

magistrates thus qualified, I would point out that the unqualified men stand out a long way from the qualified men as regards reversal of their decisions by higher courts. I know all the acting magistrates, and in my opinion there is only one thing wrong with the amendment: it has been too long delayed. Western Australia is extremely fortunate in having secured such a body of magistrates as that on which the Bill seeks to confer a recognition long overdue. I am one of those who have lived long enough and worked hard enough to recognise that in the battle of life, common sense, reasoning power, and logic often put a man who is not endowed with a University education far ahead of the man thus endowed. For my part, I will often take the former's opinion in preference to that of the latter. The man who is qualified, often thinks that because of his qualification he can give an opinion without reading the case. The other man gives an opinion after reading the case. I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading of the Bill.

On motion by Hon. V. Hamersley, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 11.25 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 5th December, 1929.

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

BILL—LAND AGENTS.

Reasons.

The Honorary Minister submitted the reasons for disagreeing to the amendment made by the Assembly on the Council's amendment.

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

MOTION—MINING REGULATIONS, AMENDMENTS.

To disallow.

HON. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan)
[4.35]: I move—

That the amendments to Regulations under "The Mines Regulation Act, 1906," published in the "Government Gazette" on the 15th November, 1929, and laid on the Table of the House on the 26th November, 1929, be and are hereby disallowed.

The amendments to the regulations number four and are important. I shall read the amendments that have been tabled, otherwise it will be difficult for hon. members to follow my remarks. The amendments are as follows:—

Rock-boring machines:

46. A district inspector of mines may, by notice in the record book, prohibit the use of any rock-boring machine which in his opinion causes dust which seriously and materially endangers the health of workmen. Dry percussion machine drills shall not be used in mines, except in shafts and winzes.

Ventilation of dead ends:

47. In all mines where compressed air is used underground, it shall be compulsory for the manager to instal Venturi blowers or other appliances or means which, in the opinion of the district inspector, are equally efficient in all dead ends.

Work in hot places:

48. In all cases where employees are required to work in hot places underground, where 6-hour shifts are worked, they shall, after a period not exceeding three calendar months, be transferred to work in one of the coolest portions of the mine for a period not exceeding three calendar months.

Firing underground:

49. As far as is reasonably practicable, firing underground shall be restricted to the end of each shift, and no workman shall continue to work in the track of the fumes and dust created by such firing.

My reading of the amended regulations must impress hon. members with one outstanding fact and that is that the regulations will leave in the hands of the district in-

spector the determination of matters that are most vital to the management of a mine.

Hon. J. Cornell: To whom else could that decision be left?

Hon. C. B. Williams: What manager have you been conferring with?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Men who have spent a lifetime in connection with the management of mines have gained qualifications in order to attain their present position.

Hon. C. B. Williams: You need to prove that.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: We can prove that right well.

Hon. C. B. Williams: I will prove the very opposite.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Hon. members will realise that the determinations of these men, to whom is entrusted the management of mines, in connection with which expensive machinery has been installed, can be overridden by the decision of some district inspector.

Hon. C. B. Williams: The managers have to work to his instructions now!

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The existing regulations are wide, perhaps wider than is really necessary. One would infer from the introduction of the amended regulations that the mine managers were not desirous of co-operating and aiding in every possible way in the efficient carrying on of the work of their mines. In no other part of the world do managers of mines seek to do more than is done in Western Australia to attain the highest degree of efficiency in the working of their mines. Another thought that occurs to me is as to whether the Government are really seized with the seriousness of the introduction of amended regulations, such as those I have read. One would almost think, if the Government were seized with the seriousness of the matter, that they were seeking the destruction of the mining industry instead of helping in its development. I am sure the Government are desirous of doing everything possible for the advancement and progress of the industry. As a matter of fact, everyone is imbued with a desire to see that industry progress.

Hon. J. R. Brown: Yes, to the detriment of the men.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I would point out to the hon. member that nothing is done to the detriment of the men. Everything that is reasonably possible is done for their bene-

fit, and for the more efficient working of the mines. The present regulations are sufficient for such purposes. I will deal with the amended regulations one by one. The first deals with the use of rock-boring machines. The effect of the amended regulation is that a district inspector may, by notice in his record book, prohibit the use of any rock-boring machine, which, in his opinion—not of the management—

Hon. J. R. Brown: The inspector is a better judge than the management.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: —who are skilled and qualified to determine what is the most efficient method of rock-boring to be introduced for the working of the mine.

Hon. J. Cornell: What about the creation of dust?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: No doubt the regulation is intended to minimise the danger from dust. It is significant that it has been discovered in Africa, as the result of investigations, that the use of water sprays in connection with drills, such as are used in the mines in this State, has been found to be more injurious to the men underground than the ordinary dry boring.

Hon. J. Cornell: What drill is the hon. member referring to?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: To the drills that are used without water sprays. I forget the exact name of the drill.

Hon. J. Cornell: Are you referring to the Leyner drill?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I refer to the ordinary drills.

Hon. J. R. Brown: The hon. member is bushed now; he does not know what he is talking about.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: There is the dry percussion machine drill, which is used when dealing with hard rock. It does not follow that all dust is injurious to health.

Hon. J. Ewing: Most of it is.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Some of it is; some of it is not.

The Honorary Minister: A lot of it is.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: If the Honorary Minister can devise a means by which dust can be removed absolutely in connection with the use of drills, he will accomplish something that the mining industry will welcome. Should he visit Kalgoorlie at certain times of the year, the hon. member would find plenty of dust, not in the mines, but along the roadways. The quantity of dust there would astonish him.

Hon. C. B. Williams: But there is plenty of fresh air with it.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: There may be plenty of fresh air, but the dust is there.

Hon. C. B. Williams: It is not the same thing.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Just in the same way that dust along the open road may not be injurious, so certain kinds of dust underground may not be more injurious to the miners.

Hon. J. R. Brown: What mine did you work in on the fields?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: In dealing with certain forms of hard rock, the dry percussion drill must be used, because the other drill is too weak for the purpose.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Tell us the mines in which it is used.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: It is used in mines where the rock is so hard that the other drill is too weak to break it.

Hon. C. B. Williams: But tell us the mines.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: It is used in any mine where those conditions are encountered.

Hon. C. B. Williams: You are putting the case against the regulations and I am asking which mines they are.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: If an inspector is to be empowered to override the determination of four or five mine managers with regard to the use of machinery, there can be only one result. A serious position will be created in the industry and many mines may be forced to close down. In fact, the powers given under the new regulations are so wide that an inspector could of his own volition order a mining company to cease using certain classes of machinery. Some of the companies have imported machinery of considerable value, and I ask members is it fair that a district inspector of mines should be given power to forbid the use of valuable machinery and order the use of other machinery that he thinks might be more suitable.

Hon. J. R. Brown: It is quite right that he should have that power.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Then the hon. member cannot have much desire for the advancement of the mining industry, notwithstanding that he represents a province in which it is carried on.

Hon. J. Cornell: I think you are taking the extreme view.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon. members will have an opportunity to reply to the hon. member.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: On the mere opinion of an inspector it might be necessary to scrap thousands of pounds worth of machinery.

Hon. J. R. Brown: Rock drills do not cost that much.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I am not speaking of rock drills only. The result of having to scrap valuable machinery might be that certain mines would have to cease operations. If the mining industry were in a flourishing condition at the present time—

Hon. C. B. Williams: So it is.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Our information is quite different.

Hon. C. B. Williams: It is flourishing, not for the shareholders but for the mine managers.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The hon. member is unfair in making a suggestion of that sort. He says the industry is not in a flourishing condition for the shareholders.

Hon. C. B. Williams: And never will be. The managers and off-siders, the holders of tributes, get it all.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: If that is the opinion the hon. member has formed, his estimate of the position is very wide of the truth.

Hon. C. B. Williams: I know the position better than you do.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Dealing with the ventilation of dead-ends—

Hon. J. R. Brown: Do you know what a dead-end is?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: It is submitted that the matter of ventilation should be carried out under skilled management. It should be left in the hands of the management. The mine managers are naturally desirous of ensuring that the fullest efficiency is obtained, not only in the matter of ventilation but in every phase of management. The same might be said with regard to work in hot places. Such a regulation as this is quite unnecessary. I am advised that the men will seek the advantage of the 6-hour shift in hot places rather than work eight hours in a cooler place. With the modern conditions under which work in mines is regulated—and the regulations are very wide—there is no danger to the health of employees in any part of the mine where the 6-hour shift is in operation.

Hon. J. Cornell: Not any danger?

Hon. C. B. Williams: Then why is the work so unhealthy?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: There is a minimum of danger. The other regulation deals with firing underground. As far as is reasonably practicable, firing underground is restricted and the regulation therefore is unnecessary. It has always been the desire of the management to make the conditions underground as good as possible. I think the inspectors would admit that every reasonable effort has been made by the management to carry out the regulations, particularly with regard to these matters. I submit that the new regulations will not improve working conditions underground, but will give mining inspectors greater authority and responsibility than is fair or desirable in the interests of the industry. It cannot be said that the men holding the position of inspectors of mines possess the same training, experience or qualifications as a mine manager.

Hon. C. B. Williams: That is nonsense. An inspector has to pass an examination, and a mine manager has not.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: In outback districts there is power to appoint workmen's inspectors and that is commonly done, particularly where a district inspector calls only at intervals. In the circumstances, the added responsibility and authority imposed by these regulations would fall on very unsuitable shoulders and could easily create an intolerable position. Referring to the Venturi blowers, I am informed that in some instances they have been blocked with coats, bags and other articles because the current of air was too cold.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Did not they shove some coal up one?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I do not suggest that. Blowers have been installed at considerable expense and probably Mr. Williams is aware that they have been blocked. Undoubted evidence can be produced that the efficiency of the blowers has thus been impaired.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Why do not you cite the particular mine?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I am not mentioning particular mines, but instances can be given of the blowers having been blocked.

Hon. C. B. Williams: On a point of order, I ask whether the hon. member is within his rights in making innuendoes

against honest and respectable men. He is making wild statements devoid of one atom of truth.

The PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order. The hon. member will have an opportunity at a later stage to reply.

Hon. C. B. Williams: He should be called to order and compelled to tell the truth.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I regret that the hon. member should make such a remark. The statement I made can be fortified by evidence if necessary.

Hon. C. B. Williams: That is what I want.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: When expensive equipment is put into mines and the men themselves really prevent the full benefit being derived from its use, it shows the men themselves recognise that better provision than was actually necessary has been made for their health. The regulations as a whole are protective of the interests of the men. If they were defective, one could understand the need for new regulations, but these regulations, if allowed to pass, will do infinite harm to the industry. I hope that members interested in the district will recognise how important it is to maintain the goldmining industry and give it every support, instead of seeking to hamper it with regulations such as those which have been tabled.

HON. J. CORNELL (South) [5.0]: I sympathise with Mr. Nicholson in his effort to move for the disallowance of these regulations. Whilst we accept his opinion on many things connected with the law, and also his interpretations, I for one am not prepared to accept the views he expresses in connection with practical mining. I do sympathise with him in his effort to put up a case when we know that he is not fully conversant with the details. With regard to Regulation 46 dealing with rock-boring machines to which he is objecting, let us be fair and reasonable, and do not let us take extreme views. I do not for one moment think that it is intended to carry out that regulation to the extent feared by Mr. Nicholson. He takes exception to this—

A district inspector of mines may, by notice in the record book, prohibit the use of any rock-bearing machine which, in his opinion, causes dust which seriously and materially endangers the health of workmen. Dry percussion machine drills shall not be used in mines, except in shafts and winzes.

Does any hon. member take exception to the prohibition of the working of a machine drill which, in the opinion of the mining inspector, would not injure the health of a miner? We are all aware of the considerable sum of public money that we are spending to-day in compensating miners who are suffering from phthisis as the result of working rock drills dry. To-day the men are working water drills and it is proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that those who have conducted research, that the so-called Leyner-water-feed drill can be more injurious even than the old dry percussion rock drill. If hon. members have followed the records they will know that in the mines to-day the South African methods are in vogue, that where a percussion drill is being used it is used, as it is intended to be used by the regulation in question, only in shafts and winzes, and that water can be properly applied to keep down the dust. Assume the water drill is making dust, there is only one thing for the inspector or for the management to do, and that is to prohibit the use of that particular machine. Under the South African law it is not possible to work in a rise unless there is a water-fed drill, and I think that the sooner we get down to fundamentals and recognise that if we are to lighten the toll of human life in our mining industry, we can only do it by getting at the cause, and the cause is dust in suspension. Records show that for every one man working ordinarily in a mine, and who contracts silicosis, three machine men are liable to the same disease. I can see no valid objection to the regulation if it is reasonably administered. I happen to know that the man who looks after the ventilation of mines. Inspector Phoenix, will administer the regulation as he administers others, in a perfectly fair manner. He will put before everything the health of the workmen. He has not hesitated to scrap machines if they have been of a character to cause dust that it has not been possible to allay. In such a case there is no alternative but to scrap the machines.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Has this difficulty only just arisen?

Hon. J. CORNELL: I take it that the effect of the regulation is that other than in winzes and shafts dry percussion machine drills shall not be used. It is about time we got down to tin tacks, and I believe that most of the mining companies in this State

have installed water drills. Our real function is to look after the health of the men in the mines; We should put health before every other consideration. I met a woman to-day whose brother had worked in mines in Kalgoorlie for many years and who was one of the finest types of men physically and mentally that ever came to this country. Ten years ago he left the mining industry because he was beginning to feel the inroads on his health. As I said, he was as magnificent a specimen of manhood as one could wish to see anywhere; to-day he is a complete physical wreck. We take the line of reasoning that we will not encourage the industry unless we can afford protection to the workmen engaged in it, and the only protection we can give is to extend powers to district inspectors. On whom else can we depend but the inspectors? We cannot give any power to the mining companies, the Chamber of Mines, or the mining unions; we must give it to the man who will be impartial and who is far removed from either the mining companies or the unions.

Hon. J. Nicholson: There is no appeal provided for and whatever is done is done on the simple ipse dixit of the inspector.

Hon. J. CORNELL: To whom would the hon. member appeal?

Hon. J. Nicholson: There should be some authority to whom to appeal.

Hon. J. CORNELL: There could be an appeal to the State Mining Engineer.

