

for equal representation of those interests on the board, we should be doing something to overcome the present difficulties.

On motion by Hon. M. F. Troy, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 1st December, 1932.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Hon. W. H. Kitson (for Hon. J. M. Drew), leave of absence granted to Hon. T. Moore (Central) for three consecutive sittings of the House on the ground of urgent private business.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Financial Emergency Act Continuance.
- 2, Municipal Corporations Act Amendment.

Passed.

BILL—WHEAT POOL.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT.

Assembly's Message—President's Ruling.

The PRESIDENT: I have been asked to give a ruling as to whether, in Message No. 41 from the Legislative Assembly, Amend-

ment No. 5 is relevant to the subject matter of the Bill. I postponed my ruling and have gone to some trouble to ensure accuracy of decision. I have consulted May's Parliamentary Practice, and find the definition there of "subject matter" is practically identical with the interpretation in our Standing Orders. In fact "subject matter" can mean nothing else than the provisions of the Bill as printed, read a second time, and referred to the committee. It could not otherwise be correctly interpreted. I also consulted other authorities and in addition secured the best legal opinion available. All the authorities I consulted are in accord with my opinion that the proposed amendment is relevant to the subject matter of the Bill.

The word "relevant" does not mean identical; it means "to the purpose," "related to," "bearing on the matter in hand." A provision is not relevant where it introduces new principles. The proposed new clause is to vary the powers of the administrators of the Act to prohibit the use for human consumption, of water in water tanks, in certain cases, in the interests of health, just as Clause 31 conveys the very similar power to destroy or remove dairies in the interests of health. The new clause merely varies or further specifies the power of the authorities administering the Act. I, therefore, consider the amendment is relevant to the subject matter of the Bill as printed, read a second time, and referred to the committee.

In Committee.

Resumed from the previous day. Hon. J. Cornell in the Chair: the Chief Secretary in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported on amendment No. 5 made by the Legislative Assembly as follows—

No. 5. Insert a new clause, to stand as Clause 28, as follows:—

28. A section is inserted in the principal Act, after Section 153, as follows:—

153A. (1) Where any trade process, whether an offensive trade or not, has been established in any district, and is of such a nature that the carrying on thereof will unavoidably result in fumes, dust, vapour, gas, or other chemical elements which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, are likely to be injurious to health, escaping into the air, the Governor may, on the recommendation of the Commissioner, by proclamation—

(a) define any area surrounding the place where such trade process is carried

on, within which, after the issue of the proclamation and whilst the same remains unrevoked, no dwelling-house shall be erected or used for habitation; and

- (b) define any area surrounding the place where such trade process is carried on, within which, after the issue of the proclamation and whilst the same remains unrevoked, no rainwater tanks shall be erected or used, and no rainwater shall be collected or stored for human consumption:

Provided that where any dwelling-house has, prior to the issue of a proclamation under this subsection, been erected within the area defined by such proclamation as an area within which dwelling-houses shall not be erected or used, the Commissioner may, notwithstanding the proclamation, grant a permit in writing signed by him to any person to use such dwelling-house for purposes of habitation, upon and subject to such conditions as the Commissioner may deem fit to impose and which are specified in the permit so granted.

The Chief Secretary has already moved that the Assembly's amendment be agreed to.

Hon. H. SEDDON: I am opposed to the amendment, because it does not aim at the persons responsible for the noxious fumes. The culprit who is the cause of the trouble is the person the Government should go after. Why should they seek to penalise the residents of the district who are already suffering sufficiently from the introduction of this noxious process, first by prohibiting them from using rainwater and, secondly, by defining the area over which buildings may be erected. The whole thing is the responsibility of the company concerned. Elsewhere in the world stringent legislation in matters of this sort, makes the persons, responsible for the evil effects of the trouble, provide the means for overcoming it.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: The Chief Secretary said the Government intended to limit the area where any further houses could be built. I should like him to give more detail on the subject. The fumes are distributed over an area of from 10 to 20 miles. Is it intended that no one shall be allowed to build within a radius of three miles, or is it intended merely to limit the erection of homes within the immediate vicinity of the plant itself? Moreover, residents will be unable to use tanks for rainwater. There is no water scheme of any magnitude there. What is to be the method whereby the residents shall supply themselves with water? Some distance out there are wells—which probably

