

Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 21st December, 1931.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.30 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTION—TRAMWAYS, CHILDREN'S FARES.

Mr. CROSS asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is he aware that the through fare for children from the Causeway to Como is 1d., and that frequently it is necessary to change trams at the Zoo intersection, a change which costs the children concerned a double fare for the journey? 2, As this practice is detrimental to Como interests and an impost on the children concerned, will he immediately make arrangements for the children to travel at all times between the Causeway and Como for a penny fare?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes. 2, No. To alter the existing arrangement would necessitate the re-introduction of transfers, which is not considered desirable.

QUESTION—STATE FERRIES.

Mr. CROSS asked the Minister for Railways: Will he make inquiries as to the possibility of the local construction and the probable cost of a new ferry-boat for the South Perth ferry service?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: Yes; the matter is already in hand.

QUESTION—SEWERAGE, METROPOLITAN AREA.

Mr. McDONALD asked the Minister for Works: 1, Does the amount of £1,085,000, the estimated cost of the extension of the metropolitan sewerage scheme, include the £400,000 extension of the Claremont-Cottesloe area recently authorised? 2, Does the amount include the cost of extra water mains for sewerage purposes? 3, On what basis is the amount to be financed? 4, What area will the extensions cover? 5, What rate will be necessary to meet the full commitment for sewerage expenditure for the metropolitan area when this scheme is completed? 6, Will this necessitate any extension of the maximum rate under the existing Act? 7, (a) If the amount of maximum rate raised in each local government district is insufficient to meet the requirements of interest and sinking fund and maintenance will the shortage be a charge against the whole metropolitan area? (b) If so, what proportion of this general charge will fall upon the City of Perth? 8, How many houses is it estimated will be sewered by the extensions proposed? 9, What is the average estimated cost to a householder of connecting with the scheme? 10, (a) Is it the intention of the Government to finance householders' connections? (b) If so, upon what terms and conditions and how do the Government propose to finance householders?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1 to 10, The information is being prepared.

BILL—LOTTERIES (CONTROL) AMENDMENT.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had disagreed to the further amendments made by the Assembly to the Council's amendments Nos. 1 and 2, and insisted upon its original amendments.

In Committee.

Mr. Sleeman in the Chair; the Minister for Police in charge of the Bill.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I move—

That the Assembly continue to disagree with the amendments made by the Legislative Council.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I hope the Minister will accept these amendments. A conference will not get us much further. There has to be a limit in regard to conferences.

The Acting Premier: We could have the two conferences at the one time.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: These may not be all the conferences that will be held.

The Acting Premier: I hope so.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I anticipate there will be others. It gives me a great deal of concern to have these endurance tests, which is all they are.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments again disagreed to.

Assembly's Request for Conference.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I move—

That a conference be requested with the Council on the Council's amendments which have again been disagreed to, and that the managers for the Assembly be Mr. Kenneally, Mr. Thorn, and the mover.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

Sitting suspended from 2.50 p.m. to 3.50 p.m.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read notifying assent to the undermentioned Bills:—

1. Tenants, Purchasers, and Mortgagees' Relief Act Amendment.
2. Mortgagees' Rights Restriction Act Continuance.
3. Reduction of Rents Act Continuance.

BILL—LOTTERIES (CONTROL) AMENDMENT.*Council's Further Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Assembly's request for a conference on the

amendments insisted on by the Council and disagreed to by the Assembly, had appointed the Hon. W. H. Kitson, Hon. J. J. Holmes and Hon. A. Thomson as managers for the Council, the Chief Secretary's room as the place of meeting, and the time forthwith.

BILL—FINANCIAL EMERGENCY TAX ASSESSMENT ACT AMENDMENT.*Council's Further Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it agreed to the Assembly's request for a conference, had appointed Hon. C. F. Baxter, Hon. J. Nicholson and the Chief Secretary as managers for the Council, the President's room as the place of meeting and the time forthwith.

Sitting suspended from 3.53 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Conference Managers' Report.

The ACTING PREMIER: I desire to report that the conference managers met and agreed that the Bill be passed in the form in which it was originally transmitted from the Assembly and was received and read a first and second time by the Council, the Government giving the assurance that the rate of taxation will be reviewed sympathetically next year.

Report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

BILL—LOTTERIES (CONTROL) AMENDMENT.*Conference Managers' Report.*

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I desire to report that the managers of the Assembly met the managers of the Council in conference, and have arrived at an agreement as follows:—

Amendment No. 1. Clause 2: Disagree with the Council's amendment, and insert the following in lieu thereof:—Strike out the whole of the Clause and insert the following:—

2. Section 3 of the principal Act is hereby amended by striking out the second proviso in paragraph (f) and inserting the following:—"Provided that the aggregate fees payable to all the members in any one year commencing on the first day of January

shall not exceed the sum of £1,000, of which the chairman shall be entitled to receive a sum not exceeding £500, and the remaining three members a sum not exceeding £166 13s. 4d. each."

Amendment No. 2. (Limitation of Act to the end of the year 1935): Agree to the Council's amendment. The agreement means in effect the striking out of the section in the principal Act dealing with the division of the amount of £1,000 amongst the Commissioners, and the substitution, in lieu of that section, of the clause in the Bill under which the chairman is to receive £500, and the remaining £500 is to be distributed equally amongst the other three Commissioners. This means that there will be four Commissioners. The Act will be extended only to the end of 1935.

Report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

BILL—LAND ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Amendments.

