

The Minister for Mines: Where is it taken? Mr. WILLCOCK: To the ports, and often it is allowed to remain there for months. If the Minister looks at the quantity of grain at Fremantle, he will find that in June there is the equivalent of 100 train loads still waiting to be exported.

The Minister for Mines: It must be there in readiness when ships are available to take it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Shipping is begun in December.

Mr. WILLCOCK: All the wheat is not shipped by the end of March. During the last four or five years a considerable quantity of wheat has been stacked at the ports at the end of April and even in May. This wheat has been carried to the ports during the period of rush traffic. Why should we, in the busiest time of the year, carry wheat at a very cheap rate, when this traffic could be spread over other months of the year, thus providing better employment and permitting the railways to be operated more cheaply. Under the new proposal, all the super will be carried during the first two or three months of the year. Many farmers do not like to receive their super too early; they have no method of protecting it. If it is allowed to stand out in the rain, the bags rot and the super is difficult to handle. If the traffic were spread over a longer period, it would be to the advantage of the department in the matter of working expenses. The new proposal will be a disadvantage to farmers in my district, because all the trucks that can be spared will be loaded for the metropolitan area, so that empties will be available to carry super during the first few months of the year. Trucks will not be supplied for export purposes. There will be an insistent demand by the superphosphate companies for trucks, and the farmers, too, will demand trucks so that they will not be burdened with the extra freight charges. The same argument applies to wheat that may be exported from Bunbury. On the Loan Estimates I shall take an opportunity to deal with the question of locomotive boilers. I am satisfied that a better condition of affairs could be brought about. There should be no necessity to import boilers. Boilers can be made here satisfactorily and more cheaply than they can be imported, and the carrying out of the work here would provide employment for our men.

Progress reported.

BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE ACT CONTINUANCE.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 10.47 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 7th November, 1923.

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

BILL—CHANGE OF NAMES REGULATION.

Recommendation.

On motion by Hon. A. Lovekin, Bill recommended for the purpose of further considering Clause 2 and the Schedule.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan in the Chair; Hon. A. Lovekin in charge of the Bill.

Clause 2—Change of name provided:

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Last night, on the motion of the Minister, the words "or by" in line 13 were struck out and "on the" inserted in lieu thereof. I understood from the Minister that the real objective of the amendment was to substitute "Attorney General" or "Minister for Justice" for "Colonial Secretary," to which there was no objection. But the amendment has seriously altered the Bill, and rather made nonsense of it, for one does not get an execution of a deed poll on the license of the Attorney General. Moreover, the amendment alters the Bill in principle. A person might change his name by deed poll at a cost of something like £10, and the Bill provided as an alternative that a person changing his name might get a license from the Attorney General or the Colonial Secretary and register it at the small cost of 10s. It was merely an alternative to the more costly process of the deed poll.

Hon. J. Nicholson: What about advertising?

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Under the Bill the Government may make regulations to prescribe that. I saw the Crown Solicitor this morning about the amendment, and he advised me in writing that the Bill was all right as printed, except that the words "Attorney General" should be substituted for "Colonial Secretary." He agrees it is desirable that the two methods for changing the name should be provided. I move an amendment—

That in line 13 "on the" be struck out and "or by" inserted in lieu.

That will leave the Bill as it was yesterday. Later I will move to substitute "Attorney General" for "Colonial Secretary."

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I am sorry the hon. member misunderstood what

I was doing last night. I thought to make the deed poll the only way of changing the name.

Hon. A. Lovekin: It is too costly a process.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: But full investigation should be made in respect of those who wish to change their names. Too many precautions cannot be taken. Under Mr. Lovekin's amendment, the Attorney General may issue a license in writing to a person who could not secure the execution of a deed poll. The amendment will make it very easy for any man to change his name. I cannot understand why a deed poll should cost as much as £10. Surely it could be drawn up without the aid of a lawyer.

Hon. J. Nicholson: I do not think it would cost that much, even through a lawyer.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: In the interests of the public we should have the deed poll and the deed poll alone. Even if the cost were £3 the man who wishes to change his name should be able to afford that.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: In ordinary circumstances I would agree to there being but one way of changing a name. Seeing the class of person one wishes to bring under the Bill, however, I think it would defeat our object if we made the cost too great. Men who desert their wives and children very often change their names. When found, if the Minister's amendment stands, they would state as an excuse for not registering the change that it is too costly to do so. I want to see that they cannot make an excuse of that kind.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The clause as altered last night makes the position more difficult. It would mean that a person who desired to change his name must not only register the deed poll, but have the license of the Attorney General.

The Minister for Education: That means his approval. We want to safeguard the position.

Hon. A. Lovekin: You can do it without.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I suggest that a short form of deed poll be inserted in the regulations to facilitate the completion of these matters by any person who was not in a position to have the thing done in a more formal way.

Hon. A. Lovekin: I am advised this could be done under regulations.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: All that would be necessary would be for the individual to fill up the form, pay his fees, and register the document. The party renounces the name under which he has been known, and adopts another which is set out in the deed poll. The usual course is for that to be registered. The matter can be made a very simple one.

