

would not obtain if we had better inspection of the mines. One half the fibrosis results from inadequate ventilation. Who is to say that there is an adequate supply of air in a mine? I do not think the district inspectors are provided with anemometers for testing the ventilation. At Day Dawn, for four years we paid £900 to assist the dependants of miners stricken down by this complaint. I fail to see how any member can object to a better inspection of our mines. No mining community is likely to unduly harass the mine management. The only object the Minister had in bringing down a one-clause Bill was to satisfy the demands made by the workers for the better carrying out of the Act. I hope the Bill will receive more sympathetic treatment in another place than it has had in the past. Although the leader of the Opposition spoke against it I am convinced that his heart was not in the opposition he offered. The miners have supported everything brought forward for the benefit of the farming community, and I feel sure that on this occasion we will have the support of the farmers' representatives in this House.

On motion by Mr. Gilchrist debate adjourned.

[] House adjourned at 11.7 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 16th September, 1915.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 3.0 p.m., and read prayers.

BILL—GOVERNMENT ELECTRIC WORKS ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Hon. W. Kingsmill in the Chair; the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Amendment to Section 5:

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: I am utterly opposed to any extension of the industrial enterprises unwisely entered into by the Government. The extension of the electric works provided for in the clause will mean more work, more expenditure and more material, and will end in the engagement of an increased number of employees. It seems to me that the chief end and aim of a number of these industrial concerns is to provide employment. I will oppose the clause.

Hon. J. F. ALLEN: I move an amendment—

That in lines 2 and 3 the following words be struck out:—"otherwise than to a Government department or agency (State or Commonwealth)."

The clause will still give the Government power to enter into a district and supply electric current. By means of the amendment I hope to get an expression of opinion from hon. members on the question of the right of the Government to supply in districts already supplied—in some instances by arrangement with the Government of the day. Originally two schemes were submitted to the people of Fremantle. The minor scheme was rejected and the major scheme adopted, for the reason that the Government agreed that if the larger scheme were undertaken they would draw their supplies from that scheme. It was a distinct understanding given to the people of Fremantle that if they established the larger works the Government would take their supplies from them.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: I believe the amendment has the sympathy of the leader of the House.

The Colonial Secretary: Certainly not.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: The chief arguments advanced in support of the Bill on the second reading were that the Government should be allowed to go to

the Naval Base, and should have the right to supply their own large consumers. The House by a large majority decided to confirm those rights. The Bill will give the Government the privilege of passing their cables through Fremantle and supplying the Harbour Trust and the railway station, as well as North Fremantle. It gives the Government the power to take away from the Fremantle Tramway Board those large consumers, but I ask that the Fremantle local authority should be protected to at least some extent. We have within the municipality a number of small tenements occupied by civil servants, and we think that no attempt should be made to take those small consumers from us. I hope the Committee will say that these tenements, many of them at present let in lieu of salary to civil servants, will remain to the municipality to supply. I do not think the Government will endeavour to take these small consumers from us, but we do not know what is in the future, and we ought to have this protection definitely extended to us. The Bill gives the Government the power to supply the railways, the Harbour Trust, and the large consumers not within the municipality, and the only large consumer within the district would be the gaol.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: I intend to be consistent and oppose the amendment. While there is some force in the remarks of Sir Edward Wittenoom regarding the number of State enterprises springing up, there are some concerns which can be run by the Government better than by private enterprise, and this is one of them. Both are works for the public weal. I am of the same opinion now as when I spoke on the second reading, that the Government, having undertaken the works, are justly entitled to supply their own requirements without interference from any local authority which may have previously established works within its own borders.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: It is regrettable that such an important amendment was not placed on the Notice Paper to give members an opportunity to

consider it. I believe the amendment would practically destroy the whole Bill. If the words mentioned were struck out, nothing could be done without the consent of a local authority in districts where works have been established, and we are asked to consent to this after having passed the second reading and after having refused to refer the Bill to a select committee.