Hon. J. Nicholson: There should be some board.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Mr. Ewing has been interested in coal mining for a number of years and he knows that there must be an arbitrary point somewhere. In connection with the law, Mr. Nicholson is aware that the final court of appeal is the Privy Council. But we all know that eventually common sense prevails and that there is no appeal from that. I am satisfied that our mining inspectors will always give the mining companies a fair deal. We pay these men to do their jobs properly and if we are not prepared to accept their dictum, which is based on the knowledge that they possess, there remains one of two things to do, either to accept whatever decision is arrived at or put somebody who might be better in their place. In South Africa a district inspector is given power even to fine a workman for breaking a mining regulation, and without taking him to court. An

inspector there can treat a mining company similarly. The health of the miner must come first and the time has arrived when we have to decide whether or not we are going to prevent the cause of phthisis, and that is dust in suspension, or whether we are going to let it go on. Take the regulation dealing with the ventilation of dead-ends. It says—

In all mines where compressed air is used underground, it shall be compulsory for the manager to instal venturi blowers or other appliances or means which, in the opinion of the District Inspector of Mines, are equally efficient in all dead-ends.

I ask Mr. Nicholson who is going to decide as to the condition of the dead-ends? Would he hang up the operations of a mine and appoint a select committee or a Royal Commission to investigate the matter, or would he leave it to the district inspector to determine? If he makes a scientific investigation and if, in his opinion, the dead-end is such that mechanical means should be employed to ventilate it, or alternatively the men should be taken out of it, one or the other of these courses must be followed. With regard to the six-hour shift where men are working in a certain degree of humidity and the proposal that they shall, after a period not exceeding three months, be transferred to work in one of the coolest parts of the mine, for a period not exceeding three months, I will be consistent and say that if the conditions of humidity underground are such that men have to work the shorter shift, then the sooner we right that situation and improve the atmosphere the better. The men are to-day working six-hour shifts in the Kalgoorlie mines and the management of the mines pay good wages to those men, but the sooner the existing condition is altered and the temperature made normal the better will it be for the health of the men. If the mining industry does not assert itself there will be great difficulty in the future in securing men to engage in it. Mr. Nicholson has displayed a commendable attitude, but unfortunately he is not au fait with all the conditions. If, for instance, men had to work six-hour shifts for a year, there would be great loss of life. Speaking personally, I think the sooner ventilation is improved in all the working parts of the mine, and we do away with six-hour shifts, the better it will be for all concerned. As regards the firing underground, it has clearly been demonstrated that one of the most efficacious methods of reducing dust in suspen-

sion is the systematic control of firing; that is to say, the firing shall take place as nearly as possible when the men are going off shift, and that before any men return a certain time shall elapse in order that the dust and fumes may be dissipated. In years gone by the miners themselves were to blame for promiscuous firing and for going back too soon after firing. Probably that is going on to-day. The men require protection, and the district inspector has the power to protect them. As for reasonable practice, I ask Mr. Nicholson does he not think that is only a fair thing? And I should like Mr. Nicholson, when replying, to consider this: there is a big discrepancy between the conditions underground in the Johannesburg mines and the conditions here. It was only last year that, except for removing obstructions in ore-passes or boxholes or for the purpose of making the hanging safe, or for blasting misfired holes in development places, and then only with the permission of the manager, mine overseer or shift boss, blasting was restricted to the end of the shift. Yet that has been a condition of firing in South Africa for many years past. Moreover, it is there prescribed that before blasting such obstruction in ore-passes or boxholing or for making the hanging safe, the ganger shall wet the ground thoroughly within at least 25 feet of the obstruction. So it is clearly set out there that they must fire at the end of the shift, except when ore-passes or box-holes become blocked. In South Africa, under their regulations, they could not fire in a stope, but here the district inspector has power to permit that to be done. I would not care if my political existence depended on this; I have given too much study and thought to this insidious silicosis condition, and I have seen too many men fade away as the result largely of underground conditions. I do not blame the management, nor the Mines Department, nor the men, who were ignorant largely of other conditions in other countries, and of the insidious influence of dust. We have now reached the stage where we have on the statute-book an Act for compensating victims of silicosis, and we are more or less groping in the dark to frame regulations for conditions underground calculated to remove the reason for this compensation. It is generally accepted that silicosis is caused only by the dust of certain organic rock, and that if that dust is

not allowed to get into suspension there will be no silicosis.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Not the dust of all rock?

Hon. J. CORNELL: No, not of all rock. But the rock giving rise to silicosis is to be found in all the Kalgoorlie mines. It is not so much the percentage of silica latent in the country rock, as it is the percentage allowed to get into suspension. In Johannesburg they have 99 per cent. of silica present, while in our mines there is only 65 per cent. of silica. But in the Johannesburg mines only 20 per cent. of their silica is allowed to get into suspension, whereas in our mines 50 per cent. gets into suspension, which constitutes the most injurious atmosphere. These regulations represent an attempt to rectify something that should have been rectified long ago, and I hope the mining companies will accept this attempt in the spirit in which I am sure it has been made. I know every mine manager on the Eastern Goldfields, and the House may take it that they are all good chaps—just as human as we are, and just as anxious to do the right thing.

Hon. J. Nicholson: They have tried to do the right thing.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I believe they have. But here is another attempt made, not for the industry, but for the protection of the workmen who make the industry possible. I hope the House will not disallow the regulation, and that when things settle down and attention is given to this, the mine managers will find that, after all, it was a storm in a teacup and was not so serious as they thought at the time, and that it was introduced for a very good purpose.

HON. C. B. WILLIAMS (South) [5.22]: I feel very sorry for Mr. Nicholson, although probably he does not worry very much about that. I hope that when next he is consulted by those who consulted him on this occasion they will tell him the truth. We have six goldfields representatives in the House, and not one of them would dream of telling Mr. Nicholson the tommyrot he has been told about these regulations. As a matter of fact, the whole of these regulations are now in operation, and have been in operation for a long time past. I say that as the president of the mining branch of the A.W.U. It is only another example of the incompetence of the mine managers on the Eastern Goldfields when

they come to any member of this House and give him such stuff to put over other members here.

Member: It is just tripe.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: It is not even that. It is an attempt to camouflage members who know nothing of the gold mining industry. As a matter of fact any miner who breaks any of the bylaws under the Mines Regulation Act is open to prosecution in the interests of his fellow workers.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Have they been prosecuted at any time?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Yes they have. I ask for a definite statement from Mr. Nicholson as to the men who have blocked up the venturi. Venturi are put there to bring down the temperature, and they have been placed in all hot dead-ends on the Golden Mile. So they do not require to be put there. It was in their own interests that the companies installed the venturi. So it is another example of the incompetence of the mine managers of the Eastern Goldfields when they ask Mr. Nicholson to put over such rough stuff on the House. If a man were to close up his ventur, his temperature would rise four to six degrees in a few minutes. More than that, by closing his ventur he would put himself in a position in which, under the Mines Regulation Act, he should not be, for that part of the mine should then be closed as the temperature would be higher than that allowed by the Act. Yet Mr. Nicholson's informants ask him to put this rough stuff over us. The men in the mine are working piecework, trying to make as much as they can, and so far from these regulations doing any harm, the venturi are quite necessary to allow the men to work there and earn their money. Mr. Nicholson owes an apology to the House, and I trust he will tender it when he replies. As for work in hot places, is there anything wrong in a regulation providing that when a man has worked three months in a very hot place, he may ask to be allowed to have six months' spell in another part of the mine? I know, and all other mining members know, that by working any length of time in a hot place, a miner shortens his life by one-half. Fancy working in a place where the wet bulb is over 76! Mr. Nicholson has declared that the mine managers of Kalgoorlie have more brains, more education and a better knowledge of the industry than have the mining inspectors. I say

it is not so. The inspectors have to pass examinations, whereas the mine managers, as such, have never passed any examination. Mr. Nicholson himself has studied law and passed his examinations; the mine inspectors have passed their examinations, but the mine managers have not. Again, none of the mine managers in Kalgoorlie know anything whatever about their underground workings. As for the mines not being able to pay under these regulations, some of the mine managers do not want them to pay.

Mr. Nicholson: On a point of order. I think that is a most unjust statement.

The PRESIDENT: What is the point of order?

Hon. J. Nicholson: The hon. member is traducing the fame of men not here to defend themselves.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member knows quite well that is not a point of order.

Hon. J. Nicholson: I am going to appeal to the hon. member's decency.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member will have an opportunity later, when replying.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Mr. Nicholson was not much worried about it when he traduced men more honest than are the mine managers who gave him that information; for the mine managers were deliberate liars when they gave it to him. Yet Mr. Nicholson didn't hesitate to traduce honest workers. And he complains when I tell him the truth, which is that the mine managers of Kalgoorlie have ruined the mines of Kalgoorlie. That has been definitely proved. They will not give tributes on their mines, except on the five-share system, two to you and three to somebody else. Did not the Great Boulder shareholders kick up the other day on learning that of a sum of £200,000 the company got only £50,000? What did the manager get? I have made it public in Kalgoorlie, and indeed everywhere, yet Mr. Nicholson comes here and traduces honest workers.

Resolved: That motions be continued.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I will now get back to the point. Mr. Nicholson claims that the mine managers should have the right to say what should be done in a mine. At present their inspectors have that right so far as safe-working and the health of the miners are concerned. They are the people appointed by the Arbitration Court to say

what hours shall be worked in certain places, if the temperature exceeds what the court lays down. They are the people who measure the temperatures. No objection has been taken to that.

Hon. H. Seddon: They also measure the dust.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: They and not the managers examine the dust particles. The managers do not object to that; it has been the system for years. They are the men who say that such-and-such a place must be ventilated, that such-and-such an expenditure must be incurred in order that the ventilation may be adequate. No objection has been taken to that. There has been no objection to the clauses that are favourable to the proper working of the mines, to the bringing down of temperatures, to making it possible for longer hours to be worked, to improving the working conditions, and to bringing about a position whereby more work may be done. That there is any objection is owing to the inefficiency of the managers, otherwise there would be no objection.

Hon. E. H. Harris: How long have the regulations been in operation?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I should like to know from Mr. Nicholson where there is a dry percussion machine in use and what it is doing. Where there is no water, the management cannot use water drills, but where there is abundant water, water drills can be used. Outside a shaft or a winze I could not tell the hon. member where there is a dry percussion machine working in Kalgoorlie, or where there has been one for the last three years.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Why put up regulations for things that are now in operation?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: The regulations are for the ratification of those things that are being done. Everyone with a knowledge of mining has thrown aside the dry drill.

Hon. W. J. Mann: How long have the regulations been in operation?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: They are not in force, but they have been laid upon the Table of the House so that they may be brought into force. Dry percussion drills are not used because two men are required to work them, against one in the case of a wet drill. They have long since been done away with. Notwithstanding this, we are

asked to keep them going. I have referred to the ventilation of dead-ends. If the dead-ends were not ventilated no work would be done there. The temperature must be brought down so that the men may be able to work. All these things are designed to make for the economic working of a mine. If men can be compelled to fire all at the one time, it makes for more economic working. Everyone in the vicinity must stop work until the smoke is gone, and if firing is done at fitful intervals, every man who is in the vicinity must stop work for the time being.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Should not the mine managers see to that?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: They are incompetent.

Hon. A. Lovekin: But they have the top jobs.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Nevertheless, they are incompetent.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: I suppose you could manage a mine better than the managers could.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I do not think any member here who employs managers would employ any one of those at Kalgoorlie. I am speaking as I find them. I do not know of one of them who would get a man-agership anywhere else.

Hon. E. H. Harris: What is the best type of rock drill?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: A water lining drill, a drill that will lay the dust. We do not want installed on the Kalgoorlie field, drills that have been discarded in South Africa for years.

Hon. J. Cornell: Quite right.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: We want regulations to give the inspector power to see that these old-fashioned drills are not allowed in our mines, and that if they are installed, they must be rejected. I oppose the motion.

HON. J. R. BROWN (North - East) [5.34]: It is just as well Mr. Nicholson has no mining going on in his province. He would have a poor chance of being returned if he had to depend on the votes of miners. He says the inspectors are not capable of looking after underground working.

Hon. J. Nicholson: I did not say that.

Hon. J. R. BROWN: You said the mine managers were the people to attend to that work.

Hon. J. Nicholson: I did not say so.

Hon. J. R. BROWN: Most of the mine managers merely crawl about; they are afraid to go within 10 feet of the mouth of a shaft, or to look down one. They are not qualified. Most of them have grown up with the mines and have been pitchforked into their positions. What do they know about dust, stopes, rises or dead-ends? I do not know why Mr. Nicholson comes along here with a matter he knows nothing about.

Hon. J. Nicholson: In your opinion the mine managers should not be there.

Hon. J. R. BROWN: In my opinion the regulations should become operative. I do not want anything done that will jeopardise the mining industry. Mr. Williams has dealt fully with the matter. If any doubting Thomas disbelieves him, I suppose such member will vote for the motion. I do not know, Mr. Nicholson, how you got all this information. Mine managers must have put up a joke on you. You ought to be careful how you fall for jokes of this kind. We have had to put up with all your legal business. You are now attempting to delve into mining questions.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member can only address another hon. member through the President.

Hon. J. R. BROWN: He might not hear me if I did. That is all I have to say. I hope the regulations will not be disallowed.

HON. H. SEDDON (North-East) [5.37]: The ground has been so thoroughly covered by Mr. Cornell and Mr. Williams that I need not labour the question. The whole matter resolves itself into the introduction of preventive measures in connection with mining. The development of the Kalgoorlie mines in the early days took place without sufficient regard for the principles of ventilation. Of recent years great improvements have been effected. Although in this respect the mines are not as efficient as modern mines are expected to be, every effort is being made to bring them into line with modern practice. The regulations are in that direction. There is nothing in them to which any exception can be taken when we realise that they are going to be administered wisely and fairly. Inspector Phoenix has been specially trained in ventilation work.

Hon. J. Cornell: And he is a fair and reasonable man.

Hon. H. SEDDON: His assistance is continually being given in improving the ventilation of mines. Quite apart from his inspection duties, he assists in the direction of advising in ventilation matters. It is not claimed that the ventilation is all that it could be, but it is said by the managers that steady progress is being made and that great improvements are being effected. The question of fumes and dust created by firing is a very important one. Men cannot work in the heavy dust and fumes, in the return air, by which all impurities are carried away, including the dust and gases which accumulate in their passage around the mine. The return air is most unhealthy for men.

Hon. E. H. Harris: In some circumstances it might be impossible for any man to work even in the shaft.