will become polluted—but in the heart of the town there is no scheme that could supply the residents with the necessary water.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: The amendment has been discussed from the standpoint of the ruling, whereas the duty of the Committee is to look at it from the standpoint of the State. We do not know how far-reaching this amendment may be. Clearly it is the duty of those who are contaminating the area with those fumes to do as is done in other parts of the world, and at least mitigate the evil. In a few years there will be nothing green, no growth of any kind, within 10 or 20 miles of the plant and, as suggested by Mr. Harris, probably the fumes will pollute the existing wells. I understand there is a townsite there and land has been acquired by residents from the Crown, and those residents are now to be told that they are not to build houses on their blocks. Then, to crown it all, the Commissioner is to be authorised to grant permits to people to use such dwelling-houses as are already erected within the prohibited area. I will oppose the motion.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Members ought to appreciate the seriousness of the new power sought by the amendment. We ought to pause before approving such a power. The clause is misconceived, for the person or firm committing the nuisance ought to be compelled to do that which is essential to prevent loss being suffered by others. Reference has been made to the position in other parts of the world where the manufacture of chemicals injurious to health is going on. I have heard that one firm was compelled at regular intervals to clean up wells and clean down roofs in the vicinity of the works, so as to prevent deleterious effects resulting from the deposit of arsenical dust. If we pass the amendment, we shall be penalising the owners of the land within the affected area. We should see what can be done to protect the rights of those people who have acquired such land, and to impose responsibility on the firm producing the noxious element. Why should the firm be in a position to exclude the residents from enjoying the rights of their properties? Suppose this plant and works had been erected close to Munding Weir.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: What would happen if they were erected in the South-West, where all the butter and cream come from?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Nothing has been said as to what steps could be taken to minimise the evil. How is it done in England and on the Continent?

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Was not a factory at Belmont closed up because it was having the effect of killing all the gardens in that locality?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: That is so. I suggest to the Minister that he see what can be done in the way of arresting the deposit of this arsenic on nearby land, and in the way of getting the company to do something to stop the evil.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: I am concerned about the amendment being agreed to, because it will apply to the whole State. I should like some corroboration of the statement that this class of works, when conducted in other parts of the world, can suppress the danger. If that can be done, I would have no sympathy with the company conducting this business, for it is only newly-installed, and at the outset steps should have been taken to avoid the mischief. I can see that if I were to become obstinate in regard to the amendment, I might do that district considerable harm. If we pass legislation that will prevent the people gathering rainwater within a distance of three or four miles we shall deal a severe blow to that mining community. I would prefer to vote against the amendment and compel the authorities to suppress the difficulty if it is capable of being suppressed. My desire is to assist the development of the industry to the fullest extent, but at the same time I do want to conserve to the people the right to be able to use rain water.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Hon. members have spoken about dealing with the culprit and either closing down the Wiluna mine itself or protecting the people in the district. If the mine is closed down there will be no necessity to take action, since the fumes will not be there. The arsenic is in the air, but it is not a danger until it has passed through the furnace and is given off in the fumes. There is definite proof that the water is poisonous.

Hon. E. H. Harris: That is the first we have heard of it.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I said so yesterday.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Then I missed it.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Regarding the building of homes, no one can say what would be a defined area.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: The position will get worse as it goes on.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: No, it will be likely to improve. There are many cases of arsenical poisoning at the present time; it is a difficult matter to control. Eighty per cent. of the fumes are arrested, but 20 per cent. are lost, and it is that 20 per cent. against which we have to guard. The Commissioner of Public Health tested the water in the tanks and declared it to be dangerous to human life. I hope the Committee will realise the difficult position and assist the Government in their desire to protect life in that locality.