Hon. J. F. ALLEN: The hon. member does not quite understand the position. The Minister, in moving the second reading, distinctly said the Government desired the right to carry their mains through any municipality to supply districts that required current or the Naval Base. The amendment would not deprive the Government of that right. The Government would still have the power to carry their mains through but not to supply in a district where works are established. The Government could carry their mains through Claremont and Fremantle to supply the Naval Base. We should not grant the Government powers which they have not requested. The Fremantle Board desire to retain the present customers within their boundaries, and Governments in the past have, to a certain extent, promised that this right should be preserved. Members have twitted the representatives of West Province with being parochial, but I appeal to them to be fair in their treatment of Fremantle. We object to the Government picking the eyes out of a district and so rendering a failure a scheme which has hitherto been a success. The board have managed this business concern with a success the Government have not realised in connection with their concerns, and surely the Fremantle people should be protected in the future.

Hon. A. G. JENKINS: All these arguments were heard on the second reading. On this principle the second reading was fought. The Minister clearly stated that the Government wanted authority to supply their own departments in Fremantle instead of purchasing current from another body. That principle was affirmed by 19 votes

to 5, and now we are asked in a small House to turn a somersault and cancel that vote. Advocates of the amendment have been beaten and should accept the decision. The amendment would destroy the value of the Bill. The Harbour Trust and railways are outside the municipality, but there are numerous Government departments in Fremantle and the Government should certainly have the right to supply them. The Government would have no power to supply private consumers without the consent of the local authority.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: We now learn that the question is one of Fremantle supplying the Government buildings within the municipality, or as Mr. Lynn expressed it, reserving a few perquisites to Fremantle. If an arrangement could be made with the Government to specify the particular buildings in Fremantle, perhaps an understanding could be arrived at. Is the railway station within the municipality?

Hon. J. F. Allen: I think not.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: The hon. member is not sure; such ignorance is curious.

Hon. J. F. Allen: It is inside the health district but outside the municipal district. The line of the municipal district is along the Fremantle side of the railway fence, and I think the railway station and houses are not included in the Fremantle municipality.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: The hon. member is not certain now.

Hon. R. J. Lynn: I am certain the station is outside.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: Is the gaol inside the municipality?

Hon. R. J. Lynn: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the hon. member not to conduct a conversation.

Hon. A. SANDERSON: I am merely trying to elicit information. The representatives of the district desire to have the gaol lighting preserved to Fremantle. The information elicited will probably convince members that to adopt the amendment would stultify the Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This amendment will leave matters in a worse condition than they now are in from the Government point of view. If the amendment is passed, it will be equal to a specific instruction from Parliament that no other Government departments or agencies of the State or Commonwealth shall be supplied with electricity. The hon. member has moved a motion to the effect that the Government shall not supply either their own or the Commonwealth departments outside of the limits of the metropolitan area without the consent of the local authorities. This point has been decided on by a majority of four to one, and has further been discussed on the motion for the appointment of a select committee. The hon. Mr. Lynn and the hon. Mr. Allen raised many points. I want to have time to consider the position and to consult the Solicitor General with a view to finding out exactly what the situation is in that respect.

[The President resumed the Chair.]

Progress reported.

BILL—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM (North) [3.33]: I do not intend to take up much of the time of the House in discussing this Bill. Last evening the hon. Mr. Baxter took some exception to its administration by the Commissioner of Police under the Minister. I do not know sufficient about operations of this kind to be able to say who the best authority is to administer legislation of this kind. I take it that those who are most concerned would have made representations to their representatives in another place if they had any objection to the work being carried on by the police. Personally, I have no objection, and I think the police can carry out the work as well as anyone else. My experience in anything of the kind is

very limited, and I would, therefore, rather be guided by those whose business it is to conduct operations in connection with the weights and measures. There are only a few points that I desire to go into, and perhaps the Colonial Secretary can explain them later on. Section 19 deals with sale by net weight or measure, and says that a package of goods must have the weight or measure printed on it. I take it that would not apply to wheat, because that is handed over to the purchaser after it has been weighed. The only question is as to whether it would apply to wool. I take it that bales of wool which are sold in foreign and British markets are handed over to the purchasers or agents in the usual way, and that it is not contemplated that the owners of bales of wool should have the weights printed on them. Clause 24 deals with verification and stamping, and, to my mind, is not quite clear. It is not quite clear, for instance, how people on sheep stations where weighing machines are always used are to get them in to be inspected and passed. I find, however, there is this proviso in the following clause:—

In the case of a weighing or measuring instrument which by reason of its being fixed, or of its being so heavy that it cannot conveniently be moved, it shall be sufficient compliance with this section if arrangements are made to the satisfaction of an inspector for the re-verification and stamping of the instrument within the period described.