Hon. H. SEDDON: There are difficulties to overcome in the way of regulating the currents of air. Had the mines been established with the idea of providing adequate ventilation, the present trouble would not have arisen. I understand that at Wiluna the whole system has been laid out for adequate supplies of air being provided throughout the mine. The employment of the Venturi booster has been referred to by Mr. Williams. This is a little machine designed to force fresh air into places where it would not otherwise circulate. It is worked by compressed air jets and brings about a circulation of air through the dead-ends. If we could get an assurance from the Minister that an appeal could be heard by him in case of a conflict of opinions between the mine manager and the inspector, it would give Mr. Nicholson all that he desires.

Hon. J. Nicholson: It would overcome the difficulty.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is the practice today.

Hon. H. SEDDON: I doubt if an occasion would arise for such an appeal. It is simply a matter of the management having an assurance that, if necessary, such an appeal could go to the Minister. If that assurance could be given, the whole object of the debate will have been attained. The subject has been well ventilated.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Do you agree that the mine managers are incompetent vagabonds?

Hon. H. SEDDON: No. That is not a fair question. The subject of ventilation has been taken up by the managements and

there is hearty co-operation with the officials. To that extent we can give the management credit for trying to bring their mines as nearly as possible into line with modern practices, and despite considerable difficulties, for endeavouring to bring them up to what is recognised as an adequate health standard.

HON. E. H. HARRIS (North-East, [5.45]: It is refreshing to have a vigorous debate on a particular subject, and I think we have had such a debate this afternoon. Mr. Williams worked himself into something like a frenzy while traducing the mine managers and describing the difficulties of the men who work underground. Those difficulties are indeed great as to ventilation, especially on the Golden Mile, because of the lack of supervision in that direction during the early days of the industry. The industry having fallen on evil times, some managers view with great disfavour the regulations which have been laid on the Table of the House. The managers say the mines have sufficient difficulties confronting them now and cannot carry any further burden. Their objection to rock drills, I believe, is that some mines are working in extremely hard country, where, it is said, the solid square bedding must be availed of. During a recent visit to the Gwalia mine some of that hard country was pointed out to me, among others. I cannot quote the figures from memory, but we were told that hundreds of bits had to be used in the effort to penetrate the rock. It was further stated that the drill must be of a solid character in order to make any impression. The inspectors of mines are men who exercise common sense, and they would not say to the mine managers in such circumstances, "We will prohibit you from working with a certain class of drill, as it would be injurious to the health of the miners." In some mines it would be impossible to work without an adequate drill.

Hon. J. Cornell: But plenty of water should be insisted upon.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: There is plenty of water, since electric pumps have to be used to get the water away. The subject of rock drills had its rise in 1926. I recollect that at an A.W.U. executive council meeting over which Mr. Williams presided, Mr. Darcy, the workmen's inspector of mines, Mr. Paddy Taaffe, and the present

organiser, Mr. Geary, were appointed a committee to go into the question of rock drills and make a recommendation to be submitted to the Minister for Mines. That was away back in 1926. I thought Mr. Williams would have told us what the recommendation submitted was.

Hon. H. Stewart: Now, did you?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: I did. I asked Mr. Williams concerning the rock drill, wanting to lead him up to the point of stating what class of drill had been recommended. I asked him a question as to what class of drill was used. A certain type may have been recommended, and the mine managers may not have acquiesced in the recommendation; and possibly now the desire is to force the managers, through regulations, to use a certain type or class of drill. Mr. Williams further said that the regulations were in operation. When I asked him my question, I had in mind the 6-hour shift. A few months ago there was a discussion on the goldfields as to the 6-hour shift. It is not always because of the temperature that men work 6-hour shifts. Sometimes they work those shifts in shafts and other places as a matter of convenience. Occasionally sinking operations are in progress; and in order that the work may be pushed on speedily, 6-hour shifts are adopted. That may not have occurred during recent years, but it has in fact occurred. It is being done on the Ivanhoe Mine, as I know because I happen to be acquainted with some men who work 6-hour shifts there. But is it not true that some men are desirous of working the 6-hour shift in lieu of the 8-hour? Some men would prefer 6-hour shifts even if the temperature—

Hon. C. B. Williams: Do not talk like that. The conditions have to be made so good for the men on the Ivanhoe that they earn £20 a week. So do not go on with that talk.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: I do not think I can give a better reply to the hon. member than by quoting from the report of the A.W.U. Mining Branch annual conference, which was presided over by Mr. C. B. Williams, M.L.C.—

In view of the fact that such a large number of men are now working 6-hour shifts in hot places underground, it was resolved to request the Minister for Mines to insert a regulation in the Mines Regulation Act that after men had worked for a period of three months in these hot places, they should be transferred to work in the coolest part of the

mine workings. Further, that men cavil for the positions in hot places, and then take their turn in such places in rotation, according to the positions they drew in the cavil.

Either the men working 8-hour shifts were anxious to work 6-hour shifts and get away, or they said that it was unfair to pick out Bill or Jack or Charlie and put him on a 6-hour shift. They may have said, "We believe in all standing on the same level. We will share the hard work. Let us have a share of the hard work—the 6-hour shift as well as the 8-hour." I presume it was one of those two considerations that induced the men to lay the position before the Minister for Mines.

The Honorary Minister: Is there anything wrong with it?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Yes. There is no provision for taking a cavil of men. Especially because of its wording, I wish to quote the regulation dealing with hot places—

In all cases where employees are required to work in hot places underground, where 6-hour shifts are worked they shall, after a period not exceeding three calendar months, be transferred to work in one of the coolest portions of the mine for a period not exceeding three calendar months.

Hon. members may look at that regulation and say, "What is wrong with it?" To approve of a regulation is equivalent to passing an Act of Parliament.

Member: But we cannot amend regulations.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Unfortunately we cannot. This particular regulation, before being put into operation, will have to be redrafted, because at present it is not worth anything. In fact, such regulations as this are not worth twopence a bunch. The regulation means that where 6-hour shifts are worked in hot places underground, the workers—not the men working the 6-hour shifts, but any or all of the men working in the mine—shall after a period not exceeding three calendar months—and that may be anything from one up to 91 days—be transferred to work in one of the coolest parts of the mine. "One of the coolest parts of the mine" may be a part where there is no work for the men to go to.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Would men be put at work where there was no work for them to do?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: The regulation does not say "the coolest working part of

the mine," but "the coolest part of the mine."

Hon. J. Cornell: The intention is all right.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: If an attempt were made to put into force a regulation drafted in that way, the regulation would prove valueless, and any action taken against the mining company would fail.

Hon. J. Cornell: Draft it as you may, it will be a permissive regulation.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Under the regulation as drafted, a man could be put to work in a hot place and kept there for three calendar months, and if thereupon he was transferred to one of the coolest places in the mine and kept there for one day, that would be sufficient. The management could transfer a man to a cool place for one day, and then send him back to the hot place for a further 91 days.

Hon. J. Ewing: That is not the intention. There are some people of commonsense in the world.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: I hope I have a little commonsense. I am pointing out that the person who drafted that regulation cannot have drafted it with a view to its being put into operation. The next point relates to men working in the trail of the smoke from fuses. It frequently happens that in a mine the main shaft is the up-draught shaft. The men have to work in it every day of the week. The latter part of that regulation is incapable of being applied. The first part is all right; I am not taking exception to that further than to say that the drafting of at least two regulations is such that if an argument arose it would be found that they could not be applied in a practical manner. Anyone conversant with the general regulations governing the mining industry must realise that very much indeed depends on the district inspectors; and they are men qualified to do their work. Again, the Chief Inspector of Mines was recently appointed by the Government for the special purpose of looking into the question of ventilating mines. I do not know of any quarrels having arisen as the result of any decision given by that officer. The mining industry may expect to receive the same justice from him after the regulations have been approved as was the case before.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, debate adjourned.

BILL—ABORIGINES ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Assembly.

BILL—ROMAN CATHOLIC NEW NORCIA CHURCH PROPERTY.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. G. W. MILES (North) [6.0]: I do not wish to speak on the Bill, but it has been suggested to me that the Bill means giving the Lord Abbot special privileges that are not accorded others. Will the Chief Secretary tell me if the properties enumerated in the schedule are already vested in the Church, and that we are not exempting any of them from the application of the State laws?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central—in reply) [6.1]: The Bill does not cover any land owned by the Benedictine community of New Norcia; that land is already covered. The Bill simply covers the Roman Catholic churches within the jurisdiction of the Lord Abbot of New Norcia.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: It is a sort of imperium in imperio?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Yes. There are two separate relationships in one personality, one its charge of the Benedictine Mission, which has no connection with the Roman Catholic Church of Western Australia, and the other the Lord Abbot, in charge of the Roman Catholic Diocese of New Norcia, who is in control of a number of other churches in that diocese. At present the properties of those churches are vested in trustees, and under the Bill they will all come under the jurisdiction of the Lord Abbot of New Norcia, acting in his capacity as the representative of the Roman Catholic Church.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: Why does he require special powers regarding leases and mortgages?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Every church in Western Australia has those special powers. Some time ago I introduced a Bill vesting similar powers in the Presbyterian Church. The Roman Catholic churches in Perth, Geraldton and elsewhere already possess these powers. There is no grant of land or anything of the sort under

the Bill. The land mentioned in the schedule is already held by various trustees for the different churches.

Hon. A. Lovekin: The Bill merely represents a consolidation of trusts.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: That is so.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Remaining Stages.

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

Read a third time and passed.

BILL—ALSATIAN DOG.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 27th November.

HON. J. CORNELL (South) [6.8]: If there is any subject that has been hammered by members with—I will not say, ignorance—lack of understanding, it is that relating to the Alsatian dog.

Hon. E. H. Gray: Hear, hear!

Hon. J. CORNELL: If no one else is prepared to say a word for the dog, I am. Since the discussion commenced and the wisecracks conferred together, I have been wondering what the Alsatian dog would say if he could become articulate.

Hon. E. H. Harris: You think every dog has his day?

Hon. J. CORNELL: Some people would not like this dog to have even his day. If we pause and think about this proposal, it must bring to our mind another measure, the Mental Deficiency Bill. That measure contained a proposal for the sterilisation of human beings, and the Bill now before us proposes the sterilisation of Alsatian dogs. Perhaps it is just as well that some people are satisfied for the dog to remain inarticulate. Not a quarter of the actual knowledge brought to bear on the subject matter of the Mental Deficiency Bill has been indicated regarding the Alsatian Dog Bill. If there is one animal in the world more than another of which I am fond, it is the dog. He will stick to his master when no one else will.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Is the dog of more value than the sheep?

Hon. J. CORNELL: My experience shows that the more faithful the dog is,

and the more friendly the master is towards the animal, the less chance there is of the dog taking to the bush and going wild.

Hon. H. A. Stephenson: You do not understand much about other phases.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I hope to disprove some of the inaccuracies contained in the statements hon. members have made regarding the Alsatian dogs.

Hon. H. A. Stephenson: But I have lived much longer than you have!

Hon. J. CORNELL: One of the greatest compliments ever paid to a dog was contained in a copy of "The Bulletin" I read some time ago. It related that when one man was carrying his swag out of a small country town in the Eastern States he met another swagman who noticed the tail of a dog sticking out of the first man's swag. He asked, "Why are you carrying the dog?" The first man replied, "He died, and this is no fit place to bury him. I will bury him somewhere else." I am satisfied that some hon. members would be prepared to bury an Alsatian even in that locality. If we turn to literature, we find that the dog has been immortalised. But what class of dog was it? It was not the Pomeranian, nor was it the type of dog that, I understand, has before now separated man and wife. I would wipe that class of dog off the landscape to-morrow.

Hon. J. R. Brown: And that class of dog is harmless!

Hon. J. CORNELL: The dog that is immortalised in literature is the animal that is faithful to its master, and is prepared to defend him with its life. My most pleasant recollection of my schoolboy days concerns the third standard reader that was used in the Victorian State schools. One poem in the book related to Llewellyn and his dog. There was also another poem in the book, which would have appealed to you, Mr. President, and which began—

On the green banks of the Shannon when
Sheila was nigh,
No blithe Irish lad was so happy as I.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: But Sheila was not an Alsatian!

Hon. J. CORNELL: No, but the animal had dog traits. It does not matter whether the animal was an Alsatian or any other breed; it may have been one of the Irish hounds no longer extant. I think there is a passage in Tennyson about a certain

lady who rode through Coventry clothed in nothing but her hair. That was Lady Godiva. There is a picture based on that poem depicting her lord and master leaving her in scorn, and departing with his dog. Literature has immortalised a dog that is a dog.

Hon. J. R. Brown: But the Alsatian is a wolf.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I will refer to Mr. Hamersley's remarks and his advocacy of the destruction of the Alsatian. He said that the pastoralists thought it advisable not to encourage the breeding of this dog. These are newcomers to the State; they are not even as old as the "dry dog" belonging to Sir George Reid.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Nor yet of the old "tin-dog."

Hon. J. CORNELL: No; the Alsatian is a recent importation and all the allegations against him are mere assumptions. I will demonstrate that to hon. members.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Mr. Hamersley said there was a strong wolf strain in the Alsatian and he made that statement deliberately and without rhyme, reason or qualification. It would be just as reasonable for me to say by way of flat contradiction that there was no wolf strain in the Alsatian. My argument would be backed up by just as much logic as was his. He also said that while dingoes hunted singly, wolves hunted in packs. From the age of 15 to 25 I followed various occupations, including those of drover and shearer. I had to do with dogs and dingoes in one of the most dingo-infested areas in Australia, namely, the country on the Upper Murray. If the dingo in this State hunts singly, the dingo in that locality did not. The cunning of the dingo causes it to hunt singly and is due to the dog instinct having risen to compete with the brain of man who is out to catch it. Mr. Hamersley also said that if the Alsatian went bush, it would revert to the natural type. "If" the Alsatian went bush; all members who favour the eradication of this breed preface their arguments with "if."

Hon. H. J. Yelland: Can you give us evidence that it would not?

Hon. J. CORNELL: Can the hon. member give me an illustration of its having

done so? He cannot. All the remarks are qualified by "if."

Hon. H. A. Stephenson: You will yet have to use "if."

Hon. J. CORNELL: I have not yet done so.

