

I do not consider that an applicant would be frivolous. Judging from the figures I have seen in the Press, I would say that this business is very remunerative, and there would be no frivolous applications. The position is that if there were 12 applicants, the deposits would total £24; and of that sum the Treasury would retain £22 when the licence was granted. In its statement through the Minister, the board dismissed the matter by saying that all fees paid by unsuccessful applicants would be refunded. I am pleased to know that. I hope we shall have an amended regulation to the effect that the money will be returned, instead of the existing regulation being retained, so that at any time it can be enforced.

The Chief Secretary: It will be cancelled.

Hon. Sir CHARLES LATHAM: No cancelled regulation has been tabled.

The Chief Secretary: No; it was only done last week or the week before.

Hon. Sir CHARLES LATHAM: I am glad that if nothing else has been achieved, there has been a recognition of the justice of my contention in that connection. But I again appeal to members not to treat frivolously regulations that come to this House. Let us know what is being done by the people we are responsible for. My attention has just been drawn to the fact that the fee to accompany an application for a licence is, as I thought, £2. I am glad to have had the regulation brought to my notice, because I never like to make a statement that is not perfectly correct.

I consider that I have put up a sound argument why these regulations should be disallowed and why we should ask the board to give the people's representatives, who are responsible to the people—

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Why do you reckon they should get that £2 back?

Hon. Sir CHARLES LATHAM: I thought I had made it perfectly clear. The hon. member will know Broome—which is a small place—and Carnarvon, which is a much bigger place. He will also know that Kalgoorlie-Boulder is a very big area in comparison with the others. Does he think that only two betting shops should be provided there? If only two are to be allowed, and a decent citizen like himself makes application, but has no chance of getting a licence because the board does not like the look of his physique, or something else, does he not consider that he should be entitled to a refund of his money?

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: What about all the investigation that has to be made?

Hon. Sir CHARLES LATHAM: If that is the position, the applicant should perhaps lodge £100 or more.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: But what about—

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. Sir CHARLES LATHAM: I am beginning to feel that the hon. member is only trifling with my feelings; and that he thinks he is perhaps a little cleverer than I am, which no doubt he is. For the benefit of the two new members, I want to say that when regulations are framed, this House is not consulted. But we have given permission for them to be made; and under the Interpretation Act, we must accept responsibility for them. We have only a short period in which to make up our minds about them, because once they have lain on the Table of the House for 14 sitting days, they become the law of the land, and their provisions are just as penal as those of any Act, the consideration of which might have occupied us for many hours.

I ask members not to treat this matter lightly. I hope that in future they will give great consideration to those clauses of Bills that provide for regulations. If I am defeated on this motion, I will still feel I have made an appeal to members; and if I have failed, I have failed in a good cause, and the responsibility is not mine.

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

Ayes	11
Noes	13
Majority against	2

Ayes.

Hon. J. Cunningham	Hon. J. Murray
Hon. L. O. Diver	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. Sir Frank Gibson	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. H. Hearn	Hon. F. D. Willmott
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. E. L. Roche
Hon. Sir Chas. Latham	(Teller.)

Noes.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker	Hon. R. F. Hutchison
Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. F. R. H. Lavery
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. L. A. Logan
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. J. D. Teahan
Hon. J. J. Garrigan	Hon. A. F. Griffith
Hon. W. R. Hall	(Teller.)

Pairs.

Ayes.	Noes.
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. J. McI. Thomson	Hon. E. M. Heenan

Question thus negatived.

BILL—JURY ACT AMENDMENT
(No. 1).

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Twelfth Day—Conclusion.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. F. D. WILLMOTT (South-West) [5.7]: Firstly, I would like to thank members for the very kind way in which they welcomed me to this House. The remarks passed about the service rendered by my

late father when he was a member of Parliament, leave me with the thought that if I can at the end of my term here leave an impression as good as the one he left, I will be satisfied.