I think the only other matter I have to mention is in connection with Clause 29, which deals with coal and firewood, which must be sold by weight. Do I understand that measurement by cord has been done away with?

The Colonial Secretary: In the metropolitan area? That has been struck out in another place. It may apply to any locality.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: It is usual to deal in firewood by cords, and I did not know whether it had been abolished. These are the only remarks I have to make in connection with the

Bill, the second reading of which I have much pleasure in supporting.

Hon. J. DUFFELL (Metropolitan-Suburban) [3-37]: I quite realise the necessity for a Bill of this nature. The Colonial Secretary gave us to understand that at the present time there were something like 32 municipalities in the State, and that 12 of these—

The Colonial Secretary: I said ten, but it should be 11.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: That eleven municipalities had complied with the conditions prevailing in doing their best to see that justice was done to the people in regard to weights and measures. I gathered from his remarks that those municipalities or local governing bodies which had provided themselves with standard weights and measures at considerable expense were going to be the greatest losers, and that they will have these standard weights and measures commandeered by the Government.

The Colonial Secretary: That is struck out.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: Am I to understand that these local governing bodies who have provided themselves with standard weights and measures, and who are handing them over by direction of this Bill, will be recompensed?

The Colonial Secretary: They are not handing them over.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: Then they will be allowed to retain them.

The Colonial Secretary: Yes.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: What good would they be to local authorities if this power is taken out of their hands and vested in the police? That is a point upon which I desire information, both for my own sake and for the benefit of the House. This is not the only occasion when local governing bodies have endeavoured to be up-to-date in regard to anything which has for its object the protection of life and limb.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: And electric light?

Hon. J. DUFFELL: They have repeatedly been the sufferers when an innovation such as this has been brought before Parliament. I have in my mind the Fire Brigade Board Act, and how,

in many instances, local governing bodies and municipalities had provided themselves with up-to-date equipment, had erected houses for the storing of that equipment, fire stations, provided themselves with hose reels, horses, etcetera, and who, at one fell swoop, as soon as the Act came into force, had all these things commandeered without receiving one penny consideration for the outlay which they had made. Therefore, it appears to me when these innovations are being placed on the statute-book or coming into vogue, the Government should adequately reimburse those municipalities and local governing bodies which had taken time by the forelock, and made the necessary provision for the safety or convenience of the people of their districts, and are then called upon to hand over everything to the Government without recompense. I hope the Government will see their way clear to repay the local governing bodies mentioned by the Colonial Secretary for what they are losing in this respect. I do not know that there is much in the Bill to which I can take exception, but if there is, the Committee stage will reveal it. There is one clause about which I am not clear, and that is Clause 29, dealing with the sale of coal and firewood, in which it says that these commodities shall be sold by weight provided that, in the case of the quantities exceeding five cwt., if the written consent of the purchaser be obtained it may be sold otherwise as agreed. That seems to me to be rather a low quantity to come within that scale, and I think if the quantity had been one ton the clause would have been more effective. I want to illustrate my point in this way : We have in the metropolitan area repeatedly seen men coming in from the bush with what appears to be a very fine load of firewood, well stacked up, and to the ordinary householder, a bargain. But when the weight is checked off in the yard—

Hon. J. Cornell : It is a blackfellow's load.

Hon. J. DUFFELL : Yes, to quote the hon. member, it turns out to be a blackfellow's load. If this five cwt.

remains in the clause it will permit these blackfellow's loads to come in but no action can be taken if the purchaser has consented to accept the weight as stated. Possibly this will be dealt with more fully in Committee. I shall reserve my further remarks to the Committee stage and have much pleasure in supporting the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. C. SOMMERS (Metropolitan) [3.45] : I intend to support the Bill. There is only one little matter to which I wish to draw attention, and that relates to administration. The city of Perth has expended a considerable amount of money in up-to-date equipment, and its administration of the law has given general satisfaction up to the present. Further, it would relieve the police of work if the City of Perth were allowed to continue the administration. Similarly, on the gold-fields, centres like Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie have good equipment. With the consent of the Commissioner of Police municipalities might continue to carry on their good work.

Hon. W. Kingsmill : Why with the consent of the Commissioner of Police ?