Hon. A. Lovekin: They are all crying wolf.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Yes, keeping the wolf from the door. Is there any concrete evidence of the Alsatian having taken to the bush, or of its having gone the way of the dingo? There is not. Mr. Stephenson also said the Alsatian was of wolf strain. I think it can safely be said there are other breeds of dogs that have a wolf strain. There is a type of Russian dog to be found in this State that has the characteristics, marking and form of the wolf and is much more closely allied to the wolf than is the Alsatian, but there has been no outcry against that breed, and no attempt has been made to wipe it off the landscape. Mr. Stephenson told us that dingoes were still plentiful within 100 miles of Perth, and that in the wheat areas around the loop-line they were a great menace. Does the hon. member know of an Alsatian that is running with a dingo? Does he know of one that has taken to the bush? I do not dispute his statement that dingoes are plentiful within 100 miles of Perth. Quite likely they are plentiful in the Darling Range, but I have yet to discover any evidence that the Alsatian has become associated with the dingo.

Hon. A. Lovekin: As a business man, Mr. Stephenson does not want to take the risk.

Hon. H. J. Yelland: It is of no use shutting the stable door after the horse has gone.

Hon. J. CORNELL: We should apply to the Alsatian the treatment that is applied to mankind. When the dog has been proved to have erred, let us condemn it, but not until then. I have heard no statement as yet that it has erred. All we have heard has been supposition.

Hon. H. J. Yelland: The two instances are not parallel.

Hon. J. CORNELL: No one would think of putting me under the care of the Chief Secretary in another place unless I were tried and found wanting. I am putting up a similar plea for justice for the Alsatian. Mr. Glasheen supplied another "if." He said that if the Alsatian, when trained, was a moderately good sheep dog, its retention

would not be justified, because already there were in the State a number of good breeds of safe and faithful sheep dogs. If that is not a generality, I have never heard one. He prefaced his remarks with "if," maintained that we already have sufficient sheep dogs and that even if the Alsatian could be trained to become a good sheep dog, we ought not to have it. He also said that 95 per cent. of the pastoralists and farmers were in favour of the extermination of the Alsatian. If that statement is correct, it is the first time I have heard it. I happen to represent a few farmers, and I have never heard them mention the Alsatian dog. I venture to say that if 95 per cent. of them saw an Alsatian, they would not recognise it as such, much less would they desire to have it exterminated. Assertions of that kind get us nowhere. Mr. Wittenoom also added some "ifs." He said we were told that in Russia the Alsatian had been crossed with the wolf. We are told a lot about Russia. Other members said, without qualification, that the Alsatian had been crossed with the wolf, but Mr. Wittenoom qualified his statement by saying we had been told so. Who was responsible for telling us, he did not say. He said that in Germany Alsations were used as shepherd dogs, and that members had had an opportunity to read a good deal of evidence to the effect that the dogs had been crossed with wolves to make them ferocious in order that they might kill wolves liable to attack sheep. If ever there was a case put up in favour of the Alsatian, it was done by Mr. Wittenoom. Though he strongly favours the extermination of the Alsatian, he advanced one of the best arguments I have heard in favour of retaining the breed in the State. He demonstrated beyond a shadow of doubt that the purpose for which the dog was used in Germany was that of a shepherd dog, and that if wolves attacked the sheep the Alsatian would attack the wolves. Yet we are told that Alsations are quite wild and are liable to cause tremendous depredations in this State. On the statement of Mr. Wittenoom I should say, "Give me an Alsatian every time." When I look at the Bill I cannot refrain from saying, "Talk about a bird being left without a feather to fly with!" Under the Bill the Alsatian will not be left a hair whereon a flea might lay its eggs. Clause 2 provides that after the expiry of three

months from the passage of the measure no person shall keep an Alsatian dog unless it has been sterilised. That wonderful word "sterilised"—quite a new word—reminds me of my callow days when I preached socialism from a soap box. I knew "socialism" as a word, and the word with me became a shibboleth, just as sterilisation has become a shibboleth with many people. Clause 3 provides that after the expiry of three months no person shall knowingly suffer any dog of the species to breed. Clause 5 stipulates that on the hearing of any charge of an offence against the measure, the burden of proving that the dog has been effectively sterilised shall be on the person charged. The burden of proving effective sterilisation is not to be deemed to have been discharged unless the person charged produces a certificate of a registered veterinary surgeon setting forth the fact. There is no loop-hole, no escape. Even under the Mental Deficiency Bill we did not propose to go that far. He is not even to be registered under the Dog Act. Talk about Charlie Chaplin and his picture, "A Dog's Life." When that picture was made he knew not the Alsatian, or he would have immortalised the dog in that famous picture. I have had a lot to do with dogs and I know their value.

Members: We all do.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Until a better case is made out against the Alsatian, I am not going to be one to assist in its extermination. There are other dogs—the kangaroo dog is one—against which a greater case can be made out than has been made out against the Alsatian. There are facts to prove what I say. People have had the wind up about the Alsatian because of its appearance. I remember as a boy when the King family of "Hanging Rock," between Albury and Wagga, began to breed one of the best type of sheep dog that Australia has ever known. This was the red kelpie, and Mr. Stephenson will be able to bear me out in what I say. Unless one were well acquainted with dingoes, it would be hard to tell the difference between a red kelpie and a dingo. At that time all the arguments that we have lately heard advanced against the Alsatian were put forward against the red kelpie. That dog, however, survived and, with judicious training, he has been proved to be the best sheep dog Australia has ever had. It is said that Alsatian dogs will bite, and that with an Alsatian about one could not go

into a neighbour's backyard where the dog happened to be.

Hon. J. R. Brown: Neither you can.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I do not know whether he would bite the hon. member, but I know that all that can be said against the Alsatian can be said against the Airedale, the bulldog, the bull terrier, and others. Someone asked, "Whoever heard of a fox terrier biting a piece out of a person's calf?" Fox terriers can bite and do bite. If a man wished to keep an Alsatian or any other breed of dog to ward off thieves—I often wish I had such a dog—

Hon. J. R. Brown: You can get one for £20.

Hon. J. CORNELL: But he might not do what I want him to do. If a person keeps a dog on his premises and he puts up a notice, "Beware of the dog," then if anyone gets bitten he has no one but himself to blame. I have yet to learn that the bulldog will not bite.

Hon. H. A. Stephenson: I would go further than sterilise such dogs; I would shoot the lot.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Here is the unkindest cut of all towards the Alsatian; the Bill proposes that within three months after the passing of the Act there shall be no more importations of Alsatis into Western Australia, and that all Alsatis then in the State shall be sterilised. It is even proposed to sterilise the females, and that means that in Western Australia a very fine and noble animal will have to die out.

Hon. E. H. Gray: Shame!

Hon. J. CORNELL: Yes, it is a shame. If the Alsatian is all that is claimed by its enemies, those enemies might exercise a little saving grace and include something in the Bill that will have the effect of placing the Alsatian in the same category as the lion and the tiger.

Hon. J. R. Brown: In the Zoo, and that is where they ought to be.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Lions and tigers may be brought into this country and they need not be sterilised. They can be kept in captivity at the Zoo, where they can propagate their species, but it will not be possible to do that with the Alsatis. If the Alsatis were at the Zoo, children might be afforded the opportunity of seeing them there and knowing what they are like. If hon. members will not show the

dog any mercy, I hope they will agree to the suggestion I have just made. At any rate, they should agree to arrangements being made with the Museum authorities to at least display a stuffed Alsatian there.

Hon. H. A. Stephenson: That's its right place.

Hon. J. CORNELL: So that arrangements towards that end may be made, I move an amendment—

That "now" be struck out and "this day six months" inserted in lieu.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [7.52]: I second the amendment.

HON. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [7.53]: I move—

That the House do now divide.

Motion put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	19
Noes	..	..	..	4
				—
Majority for	..	..	..	15
				—

AYES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. J. R. Brown	Hon. E. Rose
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. J. Ewing	Hon. H. A. Stephenson
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. H. Stewart
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. E. H. Harris	Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. G. A. Kempton	Hon. H. J. Yelland
Hon. A. Lovekin	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. G. W. Miles	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. G. Fraser
	(Teller.)

PAIR:

AYE.	No.
Hon. J. J. Holmes	Hon. C. B. Williams

Motion thus passed.

Amendment (six months) put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	4
Noes	..	..	..	..	19
					—
Majority against	..	..	..	..	15
					—

AYES.

Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. E. H. Gray
	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. J. R. Brown	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. J. Ewing	Hon. H. A. Stephenson
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. H. Stewart
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. E. H. Harris	Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. G. A. Kempton	Hon. H. J. Yelland
Hon. A. Lovekin	Hon. E. Rose
Hon. W. J. Mann	(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: On a point of order. I should like your ruling, Sir. The Council having determined that we should divide, the question is put. What is the question? That the Bill be now read a second time; to which an amendment was moved. We have divided on the amendment. The question still remains, that the Bill be now read a second time. Therefore I am entitled to say that question must now be put from the Chair, namely that the Bill be now read a second time.

The PRESIDENT: When an amendment is proposed, the amendment becomes the question before the Chair. Standing Order 407 reads—

If the motion that the Council do now divide be agreed to, the Council shall vote on the question immediately before it without further debate.

Under that Standing Order I rule that the question then immediately before us was the amendment.

Hon. G. W. MILES: But you could put the question now, if there is no further debate on it, could you not?

The PRESIDENT: It is customary to wait 15 minutes before the same motion is moved again. That is to say, in the event of the hon. member wishing to move that the House do now divide, an interval of 15 minutes must elapse.

Hon. G. W. MILES: But if nobody is ready to go on with the debate, you could put the question of the second reading, could you not?

The PRESIDENT: Yes, the question is that the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I move—

That the debate be adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

Aves	..	..	..	..	4
Noes	..	..	..	..	19

Majority against 15

AYES.

Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. G. Fraser

(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. J. R. Brown	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. E. Rose
Hon. J. Ewing	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. H. A. Stephenson
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. H. Stewart
Hon. E. H. Harris	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. G. A. Kempton	Hon. H. J. Yelland
Hon. A. Lovekin	Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. W. J. Mann	(Teller.)

Motion thus negatived.

HON. J. R. BROWN (North-East) [8.8]: I have few reasons for supporting the Bill, but they are very solid ones. None of the speeches we have heard against the Bill has convinced me that the Alsatian, if allowed to breed here, will not be a menace to the community.

Hon. G. Fraser: Would you know one if you saw it?

Hon. J. R. BROWN: Yes, I have seen Rin-Tin-Tin. The Commonwealth Government thought it desirable to prohibit the importation of Alsations. When the Commonwealth Government do that, there is something wrong with the dog. The Ministers for Agriculture in South Australia, in Victoria and in New South Wales all say the Alsatian should not be allowed into the country. The Minister for Agriculture in Victoria had an Alsatian sent out from the Old Country for presentation to his 23-year old daughter. That dog played about with the girl for a while, but one day it savagely attacked her, biting her through the left breast, on the shoulder, on the thigh and tearing her face from ear to ear. This is evidence from the Minister for Agriculture in Victoria, Mr. Cowan. When he ran out to protect his daughter, the dog had its two paws across the girl and was lapping up her blood. All experts tell us the Alsatian has been crossed with the wolf. We know that in Germany it was called the German shepherd dog, but that it was occasionally crossed with the wolf in order to produce a dog savage enough to protect the sheep from wolves that came down over the Russian border. When the first of these dogs arrived in this country, it was called the Alsatian wolf-hound, but to-day it is called the German shepherd dog. The fact remains it is one and the same dog. We do not have to go far to learn

that the dog is a menace. Our own Premier had one and played with him, rolling him over on the lawn. Then the dog began to get savage, and the Premier had to chain it up. It proved very restive, tramping backwards and forwards on the chain, wanting to attack and destroy. The Premier used to go into his home through the back way, but with the dog there he found it safer to go in through the front way, and eventually, I think, had to get in down the chimney. At an agricultural show in London, an Alsatian broke away from the show bench and attacked a man. One of the attendants jumped in and caught it round the neck, whereupon the dog bit his thumb off. In September last the "West Australian" published a letter from one P. W. Arckle, of Miling, who on his own experience stated that the Alsatian had a tendency to kill everything it came across, cats, fowls, and all that sort of thing, and a tendency to wander. Somebody giving evidence before the select committee said an Alsatian dog went into a paddock to have a look at a sheep and the sheep attacked it, in consequence of which the dog had to turn round and bite the sheep. That is the sort of stuff we find put up on behalf of the Alsatian. If this dog is a menace at all, why should he be brought here? Years ago in Victoria, somebody imported a dear little sparrow. Then somebody else was cruel enough to inflict one of these little birds on Western Australia, letting it go in King's Park. So great was the consternation that we had all the police force out after that bird, until eventually it was shot, and was hung up in the Leadenhall poultry shop in Hay-street, where this poor little insignificant bird, the size of a mouse, looked very pathetic alongside big turkey gobblers. Yet it has proved a very serious menace in Victoria, devouring grain and blocking up drain pipes, and making itself a nuisance all round. Later, somebody brought out to Victoria a pretty little fox as a pet. Now it has become a menace to the community. Then there was brought out the little bunny, a harmless, funny chap with pink eyes, but it has proved a menace to the whole of the Commonwealth. The Alsatian has not yet become a menace, but I do not say that if he got away he might not do so. He will get away because that is his tendency. I have seen Alsatian dogs, and have seen them at the pictures. Rin-Tin-Tin, for instance,

is a pure bred Alsatian. He has been trained for special purposes, and has always been a one man dog. I have seen that dog do things no other dog could do. If in the pictures he wants to get a man he will tear the clothes off him and throw him down. I suppose his master is there to check him at a certain time. We have been told that the only time when an Alsatian is any good with sheep is when he is in the yard and his master, armed with a stick, has him under control. People who desire to see the breed protected are making capital out of it. The value of these dogs is said to range from £10 to £50. A man at Mt. Lawley is breeding them. It is impossible to get within cooee of his kennels because of the barking and howling that go on. I believe on one occasion a dog belonging to this man bit a lady, and it cost the owner £30 to keep the case out of court. This man claims that the breeding of Alsatis is only a hobby. We do not want a hobby that will become a menace to the farming and sheep breeding community. Mr. Glasheen said he knew of a dog that was worth £100. No doubt the owner of that animal has made a few hundred pounds out of the progeny. The hon. member claimed that the owner should be compensated. A private member cannot provide for compensation in any Bill he brings down, and for that reason this measure makes no mention of such a thing. I understand that the Vermin Board has enough money for that purpose, and that about £600 would compensate all the breeders. If there is any doubt about this dog he should be kept out of Australia. The sterilisation will not interfere with the animal. He can be just as faithful to his owner as he was before. We are not going to chop the dog's head off. Sterilisation will, however, prevent the breed from multiplying. If certain people have never owned an Alsatian they will not miss it, on the principle that one cannot miss a thing one has not had. It is all very well to say that the Alsatian has no wolf cross in him. If we have any doubt about the matter we should safeguard the position by passing this Bill.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central) [8.20]:
I move—

That the House do now divide.