Hon. E. H. Harris: What would be the cost?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The stamp duty under the deed poll would be £1, and the registration fee another £1. There would also be the cost of advertising.

Hon. E. H. Harris: And for the wife another £2.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: There could be a joint deed prepared.

Hon. J. Mills: What about the children?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: A record could be made in the register of births, deaths and marriages.

Hon. J. A. Greig: If a man changes his name, are the names of his children automatically changed?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: A child would have the same right as his parents. When he came of age he could change his name as he pleased. There is no law regulating this matter. A person can adopt any name without registering it.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: One form ought to suffice, but what I want to do is to encourage those who desire to change their names to register the change, and I want to make this as easy as possible for them. Thousands of pounds go out through the Charities Department every year and large sums are spent in an endeavour to trace people who have changed their names without registration. That money could be saved if registration were insisted upon.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I move a further amendment—

That in line 12 after "Attorney General and Minister for Justice" all the words to "penalty" in line 14 be struck out and "registered in the said public office" be inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule:

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I desire to move an amendment which will restore to the schedule the provision for a fee for the registration of every license. We deleted that line last night. I move an amendment—

That after the first line of the schedule the following words be inserted, "For the registration of every license, 10s."

Amendment put and passed; the schedule as amended agreed to.

Bill again reported with further amendments.

BILL—PINJARRA-DWARDA RAILWAY EXTENSION ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan in the Chair; the Minister for Education in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Deviation:

Hon. J. A. GREIG: I move an amendment—

That the following words be added at the end of the clause, "And that the last 22 miles to Narrogin shall be built with 80lb. rails with the intention ultimately of making that portion of this line part of a main trunk line from Narrogin to Armadale."

Although the majority report of the select committee was against the extension of the line through to Narrogin, I believe the 22 miles referred to can remain for the present without being constructed. Ultimately that section could be built from Narrogin as part of the main trunk line through from Albany to Perth. As the House saw fit to endorse the construction of the whole line, it would be wise to ask for the portion of it to which I refer, to be constructed with 80lb. rails, so that it shall be used as part of the main trunk line. If that be done, it will shorten the distance between Albany and Fremantle by about 57 miles. Now is the time that this matter should be brought forward.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: This is a most remarkable suggestion, because the clause deals entirely with the deviation of a line already authorised. In my opinion the amendment is out of order. We are not dealing with the line but merely with the deviation. To add to the clause a provision making it mandatory for the Government to use 80lb. rails is to anticipate the policy of the Government.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Is that the policy of the Government?

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The maximum weight of rails for such a line would be 60 lbs., but 45 lb. rails are usually used on lines of this description.

Hon. H. Stewart: The weight of the rails to be used in the line was stated as 45 lbs.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The amendment seeks to place a heavier financial burden on the people than was anticipated by the Government, and for that reason alone the amendment is out of order. The clause merely gives the Government the right to deviate to the north and south of the line as originally authorised. To bind the Government down to using 80lb. rails in the construction of what is practically an agricultural line, is to force on the Government an additional expenditure which is not necessary. The difference between 45lb. and 80lb. rails is considerable, and would make the cost of construction per mile so much heavier that the Government would have to consider whether they could undertake the work. The hon. member asks the Committee to agree to this extra cost in constructing a line through a district that he has described as valueless owing to the poison country! At the same time he wants the line to be a main trunk extension! If in the future it were found necessary to convert it to a main trunk line, we could put in 80lb. rails and remove the 45lb. rails for use elsewhere. If I did not think the Committee would reject the amendment, I would take the point that it is out of order.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. A. BURVILL: In view of statements made by the Commissioner of Railways in the course of his evidence before the select committee it is necessary to amend the clause. In answer to a question as to the effect the construction of the Narrogin-Dwarda railway

would have on the earning capacities of the railways from Narrogin and southwards of Narrogin, the Commissioner said—

I estimate a loss of approximately £16,000 a year, unless provision is made for traffic to be charged by the route it goes. It will decrease the theoretical distance between Perth and south of Narrogin by 17 miles, and between Fremantle and south of Narrogin by 28 miles.

Further on the Commissioner stated in his evidence—

It would be impossible to haul the Great Southern traffic, or tonnage affected, over this section, on account of the light construction (45lb. rails) of the line from Pinjarra to Dwarda. We should have insufficient Garrett engines to work this traffic. These are the engines we have for this class of line, which have very steep grades and sharp curves. Any other class of engine we put on the 45lb. rail could haul very light and unpayable loads. The main line between Pinjarra and Armadale, 45 miles, is fully loaded at present, without its being called upon to handle any additional traffic such as would be diverted if we were to take the shorter route. We should have to duplicate the line between Pinjarra and Armadale if any considerable bulk of traffic were added to that section.

Further on he said—

The tonnage of traffic which would be affected, based on the figures for the year ended 30th June, 1923, would be approximately 80,000 tons, on which we calculate an average freight of 3s. a ton, and the loss in freight would therefore be about £12,000. As regards passenger traffic, fares are based on actual mileage covered, and as passengers would expect to travel by the shorter routes, a reduction in revenue on this account of approximately £4,000 would result.