Hon. Sir CHARLES NATHAN: I support the amendment. One must face facts. The mine is in existence and it is the desire of the department to protect the lives of those men and women living in the district by preventing them from using water if, on analysis, that water is found to be poisonous. Of course we can overcome the difficulty in one way and that is by shutting down the mine. I do not suppose any hon. member would suggest that that extreme remedy should be taken, but there is certainly an obligation cast on the Government and the owners of the mine to reduce the evil to the lowest possible minimum, and I have not the slightest doubt that both the Government and the mining company will endeavour to do that; in fact, they must do it because if the area is not habitable the mine will not be worked. In the meantime, the mine is working and the water is being contaminated, and it is very necessary that the management should protect the people against themselves. I can see no justification for voting against the amendment.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: Both the previous speaker and the Chief Secretary used the threat that the effect might be to shut down the mine.

The Chief Secretary: I made no threat.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: Go back to the early history of Kalgoorlie. Would it not have been better to have closed down a lot of those mines until they were properly equipped underground to deal with dust and other evils that endangered, and, in fact, destroyed the best of our manhood and left them as derelicts upon the State? With regard to Wiluna, water must be obtained from somewhere and everybody cannot have a well. Probably the water would be

conveyed in tanks by horse and cart from existing wells, and the tanks would have to be covered so as to prevent the fumes from contaminating the liquid. Some time ago the fumes from cement works at Burswood damaged a nursery, and the company had to pay damages and take steps to end the nuisance. Had the Fremantle smelters continued operations, the fumes when blown across country would have killed the vegetation, but, fortunately for the herbage and unfortunately for the State, the works had to close down. At Burswood the people who created the nuisance had to pay damages and rectify the trouble, but the factory did not close down. Will the Wiluna mine close down with gold at £8 an ounce? The whole thing is moonshine.

Hon. H. Seddon: That is right.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: Those who create the difficulty must deal with it. I shall fight the new clause to the very last.

Hon. H. SEDDON: Mr. Macfarlane asked what was the position in other countries. I have a copy of Halsbury's "Laws of England." Under the heading of "Public Health and Local Administration," I find that alkali work is defined as meaning every work for the manufacture of sulphate of soda or sulphate of potash, of the treatment of copper ores by common salt or other chlorides whereby any sulphate is formed, in which muriatic acid gas is evolved. Under the heading of "Noxious or Offensive Gas," I find this includes the following gases and fumes:—Muriatic acid, sulphuric acid, sulphurous acid, except that arising solely from the combustion of coal; nitric acid, and acid-forming oxides of nitrogen; sulphuretted hydrogen; chlorine and its acid compounds; fluorine compounds; cyanogen compounds; bisulphide of carbon; chloride of sulphur, fumes from cement works; fumes containing copper, lead, antimony, arsenic, zinc or other compounds; fumes from tar works. Section 801 provides—

Every alkali work must be carried on in such manner as to secure the condensation to the satisfaction of the chief inspector, of the muriatic acid gas evolved in such work, to the extent of 95 per cent., and to such an extent that in each cubic foot of air, smoke or chimney gases escaping into the atmosphere, there is not contained more than one-fifth part of a grain of muriatic acid; and the owner of a work not so carried on is liable to a fine not exceeding for a first offence, £50, and, in the case of every subsequent offence, £100.

The owner must also use the best practical means for preventing the escape of noxious or offensive gases or fumes, and for preventing the discharge of such gases into the atmosphere and so forth. That shows distinctly in what direction the legislation tends elsewhere.

Hon. J. Nicholson: The burden is placed upon the person creating the nuisance.

Hon. H. SEDDON: Yes, and heavy fines are provided in default. The company at Wiluna knew of the difficulty regarding the fumes and steps were taken in that regard before the treatment plant was established. An official was sent to Germany to study the latest methods in that country where arsenical ores are treated. We are now informed that a certain proportion of arsenical fumes are permitted to escape into the atmosphere at Wiluna. I have shown what is done in Great Britain, and I claim that the company at Wiluna are responsible for seeing that their expert does his work properly. Long before any ore was treated they knew of its arsenical contents, because we knew of it in Kalgoorlie. The amendment merely seeks to evade responsibility. The company should accept their responsibility. We should have some explanation from the Health Department as to when their attention was drawn to this matter and what action has been taken in consequence. If the difficulty is to be dealt with, it should be by way of legislation along the lines I have indicated are in operation in Great Britain. The amendment is misleading and I shall oppose it.