Motion put, and declared carried.

Hon. J. CORNELL: On a point of order. The motion is that the Council do now divide. Must we not divide?

Hon. G. W. Miles: There was only one "no."

The PRESIDENT: I am just going to put the question. Does the hon. member challenge my ruling?

Hon. J. CORNELL: No, Sir, but the Standing Orders say that such a motion requires at least ten affirmative votes.

The PRESIDENT: As the hon. member seems to cast some doubt upon the position, perhaps it would be as well that the House should divide.

Division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	19
Noes	..	..	..	4

Majority for .. 15

AYES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. J. R. Brown	Hon. E. Rose
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. J. Ewing	Hon. H. A. Stephenson
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. H. Stewart
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. E. H. Harris	Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. A. Lovekin	Hon. H. J. Yelland
Hon. W. J. Mann	Hon. G. A. Kempton
Hon. G. W. Miles	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. E. H. Gray
	(Teller.)

Motion thus passed.

The PRESIDENT: The question is, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Hon. E. H. GRAY: May I ask a question, Mr. President?

The PRESIDENT: No.

Question put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	19
Noes	..	..	..	4

Majority for .. 15

AYES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. J. R. Brown	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. E. Rose
Hon. J. Ewing	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. H. A. Stephenson
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. H. Stewart
Hon. E. H. Harris	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. G. A. Kempton	Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. A. Lovekin	Hon. H. J. Yelland
Hon. W. J. Mann	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. G. Fraser
	(Teller.)

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. Cornell in the Chair; Hon. V. Hamersley in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1.—Short title:

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I wish to enter my emphatic protest against a member of this Chamber bringing the debate to a close as he did. I made a request to the hon. member in charge of the Bill that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, on the ground that I had left important papers at my home.

Hon. G. W. MILES: On a point of order. Is the hon. member in order in making a second reading speech on the clause dealing with the title of the Bill?

The CHAIRMAN: I presume the hon. member will connect his remarks with the Bill.

Hon. G. W. Miles: We do not want to listen to a second reading speech in Committee.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: There is ample time, before the session closes, either to pass or reject this measure. On the Notice Paper are other Bills of much greater importance, such as—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member is a little out of order.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I protest against the Chamber wasting its time over a comparatively insignificant Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I cannot allow the hon. member to proceed any further. His opportunity will come later, at another stage of the Bill.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2—Prohibition of keeping Alsatian dogs in certain cases:

Hon. E. H. GRAY: In this clause a great principle is at stake. No compensation is proposed for persons who will suffer if the Bill passes.

Hon. E. H. Harris: This, being a private Bill, cannot provide for compensation.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The fact of its being a private Bill shows that Ministers themselves are not sure whether the measure should be placed on the statute-book. I

challenge hon. members to adhere to the traditions of this Chamber and stand up for vested interests. They should not allow themselves to be stampeded by the thoughtless propaganda against Alsations, whose record is as good as that of any breed of dog for faithfulness and service to mankind. The Alsatian pedigree extends over 400 years. I have had considerable experience in the handling of dogs and the care of flocks, and also of combating the dingo pest. Therefore I speak on this measure with knowledge as well as in all sincerity. The kelpie itself has a much worse name as a sheep killer than has the Alsatian. Any dog, whether pure bred or mongrel, is apt, at a certain period of its existence, to "go bush." Then it becomes the owner's painful duty to destroy the dog. I myself have discharged this duty to my fellow farmers. Every breed of dog is liable to develop the characteristic of breaking away at night to maim or kill sheep. Legislation already on the statute-book, however, would greatly reduce the losses caused by dogs among stock. There is power to road boards to make by-laws for the chaining up of dogs from sunset to sunrise. The Alsatian has the reputation of being one of the finest utility dogs in the world. Explanations have been given of the name "wolf dog." On account of the war and the intense hostility to everything German, English breeders dropped the German name for an English one, with a view to promoting sales. The dog has become so extremely popular at Home because of British soldiers having come in close touch with it during the war. In Germany the Alsatian brings in the newspaper, draws a milk-cart, tracks down and arrests criminals, leads blinded soldiers through the streets of Berlin and other large cities, and does a thousand other useful things. Such facts make one see the Bill in another light. The objective of those at the back of the measure is the destruction of all dogs. That must be so, as otherwise they would not single out for extermination the noblest and most intelligent of the dog family. According to evidence given before the select committee of another place, the popularity of the Alsatian in the Old Country has outstripped that of every other breed of dog. Moreover, I may explain, England has vast multitudes of sheep. On the Downs of England sheep are run in immense numbers, and escaped dogs could do enormous damage there. Yet

Alsations exist in England by the thousand. Let me quote from the evidence given before the select committee of another place by Mr. J. H. Williams, the secretary of the Western Australian Kennel Club—

542. Can you give us particulars regarding the registration of other breeds of dogs in England in 1927?—The "Kennel Gazette" shows that the registrations for 1927 were as follows:—Alsatian wolf dogs, 8,034; Bull-dogs, 1,475; Bull mastiffs, 138; Chow chows, 1,111; Collies (rough), 1,191; Collies (smooth), 113; Dalmatians, 260; French bulldogs, 159; Great Danes, 634; Keeshonds, 52; Mastiffs, 178; Newfoundlanders, 35; Old English sheep dogs, 367; Poodles, 36; Poodles (miniature), 41; St. Bernards, 124; Samoyedes, 125; Schipperkes, 154; Shetland sheep dogs, 218; Black and tan terriers, 98; Griffons Bruxellois, 243; Italian greyhounds, 27; Japanese, 64; King Charles spaniels, 225; Maltese, 36; Papillons, 81; Pekinese, 3,967; Pomeranians, 1,275; Pugs, 258; Yorkshire terriers, 418. On the sporting side the registrations showed that 4,583 Aire-dale terriers were registered, 240 were English terriers and 1,359 were Irish setters. Those registrations show what a remarkable vogue the Alsatian has in England, and the same thing applies in America and in South Africa. In March last Mr. Howard, an English judge who was on a world tour, told me that the Alsatian predominated in England at the present time, the next most popular dog being the wire-haired fox-terrier. The Alsatian showed a small drop in 1927 compared with 1926, when the registrations were 8,508, but the drop was a very slight one. My experience with the Alsatian is that he is rather inclined to be excitable and nervous, due to his temperament.

Hon. W. J. Mann: On a point of order. Is the hon. member in order in reading from the evidence? Has that anything to do with the clause under discussion?

The CHAIRMAN: The clause under discussion is really the Bill, and Mr. Gray is speaking against it.

Hon. W. J. Mann: The hon. member is really making a second reading speech.

The CHAIRMAN: That is a matter for my opinion.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I am giving a condensation of a speech which I had prepared. Since the war, the Alsatian's superiority at all points has caused his great usefulness to be recognised, and he has taken his place as Europe's premier utility dog. I do not understand how the propaganda against the Alsatian could have been so successful here, in view of the dog's usefulness and his pioneering work in Western Australia. His worth to the country cannot be over-estimated.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: But if the pastoralists were not satisfied that the Alsatian was a menace, would they have adopted this attitude?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: They are so unreasonable that they will not give the dog a fair chance. It cannot be wondered at that people like myself, who recognise the value of the Alsatian in the life of the community, resent the action of those who, without any reason at all, desire the extermination of the dog and wish to bludgeon the Bill through the House, without giving their opponents an opportunity to speak. I am entering my protest against that sort of thing. Several members have advanced their views in condemnation of the Alsatian, but I assert there are more farmers who have tried the dog and proved its worth, than there are farmers who have found it wanting. I know one young man who is now among the most prosperous farmers in the Great Southern. He has recognised the worth of the Alsatian. When he returned from England some time ago, he purchased a dog and trained it on his farm. I take notice of the statements of that young man, because I know him to be truthful and to have had long experience in sheep and wheat farming. He would not advocate something that was against the best interests of the farmers and pastoralists of the State. His evidence is to the effect that the Alsatian is the best sheep dog he has known. In his earlier days that young man was a shepherd in the back country, and at that time he had to rely upon his kelpies for assistance in looking after his sheep. I am surprised at the attitude of Country Party members in this House. They are always crying out about the high cost of production and the high wages, which some of them do not pay. The Alsatian will save them much expenditure, and yet they wish to exterminate it.

Hon. A. Lovekin: What about the flocks?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The hon. member should not make such a suggestion; it is not true. The Alsatian dog is almost human, and will save the farmers expenditure under the heading of wages. I could understand city people being stampeded because of the campaign against the Alsatian, but we have to fight the farmers' representatives!

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Who know more about it! Your own Premier does not hold views such as you are expressing.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The Premier is not a farmer.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: He owned an Alsatian dog, and, besides, he is a farmer.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The Premier is like the hon. member, a St. George's-terrace farmer. The Premier is not a practical farmer, and does not appreciate the advantages of a good sheep dog in the development of a property. I appeal to hon. members, in the interests of fair play, to reconsider their attitude. Recently Mr. Robinson, the Commonwealth expert, was game enough to stand up and protest against the embargo placed upon the dog by the Bruce-Page Government.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Do you know Robinson?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: No.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: If you did, you would not talk like that.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: When I see that a man is game enough to stand up and fight for a dog, he excites my admiration.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Robinson is one of those cranks, who could be expected to do anything.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: He is an expert and should know his work. His reputation cannot be assailed.

Hon. A. Lovekin: You are stonewalling!

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I am not! I protest against that suggestion being made! I am raising my voice in protest against hasty legislation of this description. The Legislative Council is supposed to be the last line of defence in checking hasty legislation. We are fighting a majority of members who are afraid to hear opposition to the Bill. Reverting to the Assembly's select committee, I would point out that one witness submitted 157 exhibits. I call Mr. Lovekin's attention to that fact, because he is always on the look-out to see that everyone gets a fair crack of the whip. The members of the select committee are personal friends of mine, but I assert they took too much for granted. To a great extent they were carried away by the propaganda, and did not view this matter with the seriousness it deserved. Although 157 exhibits were put in, apparently little notice was taken of them. They apparently picked out two or three samples for inclusion in the report, but they were worthless.

Hon. J. R. Brown: If these dogs are so good, why are they not allowed to be shown at agricultural shows?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I do not know Mr. Snowden, but I understand that he made available 157 exhibits. When I looked through the report of the evidence and the select committee's report, I could only conclude that he could have saved himself the trouble. He produced books dealing with the Alsatian dogs, and so far as I can judge, no one bothered to look at them. That is very unfair. Apparently the select committee looked at the letters, took what they regarded as samples, and printed one or two. Mr. McCabe, a farmer at Kellerrin, gave evidence of outstanding importance regarding the reputation of the dog. He told the select committee that his Alsatian could work sheep, turkeys or fowls, horses, cattle and pigs, but was always well under control and responsive to instructions.

Hon. J. R. Brown: How could fowls be worked?

Hon. E. H. GRAY: The hon. member has had no experience on a farm. Of course a dog could work fowls. In the course of his evidence Mr. McCabe said—

I have no interest in breeding this type of dog; as a matter of fact, my dog is sterilised, and I am only giving my experience for what it is worth. My Alsatian is the only one I have seen outside the city, and he may, of course, be an exceptional animal. As regards the main question, the working of sheep, when the dog at nine months was introduced to his work, he scattered the sheep like ninepins, and his case seemed hopeless. But one feature stood out—the dog was interested and willing. He will now work sheep to my satisfaction, driving them under direction forcefully from behind, and will work either right or left side, or if required will bring sheep along after you as you ride along in front. So far he seems to stand up to his work remarkably well in driving sheep, even in hot weather, and keeps on with the job when other dogs doing like work retire to the nearest shade. If there is a stray hoof about day or night, loosen the dog and there is quickly a clatter down the road, and then quietness.

If hon. members have had any experience in pioneering work on farms, they can appreciate the value of the dog from that standpoint. The newcomer in a country is mostly troubled by the wandering stock of his more prosperous neighbours, and

the job of keeping them off retards him in his work. Mr. McCabe continued—

The dog has apparently strong views on private ownership of property.

That should appeal to hon. members of this Chamber, who are always on the lookout for the protection of property interests. Mr. McCabe, dealing with that phase, said—

The dog will allow no stranger to surreptitiously or hurriedly remove or even touch any article on the premises, or from his favourite position on the motor truck. He is very observant of, but will not make friends with strangers. I will relate two incidents indicative of many others. My neighbour's two little girls, 4 and 6 years respectively, used frequently to come to our house and even patted and played with the dog. One day when leaving, they picked up an orange each out of a case in the pantry and trotted off, but the dog on his own initiative intercepted them before they reached the front gate, and without harming them took back the oranges and replaced them in the case. The other instance was whilst on the goldfields last August. The family got a stranger to take my place in slaughtering a sheep for domestic use, but the dog was so aggressive and menacing towards my substitute that he had to be taken away and locked up. The dog looks upon it as being part of his duty to bring the mail and newspaper from the front gate and hand it over to some responsible person. If permitted, he is invariably in the motor truck and remains in protection when down town, and will carry parcels as required from the various business houses and place and guard them in the truck. He is playful and timid in his action towards other dogs, but is likely to be aggressive if occasion arose. My dog has received no special training: just grew up with the ways of the place; commended when he did right and reprimanded when wrong. I do not think he would allow anyone but myself to punish him, but I have strapped him severely at times, and he is not a silent sufferer. When the ordeal is over he is anxious to make friends, and does not nourish resentment. In my opinion he is the ideal type of dog for the outback householder; no danger from wandering Kelly's to women and children with dogs like "Tarzan" about. If there should be any restriction—and admittedly this is an extreme statement—it should be that a prospective owner would be able to give some proof of competence, to possess and control such an intelligent type of dog, because it is self evident that to train a dog of this nature successfully, whomsoever has the work in hand should have the greater intelligence.