In face of this, it is not a fair proposition to ask the Commissioner to run the railways without loss. For that reason I suggest an amendment to provide a means of getting over this difficulty.

Hon. J. A. Greig: You suggest another alteration of Government policy!

Hon. A. BURVILL: I think an amendment is required by means of an Act of Parliament to get over the difficulty, although what I seek to attain may be achieved by way of regulation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Such an amendment would appear better as a new clause.

Hon. A. BURVILL: I will adopt that course.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4—agreed to.

New Clause:

Hon. A. BURVILL: I move an amendment—

That a new clause to stand as Clause 5 be inserted as follows: "Notwithstanding the shortening of the distance by this ex-

tension in comparison with other routes at present in use, it shall be lawful for the Commissioner of Railways to charge fares and freights on all traffic over the railway hereby allowed by the route the traffic is actually carried, whether or not this route is the shortest.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The new clause may prove dangerous. I think the regulations would permit of the Government giving further consideration to the question raised by Mr. Burvill. If the hon. member will withdraw his proposed new clause, I shall consider the question and then, if necessary, he will have an opportunity to-morrow to recommit the Bill.

Hon. A. BURVILL: In view of the Minister's assurance, I ask leave to withdraw the proposed new clause.

New clause by leave withdrawn.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 1st November.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN in the Chair; the Minister for Education in charge of the Bill.

Clause 18—Compulsory registration of friendly or benefit societies:

An amendment had been moved by the Minister for Education—

That all the words after 36 (a)'' be struck out and the following inserted in lieu: "(1) Once in every year before the first of September every unregistered benefit association shall send to the Registrar a return containing a statement of the number of members of the association, together with a statement of the ages, the periods of sickness, deaths, and other contingencies in respect of which benefits are given by the association, and also a statement showing the receipts and expenditure of the association for the year ending on the last preceding thirtieth day of June, and also a copy of the association's last balance-sheet, and such other information as the Governor by regulation prescribes. With every such return a copy of the rules for the time being in force shall also be delivered to the Registrar: Provided that it shall not be necessary to forward to the Registrar a copy of any rules a copy whereof has previously been delivered to him. (2) 'Unregistered benefit associations' means any voluntary association or society which consists of more than ten persons, and the object whereof, either solely or among other objects, is to raise by the subscriptions of the members, funds out of which advances may be made for the mutual

relief or the maintenance of members, their wives or children, in sickness or infirmity, or any other kindred purpose, or out of which payment of death benefits may be made, and which association or society is not registered as a friendly society under this Act. (3) If any default is made in the observance of the provisions of this section, then the secretary or other permanent officer of the association, and also each of the members of the board of directors, council, or other governing body of the association, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds."

Hon. J. DUFFELL: During the second reading debate I directed some remarks to societies that were not registered. The Minister has handed me a letter, a copy of which I understand was forwarded to me but has not yet reached me. It states—

I attach hereto an extract from the Press report, together with comments against the several remarks which directly bear on the Railway Fund. A copy of these remarks has been forwarded to Mr. Duffell, and I trust the earliest opportunity will be taken to correct the incomplete information which has already been published.

My object is to give further information to complete the remarks considered by the chairman of the W.A. Government Railways and Tramways Death Benefit Voluntary Fund (Mr. W. Bromfield) to be incomplete. While I referred to certain incomplete returns having been furnished, I spoke of this fund in these terms—

The Railway Department Death Benefit Fund was not capable of standing the strain brought to bear upon it by the war. As a result the fund was obliged to obtain assistance, possibly by way of advance, from the Government to the extent of about £12,000.

Mr. Bromfield admits that to be approximately correct. He says—

For the simple reason that the object of the fund being to raise a levy and pay the full amount to the nominee of each deceased member, a reserve had not been created. The abnormal increase in the number of deaths owing to the war was greater than a fund without a reserve could bear.

Therefore, no objection could be taken to my remarks. It has evidently been overlooked, however, that at present we have legislation under which such voluntary societies should furnish returns. They are breaking the law by omitting to do so. I draw attention to the Life Assurance Companies Act, 1889. The interpretation clause defines "company" thus—

"Company" means any persons, corporate or unincorporate, who grant assurance, endowments, or annuities upon human life within Western Australia.

Therefore, all these numerous voluntary societies should furnish returns. This is borne out by Section 16 which reads—

Every company transacting life assurance business only shall, at the expiration of each financial year or half year of such company, prepare a statement of its revenue account for such year or half year, and of its balance sheet at the close of such year or half year, in the forms respectively contained in the first and second schedules to this Act.

Section 19 provides—

Every company shall, once in five years, or at such shorter intervals as may be prescribed by the instrument constituting the company, or by its articles of association, regulations or by-laws, cause an investigation to be made into its financial condition by an actuary, and shall cause an abstract of the report of such actuary to be made in the form prescribed in the sixth schedule to this Act.