Hon. C. SOMMERS : It would be better still if we inserted a provision to that effect here. The local authorities are not making anything out of the work, but they have done it well in the past. When we get into Committee, an amendment to the effect I have indicated might be moved.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan) [3.47] : As a matter of fact, I have been asked by the local authorities which I have the honour to represent, to move in the same direction. As the Minister himself admitted in introducing the Bill, the Perth City Council have carried out the old Act in a most satisfactory manner. They have the necessary officers, the necessary offices, and the necessary books. In the hands of the Perth City Council the administration of the Weights and Measures Act is a going concern. It would be, I think, foolish in the extreme for the Government to practically shut down this administration in order to hand it over to a body of men already

overburdened with duties. It may be said that the Police Department will appoint fresh inspectors, but the inspectors whom the Perth City Council now employ may not be available to the Police Department. That being so, I think it would be advisable for the Government to consent to the insertion of a proviso. Perhaps the leader of the House will move it. It would be added to Clause 5 and would read: "Provided, however, that it shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Council at any time to appoint by proclamation any municipal authority to administer the Act within the area of such municipality." That would meet the case if the hon. gentleman would agree to it. No fault has been found with the administration of the existing Act by the Perth City Council, especially of late years; and I think it would be wise to take the opportunity now held out by the municipal authorities for the continuance of what is a satisfactory state of affairs.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central—in reply) [3.49]: As nearly all the points which have been raised by hon. members can be dealt with when the Bill is in Committee, I do not propose to reply at length at this stage.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—ROADS ACT AMENDMENT AND CONTINUATION.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. C. SOMMERS (Metropolitan) [3.50]: The only point I desire to speak on in connection with this Bill is contained in paragraph (d) of Subclause 1 of Clause 2, which reads—

If any of the local authorities affected is indebted by way of moneys advanced to it by way of loan, the Governor may declare that all or any loan rates applicable to such loan or any part thereof, shall be levied only on such portion of any district as the Gov-

ernor shall determine to have been specially benefited by such loan or such portion thereof.

It appears to me that the law as it stands at present gives the Minister power to adjudicate upon matters of this sort when requested by the interested parties to do so. I feel that so far the Minister has been rather disinclined to exercise his authority, and the proposal now is to transfer that authority to the Governor. In connection with loan matters, only resident ratepayers are entitled to vote; and it may happen, indeed it has happened, that where the spending of money is desired by a section which is resident, the result is rather to penalise absentees. I can call to mind a case in which an extremely small proportion of resident ratepayers carried a loan. An amendment is required enabling all ratepayers, absentee as well as resident, to vote on loan proposals. In Committee, I shall move that paragraph (d) be struck out, as absolutely unnecessary. The existing Act gives all the powers necessary. Take the case of a ward, the rates of which have been used for the advancement of one portion for a good many years. That portion receives all it wants, and the expense is borne by the whole ward. Then another portion of the ward needing development comes along, but the people who have benefited in the past say, "Let those pay on whom the money is to be spent." That involves hardship on the people who have contributed in the past. It is certainly unfair that they should be saddled with the entire cost of future improvements. I know this matter has been a good deal discussed by roads board people, who view the proposal with alarm. The suggestion is that if there is disagreement among the ratepayers in this connection, the Governor shall be approached to decide. But the Minister now has the power to intervene if requested by the parties in dispute. The Minister does not like the responsibility, and is endeavouring to evade it by the new proposal. Subject to the exception I have indicated, I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

Question put and passed.
Bill read a second time.

BILL.—HEALTH ACT AMEND- MENT.

Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3·55]: In moving the second reading of this Bill it is almost unnecessary for me to say that this is one of the most important measures which have come before us for consideration during a long period of years. It is important, because it recognises the existence of a malady which has been allowed to proceed unthwarted since the foundation of the State, and which has assumed such large dimensions as to call for the serious thought of the legislature in order to discover, if possible, the best means to adopt to combat it, and prevent it from making greater inroads upon the people of the State. The evil is not merely one of a casual or restricted nature. It increases and multiplies as the years roll on; it affects even the innocent; and it is an evil which must, in process of time, sap the national vigour and lead to degeneracy of the race, unless it be grappled with and mastered before it obtains a stronger hold. Other diseases have engaged the attention of Parliament—they have engaged the attention of Parliaments far back in history. The leper is segregated; the victim of bubonic plague is isolated; and we take care that those who are suffering from even minor infectious or contagious illnesses are removed, until cured, to special hospitals where they can no longer be a danger to society. But, in the case of the disease to which I am alluding, little or nothing is done. Yet it is highly contagious. It entails a life of misery, and ends perhaps in death prematurely and under horrifying conditions. Worst of all, it spreads and extends to the blameless, and it may leave its impress on generations to come. The main reason why nothing is done is that the origin of the disease is in many cases such