Hon. J. M. DREW: When the amendment was sprung on the Committee, I viewed it with a certain amount of alarm, and wondered what its consequences would be. I have since made inquiries, and I am satisfied that the Commissioner should have the powers outlined. I am certain that he will not exercise them unreasonably. From an intimate acquaintance with the general manager of the Wiluna mine, I know the Commissioner will receive his hearty co-operation in carrying out the duties that devolve upon him. There is an abundant water supply at the Wiluna mine. I inspected the well, and I know that a sufficient quantity of water will be available for years to come. Not only is the water being conveyed to the mine over a distance of seven miles, but it is automatically reticulated to the dwellings near the

mines. No one is in charge except a gardener who attends to the oiling occasionally. As regards the town supply, I notice from the local press that the supply is getting short but I do not think, in view of the supply available from the well, that there need be any fear of a shortage.

Hon. J. MACFARLANE: After thinking the matter over, I am prepared to give the Commissioner the power required. The rainfall at Wiluna is intermittent, and provision has to be made to conserve water. I understand, however, that the road board entered into negotiations with the company to secure a supply of water for the township, but were not able to get any satisfaction. I support the amendment.

Hon. H. SEDDON: The members of the Committee appear still to be under a misapprehension. Fumes that escape from the chimney at the mine are solid and fall on everything, water, road and herbage. The responsibility for remedying the trouble should rest upon the company that created the nuisance. Until we know what legislation the Government deem necessary to deal with the difficulty, we should refuse to pass the amendment, which will not apply to Wiluna only, but, if proclaimed, may apply to any other centre in the State. If the Kalgoorlie mines allow sulphurous fumes to escape in larger quantities under the floatation process, the Commissioner should take the necessary action. The Health Department officials should justify themselves. I ask the Committee to oppose the amendment.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I am astonished at the attitude of some members to what is really a matter of life and death. For a long time efforts have been made to overcome the difficulty.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: The difficulty was known of before operations were started at Wiluna.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The plant is there, but it has to be perfected. At present the plant is showing about 80 per cent. efficiency, and it is suggested that we should insist on its stopping until 100 per cent. efficiency is obtained. What is the use of Mr. Seddon talking nonsense?

Hon. H. Seddon: I was not talking nonsense.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The hon. member would have 10 or a dozen people

poisoned while waiting for something to be done.

Hon. H. Seddon: Nothing of the sort.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: A serious danger exists, and if members reject the amendment, they will be assuming a very serious responsibility. It is our duty to prevent people from acting against their own interests. Daily the plant is being improved, and the Commissioner of Health is satisfied that before long 100 per cent. efficiency will be secured. The Commissioner should have the power to prohibit the use of tanks because a large quantity of arsenic is deposited on roofs and is washed into the tanks.

Hon. H. Seddon: It is still occurring.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Yes, but the hon. member overlooks the improvements being effected.

Hon. E. H. Harris: What percentage of efficiency was obtained at the start?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Nothing like the present percentage. I appeal to members to support the Government by agreeing to this amendment, and thus protect the lives of the people.

The CHAIRMAN: I point out that the amendment simply deals with protecting people from effects. No reference is made to the cause. I have allowed members considerable latitude.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: We may congratulate ourselves upon having extracted some information from the Chief Secretary. When the proposal was first mentioned, I suggested that it referred to a certain mine, but after a few words the Chief Secretary withdrew his proposal, and I assumed that he had no objection. The amendment was approved in another place, and I cannot see any alternative to accepting it if we are going to save the people who are at Wiluna. The Government and the departments concerned should exert every effort to ensure that the parties responsible for the fumes employ all possible scientific methods to obviate the trouble. At the same time members will assume a heavy responsibility if they reject the amendment.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The position had become so serious that an amendment was framed to be dealt with in this Chamber, but at the request of Mr. Drew it was held over. I told members the amendment would be dealt with in another place. The Health Department and the mines are co-

operating to overcome the difficulty. What we have to guard against is the present danger.