Thus it is already necessary for these voluntary societies to register, so that the Registrar of Friendly Societies may be assured that all their operations are safeguarded and rest upon a sound actuarial basis. Clause 16 makes it imperative to render accounts yearly or half-yearly. I realise that, according to the letter I have quoted, some improvement has been made to this fund, because it is stated that 12 months ago payment was made for an actuarial report of a basis upon which the subscriptions would be calculated. That was a move in the right direction and it was necessary as a result of experience. I am prepared to support the Minister's amendment. There would be some hardship if the societies had to register under the Act, but it is imperative that there should be some registration in view of existing legislation. I merely make these remarks to complete what was regarded as an incomplete statement published in the "Daily News" on the 1st November.

Hon. H. SEDDON: I have received a letter from the secretary of the Death Benefit Fund of the transcontinental railway workers, a fund on similar lines to the State railway fund. It is contended that if Clause 18 is retained, it will inflict a hardship upon them, but they would be prepared to accept the amendment.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Last Thursday I raised a point whether employers collecting contributions from the employees to a fund not registered in this State would come within the scope of the amendment, and the Minister promised to investigate the point. Has he made any inquiries?

Hon. J. E. DODD: Having been connected with friendly societies all my life, I am anxious to afford them all the protection I can. I could not possibly agree to the clause as it stands in the Bill, and I am glad that the Minister has moved an amendment. First of all the clause provides practically that all benefit societies shall be established on an actuarial basis. That may help a friendly society to a certain extent, though I doubt it. The amendment seeks to do away with the provision, and simply provides that the returns and rules of

friendly societies shall be sent to the Registrar of Friendly Societies. It also specifies what an unregistered medical association is. That is certainly better than the clause, but I think all hon. members have not realised the position regarding some funds on the fields. What will be the position with respect to the Miners' Relief Fund? I have had some correspondence with the committee of that fund regarding these proposed amendments. The fund is incorporated under the Incorporation of Associations Act. I spoke to the Solicitor General on the subject, and he thought that this particular clause would not apply to the Miners' Relief Fund at all. Every one of us knows that that fund cannot possibly work on an actuarial basis. Neither the miners nor the mine owners would have gone into the fund on an actuarial basis. And so it is with a number of other funds, such as the Commonwealth Officers' Relief and the Printing Trades Funds. However, some caution should be exercised. All members of friendly societies are aware that sometimes kind-hearted motions are moved which would have the effect of depleting the funds. The onus is then thrown on the secretary to show members what the motion would mean. A regulation that would prevent anything of the kind would do good. The Minister's amendment will operate advantageously in that respect. At present there is nothing to prevent the funds of societies from being voted away by members who know nothing whatever about the running of societies.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: I support the amendment. One sympathises fully with friendly societies and recognises the wonderfully good work they are doing, but it would be a pity if anything contained in the Bill interfered with such a satisfactory fund as that of the railway employees. In common with other members, I have received a letter from Mr. E. C. Lowe, secretary, dealing with the clause as it originally stood and protesting against its insertion in the Bill. I understand that the Minister's amendment will meet the wishes of the railway employees.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I am pleased that the amendment I have moved will meet the wishes of friendly societies and of such societies as do not wish to be registered. The amendment provides that they shall furnish statements every year, so that the registrar may know what is going on. In reply to Mr. Harris, I have communicated with the Registrar of Friendly Societies, who writes me as follows—

I have considered the matter referred to by the Hon. E. H. Harris relative to Clause 18 of the Friendly Societies Act Amendment Bill. I understand that he had in mind a provident fund run by the A.M.P. Society in respect of members of its staff. I am assured by the accountant of the A.M.P. Society that this fund is for the purpose of providing superannuation allowances for its members. Nearly

all the banks operating in the State have similar funds. The Friendly Societies' Council had not this particular type of fund in view at all when the amendment was proposed. Another fund which occurs to me is the mortuary fund of the Commercial Travellers' Association, which is administered in Melbourne. I am assured by a representative of the friendly societies that there was no desire to interfere with a fund of this description. Moreover the Crown Solicitor advises that even if it were desired to take any steps in respect of a fund administered in the Eastern States, it would be difficult to do so. Dr. Stow therefore advises the attached amendment of Clause 18.

I shall later move two amendments suggested by Dr. Stow to overcome the difficulty.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: The Associated Banks have a fund on similar lines to that of the A.M.P. Society.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: That fund is administered in Melbourne, and is only for superannuation purposes.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: But you desire this for statistical purposes. I say you should have the whole thing.

Hon. T. MOORE: Mr. Dodd spoke of the unfortunate secretary of a friendly society. Out of my regard for the unfortunate secretary, I urge that we should not insert this clause at all. The secretary has to prepare many reports and do a great deal of other work, and all these duties are as a rule carried out for nothing. The returns which this clause requires would occupy a man for a very long time. I fail to see what advantage can result from the clause. The societies have worked quite successfully for years and years. What has happened to make it necessary to impose new restrictions and new regulations? All these funds are established for the object of mutual benefit, to assist members in accident and sickness, and to assist the widow and children in case of the breadwinner's death. These funds having worked quite satisfactorily, why should we at this stage alter the situation?

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: You did not argue like that about the scaffolding Bill.