Returned from the Council with a Schedule of three amendments now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Hegney in the Chair: the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 5: Insert a further sub-clause, as follows:—"(6) If any lease so amended under this section is subject to any encumbrance or if an amendment has already been made in a lease as referred to in the last preceding subsection and that lease was subject to any encumbrance at the date of such amendment, then by force of this Act such encumbrance shall be deemed to attach or to have attached to the land included in the boundaries of such lease as amended as if such land had been the subject of the lease at the date of such encumbrance."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Hon. C. G. Latham: It applies where there is an alteration of boundaries?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes. The encumbrance will cover the amended boundaries.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Nothing will be transferred?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No.

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

No. 2. Clause 10: Strike out all the words of the clause after the word "adding," in line 9, and substitute the following subsections as follows:—

(5) When any reserve, road or stock route comprising land within or adjoining the boundaries of a pastoral lease is—

(i) found on survey or otherwise to be incorrectly shown in the plan on the pastoral lease in relation to the boundaries of any such land; or

(ii) cancelled or closed, as the case may be, as regards such land or the position thereof is altered in such a way as to affect the boundaries of the pastoral lease the Minister may direct—

in case (i) that the said plan be corrected;

in case (ii) that the said lands be added to the area of the pastoral lease or that the boundaries be amended to conform to such alteration in position and that the rent be adjusted accordingly.

(6) The Minister shall give notice to the Registrar of Titles of any amendment made under this section to the boundaries (and area and rental, if altered) of a Crown lease registered under the Transfer of Land Act, 1893, and its amendments, and such notice shall be accompanied by a plan, certified by the Surveyor General, showing the original and amended boundaries, and the Registrar, on receipt of such notice and plan, shall amend the original and duplicate lease in accordance therewith.

(7) If any pastoral lease amended under this section is subject to any encumbrance, then, by force of this Act, such encumbrance shall be deemed to attach to the land included in the boundaries of the pastoral lease as amended as if such land had been the subject of the lease at the date of such encumbrance."

Section 97 of the Act provides for amendment of boundaries of pastoral leases, but makes no provision for alteration in the boundaries of leases adjoining roads, reserves, or stock routes, when on survey the boundaries of roads, reserves and so forth are found to be inconsistent. Clause 10 adds a new subsection to Section 97 of the Act,

requiring the Minister to give notice to the Registrar of Titles when a pastoral lease the subject of a Crown lease is amended. The Council's amendment retains the proposed subsection in the Bill, but inserts two other proposed subsections, Nos. 5 and 7. The proposed Subsection 5 provides that when it is found that the boundaries of a reserve, road or stock route which is within or adjoins any pastoral lease are inconsistent, the boundaries of the reserve, road, or stock route shall be corrected and the boundaries of the pastoral lease shall be amended accordingly. It also provides that if such a road, reserve, or stock route is cancelled or closed, the Minister may direct that the land in such reserve, road or stock route shall be added to a pastoral lease, subject to any necessary adjustment in rent. The proposed Subsection 7 conforms with the Council's amendment to Clause 5 of the Bill; that is to say, when any additional land is brought into a pastoral lease as the result of an amendment of the boundaries of the lease, and the lease is subject to an encumbrance when such amendment takes place, the encumbrance shall extend so as to cover such additional land. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

No. 3. Clause 11: Add to paragraph (b) the words "and also by striking out the words 'growing or,' in the fourth line thereof."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: This amendment merely represents a correction. The right of the Minister for Lands to issue licenses for the cutting and removing or carting of timber was struck out here. That is now the responsibility of the Minister for Forests. The Lands Department are not concerned with these licenses. The words which the Council suggests should be struck out are meaningless and ought to have been struck out in the first instance. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

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

BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

1, Appropriation.

2, Roads Closure.

Without amendment.

MOTION—LEGISLATURE, CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS.

Standing Orders Suspension.

THE ACTING PREMIER (Hon. McCallum—South Fremantle) [9.13]: I desire to direct the attention of the House to the position that has arisen between the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly with regard to money Bills, and I move a motion dealing with the matter. It will be necessary first for me to secure the suspension of the Standing Orders. I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a motion to be passed dealing with the presentation of the case to the Privy Council to settle the constitutional points in dispute between the Council and the Assembly.

Question put.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have counted the House and there is a statutory majority present. There being no dissenting voice, I declare the motion passed in the affirmative.

Reference to Privy Council.

THE ACTING PREMIER (Hon. McCallum—South Fremantle) [9.15]: I move—

Whereas disputes have arisen, and are still arising, between the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly in regard to matters in which are involved the meaning, construction, and effect of the provisions of Section 4 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, 1897, as amended by the Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1921, insofar as they relate to define the constitutional powers and privileges of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly in regard to Bills in Parliament and by an agreement reached by the two Houses aforesaid in the year 1927 it was agreed to refer the matters in dispute aforesaid to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for its decision thereon. And whereas it is desirable that finality should be obtained by means of such reference as aforesaid upon the said matters in dispute: Therefore, subject to the approval of His Majesty and the consent of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to act and decide the matters aforesaid, the

House will appoint a Committee of five of its members to prepare the Case of the Legislative Assembly in support of its contentions in relation to the matters in dispute as aforesaid, and requests the Legislative Council to appoint a Committee of five of its members to prepare the Case of the Legislative Council in support of its contentions in relation to the same matters aforesaid, for submission respectively to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for its decision thereon, with power to both Committees, when appointed, to sit during recess and to confer with each other, and that the Speaker, on behalf of both Houses, be empowered forthwith through His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to endeavour to obtain the approval of His Majesty and the consent and such directions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as may be requisite to enable the matters in dispute as aforesaid to be referred thereto for its decision thereon as aforesaid.