as to disgust respectable people and close the doors of their sympathy. There was a time when we treated the inebriate on similar lines—when we treated him on lines which did little credit to our civilisation. We do not follow that course now. We endeavour to cure the inebriate, and if we cannot cure him, we at least deal with him in a different manner from that in which we treat the criminal. The time has come for an alteration in our methods of treatment of the class of unfortunates whose unhappy condition is responsible for this Bill. No matter how our feelings may revolt at the actions of men and women who offend against morality and reap the consequences, it is our duty, for humanity's sake, to rescue them from the fate which awaits them. It is our duty also to the babes yet unborn, and to the nation which we are building up and of which we are proud, to arrest the inruptions of a foe which is, to some extent, undermining the foundations of the nation. To gain some idea of the extent of the affliction we must consult those whose daily duties bring them into contact with the scourge. The doctors are best fitted to speak with authority, and unfortunate though the cause be which led to the entrance of a member of the medical profession into this Chamber, we shall feel the benefit of his skill, his knowledge, and his experience in dealing with a measure of this sort. Dr. Saw will no doubt be able to confirm much, if not all of what I propose to say. The Bill was not introduced until the Government were satisfied as to its necessity and urgency. Eight gentlemen occupying high positions in the practice of medicine and surgery in Western Australia have been consulted and they agree that the disease is widely prevalent in this State. I cannot give their names because for obvious reasons they have asked us to respect their confidence. A milder form of the malady is described as appalling in its extensiveness, especially among some of the young male and female population. A certain percentage of eye trouble is caused by the disease. Statistics show that half the blind

asylums of Europe have been filled with cases from the same cause. Estimating upon the basis of information gained as a result of experience in Government institutions, there must be some thousands of sufferers in this State from one or other form of the evil. It has been calculated by medical men that if the disease were stamped out, the deaths in the babies' ward of the Children's Hospital would be reduced by fully 25 per cent. That is surely an alarming situation. The disease is a big factor in premature births, and it is said to be the cause of more infantile mortality than any other ailment. Then, a large percentage of imbeciles and mentally defectives owe their condition to it. A few brief quotations from the opinions of eminent medical scientists may strengthen my case. Sir H. B. Allen, professor of pathology at the Melbourne University, says that 10 per cent. of the children of Melbourne are affected with it. Dr. Bennie, of Victoria, who did not agree with the estimate of Professor Allen said that it is the most serious disorder anyone can contract. In fact he adds "No disease ought a man, who passes his sojourn here, be so much in fear of." He said that, while deprecating what he considered to be an extravagant estimate. Dr. Cumpston in 1908, when he was medical officer of Health in Western Australia, reported that 29.3 of the deaths in this State were produced by causes which had their origin, perhaps remotely, in the evil of which I speak. Dr. Cumpston quoted Dr. Denny of Melbourne as having said "During the second half of my private practice, the period of my increased knowledge, I have found the specific factor present in over 40 per cent. of the children." Dr. Bennie expressed the opinion that Dr. Cumpston's report is reliable that over 10 per cent. of the children in Melbourne were infected. He also quoted Dr. Wood, who was for some years on the house staff of the Melbourne Children's Hospital, and who said that out of 1,323 deaths 186 were signed up as directly due to this cause. Dr. Wood is credited with having said it was the direct or indirect cause of more deaths

