

ployed will not be in want while the local people bear the burden. The only thing is for the local people to say, "The burden is not ours, and we will bear it no longer."

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 11th November, 1931.

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

QUESTION—REFERENDUM ON SECESSION.

As to Honorary Officials.

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Is there any truth in the report in to-day's "West Australian" that the Chief Electoral Officer is endeavouring to get the various returning officers scattered throughout the State to act in an honorary capacity, or at a nominal fee, should it be decided to hold a State referendum on the question of secession? 2, If so, do the Government consider it proper to get heretofore fully-paid officials to commit themselves to act in an honorary capacity, or at a nominal fee, or at a reduced fee, on a question for which Parliamentary sanction has not yet been asked, and, when asked for, may be refused? 3, Should these officials agree to act in an honorary capacity, or at a nominal fee, or at a reduced fee, will the Government ask a similar favour from the employees of the Government Printing Office, with respect to the printing of the proposed referendum ballot papers and other necessary material,

and also from all other referendum supernumeraries, so that these persons can show their patriotism, or lack of it, on such a far-reaching question as Western Australia's seceding from the Commonwealth?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, The Chief Electoral Officer sent a confidential letter to his returning officers in the terms published in the "West Australian" some days ago. 2, No. 3, No.

PAPERS—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BIENNIAL ELECTION, 1930.

On motion by Hon. J. Cornell ordered: That all papers relating to the issue of writs, date of nomination, and date of polling in respect of the Legislative Council biennial election, 1930, be laid on the Table of the House.

The Chief Secretary laid the papers on the Table.

BILL—SALVATION ARMY (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) PROPERTY TRUST.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

BILL—LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT (No. 3).

Second Reading.

HON. SIR CHARLES NATHAN (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.39], in moving the second reading, said: This Bill, though received at the instance of the Minister on Thursday last, is a private member's Bill, and consequently the responsibility devolves upon me, as a representative of the Metropolitan-Suburban Province, to take it through its second stage. It is a small Bill, and covers two points intended to overcome disabilities connected with the issue of a temporary license at the Midland Junction saleyards. As hon. members probably are aware, sales are held at Midland Junction at regular intervals—during the busy season on two days in the week as a rule, and sometimes on a third day; during the rest of the year, on one day per week. The work at the saleyards necessitates the attendance of numerous men from early morning till late in the afternoon; and it has been found desirable, and in fact necessary, to provide facilities for these men to

obtain refreshments, both solid and liquid.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: What is meant by "solid" ?

Hon. Sir CHARLES NATHAN: Say, eggs and bacon. For a period of 15 or 16 years one person has held this temporary license. Under the Act as it stands, it has been necessary for him to apply every week for a temporary license. The Act also requires that a temporary license should be held by a person who already holds a general license. As I am informed, the present holder of the temporary license has carried out the work to the satisfaction of everybody concerned; but as he does not hold a general license, it has been necessary for him to use the license of another trading concern. In addition to paying £75 per annum for the temporary license, he pays a yearly rental of £52, and furthermore has to pay for the convenience of using another person's name. The Bill provides for two slight amendments which will enable the temporary license to be granted, at the will of the Minister and subject to proper conditions, for a maximum period of five weeks, thus obviating the necessity for making weekly applications. Sometimes an application was made for Tuesday and Wednesday, and then a special sale was held on Friday, rendering it necessary to make a second application in the same week. Just why a period of five weeks has been chosen I do not know. Probably it has been considered undesirable to extend the period of the temporary license too far. Five weeks may have been selected to cover a full month, so that application need be made only once per month. The license can only be utilised on days upon which sales are held. The accommodation is of great convenience to the men who have to work at the saleyards. Further, it is undesirable that the holder of the temporary license should have to pay a third party for the privilege of using his name. If the Bill becomes law, it will save that added impost, and, in addition, will obviate the necessity for constant applications, perhaps twice a week, and certainly four times a month all the year round. I do not know that there is occasion to make further explanations. The Bill is a simple measure and if my explanation so far has not been sufficient, I may be able to elucidate any doubtful points in Committee.

Hon. G. Fraser: Will the Bill cover temporary licenses at country shows ?

Hon. Sir CHARLES NATHAN: No. The Bill specifically applies to Midland Junction alone.

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.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.47]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 17th inst.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.48 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 11th November, 1931.

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

QUESTION—PASTORAL INDUSTRY, KIMBERLEY RENTS.

Mr. COVERLEY asked the Minister for Lands: 1, What is the total amount collected from pastoral rents in the West Kimberley district annually? 2, What is the total annual amount collected from the East Kimberley pastoral district?