It will be remembered that in 1927 both Houses agreed that the eternal disputes between the two branches of the Legislature regarding the interpretation particularly of section 45 of the Constitution Act, should be submitted to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for final determination. Some difficulty has been experienced in arriving at an arrangement between the two Houses with regard to the preparation of the case to be submitted. I have been advised that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council have Constitutional power to deal only with appeals from Colonial courts, and it will be first of all necessary to secure the permission of His Majesty the King for the Privy Council to act and then to obtain the consent of the Privy Council Committee themselves to act. The proposal outlined in the motion is that a committee of five members from each House shall be empowered to draw up the case and take all necessary steps to have the case submitted through His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor and the proper channels in order to get a correct settlement and finality. Ever since I have been a member of this House, irrespective of what brand of politics may have been represented by the Government of the day, each Administration has had to face disputes between the two Houses respecting money and other bills. We have again had that experience in this session and it is essential that some proper understanding be arrived at. The agreement that was reached in 1927 was, I think, the correct one. We should go to the highest tribunal in the Empire and ask for a decision. When that is received, both

Houses will have to accept the decision arrived at. It will be for the committee that will be appointed to go into the whole position and draw up the case. The committees of each House can if they so desire confer, or may submit the cases for the respective Houses separately. That will be for them to determine for themselves. They will have to approach His Majesty the King and authority will be vested in the Speaker to take all the necessary steps. He will see to it that all necessary action is taken. I think the motion covers the whole ground, and will enable the case to go to the Privy Council so that an adequate decision may be reached. It is inconceivable that the present situation should be permitted to continue. It does not matter which Government happens to be in office, there is always trouble. Speaker after Speaker has ruled that the Legislative Council have overstepped their authority in amending financial Bills, and just as often President after President has ruled to the contrary. It is in the interests of sound government that the position be determined, so that Governments may be in a position to budget with safety, knowing that they have control of the finances. They should know they are in that position, or else be aware of the fact that the finances will be subject to review by a body outside their authority. Whatever decision may be reached, Governments will know exactly what position they are in. The motion may appear to be very long, but I do not think it is too lengthy considering the ground that has to be covered. It is not necessary at this stage to go back and trace the disputes that have occurred from time to time. I take it the committee, when appointed, will require to go into that phase and state specific instances for the information and decision of the Privy Council. They will have to go through the records of past years and cite specific disputes. By that means they will be able to place before the Privy Council the points upon which a decision is desired. There are many such disputes on record and, in fact, they have occurred almost annually. They have been always a source of worry and anxiety to successive Treasurers. Such a state of affairs is not in the best interests of Parliament or of good government. It is essential that finality be reached.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (York) [9.26]: I welcome the motion. It is about time we secured a definite ruling on what constitutes a money Bill. Over a period of many years we have experienced these disputes between the Council and the Assembly, and from time to time attempts have been made to amend our Standing Orders to conform to the provisions of the Constitution Act. Whatever we have done has not relieved the position. I trust that the step proposed will result in the prevention of these recurring disputes. Even if they are not wholly prevented, I trust that the step to be taken will at least minimise the necessity for holding conferences between managers from the two Houses, particularly at the end of a session. The Constitution provides that there shall be two Houses of Parliament, but there is no provision enabling three members from each House to meet together to determine important matters affecting the welfare of the State.

Mr. Needham: A sort of super-Parliament.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: That is so. They hold their meetings behind closed doors, whereas Parliament discusses matters with open doors and in the light of day. The present system places tremendous power in the hands of certain members who are appointed as managers from time to time. That applies in respect of money Bills that affect the public materially. When dealing with such measures open discussions should take place, and the whole of the information should be available to the public. If the result of the motion will improve the situation in that regard, I shall be pleased. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council may advise us whether it is necessary to amend the Constitution to make the position clearer. In that event, we should amend our Standing Orders so that we shall for all time have a determination as to what constitutes a money Bill. Even in this House we disagree from time to time on that point. In those circumstances, I welcome the motion and hope it will result in finality.

HON. N. KEENAN (Nedlands) [9.28]: Everyone will support any attempt that is made to solve the difficulty that has arisen from the conflicting constructions placed on the Constitution Act as it stands to-day. Provision was substituted for a former sec-

tion which merely restrained another place from dealing with any matter which had, in accordance with the Constitution, to originate in this House, in any other way than by message requesting the omission or amendment of any item or provision. No doubt it was thought in 1921 that the amendment that was passed would clarify the position and define it sufficiently, but that hope has been frustrated by the different constructions placed upon that particular section. I do not know that the procedure proposed at this stage will finally be found to be the most appropriate, but whatever the procedure necessary may be, it is of course desirable that it should be resorted to. I do know that the Privy Council will not consider academic cases, that is, they will not sit in Chambers and discuss problems which have no relation to accepted facts. Hon. members are aware that the members of the Privy Council, while not sitting so much within their legal rights as within their personal capacity, have more than once, at the request of His Majesty, acted as referees for the purpose of determining constitutional matters. I have no doubt that will be found to be the means of dealing with this matter. As a court they can only sit to hear appeals dealing with actual matters at issue, as for instance, the appeal from New South Wales when the matter at issue dealt with the constitutional question arising out of the creation of the new Upper House. Here, as the Acting Premier has said, we are requesting His Majesty to ask certain members of the Privy Council to sit simply in their personal capacity, as has been done before. If all the parties agree to accept the decision of the Privy Council, that decision will be equally binding as if the Privy Councilors were sitting as a court. Whilst it is very desirable to clear up the position which has arisen so often, it will not do away with the necessity at the end of the session of having committees of managers for the purpose of adjusting differences of opinion between the two Houses. Those committees of managers are called into existence not merely in connection with money Bills, or matters arising out of disputes in connection with money Bills, but in respect of other Bills also, and whilst it may be said that those Committees create some kind of super-Parliament, from my point of view it seems to be desirable to adjust in this man-