Hon. H. SEDDON: Since the amendment was introduced, some three weeks have passed, but no steps have been taken to meet the position. If the amendment is to be accepted, we should insert a new clause embodying the provisions of the English Act.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: It cannot be done.

Hon. H. SEDDON: Then a special Bill should be introduced in order to discharge the responsibility we owe to the people concerned.

Hon. Sir CHARLES NATHAN: The Government should exercise all the power they possess to reduce the danger arising from the process. This amendment, however, aims at providing immediate protection for people who may be thoughtlessly using water contaminated by arsenic. By all means protect the process, but to me it seems to be the definite duty of the department to obtain the necessary authority to prevent the use of contaminated water.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Have the Government considered the question of compensating those persons who will be deprived of their property if this Bill passes into law? There is no such provision in the Bill.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: There is no provision for compensation, but no Government would inflict a hardship upon a person. At the same time, however, these people were definitely warned not to build where they did.

Hon. J. M. MACFARLANE: What power has the Commissioner to prevent the storing of well water in rainwater tanks?

The Chief Secretary: If the hon. member will read paragraph (b), he will get the information he requires.

The CHAIRMAN: Under Standing Order 215, the Committee can amend the amendment made by the Assembly. The amendment made by the Assembly may be agreed to, with or without amendment.

Hon. H. SEDDON: If that is the case, I shall move that a proviso be added to the new clause. The drafting of the proviso will have to be done by the Crown Law Department, so that the provisions of the English Act dealing with noxious fumes may be incorporated in it. I ask the Min-

ister to report progress, so that the amendment may be placed on the Notice Paper.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: If the Minister agrees to do that, I think it would be well to look further into paragraph (b). Well water might be stored in tanks.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: No harm would be done if it were.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: But I understand this poison gets in anywhere and everywhere. The men working in the process have to wear silk suits to keep the poison off their skins.

Progress reported.

BILL—APPROPRIATION.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [5.55] in moving the second reading said: This is the usual measure to provide for the appropriation of the moneys covered by the Revenue and Loan Estimates, the sale of Government Property Trust Fund, and Advance to the Treasurer. It does not include the votes under Special Acts, because such commitments have already been appropriated under power of the Acts concerned. The Treasurer's advance represents an amount allowed annually to the Treasurer to enable him to finance any excess expenditure on account of the votes on the Estimates. The advance enables the Treasurer to make necessary advances to departments and to finance works where the debits to revenue votes are spread over a number of years, and in some cases where the apportionment between revenue and loan accounts cannot be finalised until the work is completed. The schedules to the Bill give the details and classify the various transactions as follows:—Schedule "A" summarises the total amounts shown on the various estimates. Portion of this amount has been provided for on the two Supply Bills and the remainder by this Bill. Schedule "B" sets out each department's requirements from Consolidated Revenue Fund. Schedule "C" refers to the amounts required from the Government Property Sales Fund. Schedule "D" details the provisions under the General Loan Fund and Schedule "E" states the purposes for which the Advances to Treasurer are required and how such advances are to be cleared, and within what period.

Schedule "F" summarises last year's excesses under the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which were paid out of the Treasurer's Advance, and for which approval is now required. It will be seen that they amount to a total of £332,095, of which Unemployment Relief accounts for £163,996, Exchange on London requirements £20,058, Miners' Phthisis £10,699, and Industries Assistance Act £36,449. The remaining two Schedules "G" and "H" show the excesses granted last year under the General Loan Fund and the Sale of Government Property Trust Fund, for which approval is now required. It was hoped that the price of primary products would show a substantial and profitable increase, but unfortunately the world's markets are still in a state of chaos and the expected increases have not become a reality. This has had an adverse effect on State finances and, consequently, instead of being able to forecast an increase of revenue, it has been necessary to make provision on the estimates for a decrease. The question of Loan moneys was carefully considered by the Loan Council this year, with the result that it was decided to raise a total of £22,000,000 for the year to meet ordinary loan works, unemployment relief and deficits. Our proportion of this sum was allocated as follows:—