Hon. T. MOORE: I have not spoken on that measure. At most the secretaries are paid a few shillings a month. I shall vote against the insertion of the words proposed to be inserted.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: We all agree with the hon. member that the funds of the societies are being well administered. The suggested amendment is only a sort of check that the registrar should have so that he may know what is going on. I know the men who are engaged on this work, and I am just as anxious as the hon. member that they should not be given more to do than is necessary.

Hon. J. E. DODD: I know of a society on the goldfields controlled by the employers. The men have very little say in connection

with it. At one time the funds gave out and though payments were still made by the subscribers, those who were unfortunate enough to be taken ill got nothing.

Hon. T. MOORE: The amendment will not alter that position.

Hon. J. E. DODD: If we can get some control over a fund such as that we shall be doing good. A certain amount of control should be exercised.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I wish to move an amendment to the new clause—

That in the last two lines of Subclause 3 the words "is not registered as a friendly society under this Act" be struck out, and that "is not registered under this or some other Act in force in this State" be inserted in lieu.

This alteration will meet the desires of hon. members.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: The Minister indicated that the amendment was required for statistical purposes, and if we are to have these people doing the work suggested by Mr. Moore we should say that all funds that bear on death benefits or superannuation should come within the scope of the Bill, whether those funds be registered in Western Australia or not. I find that the Associated Banks have a fund to which the employees subscribe.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: The Commercial Travellers' Association also have one.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Unless we are prepared to include all, I shall vote against the amendment.

Hon. H. SEDDON: If a society is registered under another Act, would they be prepared to tender information in the way proposed by the amendment?

The Minister for Education: I should say that they would be expected to send in a return.

Amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move an amendment—

That the following sub-clause be added: "Nothing in this section shall apply to any association or society the administration of the affairs and funds whereof is carried on principally outside the State, or to any association or society which is or has been formed solely for the purpose of providing superannuation allowances for its members."

I am not enamoured of this proposal, but I formally submit it to members.

Hon. P. H. HARRIS: The Minister submits an amendment and then declares he is not enamoured of it. We are entitled to have some explanation as to the object of the amendment. It was suggested that societies in the Eastern States should furnish reports, but the amendment will prevent that being done.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The amendment was put up by the department in consequence of what was said at the last sitting of the Committee.

Hon. J. Duffell: You would be well advised to withdraw it.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I have no desire to press the amendment, and will ask leave to withdraw it.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

New sub-clause as amended put and passed: the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 19 to 24—agreed to.

Schedule—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILL—THE WEST AUSTRALIAN TRUSTEE EXECUTOR AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED, ACT AMENDMENT (PRIVATE).

Second Reading.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan) [6.0] in moving the second reading said: The second reading of the Bill has been greatly simplified by the report of the select committee now before members. It will be observed that the evidence of three witnesses was taken by the select committee and the necessary proof obtained to support the Bill. In accordance with the Standing Orders, proof in regard to the preamble was obtained to the satisfaction of the select committee. In addition to taking evidence from the promoters of the Bill, the select committee took evidence also from the Solicitor General as to whether he could suggest anything in the public interest. His evidence was in support of the Bill, but he suggested certain amendments, which have been adopted by the select committee. The Bill is intended in the main to bring the original legislation held by the W.A. Trustee, Executor and Agency Company into line with that of the Perpetual Executors, Trustees and Agency Company, Ltd. In addition to amendments two new clauses have been added: Clause 2 widens certain interpretations, while the interpretation of "committee" and "trustee in bankruptcy" have been supplanted by other definitions. Clauses 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, and 17 are practically repetitions of sections in the Perpetual Company's Act. Clause 4 is in effect the same as Section 2 of the Perpetual Company's Act. Clause 5 is an amendment inserting after "authorised the company" the words "alone or jointly with any other person or corporation so entitled." Clause 6 provides an amendment corresponding to Section 6 of the Perpetual Company's Act. A further amendment has been suggested to this clause, namely, that after "company" in line 1, the following words "either alone or jointly with any other person or corporation be inserted. Clause 7 corresponds, with the

necessary variations, with Section 8 of the Perpetual Company's Act. In Clause 8 it is proposed to add a slight amendment. Clause 10 is new. To a certain extent it incorporates the provisions of Section 17 of the Trustees Act. Clause 12 corresponds with Section 9 of the Perpetual Company's Act, whilst Clause 13 corresponds with Section 10, and Clause 14 corresponds with Section 3. Clauses 15 and 16 are new. The evidence supported the retention of both those clauses. Clause 15 provides for the selling or transferring of mortgages or other securities from the company as attorney to itself as trustee. The Solicitor General suggested the addition of certain words, words previously suggested by Mr. Lovekin, a member of the select committee, namely, that the company, "with the approval of the Supreme Court or of a judge," shall be at liberty, as the duly authorised attorney, to sell or transfer mortgages or other securities to itself in its capacity of trustee. The addition of the words "with the approval of the Supreme Court or of a judge" are inserted to safeguard the interests of those concerned. A similar addition is proposed to be made to Clause 16. Clause 17 corresponds with Section 26 of the Perpetual Company's Act. I am sure the measure will receive the ready support of hon. members, and I have pleasure in moving—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW (Metropolitan-Suburban) [6.10]: I congratulate the W. A. Trustee, Executor and Agency Company on their wisdom in promoting a Bill that will bring them into line with the company started last year, in which I have some personal interest. I trust the passage the Perpetual Company's Bill had in another place will not be rivalled by this little barque, which presently may venture from this safe haven into other waters. The Perpetual Company's Bill underwent alternately a period of storm and a period of being becalmed in the doldrums. For those interested in the Bill I do not know which was the more trying. I trust that similar adventures will not be met by this little Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan in the Chair; Hon. J. Nicholson in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 5—agreed to.