I am here to replace the late Mr. Henning. During my recent tour of the South-West Province it was forcibly brought home to me how highly he was regarded by all members of the community in that province. Since entering this House, I have realised that the same high esteem for him applies here. I realise, too, that I have before me a fairly hard task in replacing him, but I will do my best to do so.

Dealing with the Address-in-reply, I would first like to make reference to the dairying industry in the lower South-West. The recent survey by the Bureau of Economics reveals that the average cost of butterfat production in Western Australia is in the vicinity of 6d. a lb. above the Australian average. Some of the developed farms that are milking a reasonable number of cows, and have highly developed pastures, are producing butterfat at considerably below the Western Australian average, which means that on the under-developed farms the cost of production is considerably above the Western Australian average. So it follows that some development must take place on those farms if they are to continue in the industry.

The need today is to make an attempt to bring the number of cows on these under-developed farms up to a reasonable figure. Many of them are milking only 15 to 25 cows; and that number has never been, and never will be, an economic proposition. I think that no fewer than 40 cows would be considered by most dairy farmers as being economic. These under-developed dairy farms should be brought up to the stage of carrying 40 or more cows, and this means an average pasture of approximately 160 acres. Many farmers in the lower South-West have only 50 to 70 acres of pasture.

For any Government to try to raise that acreage to 160 in one hit would end in failure, because to go into that heavily-timbered country and knock down 70 or 80 acres at one time would simply mean that before the farmer was able to burn it up and pasture the land, the country would be over-grown with regrowth, and so the work done by the bulldozer would, to a large extent, be lost. I think the development of these farms will have to be carried out by clearing a small number of acres at a time. The Government should give thought to the idea of making the development a gradual process.

An attempt should also be made to lower the costs in the dairying industry, because in many cases they are excessive. One of the costs that does not apply in the Eastern States to the same extent as it does here, is that of super. In the Eastern States

the farmers use the same amount of super per acre as we do here—they put a bag to the acre, and so do we—but one acre there will carry one cow; whereas four acres are required in the lower South-West to carry one cow. So the super cost in the butterfat industry here is at least four times what it is in the East, and the Government might give thought to some means of providing farmers with cheaper super.

I think another cause of our high production cost is the fact that in many of the dairy herds in this State there are bulls in use which should never have found their way into a herd. They should not have got past the butcher's block. It is easy to speak of getting rid of these bulls, and it is easy to get rid of them by killing them. But it is a hard task to replace them, because there are not many available sources of good bulls. With that in view, the Government might well give consideration to lifting the standard of the dairy herds by means of artificial insemination. I think that in the future this practice will play a big part in lifting our dairy herds to a higher average production.

Another factor that greatly affects the dairy farmer's cost of production is the ubiquitous rabbit. In the South-West, unfortunately, the myxomatosis virus, except in a few isolated areas, has shown no great signs of spreading. Farmers would be wise to continue their efforts to spread the virus, of course; but to date, the results have not been encouraging. On the other hand results obtained from the distribution of poison 1080 throughout the South-West have, on the whole, been very good. Nevertheless, the manner in which this poison has been laid up till now has been a little haphazard.

I want to make it clear that I am in no way criticising the methods used for its distribution up till now, because the spreading of 1080 poison has been regarded largely as an experiment. When the teams have moved into areas to lay the poison, instead of its having been laid over the face of large tracts of country, considerable pockets of badly infested land have been by-passed. The result is that the rabbits very soon find those pockets that have been cleared of rabbits and the area has to be treated again. The best results from the 1080 poison will be obtained by spreading it over a face and making sure that no infested pockets remain. If that is done, it will prove to be of great benefit to dairy farmers, and particularly to those whose properties are bounded by forest areas where rabbits breed.

At this stage I want to make a brief mention of the tobacco industry in the Warren district. The recent poor tobacco sales have been little less than a fiasco. The result has been that the traders in the Manjimup district, who have been carrying the growers through the growing period, are still carrying them. I do not profess to be an authority on tobacco growing; but

experts have told me that the cause of the poor sales does not lie in the bad grading of tobacco because, at the sales, where a grower had over five bales of tobacco of a similar grade to be offered, buyers have bought only one bale and left the remainder on the floor.