in infancy than any other disease. I could go on quoting medical authorities in every part of the world but I will come closer home. Take the Claremont Hospital for the Insane. What does Dr. Montgomery say? He says that it is answerable in other parts of the world for at least 12.6 per cent. of male insanity and 2 per cent. of female insanity. But he adds that in Western Australia the percentage is higher. He refers us to his annual report for 1914. In that he points out that of the 155 males admitted 28 were insane from it, or 17.1 per cent. as against 12.6 per cent. elsewhere. Of the females there were 6 amongst the 75 admissions who were bereft of reason in consequence of this evil. And bear in mind these figures which he emphasises do not include idiots and imbeciles, a large percentage of whom is due to this factor. Of 65 deaths among males at the Claremont Hospital for the Insane, 15 were from general paralysis of the insane, which results from this cause. There were 16 deaths among the females, two of them being from general paralysis. At the present time there are 65 persons in the institution suffering from general paralysis of the insane which is incurable. And how many persons have gone to their graves prematurely since the institution has been in existence? It is the opinion of medical men, who are in a position to speak with authority, that if the two forms of this disease ceased to exist, 20 per cent. of the cases treated at the Perth Public Hospital would disappear. The object of the Bill is to endeavour to cure this disease in its early stages and to prevent its spread. The expense often deters victims from securing proper treatment. Under the Bill all subsidised hospitals and all salaried medical officers must give treatment free of charge. Dr. McMurray of Sydney speaking on this aspect of the question at the Australian Medical Congress said—

I think one of the first and most important means that should be adopted to decrease the disease is to increase hospital facilities for its treatment. Patients should be admitted without

fuss or formality. Their stay in hospital should be made as attractive as possible, and above all the patients should be impressed with the enthusiasm of all those concerned for their welfare and restoration to health. The wards should not be designated by any distinctive or opprobrious name. Further efforts should be made to reach those affected by gratuitous consultations and by dispensaries controlled by the Government and municipal officers, established in convenient centres and open all night.

That is the opinion of Dr. McMurra'y and the principle has been adopted in the Bill before the House. The most important clause of the measure provides that when the Commissioner has reason to believe that a person is afflicted he may authorise an examination. It is a large power, but it is absolutely essential if the Bill is not to become so much waste paper. It has been stated that this power might be abused. It is of course, possible but the risk is so small and the good which will be accomplished so great that it would be unwise to allow such an objection to prevail. Because there is a remote possibility of this particular part of the Bill being abused, shall we refrain from taking action to overcome a scourge which is playing such terrible havoc in our midst? In commending the measure to the House I would ask members to weigh well its great importance. Even if it achieves only a small measure of success, it will well have repaid us for the time devoted to its preparation and consideration. It should be the means of doing much good and removing much misery. It has the support of a large section of the women of Western Australia irrespective of political opinions, and not only has it their support but it has their whole-souled advocacy. I trust that the Bill will receive the serious thought of members and that it will find a place on the statute-book at as early a date as possible. When we reach the Committee stage I shall fully explain the different clauses of the Bill and ask the House to accept the following amendments :—Clause 3. (242a.)

Insert in subclause 2 at page 2, after the word "to" in the fourth line "a registered pharmaceutical chemist who sells or." Add to subclause 2 the following words :—"Nor shall the preceding subsection apply to the sale of a registered pharmaceutical chemist in the ordinary course of business of any drug, not being a patent or proprietary medicine which has not been approved as aforesaid, and not being prescribed by him for the cure or alleviation of any venereal disease." Clause 3. (242i.) Omit all the words in Subclause 1 from the commencement of the word "he" in the third line and insert—"Whenever the Commissioner has reason to believe that any person is suffering from any venereal disease, he may give notice in writing to such person requiring him to consult a medical practitioner, and to produce, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, within a time to be specified in the notice, a certificate of such medical practitioner that such person is under treatment by him for the disease, or is not suffering from the disease; and if such certificate, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, is not produced within the time stated in such notice, the Commissioner." Add a proviso to Subsection 1 of 242i, as follows :—"Provided that where a person to be examined is a female, and the examination is to be by two medical practitioners, one of such practitioners shall, if so desired by the person to be examined, be a female medical practitioner, if able and willing to act, and within 20 miles of the place where the examination is to be made." Clause 3. (242i.) Subclause 4, after "may" in line 2 insert—"At the request of the patient or some person on his behalf," and after "order" in line 4 insert "(one of whom shall be nominated by the patient or some person on his behalf)." Clause 3. (242i.) (2) (f) after "shows" insert "or sends by post." Add to Clause 3 at the foot of page 6 the following :—"242 (n) So far as personal service of any notice is required under the provisions of this part of this Act such service shall be effected by an officer of public health." I move

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On a motion by Hon. C. Sommers, debate adjourned.

MOTION—STATE IMPLEMENT WORKS, TO INQUIRE.

Motion withdrawn.

Order of the Day read for the further consideration of the motion by Hon. C. F. Baxter, as follows :—"That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the conduct and management, past and present, of the State Implement Works."