Clause 6—Amendment of Section 7:

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I move an amendment—

That after "company," in line 3, the words "either alone or jointly with any other person or corporation" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7—Amendment to Section 9:

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I move an amendment—

That after the words "winding up," in paragraph (c), the words "of companies or associations" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8—Amendment of Section 10:

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I move an amendment—

That in line 3, after "jointly," the words "or jointly and severally" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9—agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Clause 10—Amendment of Section 12:

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I move an amendment—

That in line 2 the words "in the fifth line" be struck out and "where the same first appears in the said section" be inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 14—agreed to.

Clause 15—Company may sell or transfer mortgage or other securities to itself as trustee:

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I move an amendment—

That in line 1, after the word "company," there be inserted the words "with the approval of the Supreme Court or a judge."

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 16—If on death of any person, company becomes entitled to land subject to mortgage to itself of another estate mortgage shall not merge:

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I move an amendment—

That in line 5, after the word "company," there be inserted the words "with the approval of the Supreme Court or a judge."

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17—agreed to.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILL—INSPECTION OF
SCAFFOLDING.*In Committee.*

Resumed from the 1st November.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan in the Chair; the Minister for Education in charge of the Bill.

Clause 5—Public inspectors:

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that the clause stand as printed.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Under the previous clause the Governor has power to appoint a chief inspector and other inspectors and officers as he may think fit for the purposes of the Act, and provision is made for the issuing of certificates to such inspectors. Clause 5 tends to nullify Clause 4, because it permits the Minister to issue certificates to persons to act as public inspectors. I have been told that the real object of this Bill is to find employment for someone. Clause 5 suggests there is something in that rumour, and it should be struck out.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Mr. Lovekin seems to be imagining things. Clause 4 provides for the appointment of a chief inspector and other inspectors. Clause 5 provides for the employment of other persons for the inspection of scaffolding, such as municipal officers, the object being to carry out the provisions of the Act as economically as possible.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Would they not have to be paid?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The cost would be very small in comparison with the cost of sending the chief inspector, or some other officer of the department, to a country district, when the local municipal officer could well do the work. The question of fitness and competency will be fully gone into before any appointments are made. Clause 4 merely refers to permanent officials, and Clause 5 to those who will be other than permanent.

Hon. J. W. Hickey: To temporary appointments?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes. The temporary inspectors would receive nominal payments for their services, but the expense involved would not be anything like what would be necessary if permanent inspectors were to be called upon to do the work. This will mean a saving to the Government.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I have difficulty in following the Minister's explanation. He says that Clause 5 is intended to provide for temporary appointments.

The Minister for Education: That is quite clear.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Why does not the clause say so?

The Minister for Education: It says "from time to time." Surely that is sufficient!

Hon. A. Lovekin: That does not make the men temporary inspectors.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Nor does it make the appointments temporary. The Minister says that under Clause 4 the permanent inspectors are to be appointed, but the phrase "from time to time" also appears there. In the circumstances the interpretation given to Clause 5 should also apply to Clause 4.

The Minister for Education: They are entirely different.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The Minister has overlooked the fact that under Subclause 2 of Clause 4 every inspector must have a certificate of appointment, which has to be produced before he can inspect any premises. This means that an inspector, even though appointed under Clause 5, must also have that certificate before he can carry out his duties.

The Minister for Education: That is not so.

Hon. A. Lovekin: But it is obvious.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Unless the temporary man had that certificate he could not carry out the duties outlined by the Minister. Confusion is bound to arise, for the two clauses cannot be reconciled. Then again there is no provision for the permanent man securing his appointment after examination, whereas the temporary man has to sit for an examination before he can be appointed.

The Minister for Education: You have not looked at the Bill. Clause 25 provides for that examination. What more do you require?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Men who may be expected to receive temporary appointments will not submit themselves to examination. On the other hand, it is more appropriate that the men seeking permanent appointments should sit for an examination. If inspectors under Clause 5 are to be temporary men, the clause should be amended to make that point clear.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It is perfectly clear. Clause 25 provides that regulations may be passed to prescribe the necessary examinations to be passed by men seeking permanent appointments. Clauses 4 and 5 are copied verbatim from the Queensland Act.

Hon. J. W. Hickey: That is sufficient to condemn them, in Mr. Nicholson's mind.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Men appointed under Clause 5 would not require the certificate of appointment referred to in Clause 4. Certain men, such as officials of road boards or local governing bodies, including foremen of works and so on, may be given certificates under Clause 5 to enable them to carry out work which otherwise would have to be attended to by a permanent inspector from Perth. I have received an opinion from the Solicitor General, who confirms my view. A qualified officer of a municipality or road board will hold a certificate of approval, which will be his authority to act as an inspector.