The result is that many growers are virtually faced with ruin unless they are able to sell their tobacco elsewhere. Also, as I have said, the traders in the Manjimup district are left with the burden of carrying these people. Many growers are paying freight on the unsaleable tobacco which is consigned to Perth; but eventually have it destroyed here, or pay freight on it back to the Warren district so that they may destroy it themselves. Therefore, the Government will have to make a survey of the position of the tobacco growers very soon to ascertain what can be done for this industry; otherwise, the growers will simply walk off their properties, and all the money that has been spent on development will have been wasted. Undoubtedly, a great deal of work and money has been expended on the tobacco industry. Many people think that all the work is done by tractor or mechanical equipment, but much of it is performed by a man's two hands, and, further, it is extremely hard work. So the Government should do something to alleviate the position of these growers.

The recent heavy rains in the southern areas have created many drainage problems in the various districts. One of the worst affected which I saw during my tour was in the Collie district in the housing area of Cheetara, where many new houses have been built virtually on a morass. The conditions are appalling, and they will remain so until the Government makes finance available to assist the Collie Coalfields Road Board with drainage work. The problem is far too great for any local authority to handle. Furthermore, the position will be considerably aggravated next winter unless something is done during the summer months to install a drainage system.

Another grave problem facing Collie people is the shortage of employment for miners. Some of the men and the machinery have been absorbed at Greenbushes by a small mining company called Tin and Strategic Minerals Ltd., which is mining for tin and tantalite. Up to date, that company has only been in the developmental stage. I think it has already absorbed about 20 Collie contractors with their trucks and equipment. The company started work in February 1954. Apparently it realised that the reason why many companies mining for tin and tantalite in the Greenbushes district have failed was the lack of a good water supply. So the first step this company took was to excavate a 100,000,000-gallon dam. That in itself is no small achievement.

Most of the company's equipment to date has been employed on developmental work and the water-supply undertaking. It

struck considerable difficulties during the wet period just experienced, but hopes to expand its activities shortly. Its plant has been used mostly in dredging the dam site. During that period, as a sort of sideline, the company produced 130 tons of concentrates valued at £72,000 for the tin content alone. This amount does not include the tantalite value in the concentrates. I think this company has proved that it will be able to produce considerable quantities of tin and tantalite when it really gets under way. At present it has only 22 men permanently employed and they are living in Greenbushes in homes provided by the company.

In addition, the company has in its employ the contractors it brought from Collie. The monthly wages bill is £2,000, plus £8,000 a month paid to the contractors for their labour and the use of their equipment. The company also pays approximately £1,000 a month to the State Electricity Commission. So it can be realised that the company is growing into a fairly large venture; and I feel certain it will prove to be of considerable value not only to the State, but also to Australia as a whole, because at present we produce only approximately 50 per cent. of the tin used in the Commonwealth. Therefore, I believe that when the company gets under way it will prove to be a great asset to the country.

I now wish to refer to the supply of fruit cases for the fruit-growing industry. During the season just concluded, fruit growers had considerable difficulty in obtaining fruit cases to export their product overseas. Had the regulations governing the quality of fruit cases in this State been enforced, many thousands of cases would have been rejected and would never have left the State. Last season, these regulations were relaxed. However, the growers have already been informed that in the coming season these regulations will be strictly enforced. So it is incumbent upon the Government to ensure that there will be adequate supplies of fruit cases available to fruit growers when they require them; and they will have to be cases of a standard that will pass the regulations.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced by growers with the cases that were put through the slicing machines installed to speed production, and I do not think those machines have proved very successful up to date. When the timber is prepared for the manufacture of cases, there is considerable splitting and curling of the board; and although the cases were passed by the inspectors last season, that will not be so in the forthcoming season.