	£
Ordinary Loan	1,180,000
Unemployment Relief Loan	500,000
Winter Relief Loan	145,000

and in addition to that it is expected to receive from Loan repayments and local raisings, the sum of £130,000, making a total of £1,955,000 available for loan expenditure. Last year our total Loan expenditure amounted to only £1,380,225. Owing to the comparatively small amount of loan money available last year, no new public works of any importance were carried out, but certain works were continued, the principal items of expenditure being:—

	£
Railway Construction:	
Bridgetown-Jarnadup Extension }	104,659
Lake Grace-Kalgarin Railway }	
Meekatharra-Wiluna Railway }	
Harbour Works	70,326
Sewerage and Drainage	82,365
Goldfields Water Supply	77,799
Metropolitan Water Supply	54,357
Irrigation and Water Supply in Agricultural and North-West Districts	251,174
Development of Agriculture	62,777
Agricultural Bank, Soldier, and Group Settlement	473,836

In addition to the £1,955,385 loan money available this year, there will also be the amount of this State's share of the Commonwealth grant for winter relief, amounting to £145,000. This will bring our total loan accommodation up to £2,100,000. This latter amount is not included in these estimates as it is purely and simply Commonwealth expenditure. The restrictions on loan moneys and the falling-off in ordinary revenue receipts have made the position very difficult. Exchange and unemployment relief have been a great drain on the Treasury, without any corresponding value being received. This year's proposed loan expenditure has been framed with the main object of providing employment, and as a result works have been chosen on which the bulk of the expenditure will be paid out in wages. The necessary expenditure on materials is to be utilised as far as possible in the purchase of local products, so as to keep the money in the State and stimulate local industry. Owing to our commitments under the heading of Development of Agriculture, this item again represents the greatest amount asked for in any one division of the Loan Estimates, £686,800. It includes the Agricultural Bank requirements of £500,000, made up as follows:—

	£
Agricultural Bank	363,000
Soldier Settlement	4,000
Industries Assistance Board	80,000
Agricultural Group Settlement	56,000

An amount of £80,000 has been allocated under this heading for reforestation work, to be utilised for unemployment relief work only, and is estimated to be sufficient to maintain 1,430 men on part-time employment for the year.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Does that come under the Agricultural Department?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: No, the Forests Department. The next in importance is the provision for water supplies and sewerage, the total of which is £645,150. Of this amount it is proposed to expend £154,000 on metropolitan sewerage and drainage works, and £290,000 is provided for water supply in agricultural and north-western districts and for drainage and irrigation works in the agricultural and south-western districts, including the works at Harvey and on the Wellington dam.

Hon. G. W. Miles: How much will be spent in the north-west?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The hon. member will find the details in the schedule. The amount set aside for the goldfields water supply this year is £75,000. This will be utilised mainly in the overhaul and renewal of the pipe line. The work is very necessary as some of the original pipes laid over 30 years ago have now reached the limit of usefulness and it is necessary that they be replaced. An amount of £267,000 has been provided for Railways and Tramways. The bulk of this will be required for the continuation of works already in hand. The sum of £20,000 will be required for the construction of new, and alterations to existing rolling stock. An amount of £20,000 is also earmarked for the completion of a number of new bogie cars for the Tramways, and the provision of an electric trolley service from the corner of Kensington-street, East Perth, along Wellington-street to the West Perth markets and with a possible extension to the Town Hall, Leederville. The Wellington-street tramline has never been a payable one. It has now become worn out and it is considered inadvisable to expend further funds in renewal. It is thought that an extended bus service will avoid additional loss of revenue. An amount of £35,000 has been provided this year for the Workers' Homes Board to enable them to renew their building programme. This will also assist them to complete a number of applications that had been held up, owing to shortage of money. It has been found necessary to increase the amount for works on harbours and rivers this year. Last year £71,425 was spent on these activities, but the estimate for this year is set out at £122,500. Of this amount it is intended to expend £51,000 on the harbour works at Geraldton, £50,000 at Fremantle and £20,000 at Bunbury. I shall be pleased to supply further information when replying to the debate, and will endeavour, in Committee, to answer any inquiries in connection with the Loan Estimates. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. G. W. Miles, debate adjourned.

