS, GRIFFIN COAL SUPPLIES.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Railways: 1, (a) Did the Government adopt the recommendation of the Commissioner (Dr. H. Herman) regarding the contract with, and price paid to, the Griffin mine for the supply of coal to the working railways? (b) If so, what is the average quantity of coal now drawn from the Griffin mine? (c) What is the average saving per month made as a result of the revised payments? 2, If the recommendations have not been adopted, will he explain the reason why?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, (a) The adoption, or otherwise, of the Royal Commissioner's recommenda-