So in the future I hope to see greater quantities of sawn boards produced for fruit cases. If it is necessary to revert to the use of the slicing machines, care will have to be taken with the type of timber

used. I understand that it is only the very young and sappy timber that gives the best results. If old trees are put through the slicing machines, the timber is of little value for the manufacture of fruit cases. I trust, therefore, that the Government will take into consideration that the position of the fruit-growing industry can change rapidly during a season, as it did last year.

Members know that there was a considerable fall of rain in February; something previously unheard of to my knowledge. I do not think that ever before, in that month, we have had such a fall of rain as we received last February. Instead of only a meagre crop, even with the best of normal conditions, these rains brought forth a bumper crop, which accentuated the shortage of fruit cases. Such an eventuality can happen again, so that any estimate of the apple crop, even if made in December, could be upset, and the production bumped up by the time harvesting commences in March. Consequently I hope the Government will see fit to make large quantities of good quality cases available to the fruit-growers in the coming season.

HON. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM (South-East) [5.29]: I wish to preface my remarks with a brief reference to the late Mr. Boylen whose province I now represent in this House. Most members knew Mr. Boylen intimately; but I venture to say that only those who live in his home town and who knew him as a friend, as I did, could appreciate the kindly nature he possessed. His many attributes are well known in Boulder, and his passing is regretted not only by members of this House but also by his townspeople. I could wish that my appearance in this House today had been occasioned by other circumstances.

I also wish to express my sympathy at the loss of the late Mr. Henning, who passed away after I left the House. He was a member of Parliament for only a short time and left us when he was a young man. It is regrettable that in the short space of time since I have been away so many strange faces in this House have appeared as a result of early demise of friends.

Unfortunately my parliamentary efforts in pressing for attention to the needs of my district were interrupted in 1954, and I want to say that I am amazed at the amount of work which still remains to be done. Apparently the projects have passed the stage when they are recognised as the needs of the district; and will never be realities. I refer to the many projects that were under consideration relating to the portion of the State I represent. Members representing my province keep before this House an up-to-date picture of its needs.

In the short period of my absence, I made a quick and brief survey of the outstanding needs. I found that literally dozens of projects, which at that time had passed the drawing-board stage, have come to a dead end. One district, as we all know, will be the most prosperous section of the State in time to come; I refer to the coastal district from east of Esperance to Ravensthorpe. It will contribute more to the food supply and economy of the State than any other district of equivalent size.

In a period of nine months, in a small area between Shark Lake and the coast, a matter of 17 miles either way, 60 new settlers have taken up land. Where one could leave the road and travel across the bush nine months ago, the land is now all fenced, and one can see new posts and fencing wire. That is how the district is growing; and it is growing entirely without Government assistance. The growth has been brought about by private and individual enterprise.

When one realises that farmers starting up in that district on virgin country have to go 30 miles roundabout to get into their property, which might be only seven miles in a straight line, one is aware of their difficulty. They cannot even bring superphosphate on to their properties over the tracks that are made. Yet it was barely 12 months ago that plans envisaged by the late Hon. G. B. Wood, were discussed with a view to a start being made. A network of access roads was planned, but many excuses were advanced as to why this could not be undertaken. Today there is still not one chain of road constructed to make the various holdings more accessible.

The Minister for the North-West: What road board is responsible?

HON. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I agree the road board concerned is lacking in enterprise; but something can be done by the Government besides the road board, as has been done in other parts of the State. Nothing has been done by the Government to attract people to this developmental area. We know that great plans have been laid; but unfortunately the State is littered with plans made for one project or another which has not been undertaken.

There is the matter of the Shark Lake siding. The residents made representations that a siding was absolutely essential. That was 18 months ago. Then the Government was convinced, but nothing has been done. The residents of Salmon Gums are still waiting for their bulk-wheat bin, and for cattle pens to be erected. There was a cry for the road between Norseman and Esperance to be bituminised, and 17 miles from one end was so built. Then the work was discontinued. After another public flurry the road was bituminised from the Kalgoorlie end.