BILL—CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT ACT (1931) CONTINUANCE.

In Committee.

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

BILL—LOAN, £2,176,000.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [6.5] in moving the second reading said: The purpose of the Bill is to give the necessary authority for the raising of loan moneys to meet the anticipated requirements under the headings set forth in the schedules to the Bill. The amount for which authority is required is £2,176,000 and is considerably less than the amount authorised last year. This is not because we do not require as much as in other years, but because finance has become increasingly difficult. Under the Premiers' Plan all expenditure has to be curtailed to the very lowest possible figure with the result that new works are out of the question, and expenditure on existing works and utilities has been reduced to the barest necessities. The financial position is still obscure and until there is some possibility of increased revenue and balanced budgets, all expenditure will have to be rigidly controlled. It is necessary, however, for the Government to have authority to raise loans to the amount stated, to carry out the services outlined in the schedule. The proposals of the Government for the expenditure of the money are detailed in the Appropriation Bill. Of the total amount of £2,176,000, a sum of £1,088,000 will be required to continue or complete the services specified in the schedule and the actual authority for its expenditure is sought in the Appropriation Bill. The balance of the £2,176,000 is approximately the amount that will be required to enable this State to meet the estimated deficit for the year and the State's proportion of the necessary discounts and flotation expenses. As that amount will become part of the Public Debt, it must be covered by treasury bills, and Parliamentary authority must be obtained for the raising of it in the same way as ordinary loan funds. It was previously the custom to treat the funds required for deficit purposes as short term

advances, but that procedure was recently altered and treasury bills are now issued to cover the funds provided until Parliament approves of the action of the Federal Treasurer, in issuing the securities on behalf of the State. The whole of the works listed in the first schedule have already appeared on previous Loan Bills, and are being carried out mainly as unemployment relief works. The second schedule refers to certain authorisations which were carried forward from previous Loan Bills, and are not now required for the purpose set out, and are being transferred to the credit of other items, in order to avoid application for a further authorisation. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. J. Cornell, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 1st December, 1932.

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

QUESTION—BULK HANDLING, OFFER TO FINANCE.

Mr. J. I. MANN asked the Premier: Is it a fact, as reported in the Press, that the firm of Brine & Sons have made an offer to finance the erection of an orthodox system of bulk handling in the State?

The PREMIER replied: Yes, subject to certain conditions.

BILL—ROCKINGHAM ROAD DISTRICT (LOAN RATE EXEMPTION.)

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—COLLIE RECREATION AND PARK LANDS ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

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

BILL—BULK HANDLING.

Report of Joint Select Committee.

Debate resumed from the previous day on the following motion by Hon. N. Keenan:—“That the Bill, as amended by the joint Select Committee, be recommitted to a Committee of the whole House, and its consideration in Committee be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House.”

HON. J. C. WILLCOCK (Geraldton) [4.38]: I do not desire to make a long speech at this stage on the report of the Joint Select Committee. The ground was covered very completely by the Committee's report and the evidence and the report have been technically criticised, if I may put it that way, by the member for South Fremantle (Hon. A. McCallum), with reference to many outstanding features. It seems to me that most of the members of the Joint Select Committee embarked upon their consideration of the Bill with preconceived ideas that, apparently, were not altered very much as a result of their investigations. That does not apply to the member for Subiaco (Mr. Richardson); I am speaking generally. As to the chairman, I do not know what his opinions were prior to the consideration of the Bill by the select committee. From my reading of the evidence and the report, I have come to the conclusion that he soon became possessed, with intense fervour, of views favourable to the proposal for the establishment of bulk handling facilities and his fervour progressed daily until at the end of the consideration of the evidence, in his preparation of the report, he made use of language that has been designated as extravagantly favourable towards the scheme. I am inclined to agree with that criticism. I have no desire to