ner differences of opinion existing between the two Houses. Very often from such conferences beneficial results have followed. If the conferences of managers were to be eliminated, the only result would be that the two Houses would have to remain at loggerheads, and that is not desirable. This matter of appeal—if it can be called an appeal—to His Majesty to request certain members of his Privy Council to sit in the Privy Council chamber in appellate jurisdiction to act as a tribunal to determine the construction to be placed on the section in question, should not be construed to mean that it is desired to eliminate the practice we have hitherto followed of having managers appointed in respect of matters in dispute between the two Houses.

Mr. Needham: That is not suggested in the motion.

Hon. N. KEENAN: I have pleasure in supporting the motion, and I hope it will have a fruitful result. I presume that the other House has been asked to pass a similar motion.

The Acting Premier: It is proposed to transmit this to the Legislative Council.

Hon. N. KEENAN: In that case it only remains for us to wish success to the present effort to find a means of settling this far too long delayed but interesting point.

MR. F. C. L. SMITH (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [9.34]: I am not quite clear about the meaning of the motion. I should like to ask the Acting Premier for some explanation of its terms. According to my reading of it, if it is carried, it proposes that we shall request the Legislative Council to appoint a committee of five of their members to prepare the case without any qualification being attached to that request; but so far as the appointment of the committee of members of the Legislative Assembly is concerned, there is a qualification, by a paragraph in the motion, that they shall be appointed, subject to the approval of His Majesty and the consent of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to prepare the case of the Legislative Assembly. If that is the position, it is not going to be this Parliament that will appoint the five members. The first procedure will be to get the approval of His Majesty and the consent of the Judicial Committee of the Privy

Council, and at some future session then the committee will be appointed for the purpose of preparing the case.

THE ACTING PREMIER (Hon. A. McCallum—South Fremantle—in reply) [9.36]: The hon. member, I think, has misread the motion. I propose to ask the House to appoint a committee as soon as the motion has been disposed of. The motion provides that the committee shall prepare a case and submit it to the Privy Council subject to His Majesty's consent, and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council will act. It would be of no use sending the case forward unless the Government had arranged for the Privy Council to act. In the meantime the committee will prepare the case and have everything ready to send to London the moment we learn that His Majesty's approval has been granted. This, it is thought, will save time. That is the meaning of the motion, and it is proposed to forward it to the Legislative Council for their approval and the appointment of a committee to represent that Chamber.

Question put and passed.

Committee Appointed.

On motion by the Acting Premier, a committee was appointed consisting of the Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Hon. M. F. Troy, Mr. McDonald, and Mr. Patrick.

On further motion by the Acting Premier, ordered: That the resolution be transmitted by message to the Legislative Council, and their concurrence desired therein.

BILL—LOTTERIES (CONTROL) AMENDMENT.

Council's Further Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the report of the conference managers.

BILL—FINANCIAL EMERGENCY TAX ASSESSMENT ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Further Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the report of the conference managers.

BILL—DEATH DUTIES (TAXING).*Council's Requested Amendment.*

Returned from the Council with a requested amendment.

In Committee.

Mr. Hegney in the Chair; the Minister for Justice in charge of the Bill.

Fourth Schedule: That all words after "rates" in line 9, down to and including the figures and words "two per cent." in line 15, be struck out.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: The Fourth Schedule provides that the duties payable in respect of the share or interest of a deceased person who was at the time of his death domiciled out of Western Australia shall be payable on the net present value of the shares or interest of such deceased person, as ascertained in accordance with the provisions of Subsection 2 of Section 52 of the Assessment Act and shall be at the rates set out. It is proposed by the amendment to limit the tax to shares over the value of £1,000. I move—

That the amendment be made.

Question put and passed, the Council's amendment made.

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

Sitting suspended from 9.45 p.m. to 5 a.m.

MOTION—ELECTORAL ACT JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.*Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it concurred in the Assembly's resolution for the appointment of a joint select committee to consider the Electoral Act, 1907-21, and had appointed five members to act thereon.

BILL—RESERVES.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

BILL—FINANCIAL EMERGENCY TAX.*Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Bill as returned by the Assembly with the amendment made therein in accordance with the Council's request.

BILL—DEATH DUTIES (TAXING).*Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Bill as returned by the Assembly with the amendment made therein in accordance with the Council's request.

Sitting suspended from 5.5 a.m. to 7 a.m.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

- 1, Purchasers' Protection Amendment.
With an amendment.
- 2, Farmers' Debts Adjustment Amendment.
With amendments.

BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK.*Council's Amendments.*

Returned from the Council with a schedule of 21 amendments which were now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Hegney in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 4: After the definition of "Commissioners" insert a definition, as follows:—

"'Prior encumbrance' includes any mortgage, bill of sale, lien, charge, or other registrable encumbrance over the real or personal property of a borrower—
(a) which, at the commencement of this Act, was duly registered; or
(b) which is registered after the passing of this Act, and is so registered prior to any mortgage given to the Commissioners by such borrower; and 'prior encumbrancer' means the holder of a prior encumbrance."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The amendment introduces a new definition which I do not propose to accept. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 2. Clause 5: Subclause (c)—Insert after the word "Commissioners" at the end of the paragraph the words "but any such appointment shall be subject to the approval of Parliament."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The procedure with respect to the Agricultural Bank has always been that such officials as trustees or commissioners have been appointed by the Government of the day. That principle should not be departed from. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 3. Clause 5.—Delete paragraph (d), and substitute a paragraph as follows:—
 "(d) Subject as hereinafter mentioned, one of the two members appointed by the Governor, and as determined by the Governor, shall hold office for the term of seven years, and the other shall hold office for the term of four years from the date of their appointments, respectively, and each member shall on the expiration of his term of office be eligible for re-appointment for either four years or seven years as the Governor may determine, but so that the respective terms of the two members holding office for the time being shall not expire simultaneously."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: This amendment restricts the terms of the appointments to seven years and four years. I am of opinion that it may not be possible to secure an eligible man for a term of four years. An appointee such as Parliament will expect would not accept an appointment for four years. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 4. Clause 5, Paragraph (i).—Delete the word "appointed," line 1, and insert "permitted."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I do not think "permitted" is the proper word. I

move an amendment on the Council's amendment—

That "permitted" be struck out, and the word "eligible" inserted in lieu.

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

No. 5. Clause 41, Paragraph (b).—Insert after "security," at the end of the paragraph, the words "but subject to Section sixty-seven."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Clause 67, referred to in this amendment, provides that the Bank mortgage shall be subject to any prior encumbrance. I do not propose to agree to that clause. Therefore I now move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 6. Clause 50, Subclause (1).—Delete the words "refunded to a borrower," line 3, and insert the words "suspended or postponed."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The words proposed to be inserted are not words suitable for the clause. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 7.—Delete the word "one," line 4, and insert "two."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: This amendment I consider necessary, in view of the Chamber having inserted another clause. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

No. 8. Delete the words "other encumbrances," line 8, and insert "encumbrances other than prior encumbrances."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The same objection applies here with regard to the definition of "encumbrance." Wherever possible, another place has endeavoured to allow preference to a prior encumbrance. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 9. Insert after the word "lands," line 11, the words "mortgaged to the Bank or the commissioners."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The Council here endeavours to restrict the lien of the Bank on land mortgaged to the commissioners. Some people are using money of the Bank borrowed on one property, to develop another property. They state, of course, that they get their returns from the other property. In quite a few districts of Western Australia people have two farms—one being mortgaged to the Bank, the other not mortgaged. These people use the Bank's property to build up the other property, which may be only a few miles distant. The Bill as it left this Chamber provided that the product in such a case should go to the commissioners. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed: the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 10. Clause 52.—Delete the words "refunded to the borrower" and insert "or for any reason which in the opinion of the commissioners is sufficient, suspend or postpone payment of."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Under the clause the commissioners, in the event of failure of crop, were given power to refund to a borrower part of his interest. The Legislative Council, to make it more elastic, has provided that the payment may be suspended or postponed for any reason which, in the opinion of the commissioners, is sufficient. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: It would be only reasonable to give the commissioners power to allow this to be done for reasons other than failure of crops. A client may be placed in just as unfortunate a position through any of many other reasons, as for instance, fire or flood.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Already the clause provided for this assistance to be given in the event either of failure of crop or of seasonal operations. I am going to suggest that the Bill go to a conference and be put into shape there.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 11. Clause 52.—In line 7 delete the word "refunded" and substitute "suspended or postponed."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move—
That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 12. Clause 52.—Delete all words after "commissioners" in line 10.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Again I cannot accept this. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 13. Clause 57.—After "shall" in line 2 of Subclause 2 insert "subject to Section 67."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: This means that moneys expended in making improvements shall be subject to Section 67, which means private companies. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 14. Clause 58, Subclause (1): After "encumbrancer" in line 3, insert "other than a prior encumbrancer."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: For the same reason I cannot accept this. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 15. Clause 58, Subclause (2): Strike out "and" in line 2, and insert "if such advances be made with the consent of any prior mortgagee or encumbrancee then."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I do not know of any instance of anyone but the Bank being the first mortgagee. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 16. Clause 59: Strike out paragraph (e) of Subclause (1) and insert the following:—

(e) when on the decease of the owner or occupier the land would, by reason of

any devise, bequest, intestacy or otherwise, become subdivided, the commissioners may require the land to be sold or otherwise disposed of within twelve months after the death of the owner or occupier to some one person, and in default the commissioners may cause the same to be sold.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: This simplifies the sale. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

No. 17. Clause 61: Delete.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 18. Clause 63:

(a) Strike out all words down to and including "require" in line 2, and insert the following:—

The commissioners may make it a condition of agreeing to any such suspension or postponement that.

(b) Strike out the word "to" in line 3.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I will accept this. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

No. 19. Clause 64, paragraph (c): Strike out "(c)" and all words to and including "require" in line 3, and insert the following:—

"but the commissioners may make it a condition of agreeing to any such writing off and reduction."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

No. 20. New clause: Insert as Clause 36:—

Officer to be appointed in connection with discharged soldiers.