Nobody could shake the evidence of Mr. McCabe. He is very well respected amongst the farmers and he knows what he is talking about. In his opinion the Alsatian is very valuable as a general

utility and sheep dog. Mr. Snowden gave evidence before the select committee and produced a book, "The Shepherd Dog of America," which says—

In Germany there is a breed of dogs that has proven of great value to the German stockkeepers and farmers—the German shepherd dog. In Germany herding conditions require exceptionally-trained dogs, as fields are small and fences few. The sheep are grazed in pastures beside the sugar-beet fields, with no fencing between, and it is the duty of the shepherd dog to prevent the sheep from nibbling the beet tops.

In Western Australia a man would have to be employed to do that sort of thing. So, as I have already said, the farmers would save working expenses by encouraging the breeding of Alsations. That book says, too—

Farmers and stockmen in this country have long recognised their value. The German shepherd dog is fast gaining popularity with the farmers and stockmen of this country. They recognise his loyalty, intelligence and capacity for work, and the time is coming when he will occupy as important a place on our farms as he does in his native land.

Mr. Snowden assured the select committee that the writer of that book was not a breeder of Alsations. He also produced a book, "The Shepherd Dog Review," of New England. In that the writer draws attention to the care given to pure breeding and says, "The public and Press of Switzerland are fast changing their minds about this dog. One cannot but wonder at the splendid work of these dogs." Then Mr. Snowden said this—

On pages 26 and 27 appears a case parallel to the Toodyay case.

That case was responsible for most of the adverse propaganda which resulted in the action of the Federal Government in banning the importation of these Alsations. Mr. Snowden continued—

The "Boston American" published a slander against the Alsatian over the death of a child. The story was proved to be absolutely false, and the author of this book states that the writer of that story was either an uninformed liar or there was method in his madness. On page 58 is a reference to trials of Alsations being held before cattlemen, ranchers and farmers from all over the nation, while on page 25 we are told of an Alsatian having killed 12 rattlesnakes in one season.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw attention to the state of the House.

Bells rung; a quorum formed.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: Mr. Snowden in his evidence said—

The real origin of the Alsatian is in the native sheep dog stock of Germany. Selected specimens were taken as foundation stock from the sheep-tending dogs of North and South Germany (Wurtemberg and Thuringia) by the pioneers of the breed, a few enthusiastic admirers of the intelligence and hardihood of these dogs. The first society formed to promote the breed and induce the German fanciers, who had so far neglected their native dog, to become interested in it was known as "Phylax," but it had an existence of a few years only. When it had expired, it was succeeded 26 years ago by the German Shepherd Dog Club, which has grown to such an extent that to-day its membership exceeds 60,000, the Club being devoted to indisputable trials before the public as sheep dogs, police dogs, and sheep-tenders and watchers. One of the first acts of the German club was to establish a stud book which has now reached the 23rd volume and contains the certified pedigrees of 324,000 Alsatian sheep-dogs, and it is from this source and no other that Alsatian Shepherd dogs were in the following years imported to all parts of the civilised world, being purchased by different countries on account of the wonderful sheep-tending ability and trustworthiness as vouched for by so many recognised authorities all over the world.

Hon. J. R. Brown drew attention to the state of the House.

Bells run; a quorum formed.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: Where is the sense in the agitation against the breeding of this dog? Here we have unimpeachable evidence that the dog is pure-bred and that all that can be brought to support the contention that the dog has been crossed with wolves are the tales told hundreds of years ago to the effect that menagerie owners were supposed to have crossed the Alsatian with the wolf in order to produce a savage dog. There was quoted before the select committee a celebrated breeder, Captain von Stephanitz, who stated that if an attempt had been made to cross an Alsatian with a wolf in the woods of Germany, all that would have been found of the Alsatian in the morning would be the dog's collar, the dog himself having been devoured by the wolves. That is the sort of rubbish that those opposed to the Alsatian rely upon to prevent the breeding of the dog in Western Australia, the legend that the Alsatian has wolf blood in his veins, which has never been proved. Those who are carrying on the campaign against the Alsatian should be

made to produce their proofs. Barnes definitely proved that the Alsatian was essentially, primarily and always a thoroughly trustworthy shepherd dog. He adds—

It has extraordinary adaptability to a variety of jobs with always a marked success. Through the efforts of the German club, the Government departments of that country, national, local and colonial, have been persuaded to make extensive use of the Alsatian both in military and civil services. He has been used as a sentry dog in the trenches, as a messenger for conveying carrier pigeons to observation posts, as a customs dog patrolling the frontiers in prevention of smuggling, incidentally countering all efforts by smugglers' dogs of other breeds, as a police dog for tracking and identifying criminals, but perhaps the noblest of his duties were as Red Cross dog during the war when he did wonderful work in locating wounded in "no man's land" and in post war days when he is to be seen leading blinded soldiers safely through the busy streets of the German capital. But let us always remember, now that it has been proved beyond all doubt, that the Alsatian is, and always has been, the sheep dog of the land.

That evidence is strong enough to account for the remarkable popularity of Alsations in England, and it should be sufficient to justify the opponents of the breed holding their hand before deciding to exterminate the breed. In a recent issue of "Spratt's Limited" we get this—

It is a great pity that the word "wolf" was ever connected with the Alsatian by thoughtless importers, because it has created an altogether wrong impression. I say definitely and am prepared to prove it that the Alsatian has no trace of any wolf in its ancestry. Whilst it is possible to cross a wolf with an Alsatian—the experiment has sometimes been carried out—the result is always a mule: that is to say, the offspring has never been able to promulgate its species. The Alsatian is nothing more nor less than a German Sheep-dog, bred down the centuries for the especial purpose of tending sheep. Their rise to popularity has been meteoric when it is remembered that six years ago they were practically unknown in this country (England) and to-day the Alsatian is an easy first in registrations at the Kennel Club.

J. G. Baldwin, another noted English authority, says under date of the 3rd October, 1927—

In reply to yours of the 26th August, I will briefly tell you a few facts that I hope will help to confound the critics of our breed. I helped Colonel Moore-Brabazon to form the original Alsatian Wolf Dog Club in 1918. We chose the name "Alsatian Wolf Dog" for no special reason, but because if they were called by their proper name "German Sheep Dog" everyone would have been down on them,

the war having just finished. I have had a kennel of this breed for 10 years and they have never bitten any person or any other dog. Not many kennels of other breeds can say that. I have a farm here and the dogs are brought up amongst all the livestock—sheep, cattle, etc.—and never take any notice of them. My shepherd always uses one of them for his sheep. People who have a grudge against the breed try to make out that they have wolf blood in them. We can prove that there is none. The most they ever do is to insinuate that there might be some. My little girl, aged four, can do anything she likes with any dog I have. I have been breeding dogs for 27 years and have during that time kept many varieties, but my experience is that the Alsatian is the best mannered and nicest companionable dog that we have to-day. Am very glad that you are fighting the slanders and wish you success. You will invariably find that people who write criticising the breed have never kept one in their lives.

The CHAIRMAN: It is very hard to pin members down to specific points in this clause, but I would point out to the hon. member that I have allowed him a lot of latitude.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: My object in reading the evidence is to place on record that without any material evidence against the dog, Parliament is prepared to pass a Bill that is an injustice not only to the noblest representative of the dog family but to people who are breeding the dogs and using them on their farms. It is only fair and just that the fullest inquiry should be made into the allegations upon which the Bill has been based. If the case against the Alsatian could be proved, it would be the duty of the Government to introduce a Bill for the extermination of the breed, and to pay compensation to the owners of the dogs destroyed. I challenge the hon. member in charge of the Bill to justify his attitude.

Hon. H. Stewart: On a point of order, we have been listening for some time to arguments supposed to be relevant to the clause, which deals with the sterilisation of dogs, but I have not heard any mention of that by Mr. Gray.

The CHAIRMAN: The clause deals with the prohibition of keeping Alsations, and that is why I have experienced some difficulty in pinning the hon. member down to specific arguments. Clause 2 really comprises the Bill.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: That is so, and we have to consider the effect of the clause on owners of Alsations. I protest against this

unwarranted action to exterminate the Alsations. Call it sterilisation or whatever we may, it means the extermination of this fine breed. That is something which cannot be justified. What surprises me is that such an overwhelming number of members should be prepared to pass the Bill. Even Mr. Stewart, who is experienced in farming, has entered the fight against the Alsation. Mr. Hamersley has a reputation as a public man, as a farmer, and as one who would not countenance injustice to anybody. Yet he is prepared to sponsor such an unjust measure. I ask him to consider the effect of the Bill on people to whom he has insisted upon justice being meted out ever since he has been in this House. He has always insisted that nothing should be taken from a man unless just return were given for it. He claims justice for all people, and yet he proposes to exterminate a noble breed of dog and inflict great monetary loss on breeders. I appeal to his better nature to consider the effect of the Bill. I ask him to withdraw it with a view to getting proper investigations made. I would be prepared to go with him as a deputation to the Government and ask that the allegations regarding this supposed menace to pastoralists and farmers be thoroughly investigated. I ask him not to rush the Bill through by sheer force of numbers. If the case against the dog be proved, I assure the hon. member of my assistance to pass the Bill. The evidence produced to the select committee cannot be supported; it was based on nonsense and legend. If the Bill becomes law, loss will be caused to owners of such dogs and no provision is made for compensation.

Hon. J R. BROWN: I move—

That the Committee do now divide.

Motion put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	15
Noes	..	..	..	4
				—
Majority for	..	..	..	11
				—

AYES.

Hon. J. R. Brown	Hon. E. Rose
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. H. A. Stephenson
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. H. Stewart
Hon. G. A. Kempton	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. A. Lovekin	Hon. C. H. Witteboom
Hon. W. J. Mann	Hon. H. J. Yelland
Hon. G. W. Miles	Hon. E. H. H. Hall
Hon. J. Nicholson	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. E. H. Harris
	(Teller.)

Motion thus passed.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3—Breeding of Alsation dogs prohibited:

Hon. G. FRASER: I protest against the action of members. This is only the second night on which the Bill has been discussed. The second reading was moved only yesterday week at about 11 p.m.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Mr. Chairman, has that anything to do with Clause 3?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has no right to refer to second reading speeches but I was waiting to see if he connected his remarks with the clause. I hope he will confine his remarks to the question of the breeding of Alsations being prohibited.

Hon. G. FRASER: I shall do so and shall allay the hon. member's fears about my making a second reading speech. I wish to record my protest against the attitude of members to this Bill.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Mr Chairman, I call your attention to the fact that the hon. member's remarks have nothing to do with this clause. If you are not prepared to conduct the business in accordance with the Standing Orders, I shall take some steps to disagree with your ruling.

The CHAIRMAN: To what remark made by Mr. Fraser does the hon. member take exception?

Hon. G. W. Miles: To the whole of his remarks.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take exception to some particular remark, and not to the remarks generally.

Hon. G. W. Miles: He has not made one remark bearing on the clause.

The CHAIRMAN: The only remark I heard him make was one of protest against the attitude adopted by some members.

Hon. G. W. Miles: On the second reading. What has that to do with the clause?

The CHAIRMAN: If any member takes exception to that remark, I will ask the hon. member to withdraw.

Hon. W. G. Miles: I do take exception to it.

The CHAIRMAN: Then I ask Mr. Fraser to withdraw his remark.

Hon. G. FRASER: What remark must I withdraw?

The CHAIRMAN: The remark the hon. member made when he protested against the attitude adopted by some members on this Bill. I hope the hon. member will withdraw it.

Hon. G. FRASER: I do not think there is anything I should withdraw. Surely I can record a protest without having to withdraw it. It is quite justified.

Hon. G. W. Miles: You have a chance to do it on the third reading.

Hon. G. FRASER: I consider the hurried manner in which this Bill has been passed through, and the method adopted to close the debate, have prevented members from placing before the Chamber all the facts. The matter was brought up only last week at a late hour, and not more than three or four speeches have been made upon it.

Hon. G. W. Miles: What has that to do with the clause? I again ask you, as Chairman of Committees, to keep the hon. member to the clause.

The CHAIRMAN: I will endeavour to do that. I was about to ask the hon. member to connect his remarks with the breeding of these dogs.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Enough of the time of the Committee has been wasted already.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark; to stand in his place and withdraw it.

Hon. G. W. Miles: I withdraw it.

Hon. G. FRASER: I cannot discuss this clause without dealing with the dog itself. It absolutely prohibits the breeding of the type. After three months a penalty of £20 may be inflicted on any person who is found to be breeding these animals.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the hon. member to confine his remarks to this clause.

Hon. G. FRASER: It deals with the breeding of these dogs.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not want to burke discussion, but the hon. member must see the necessity for confining his remarks strictly to the matter before the Chair.

Hon. G. FRASER: Before the Bill is finally disposed of, I hope provision will be made so that persons in the metropolitan area may be allowed to keep their dogs entire. It may be argued that Alsations may be taken from the city into the country.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member cannot pursue that line of argument.

Hon. G. FRASER: I have tried in several ways to deal with the subject, and this clause seems to present the only opportunity I shall have. In view of the position in which you place me, Mr. Chairman, I do not know how to proceed. I have not been allowed to discuss the breeding of the dog. I entirely disagree with the speeches that have been made against the animal. If a thorough investigation were made by this Chamber, I feel sure that many of the statements that have been made would be refuted. The Alsatian is not as black as it has been painted.

The CHAIRMAN: That point has already been decided.

Hon. G. FRASER: I will content myself with recording my protest against the manner in which the Bill has been dealt with.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I move an amendment—

That the word "three" be struck out, and "twelve" inserted in lieu.

If this amendment is carried it will mean that the breeders of these dogs will have 12 months in which to adjust their affairs. I should prefer that progress be reported, as I have a number of amendments I should like to place on the Notice Paper.

Hon. A. Lovekin: You cannot expect that after what has happened.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: No one thought the Bill would go through as far as it has done. People in the country will, I am certain, be astonished at the result. The breeders are likely to lose not only their dogs but their money, and they are entitled to some sympathy at the hands of members.

Hon. V. Hamersley: The Ministers of Agriculture all agreed to this step being taken.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: There is a possibility that the Federal Government will withdraw their embargo against the importation of these dogs. What will happen then? This is only a passing hysteria, and a senseless propaganda that must disappear in time.

The CHAIRMAN: I would remind the hon. member that he will not achieve very much by his amendment. He would have achieved something had he amended the previous clause along these lines, but as that is worded, no person will be allowed to keep an Alsatian without sterilisation after it is three months old.

Hon. G. FRASER: If Mr. Hamersley would accept the amendment, it might be possible to recommit the Bill and amend the previous clause accordingly. Twelve months' notice is only a reasonable time to allow the breeders of these dogs.