Hon. C. F. BAXTER (East) [4.11]: Seeing that a Royal Commission has been appointed to investigate the management of the State Implement Works, I desire with the permission of the House to withdraw the motion standing in my name.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

MOTION—ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE, EAST PERTH.

Debate resumed from the 9th September.

Hon. R. J. LYNN (West) [4.12]: I regret very much that Mr. Colebatch is not here this afternoon, owing to indisposition, to advance arguments in support of the motion. I have listened attentively to the remarks of the Colonial Secretary as to why the papers should not be laid on the Table of the House, but I consider that in view of this contract having been let, and the fact that no light has been thrown on it, and owing to the statements which have been made as to the alteration in connection with the periodicity, and the installation of a system which it has been said will not fit in with what has already been done in many directions, the papers connected with the whole matter should be presented to Parliament. There are many other matters affecting the issue which we desire to have some light upon. There is the cost of the plant in the first instance and whether tenders were publicly called. It has been stated

in another place that tenders were not called for much of the machinery, but I am not in a position to say definitely that public tenders were not invited. Yet the statement which was made in another House was not refuted. There must also be some information on the files relating to many other agreements which have been entered into and the House is entitled to know something about them. We have not been informed as to what the costs actually are and it will be interesting to know what Messrs. Merz & McLellan are being paid as commission on the installation of the power house which has already cost us a huge sum of money to erect. It is within the knowledge of all members that the foundations of the power house alone cost a considerable sum of money. It has been constructed departmentally but, I understand, on the plans supplied by Messrs. Merz & McLellan, and under the supervision of an engineer sent out from the old country to instal and construct this system. It would be very interesting to know whether a commission is being paid on such a heavy expenditure. It has been said that the foundations alone have cost approximately £40,000; that piles have been driven one on top of another, and that the expense has been very large indeed. Why should these people be paid any commission on this expenditure? Surely we could have constructed the power house with our own departmental officers and without the employment of outside engineers. If this is so, and if commission is being allowed, hon. members should know it. I think, too, that if the papers had been laid on the Table, and members given an opportunity of perusing them, another question recently discussed would have met with a better reception in the House. No tangible reason has been given by the leader of the House as to why these papers should not be placed on the Table. I think I am in order in referring to your own remarks, Sir. The one reason the Colonial Secretary gave for not tabling the papers was the statement that it would embarrass the department; whereupon you explained

that it was within your power to allow the papers to leave the Table for a stated period. In view of that, what embarrassment could be placed on the departments by the tabling of the papers? It cannot be argued that the installation has not advanced sufficiently far to enable the construction to go on without daily reference to the papers, for the installation is so far advanced that no reference to the papers is now necessary. This is within the knowledge of every member, because all matters relating to generating costs and agreements entered into have been widely discussed in the House and we have been told what the Government are in a position to do relating to every enterprise that desires to take current from them. The statement was made in another place that the cost would be not greater than from £220,000 to £230,000; yet the expenditure has risen to approximately £300,000 to date and the work is still incomplete. I hope the House will insist upon the papers being laid on the Table, in order that, next Tuesday, members will have an opportunity of perusing them. If this is done it will be seen that the arguments advanced during the past week, although without avail, have been at least worthy of those who used them.

On motion by Hon. F. Connor debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.22 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 16th September, 1915.

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

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Premier: Further report by the Auditor General concerning the audit of State trading concerns accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1915.

QUESTION—WATER AND SEWERAGE DEPARTMENT.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY asked the Minister for Water Supply: 1, What was the total amount of revenue received by the Water and Sewerage Department from the metropolitan area for the financial year 1914-15? 2, What was the cost of administration for these services during the same year? 3, (a) What is the total capital amount debited to 30th June, 1915, for the water and sewerage service for the metropolitan area; (b) what amount of interest and sinking fund was charged for the year 1914-15?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLY replied: 1, Actual cash receipts amounted to £120,130. Revenue accrued amounted to £141,646. 2, £42,772. This includes management, revenue collection, and all operating and maintenance expenses. 3, (a) £1,784,014; (b) interest, £62,903; sinking fund, £23,982; total, £86,885. The foregoing figures are exclusive of the following transactions on sewerage house connections deferred payments account:—Capital expenditure unrecouped, £178,408; interest received for year, £6,207; interest paid for year, £6,180.