36. The commissioners shall appoint, and at all times have upon the staff of the Bank, an officer who is a discharged sol-

dier within the meaning of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, 1918, to assist the commissioners and other persons who are discharged soldiers within the meaning of the said Act in transactions between the Bank and such persons.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I will accept this. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: This is not going to be of benefit to anybody, because you will simply have the man on the door. The Minister will never agree to anything at variance with his own views, but when he gets a useless amendment like this, he is prepared to agree to it. I think we could get something more tangible if we tried to amend it. I move an amendment on the Council's amendment—

That in lines 1 and 2 the words "and at all times have upon the staff of the Bank" be struck out.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I see no objection to the new clause. Certainly the hon. member's amendment will not alter it, and if it is to be still further amended it might just as well go out altogether. Under the Council's amendment the commissioners will appoint some responsible person. In spite of the hon. member's amendment, it would be possible for the commissioners to appoint a doorkeeper. In any case it will be merely a sentimental appointment, for the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act has been in operation for many years and the work under it is finished. This is merely to give the returned soldiers a guarantee that someone will be there to represent them.

Mr. PIESSE: The soldier settlers have lost their direct representative granted them under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act. I hope that their claim for a representative will be conceded and that the Leader of the Opposition will be careful.

Hon. C. G. Latham: I am not going to make a fool of myself.

Mr. PIESSE: Soldier settlers view the loss of their direct representative with considerable concern, and I hope they will be granted something adequate in substitution for what they are losing.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: If the Minister accepts the Council's amendment, that will be the end of it and something futile to the

soldier settlers will be placed in the measure, whereas if he agrees to the amendment on the amendment, there will be a possibility, if further discussion occurs, of having something inserted that might be of material value to the soldier settlers. The Minister should move to disagree with the amendment to permit of further consideration.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I want to get something more reasonable. The Minister knows that the Council's amendment will be useless. Would the Minister accept the following:—

The commissioners shall appoint an officer who is a discharged soldier within the meaning of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, 1918, to represent discharged soldier settlers on all business transacted between discharged soldier settlers and the commissioners.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That is the same as the Council's amendment.

Hon. C. G. Latham: I think it is a little better.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Really it asks for what is happening now. The soldiers' representative at present is an officer of the Bank and the same work would be done by the officer proposed. The repatriation of soldiers was completed long ago. The Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act will be administered by the commissioners and the privileges under the Act will be retained. I do not regard the Council's amendment as capable of doing anything more than to maintain the existing state of affairs. Everything asked for by the Leader of the Opposition is provided for in the Council's amendment.

Amendment on amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	8
Noes	15

Majority against 7

AYES.

Mr. Ferguson	Mr. Piesse
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Thorn
Mr. McLarty	Mr. Warner
Mr. Patrick	Mr. Doney

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Clothier	Mr. Munsie
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Needham
Mr. Cross	Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Hegney	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Kenneally	Mr. Troy
Mr. McCallum	Mr. Wise
Mr. Millington	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Moloney	

(Teller.)

Amendment on amendment thus negatived.

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that the Council's amendment be agreed to.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: May I move the alternative that I suggested?

The CHAIRMAN: Where do you propose to insert it?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I move an amendment—

That all the words after "1918" be struck out with a view to inserting other words.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The hon. member's proposal will not be satisfactory. We had better stick to the Council's amendment.

Amendment on amendment put and negatived.

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

No. 21. Insert as Clause 67: "Nothing contained or implied in this Act or any Act hereby repealed shall prejudice or affect any prior encumbrance or the exercise by a prior encumbrancer of his rights, powers, and remedies or any of the obligations of any borrower under any such prior encumbrance."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I cannot possibly agree to the amendment. I regard it as a direct attack on the rights of the Bank, and a continuance of the attempts made to give a prior encumbrancer the rights enjoyed by the Bank. The amendment impresses me as being more far-reaching than appears on the surface. Section 37A gives the trustees the power over all crops, though they have never exercised it. The amendment would destroy that right in the interests of the Associated Banks. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Resolutions reported, and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of Hon. J. J. Kenneally, Hon. P. D. Ferguson and Hon. M. F. Troy drew up reasons for disagreeing to amendments made by the Council.

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

**BILL—PURCHASERS' PROTECTION
AMENDMENT.**

Council's Amendment.

Returned from the Council with an amendment, which was now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Hegney in the Chair; Mr. Wilson in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The Council's amendment is as follows:—

Clause 2: Add at the end of the clause the following:—“(i) Adding at the end of the section a proviso as follows:—‘Provided that no relief shall be granted under the preceding section in the case of a contract of sale entered into more than seven years before the fourth day of January, 1934.’”

Mr. WILSON: This is a satisfactory amendment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

MOTION—LEGISLATURE, CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS.

Reference to Privy Council—Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read replying as follows to the message received from the Assembly:—“The Legislative Council, in reply to Message No. 81 from the Legislative Assembly, acquaints the Legislative Assembly that it does not desire to appoint a committee as requested, for the reason that the Legislative Council is of opinion that Section 46 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, 1899, sets out the powers and privileges of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council respectively.”

BILL—FARMERS' DEBTS ADJUSTMENT AMENDMENT.

Council's Amendment.

Returned from the Council with an amendment, which was now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Sleeman in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The Council's amendment is as follows:—

Clause 6, Subclause 7.—Delete the words “but not necessarily,” in line 3, and substitute the words “and at least one-half.”