Hon. J. R. Brown: Yes, and meanwhile they would be breeding at street corners, and the place would be overrun in no time.

Hon. G. FRASER: There is not much danger of that. The people who are interested in these animals look after them too well. They have spent a considerable sum of money upon them, but they are likely to lose their outlay.

Hon. J. R. Brown: They say it is only a hobby with them.

Hon. G. FRASER: It is likely to prove an expensive one. Breeders were getting as much as 12 guineas for the puppies, but now are only able to get 7s. 6d.

Hon. J. R. Brown: They were profiteering.

Hon. G. FRASER: Hon. members should think well before carrying the clause without 12 months being substituted for three. Since the introduction of the Bill one breeder of Alsations known to me has lost nearly £100.

The HONORARY MINISTER: So far I have consistently opposed the Bill; but I fear I cannot support Mr. Gray's amendment—firstly, because the Commonwealth have prohibited the importation of the dogs, and secondly, because the Committee have already carried Clause 2. Thus the carrying of the amendment would get us nowhere. I wish to enter a protest against the intolerant manner in which those opposed to Alsations have conducted their campaign. Should the Bill pass, Alsations will become extinct in Western Australia. From the treatment accorded to another measure recently, it appears that hon. members generally, while prepared to go any length in order to protect sheep, will not extend consideration to the human race.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the Honorary Minister not to pursue that line.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I reiterate my protest against the methods adopted by opponents of the Alsatian.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Is the Honorary Minister in order in referring to the behaviour of members of this Chamber with regard to another Bill?

The CHAIRMAN: I think that the Honorary Minister, or any other member, would be quite within his rights in drawing com-

parisons, so long as the comparisons were not unfair and did not directly reflect on any other hon. member.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have read the evidence taken by the select committee, and it seems to me that everything that can be said against the Alsatian has received due publicity. Many things could have been said in the animal's favour, when a change in public opinion would have resulted.

The CHAIRMAN: I again remind Mr. Gray that he is not likely to achieve anything by his amendment.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I have never known the Leader of the House to refuse a member's request to recommit.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: Owing to the lateness of the session, and this being my only opportunity of getting the Bill through, I appealed to Mr. Gray not to put up any unnecessary obstacles. I felt I was doing my best to meet the wishes of the Leader of the House and the Government. I cannot accept such an amendment as Mr. Gray's, because it would spur people on to breed up as hard as possible, on the chance of compensation being paid. There has been quite sufficient notice. The matter has been before the Cabinet of this State, and before the Governments of all other Australian States.

Hon. E. H. Gray: What other State has introduced legislation dealing with the Alsatian dog?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: When moving the second reading of the measure, I drew hon. members' attention to the papers that had been laid on the Table. I appealed to hon. members to help to pass this measure. To extend the time of grace would only encourage the breeding up of Alsations.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I am sorry the hon. member has adopted that attitude. I shall not continue my opposition, but the trouble is that hon. members do not seem to think I am sincere in the stand I have taken up. The time will come when hon. members will regret the action they are taking. Had it not been for the state of the Notice Paper, I would keep up my opposition for a fortnight. Out of consideration to the Leader of the House, who has more important measures to deal with, I shall refrain from further protest.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—Dogs may be destroyed in certain cases:

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I would ask Mr. Hamersley to substitute sterilisation for the destruction of the dogs. If an owner has neglected his legal duty, the sterilisation of the dog would meet the position and thus avoid the necessity for destruction.

Hon. V. Hamersley: No.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: Then I move an amendment—

That in line 4 of Subclause 1 "destroyed" be struck out, and "sterilised" inserted in lieu.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Clause 4 deals with offences.

Hon. J. Nicholson: And the power to destroy is permissive.

Hon. G. FRASER: I support the amendment. Should the owner of a dog be convicted of an offence, the court may order the animal to be destroyed. That is too much power to give to the court. The object of the measure will be achieved by sterilisation. It is possible that an owner may commit an offence through ignorance and not by design. In those circumstances, it would inflict a hardship if a dog were to be destroyed.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: I would point out that sterilisation is provided for in Clause 2, and in the event of the owner failing to comply with the requirements of the Act, provision is made in Clause 4 for the destruction of the animal, should that course be necessary.

Hon. G. FRASER: The clause deals with offences by persons, not by dogs.

Hon. J. Nicholson: How do you suggest an individual would charge the dog?

Hon. G. FRASER: The individual would be charged, of course, but the offence would be committed by the dog.

Hon. J. Nicholson: No, the offence is committed by a person in each instance.

Hon. G. FRASER: That is so, but the hon. member knows what I am endeavouring to put before the Committee. Should a dog attack someone, the court would have to order the destruction of the animal, and that is too severe.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 5—Evidence:

Hon. E. H. GRAY: I move an amendment—

That in line 4 of Subclause 2, after "surgeon," the words "or other authorised person" be inserted.

As the clause stands, it may place farmers at a disadvantage seeing that many of them have to carry out the sterilisation of animals at frequent intervals. They will be unduly harassed if they have to secure the services of a veterinary surgeon for the purpose outlined in the clause. There are always local people who can undertake the operation.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 6 to 9—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Read a third time and *passed*.

BILL—LAND TAX AND INCOME TAX.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it declined to make the amendments requested by the Council.

BILL—MAIN ROADS ACT AMENDMENT.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it no longer disagreed to No. 7 of the amendments made by the Council.

BILL—INSPECTION OF SCAFFOLDING ACT AMENDMENT.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to Nos. 3 and 5 of the amendments made by the Council, disagreed to Nos. 2 and 4, and agreed to No. 1, subject to an amendment contained in the schedule attached.

BILL—EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [10.15] in moving the second reading said: While it is provided under Section 28 of the Education Act, 1928, paragraph (e), that the Minister may make regulations for the classification of teachers, their salaries and allowances, there is nothing in the Act to say what is the greatest interval of time that shall elapse between one re-classification and another. The first systematic classification of the teachers took place in 1907; there was a re-classification in 1913, another in 1920, and the last in 1926. On three occasions the interval has been six years, and in one instance, during the war period, it was seven years. Five years is considered a fair thing. Many changes may occur in our economic system within five years. The cost of living may go up or down, and the purchasing power of the sovereign may be either advanced or reduced. It is advisable, therefore, that the whole position should be open to review at least once every five years. Now there is no machinery by which the Minister can be forced to make a re-classification. He can sit back, and have one when it suits him. That is not equitable. Many of the awards of the Arbitration Court expire after 12 months, but in no case does the period exceed three years. The teachers, who are reasonable men and women, are not asking for anything like that, but naturally they desire to know where they are in so far as re-classifications are concerned. Civil servants have made a similar request, and the matter is being dealt with in a Bill now before the House. The fate of this Bill will depend upon that of a clause in the Public Service Act Amendment Bill, and pending the decision on that clause I ask that some member move the adjourned of the debate on this measure. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion my Hon. H. A. Stephenson, debate adjourned.

BILL—FORESTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 27th November.

HON. H. STEWART (South-East) [10.18]: I propose to quote from the report

of the Conservator of Forests, who this year has issued a document more extensive than has been customary. It deals with the first decennial period since the passing of the Forests Act in 1919. But first of all it is desirable to draw attention to the proposal embodied in the Bill. Subsection 2 of Section 41 of the Forests Act reads as follows:—

Three-fifths of the net revenue of the department to be certified by the Under Treasurer, shall in every financial year be placed to the credit of a special account at the Treasury, and shall form a fund for the improvement and reforestation of State forests and the development of forestry, and such fund may be expended by the Conservator with the approval of the Minister with any authority other than this Act. Provided that a scheme for such expenditure shall be submitted annually, and shall be subject to the approval of Parliament.

It will be noted that the section stipulates three-fifths of the net revenue of the department. It makes no mention as to how the revenue is to be obtained, whether from jarrah, from karri, from licenses or from forests. That is a point I have stressed repeatedly. The Bill before us seeks to amend the Act by inserting after the word "department" in the first line of the subsection, the words "except the revenue derived from sandalwood." During the past five years the Government have received approximately £50,000 a year from sandalwood, which amount has been authorised from year to year by this Chamber. That was not the whole of the revenue, because there was an exemption in previous years under which one-tenth of the amount, or £5,000, whichever was the greater, was reserved for the reforestation of sandalwood. Regarding the work of reforestation and the development of forestry, last year I pointed out that the work of the department was becoming so extensive and the funds at their disposal were being so used that in order to preserve the forest position, revenue from sandalwood could no longer be spared and that it was no longer desirable to alienate portion of the three-fifths net revenue which, under the principal Act, should be available to the department for general forestry purposes. This year's report by the Conservator is well compiled, and I wish to express my appreciation of the graphic summary of operations. It shows the advance made in forestry development during the last 10 years as the result of the passing of legislation in 1919. Our

Act, I think, is the finest in the Commonwealth. Early this year the Third Empire Forestry Conference was held. The sittings were begun in this State and continued at Canberra. Foresters from all parts of the British Empire were present. A committee compiled a report on Australian forestry, portion of which report is embodied in Appendix 8. First of all one and a half pages are devoted to a general survey, after which follows a portion dealing with Western Australia. A paragraph headed "Regulation of Cut" contains the recommendations of the Empire foresters. The paragraph reads—

The principle of sustained yield can be brought into effect only by regulating the cut, so that it does not exceed the annual increment of the forest. At present Western Australia is cutting its principal species (jarrah) at the rate of 700,000 loads a year, and the volume of mature standing timber has been estimated by the department at 20,666,000 loads; from this it is clear that, at the present rate of exploitation, supplies will last 28 years. Forest surveys have revealed a very marked deficiency in the lower age classes, so that it is incumbent on the Government to reduce the cut so as to extend the milling operations over a period of years sufficient to enable the lower age classes to reach maturity. The extent of this reduction has been estimated by Mr. Kessell in his general working plan for the jarrah forests of the State, and it is proposed that this be effected within the next ten years. The benefit to be derived from the reduction of cutting is the permanency of the timber industry. Present supplies will, under reduced output, last 45 years, by which time it is anticipated that the younger age-classes will have reached maturity. Such reduction in itself, however, will not achieve the object of a sustained yield, unless it is accompanied by an active development of regeneration work over the very large area of forest cut over in the past. The regeneration methods adopted during the last few years have given satisfactory results, and their further development and extension is much to be desired.

On page 3 of the Conservator's report, under "Forest Management," appears the following:—

As a first step to bring the timber industry as a whole on to a permanent basis, a general working plan for jarrah was approved by the Governor-in-Council in March, 1929. The volume of mature standing jarrah timber suitable for sawmilling is estimated to be 1,033,000,000 cubic feet, and at the present rate of exploitation, with all mills working at full capacity, this represents only 28 years' cutting. Data concerning the growing stock represented by younger age classes are limited, and no satisfactory increment figures or yield tables for jarrah exist. It is evident, therefore, that any calculation of permissible annual cut must be approximate and to some ex-

tent arbitrary. Ninety years was accepted as the rotation, and it was considered that, if the cutting of the present mature crop can be extended over the first half of the rotation, with an active policy of silvicultural treatment and protection, the immature growing stock should develop sufficiently to maintain this rate during the second half of the rotation. This gives a permissible annual cut of 23,300,000 cubic feet of log timber measured in the round, and the general working plan or jarrah aims to reduce the cut to 25,000,000 cubic feet during the next five years and to 23,300,000 cubic feet within 10 years.

That statement is in accordance with the report of the Empire Forestry Conference Committee, and is the forestry plan in operation in this State. Consequently it is necessary that the department should have funds to carry it out. I direct attention to another portion of the report, page 3, which states—

The Forests Act, 1918, made provision for the immediate establishment of a Forests Department, under the direction of the Minister for Forests, having control and management of all matters of forest policy. In 1919 the Forests Department consisted of an administrative staff of one, an office staff of 10, and a field staff of 27, and employed little or no casual labour.

In 1929 the administrative staff consists of 13 professionally-trained forest officers, practically the whole of whom are employed full time in the field. The office staff consists of 35, including seven on drafting and preparation of lithographs. The field staff of locally-trained officers consists of 59, and the number of forest workers, including resident overseers, is 343, the majority of whom are full-time employees.

We see the way the department has grown in 10 years. The officers are carrying out a policy which has the approval of the Minister. Again to quote from the report; we find that during the ten years—

Despite the setting aside of three-fifths of the net revenue for reforestation, the Treasury has benefited to the extent of £644,822 since the passing of the Forests Act, 1918.

We have to deal now with the present position. There has been a falling off in the demand for jarrah both abroad and in the Eastern States. The extracts I have read show the necessity for reducing and controlling the annual output for the next five years down to 25,000,000 cubic feet, and for the ensuing five years to 23,300,000 cubic feet, so that there may not be a period when no mature timber is available. This indicates that so great a revenue cannot be expected from our hardwoods if there is a

falling off in the amount marketed. That brings me to the financial position. The report says—

The reforestation fund at 30th June, 1929, showed a credit balance of £77,920. When compared with the expenditure of £121,921 from this fund last year, it is evident that this balance is inadequate to meet the current developmental programme. In an endeavour to meet the more urgent needs the scheme of expenditure submitted to Parliament during the current session is based on the balance in the fund at 1st July, 1929, plus the estimated appropriations from revenue collected to 1st January, 1930, amounting in all to £110,000, which is still considerably below last year's expenditure.

As a result of this proposal, the reserve in the fund will be reduced to six months' appropriations and, in view of the dependence of the amount credited to the fund each month on collections of revenue from timber royalties, and the necessity for continuation of essential services, such as fire control, during any period of depression or hold-up of the timber industry, this procedure will reduce the balance in the fund at any time to the minimum consistent with reasonable security.

From the figures submitted it seems beyond question that there is going to be a period from now on when the amount of revenue the Government have been getting from sandalwood cannot be spared from the forestry fund, to which three-fifths of the net revenue should be paid. It was the intention of Parliament that a full and proper system of forestry should be carried out on permanent lines, and the time is now ripe when the revenue the Government seek to obtain from sandalwood royalties should be diverted to its proper channel.