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The Council agrees to the four-fifths majority in value but provides for at least one half the number of creditors to vote. I do not know how this will work out. The legislation is largely experimental, and I should like to leave it as it is for the current year. Machinery is provided for the handling of a grant of £225,000 from the Commonwealth to be used for writings down to the end of June next. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.

A committee consisting of the Acting Premier, Mr. Patrick and the Minister for Lands, drew up reasons for disagreeing with the Council's amendment.

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

Sitting suspended from 9.35 a.m. to 10.15 a.m.

BILL—DAIRY PRODUCTS MARKETING REGULATION.

Council's Amendment.

Returned from the Council with an amendment, which was now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Hegney in the Chair; the Minister for Agriculture in charge of the Bill.

Cause 7; Line 1 of definition of “export parity price,” insert the word “wholesale” between “the” and “selling”:

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The effect of the amendment, which actually has been agreed to by the department, is to make the export parity price the wholesale selling price for the time being in London of Australian dairy products. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

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

BILL—FARMERS' DEBTS ADJUSTMENT AMENDMENT.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it did not insist on its amendment.

BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it insisted on its amendments 1 to 3, 5, 6, 8 to 15, 17 and 21, to which the Assembly had disagreed; and had agreed to the Assembly's amendment on Council's amendment No. 4. The message was now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Hegney in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move—

That the Assembly continues to disagree to the amendments made by the Council.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

Assembly's Request for Conference.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move—

That the Council be requested to grant a conference on their insisted upon amendments; and that the managers for the Assembly be Hon. H. Millington, Hon. P. D. Ferguson, and the mover.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly transmitted to the Council.

Sitting suspended from 10.51 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK.

Council's Further Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Assembly's request for a conference on the

amendments insisted on by the Council and disagreed to by the Assembly and had appointed Hon. W. H. Kitson, Hon. J. Nicholson and Hon. E. Seddon as manager for the Council, the President's room as the place of meeting, and the time forth with.

Sitting suspended from 11.30 a.m. to 6.10 p.m.

Conference Managers' Report.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I desire to report that the managers representing this House and another place have met, and arrived at the following agreement:—

Amendments Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 21 made by the Legislative Council and disagreed to by the Legislative Assembly were disagreed to by the managers.

Regarding amendment No. 4 in paragraph (i) of Clause 5, the managers disagreed with the amendment and agreed to substitute the word "qualified" for the word "eligible" in line 37; also in paragraph (i) to strike out the words "who is or" in line 38 and insert in lieu the words "while he is or if he."

Amendments Nos. 6, 8, and 9 to Clause 50 made by the Council, were disagreed to by the managers, and the following was inserted in lieu:—

Strike out Subclause (1) and insert the following new subclause:—

(1) Where

(a) any interest is due by any borrower on any account to the Commissioners; or

(b) any instalment of principal or interest has been refunded to a borrower under Section 52; or

(c) any advance has been made by the Commissioners to any borrower other than to effect permanent improvements or other than to purchase machinery, plant or stock,

a first charge is hereby created in favour of the Commissioners in respect of all such sums in priority to all other encumbrances upon all crops, wool, wool clips, butter fat, produce, livestock and the increase in progeny of all livestock from time to time derived from in connection with or being or depastu

ing on any lands of any tenure (including a homestead farm) held, occupied, or used by such borrower in connection with rural industry.

Provided that—

- (i) Where the interest due exceeds the interest payable for one year, the maximum charge for interest against the crops, wool or wool clips, butter fat, produce, livestock, or increase in progeny thereof of any one season shall be in respect of one year's interest.
- (ii) Insofar as any livestock are subject to a bona fide mortgage or encumbrance for value duly registered under and complying with the Bills of Sale Act, 1899, and its amendments, any such charge as aforesaid on the livestock and increase in progeny shall be subject to such mortgage and encumbrance and the rights, powers, and remedies of the mortgagee or encumbrancee.

Regarding Amendments Nos. 10, 11 and 12 to Clause 52, the Managers disagreed with the Council's amendments, and agreed that the clause, as printed, was to be amended by inserting after the word "operations" in line 36 the following words:—

Or has sustained any fortuitous loss in connection with such operations.

The Managers also agreed that the clause be further amended by inserting at the end thereof a proviso as follows:—

Provided that no such refund shall be valid as against the security of any subsequent mortgagee unless such mortgagee shall consent in writing to every such refund.

Report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

MOTION—LEGISLATURE, CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS.

Reference to Privy Council.

THE ACTING PREMIER (Hon. A. McCallum—South Fremantle) [6.12]: With reference to the resolution sent to the Legislative Council inviting them to appoint a committee to prepare a case for submission to the Privy Council regarding the powers

of the legislature, I propose to ask this House, now that the members of another place have refused to join with us in the preparation of the case, to submit the motion again confining it to this Chamber. I propose that the same committee who were appointed to represent this Chamber in preparation of the case, irrespective of the decision of another place, shall be asked to act. The motion will empower that committee to go ahead on behalf of this House and to prepare the case for submission to the Privy Council. I move—

Whereas disputes have arisen, and are still arising, between the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly in regard to matters in which are involved the meaning, construction, and effect of the provisions of Section 46 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, 1899, as amended by the Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1921, insofar as they relate to or define the constitutional powers and privileges of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly in regard to Bills in Parliament, and by an agreement reached by the two Houses aforesaid in the year 1927 it was agreed to refer the matters in dispute as aforesaid to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for its decision thereon: And whereas it is desirable that finality should be obtained by means of such a reference as aforesaid upon the said matters in dispute: Therefore, subject to the approval of His Majesty and the consent of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to act and decide the matters aforesaid, this House appoint the Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Hon. M. F. Troy, and Mr. McDonald to prepare the Case of the Legislative Assembly in support of its contentions in relation to the matters in dispute as aforesaid for submission to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for its decision thereon, with power to the Committee to sit during recess, and that the Speaker be empowered forthwith through His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to endeavour to obtain the approval of His Majesty and the consent and such other directions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as may be requisite to enable the matters in dispute as aforesaid to be referred thereto for its decision thereon as aforesaid.

Question put and passed.

CLOSE OF SESSION.

Complimentary Remarks.

THE ACTING PREMIER (Hon. A. McCallum—South Fremantle) [6.15]: That concludes the business of a very strenuous session.

Mr. Needham: And the end of a perfect day.

The ACTING PREMIER: This sitting must constitute a record for duration in the history of this Parliament. I desire to convey to you, Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, and the staff, the compliments of the season, and to extend to one and all the thanks of the Government for the assistance extended to us in transacting the business of Parliament. We have had a strenuous session, but, taking it on the whole, I think much useful legislation has been passed. I wish personally to thank the Leader of the Opposition, all members sitting opposite and especially the supporters on the Government side of the House, for the consideration extended to me, particularly in view of the new responsibilities I have had to carry this session. I hope that the staff, "Hansard" and members generally will enjoy their vacation. It has been hard to keep all associated with the Chamber waiting for so long during the concluding stages, and I feel sure everyone will look forward to a respite. I hope everyone will enjoy a good holiday during the next few weeks, and, again extending to all the compliments of the season, I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the work you have performed during the session.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (York) [6.18]: I desire to associate myself with the remarks of the Acting Premier and join with him in wishing you, Mr. Speaker, and the staff of the House the compliments of the season. As the Acting Premier has pointed out, this has probably been the most trying session experienced in the history of the State. We have had very little recess since last July 12 months. We had an early session at the beginning of this year and another session in April, and then Parliament was summoned fairly early for the ordinary session, and the last few weeks have proved to be a very strenuous period. With the Acting Premier I believe that the legislation we have passed will be of material benefit to our primary industries and, after all, the main concern at present is to see what we can do to relieve the producers who are carrying on the national work of the country. To you Mr. Speaker, I desire to tender our very best thanks. There have probably been occasions when we caused you a little

worry, but your genial disposition convinces us that if we do displease you, at least you are very ready to forgive us. I also wish to thank the Chairman of Committees, the clerks and the members of the staff. The hard work we have to do is rendered easier by the assistance of the staff, and we are very grateful to all for their help. To the members of the "Hansard" staff particularly, I wish to tender my thanks. We realise how well they serve Parliament and how well they report the speeches. Through them the information that this House makes available is distributed to the electors. I desire to thank the Acting Premier for the courtesy he has extended to me, and to say that I appreciate his very fine efforts during the first session when he has had the responsibility of leading the House. To my own supporters and members on the crossbenches I tender my best thanks. My position has been made easier by the loyalty of my followers, which counts for so much. I hope the holiday upon which we are about to enter will be very pleasant for all of us. Let me express the hope that the Premier, who unfortunately is away ill, will return restored to health, and also that the member for Avon (Mr. Griffiths), who has been laid aside with a very serious illness, will speedily recover. I am only echoing the wishes of all members when I say that I hope they will soon be with us again, fully restored to health. To members generally I wish the compliments of the season and the best that I can wish them and theirs.

MR. McDONALD (West Perth) [6.21]: On behalf of those who are normally associated with this party, I desire to accord you, Mr. Speaker, our gratitude for the considerate treatment and help extended to us by you and by the Chairman of Committees, and to tender our thanks and good wishes to the Acting Premier and members of the Ministry. To the Acting Premier I pay a respectful tribute for his conduct of the business of the House. I wish Ministers all prosperity and happiness in the New Year and extend that wish to the Leader of the Opposition and officers of the House. I should also like to include in my thanks and good wishes the "Hansard" staff, who have done so much to help us in our work.

MR. WARNER (Mt. Marshall) [6.22]: Seeing that I am not yet tied to a party, I think that I might fittingly, on behalf of the floor members of the House, convey to you, Mr. Speaker, to Ministers, party Leaders and members of the staff the compliments of the season.

MR. SPEAKER [6.23]: On behalf of the Chairman of Committees and the staff generally, including the "Hansard" staff, and myself, I thank the Acting Premier, the member for West Perth and the member for Mt. Marshall for their kind references. On their behalf, as well as on my own, I reciprocate their good wishes for the Christmas season. I hope that members will experience a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. At about this time last year, I said that I would have to work with the staff really to appreciate what was being

done for the members of the House, and after an additional 12 months' experience I can the more keenly appreciate the assistance given not only to the Speaker and the Chairman of Committees, but also to the whole of the members. When members return to their labours, I hope they will be refreshed and in as good humour as they have been in the last 12 months.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE ACTING PREMIER (Hon. A. McCallum—South Fremantle) [6.25]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn to a date to be fixed by Mr. Speaker.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.26 p.m. (Saturday).

By proclamation published in the "Government Gazette" of the 25th January, 1935, Parliament was prorogued to the 6th June, 1935.