HON. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan) [10.35]: This Bill comes before us in much the same form as a similar measure did last year and the year before. I trust members will consider it their duty to deal with this Bill as they did with the previous one. The remarks of Mr. Stewart must emphasise the importance of this industry to the State, and the need that exists to fortify the Forests Department with ample funds to meet the difficulties they will be bound to encounter in the future. The report from which Mr. Stewart has quoted is deserving of the commendation of members. The position of the department is recorded there in an interesting manner. I have perused that document. To my mind the matter which stands out is that showing what a vital asset the forests are to the State. It is our duty to indicate that we appreciate the wisdom

of those who passed the 1918 Act, and to refuse to depart from the provisions the Bill seeks to vary. If we assent to the Bill the whole of the revenue from sandalwood will automatically pass into Consolidated Revenue, and the department will suffer a correspondingly serious loss in its own finances. I admit, as the Minister pointed out, that certain sums are already standing to the credit of the department. We must, however, look into the future, as those who originally framed the Act did, and appreciate the fact that this asset is a wasting one and must be replenished. It cannot be replenished, and the work of the department cannot be extended, unless we maintain sufficient funds. The more the funds are conserved, the more will the department be able to deal with the matter advantageously, such as by finding employment in the extension of forestry plantations, and doing service that will be of lasting benefit to those who follow us. Having regard to those circumstances, and also to the importance of forestry, which aspect has been dealt with from time to time by many well versed in the subject, I feel that I cannot but regard the encroachment on those funds as a highly serious matter; indeed, one that we shall deplore in later years. I therefore hope the House will not accept the Bill.

On motion by Hon. W. J. Mann, debate adjourned.

BILL—FREMANTLE ENDOWMENT LANDS.

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [10.43] in moving the second reading said: This is a small Bill introduced really at the request of the Fremantle Municipal Council. In October of 1928 a deputation from the Fremantle Municipal Council waited upon Mr. McCallum, the Minister for Works, in regard to the possibility of making a portion of the endowment lands available for workers' homes, the endowment lands being situated in a part of Fremantle eminently suited for that purpose. The deputation pointed out that land in and around Fremantle was highly expensive, and in some cases difficult to secure for the purpose of building homes suitable for workers. The Fremantle Municipal Council, in order to overcome the difficulty, considered that it would be an excel-

lent idea to take a part of their endowment lands for that purpose. The idea is that four or five-roomed houses, probably of wood, shall be erected at reasonable cost, and that thus additional facilities shall be afforded for the Fremantle workers to secure homes of their own. However, the Government were advised by the Solicitor General that since the land had been granted to the municipality as an endowment, it should not be disposed of for building purposes except on a leasehold basis at a groundrental. This did not quite meet the views of the Fremantle Council, who desired that it should be possible for a worker to secure the freehold of his home. Consequently, in September of this year the Fremantle Council passed a resolution approving of the surrender of the land to the Government and asking the Government to introduce a Bill to authorise the surrender. Subsequently the area was fixed as described in the Bill. Quite a number of applications have already been received for sites for homes, in anticipation of the passing of the Bill. The question was also referred to the Town Planning Commissioner, who inspected the land and reported it as being elevated and well drained, and as presenting no difficulties whatever in forming it into a garden city.

Hon. J. Nicholson: How many acres are to be surrendered?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I believe I have the information, but at the moment I cannot state the exact acreage. The Beaconsfield tramway runs close to the land, and when the area is more fully settled, no doubt the tramway will be extended. I commend the measure to hon. members because I appreciate the many difficulties Fremantle workers encounter in their endeavours to secure homes at reasonable cost. Since this Bill was circulated two or three other matters have arisen which it is considered advisable to include in the Bill. I shall, therefore, in Committee move the various amendments which appear on the Notice Paper. The Fremantle Municipal Council hold Fremantle town lot 598 in trust for municipal purposes. They wish to transfer that land to the Kindergarten Union. The land has been unoccupied for some years, and the local branch of the Kindergarten Union is prepared to erect upon it a school worth approximately £1,000 if a title can be obtained. The council are prepared to transfer the land for that purpose. Another amend-

ment I shall move in Committee relates to Fremantle town lot 1508, which the municipality hold in trust solely for a market. It is desired to transfer portion of the land to the Fremantle Tramways and Electric Lighting Board for a site shown on litho. No. 2, which I shall lay on the Table. The council propose to transfer the area at a price to be mutually agreed upon. The tramway undertaking being owned jointly by the Fremantle and East Fremantle municipalities, any moneys recovered from the sale of the land can only be applied to municipal purposes. There is no departmental objection to either of the cases I have mentioned. As the land is subject to a trust in either case, parliamentary sanction is necessary to authorise the transfer.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Can you move those amendments? How about the Title of the Bill?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I assume that we can amend the Title.

Hon. J. Nicholson: We recently had a ruling that that could not be done. I tried to do it in order to save a multiplicity of Bills.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I am not advised that there is any difficulty in that regard.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Do the council receive any consideration for the endowment lands which the Government propose to devote to the purpose of workers' homes?

The HONORARY MINISTER: The local authorities are surrendering the land in order that it may be made available for the purpose of workers' homes. Knowing the area well, I can assure the hon. member that it is a desirable place. It would be better to see that area of land built on as proposed than to see it in its present state. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [10.49]: I endorse the remarks the Honorary Minister has made on the Bill. Some six or nine months ago I accompanied a number of Fremantle councillors on a visit of inspection to the land in question.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Where is the land situated?

Hon. G. FRASER: One goes right out south, and continues up that steep hill and across Carrington-street to the little dairy known as Morrison's. The land is below

Morrison's dairy. It is out beyond Beaconsfield and is ideally situated for workers' homes. The proposition was originally put forward by a member of the Fremantle City Council who was desirous of seeing homes built there. The land has lain idle for many years and there are not many dwelling houses in the vicinity. I have never been able to understand why that part has not progressed, because it is ideally situated.

Hon G. W. Miles: The reason is that the area has been a reserve.

Hon. G. FRASER: I was referring more to the land in the vicinity. If the Bill is passed and a fine suburb established there, the Tramway Board will be induced to extend the trams up the hill and thus provide transport facilities for people who have been without them for years. In the absence of such a scheme, those people will have to continue without easy means of access to the city. The council hope to obtain some revenue from the rates that will be collected from the people who may reside in the new suburb. Regarding the other areas mentioned by the Honorary Minister, the land at the corner of Price-street and South-terrace has been unoccupied for many years. At one time it was used as a croquet lawn, but for a long time it has not been used for that purpose. The Kindergarten Union require to build premises somewhere. Through the courtesy of the local branch of the Returned Soldiers' League, the union have availed themselves of the R.S.L. Hall. It is unsatisfactory, and the Union may have to vacate the premises at any time. I believe they will have to do so at the end of the month, so the matter is urgent from their standpoint. No injustice will be done to anyone by granting the land to the Kindergarten Union for building purposes. I know the areas referred to, and I can assure hon. members without hesitation that no injustice will be done to anyone if we agree to the Bill.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [10.55]: I support the second reading of the Bill. The dedicating of the endowment lands will enable a fine working-class suburb to be established. Already there is an extensive recreation ground controlled by the local progress association, who have been instrumental in persuading the Fremantle City Council to push this scheme actively. The Bill has the support of all sections in Fremantle where there is an acute house short-

age. With the endowment lands available, the authorities will be able to formulate an attractive building scheme and enable them to purchase homes under 30 years' terms at a rental of about 13s. or 15s. a week. The general lay-out of the scheme proposed is ideal, and will go a long way towards relieving the house shortage.

HON. J. CORNELL (South) [10.56]:

There are one or two features regarding which I would like some information. I have no objection to the surrender of the land by the Fremantle City Council to the Workers' Homes Board, but I want to know whether the land will be dedicated to the board for the building of leasehold dwellings or freehold dwellings.

The Honorary Minister: For freehold dwellings.

Hon. J. Ewing: The Honorary Minister told us that.

Hon. J. CORNELL: When the Honorary Minister replies, I hope he will clear up another interesting point. In one group at West Subiaco there are 30-odd houses erected under the leasehold system since 1914. There is a reserve within three minutes of the West Subiaco station that has been idle for 15 years, although dedicated to the Workers' Homes Board for the erection of leasehold buildings.

Hon. G. Fraser: You know the reason for that.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Recently a house was erected there, and I think it is just about to be completed. Is that a leasehold dwelling or a freehold dwelling?

Hon. G. Fraser: A leasehold dwelling.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I hope the question will be tackled and that there will be a definite policy of leasehold or freehold under the Workers' Homes Act.

Hon. J. Nicholson: You want one or the other.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Yes, I have a decided objection to shandy-gaff. In fact, this is not shandy-gaff; it is all lemonade and no ale. I support the Bill and do not object to the freehold proposal. I hope the vexed question of the two systems will be cleared up. It will be agreed that the leasehold system has not been the success that was originally anticipated. It is certainly not fair to those who have had leasehold buildings for the last 15 years for the Government to now embark upon the freehold system.

Hon. G. Fraser: You know that the area you refer to is an old dedication, whereas the one referred to in the Bill is quite new.

Hon. J. CORNELL: But the area at West Subiaco has been idle for 15 years, and if the leasehold system is continued there it will remain idle for another 15 years. It is a public scandal.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. Cornell in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3—agreed to.

New clause:

The HONORARY MINISTER: I move an amendment—

That the following be added to stand as Clause 4:—

Fremantle City Council authorised to surrender Fremantle Town Lot 593.

4. The Fremantle City Council is hereby authorised to surrender to His Majesty all its estate and interest in Fremantle Town Lot 598 which is held in trust for municipal purposes.

Following upon this I have another new clause to move. The two have to be read together, the object being to make it possible for the Fremantle Municipal Council to transfer Lot 598 in fee simple to the trustees of the Kindergarten Union of Western Australia Incorporated in trust for the erection of certain buildings.

The CHAIRMAN: The title of the Bill is "An Act to authorise the Fremantle City Council to surrender portion of Cockburn Sound Location 551 and for the dedication of the portion surrendered to the purposes of the Workers' Homes Act, 1911." That is the scope of the Bill. The amendment goes far beyond that. A little while ago I had to rule out from another Bill an amendment moved by Mr. Nicholson, the reason being that the title of that Bill was specific, not general, and so the amendment did not come within the scope of the Bill. This is practically on all fours with the Bill in respect of which I ruled out Mr. Nicholson's amendment. I will have to rule that the amendments now proposed by the Honorary Minister are not within the scope of the Bill, and that the proper way to deal with those amendments is to bring down a new Bill.

Schedule, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—PUBLIC SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. V. HAMERSLEY (East) [11,7]: I regret that so important a Bill should be brought down at this late stage in the session. I am sorry, too, that I have not been able to go right through all the various clauses and get their full meaning. We have been extremely well served by the Public Service and it is only right that we should desire to treat them in the best way possible, realising that at all events in the past many of the salaries paid were not adequate for the services rendered, although they represented all that could be paid according to the circumstances of the country. As the State has progressed endeavours have been made by successive Governments to do the right thing by the service. Still, with human nature what it is, and everybody reaching out to do the best he can for himself, it is sometimes difficult for the Public Service Commissioner to maintain a happy balance between the various sections of the Service, and to see that everybody gets a fair deal. This Bill coming down so late in the session and on the eve of a general election, affords a temptation to those in the service to press their claims, and gratifies a desire on the part of those who will be seeking election to secure all the benefits they can for the service. So there is a tendency to make rash promises that later on it may be difficult to carry out. Those in power naturally wish to do the best possible for the Public Service, and there is a danger that they might overstep the bounds of prudence and lead the service to expect greater things than the country in ordinary circumstances could afford. I regret that such a measure should be brought before us just on the eve of a general election. It is a question that should engage attention in the middle life of a Parliament and not in the dying hours. It is proposed that the Public Service Commissioner should have the help of an assistant Commissioner. The present Act authorises the appointment of two assistant Commissioners, but it is intended that instead of

two, one might be appointed to help the Commissioner in his work. I do not know that that is a departure we can all acclaim. I believe in one man discharging the duties of Public Service Commissioner at his own discretion. I am afraid that the power sought in this direction is likely to lead to the permanent appointment of an assistant Commissioner. When the legislation was framed originally, it was intended to have one Commissioner whose decision should be final, but he was to be permitted to secure any technical advice he required without appointing anyone definitely to the position of assistant Commissioner. Of course the Commissioner is entitled to have the expert information he requires, but he should be able to obtain it without having anyone else placed on the pedestal he occupies, and also without risking outside pressure on his decisions. I dare say the provision for reclassification at periods of five years will be satisfactory, so long as the country continues to progress and we do not reach a stalemate. However, there is another side to the question. If it be mandatory to make a reclassification every five years, it may occur during hard times and the service might experience an all-round reduction instead of an increase of status and salary. Thus, civil servants might fall out of the frying pan into the fire. The revenue of the State, like the income of individuals, is at times restricted, and there is perhaps insufficient to go round. While we hope that progress will continue and that we shall be able to grant the desired emoluments, other States and countries have experienced bad times and have had to call a halt. If that occurred here when the reclassification was due, I do not know whether the service would appreciate the position. I may be taking a somewhat pessimistic view, but it is well to bear in mind that there are times when we must cut the coat according to the cloth. If the cost of living and values generally receded, naturally public servants could not expect increases of salary. However much we might desire to grant increases, conditions might be such that we would be unable to concede them. The Public Service of Western Australia has set a very high standard. It is composed of wonderfully good men, by whom the State has been extremely well served. Many problems arise in a State like Western Australia. Being a new State, various schemes have to be tried out, new departments become necessary and

various alterations have to be made. It is quite different from an old-established country where the Public Service has moved along set lines for centuries and changes have been few. Changes here occur with great rapidity, and the men in the service have had to adapt themselves to the altered conditions consequent on the radical changes in the country. Western Australia has been well served, though the service has felt that its members have been neglected somewhat, while others have gained benefits that the State could not grant its employees. Many fathers are glad to get their sons into the service, because the career there is an honourable one, and there is a fine sense of security about it. Once a person enters it there is every likelihood of his remaining there for many years. It is a safe future for him. Others prefer to embark upon private undertakings in the hope of earning special prizes for themselves, but many of those fail to achieve their ambitions and merely have to struggle for an existence. In the long run persons have often not been nearly so well off as if they had joined the service. Security of tenure is an important factor, and helps to make for the betterment of the service. Generally, too, there is exhibited on the part of the officers a keen desire to give of their best to the country. The State is fortunate indeed in having secured the services of such men over a long term of years. I feel sure that what the Government are aiming at is in the best interests of Western Australia. I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading of the Bill.

On motion by Hon. G. Fraser, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 11.23 p.m.