Hon. A. Lovekin: But it does not say so in the Bill.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: This is the explanation which should be clear to anyone. The hon. member is obstinate to-night and does not wish to understand it.

Hon. A. Lovekin: I comprehend it all right.

Hon. J. W. Hickey: If the local inspector had not the necessary qualifications to carry out the work in a country town, you would have to send an officer from Perth.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes, and the hon. member will recognise what that will mean in expense to the State.

Hon. R. J. Lynn: Hon. members are afraid you will have too many permanent men.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: In Queensland there are only two permanent inspectors and the rest are temporary men in different localities. The cost of the services of the latter is not very much.

Hon. H. STEWART: The mere fact that Clauses 4 and 5 have been copied verbatim from another Act is not sufficient to secure the approval of this Chamber.

The Minister for Education: I did not claim that.

Hon. H. STEWART: On the face of them, the clauses are subject to an entirely opposite interpretation to that mentioned by the Minister. Clause 4 does not provide that inspectors appointed by the Governor in Council shall have any definite qualifications determined by way of examination.

The Minister for Education: That is provided for under Clause 25.

Hon. H. STEWART: Permissive power is given under Clause 25, but Clause 4 does not require that examinations shall be passed, although such a provision appears in Clause 5. The Government may appoint a chief inspector and so many inspectors as may be considered necessary, and there is no stipulation that any such appointee shall pass an examination. Clause 5 is capable of an interpretation opposite to that given by the Minister. It provides that the Minister may issue certificates of approval to qualified persons to act as public inspectors. The Bill is entirely unsatisfactory. There is no definition of public inspector. Clause 5 goes on to say that certificates shall be issued only upon applicants furnishing by examination evidence of fitness and competency as may be prescribed. For initial purposes, therefore, officers satisfactory to Cabinet may be appointed under Clause 4; after that inspectors would have to be certified as provided in Clause 5.

Hon. T. MOORE: Is there some desire to talk the Bill out? Clause 4 says the Government may appoint a chief inspector and so many inspectors, and Clause 5 provides that the Minister may issue certificates to qualified persons to act. To appoint a man is to make him a public servant; to act as an inspector is quite a different thing.

Hon. J. Nicholson: That is bandying words.

Hon. R. J. Lynn: Do you mean that the first chap would do nothing while the second man acted?

Hon. T. MOORE: I hope members will be honest about the measure so that we shall know whether it is worth while going on with it. The distinction between the two clauses is perfectly clear.

Hon. J. A. GREIG: I move—

That the Chairman do now leave the Chair.

The Minister for Education: That is very interesting.

Hon. J. W. Hickey: Now we shall see where we stand.

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

Ayes	7
Noes	7

A tie	..	0
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AYES.

Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. A. Lovekin	Hon. H. Stewart
Hon. R. J. Lynn	Hon. J. A. Greig
Hon. J. Mills	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. J. Ewing	Hon. T. Moore
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. E. H. Harris	Hon. A. Burvill
Hon. J. W. Hickey	(Teller.)

The CHAIRMAN: I give my casting vote with the "noes."

Motion thus negatived.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: The Minister suggested that I could not comprehend the Bill. I must confess I fail to understand his language when he suggests that the phrase "from time to time" implies a temporary appointment. The phrase "from time to time" should not have one construction in Clause 4 and another construction in Clause 5, as desired by the Minister. The Minister read a statement, apparently from the Crown Law Department, as to what all this means. If the statement conveys what all this means, let us put it in the Bill. Anything the Crown Solicitor now tells us will not be binding as regards the people to whom the measure will apply. After to-day I have very little confidence in the opinions of the Crown Law authorities. A few days ago I submitted to the Crown Law authorities the draft of a Bill which we passed this afternoon, and I received back a note from the Crown Law authorities to the effect that the Bill was all right, that it had been sent to the Government Printer, and that I would get a proof. I went on with the Bill in all good faith. Yesterday the Minister told me that the Crown Law authorities had suggested certain amendments in the Bill. I did not object to them. I thought they were the amendments of the Crown Law authorities. Though I was surprised, I thought it was all right. When I saw the amendments this morning, I went to the Crown Law offices and asked the Solicitor General what the amend-

ments meant. He said to me, "I have nothing at all to do with them; this is only botching the Bill." I said, "You had better see the Minister." He said, "I will." Later on I got from the Solicitor General the letter which I have read to the House. After the Bill had passed, I went to my box, and there I found another letter from the Crown Solicitor absolutely contrary to the letter which I read to the House.

The CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. member to connect his remarks with the question before the Chair, which is that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: The Minister read out the interpretation of the Crown Law authorities as to the effect of this Bill. I contend we should not place very much value upon what the Crown Law authorities say, but should depend solely on what the Bill says. I am giving an instance to support my contention that we cannot depend on what the Crown Law authorities put up from time to time in these memoranda that are given to the Minister. I have even known of an instance where Mr. Holmes and I both consulted the Crown Law authorities, with the result that he got the opinion he wanted and that I got the opinion I wanted, and they were not the same opinion. What should guide us on this Bill is not Mr. Sayer's opinion, but what the Bill says. On a select committee some time ago I heard the Crown Solicitor state in evidence that the interpretation of a measure depended upon what Mr. Scaddan had said and explained about it in the Assembly. But one interprets an Act by what the Act itself says. From the public point of view, we want in this Bill exactly what it means. If the inspectors are to be temporary inspectors, let us say in the Bill "temporary inspectors." Certainly "from time to time" does not mean temporary. The inspector appointed under one clause and the inspector appointed under another clause will be one and the same officer. The permanent officer may have passed no examination, but the co-called temporary hand is to be subject to an examination, under the second paragraph of Clause 5. It is whispered, and commonly understood, that this Bill is to provide for an individual or individuals. If that is so, one can see the nigger in the fence. The permanent appointee for the job contemplated need have passed no examination, whereas the temporary appointee is to be subject to an examination. In the interests of the people, it is essential that the two clauses should not be passed. I hope the Chamber will show its opinion by voting against Clause 5.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I desire to disabuse the minds of hon. members in regard to what has been stated by Mr. Lovekin concerning cases put up to the Solicitor General. With regard to the Bill we dealt with yesterday and again this afternoon, I wrote out certain amendments, which were not submitted to the Solicitor General yesterday. They were submitted to him this morning, and he then said

that they did not convey what the hon. member desired. Later, however, when I came to discuss the position with him and told him my idea of a deed poll, he simply changed his opinion, because he saw that I was arguing from a different standpoint altogether. From that standpoint he sent the hon. member quite a proper letter. He gave one opinion on a position placed before him by the hon. member, and he also gave an opinion upon a position placed before him by me. This also was quite a right opinion. Therefore, it is not fair for hon. members to belittle the Solicitor General in this House. Mr. Sayer is a most competent lawyer and conveyancer, and a very hard-working official. He gave Mr. Lovekin a correct answer to the question asked by the hon. member. When I had placed my views before Mr. Sayer, he thought it incumbent upon him to send another letter to Mr. Lovekin. As regards the permanent appointment there is no nigger in the fence. The Government do not want to appoint any special man. There is strong opposition to the Bill, as I realised from the last division and a previous one. The principle of the Bill having been endorsed by the House twice, let us get on with the business. A large number of members not present to-night are in favour of the Bill, and have no pairs. Hon. members have nothing to fear in connection with the Bill. None but competent men will be appointed, and they will be appointed only after proper examination. The Government desire to appoint only one or two permanent inspectors. The other inspectors will be temporary.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: Unlike the Minister, I think we have a good deal to fear from the Bill. Residents of the country districts have an aversion for the very word "inspector." If this measure passes, we are liable to be inundated with inspectors throughout the State.

The Minister for Education: I give my word it will not be so.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: I have had the word of other Ministers on similar subjects. And I am convinced that we ought at all times to see that the Bill contains proper precautions. Occasionally we have had sad experiences. Under this Bill the State can be divided into districts, and can be subjected to inspectors from Encla to Wyndham, and a farmer who wants to build a haystack and then to put a roof on it will not be able to do so until he has obtained an inspector to pass the scaffolding. The man on the land will not be able to put up a shed or a shack without sending notice of his intention to an inspector, possibly 20 miles away. During the time he will have to waste in communicating with an inspector, he could have his material ready and get the structure erected. As soon as it is discovered that the inspectors are travelling round in motor cars to look up structures and shacks wherever they may be constructed all over the State, the fees will go up. If we can cut out Clause 5 altogether, I will feel that so many inspectors will not be appointed. There will then remain a suffi-

cient number to deal with the position in the metropolitan area. The clause as it is will mean nothing but the multiplication of inspectors *ad libitum*.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I had no intention of reflecting in any way upon Mr. Sayer, the Crown Solicitor. That gentleman is courteous, obliging and always helpful, and when he is left alone, when no acid is put upon him, he is a very able lawyer. If hon. members will read his letters, they will see that at one moment he is a free man and that on another he has had the acid applied. If anything I have said can be construed into a reflection on Mr. Sayer, I unhesitatingly withdraw it.

Hon. H. STEWART: I am sorry that Mr. Moore misinterpreted my motives. I wish him to realise that so far as Clauses 4 and 5 are concerned, my sole desire is to see that they mean good legislation. Here the Minister has given us a clause that is not common sense.

The Minister for Education: That is your opinion, not mine.

Hon. H. STEWART: Clause 5 makes provision for the issue of certificates of approval. I intend to seek a recommittal of the Bill when I hope to get the support of at least one member more than I had before in the direction of getting through an amendment to provide that these inspectors shall be qualified.

The Minister for Education: I would support that myself.

Hon. H. STEWART: I look upon this clause as a machinery one. When a man has sat for an examination and has qualified, a certificate of approval will be issued to him. To my mind a register will be kept of these people and it will be from amongst those whose names are on the register that appointments will be made. The clause provides that certificates of approval may be issued to qualified persons to act as public inspectors. Public inspectors are persons of whom we have no cognisance. They are not defined in the Bill and therefore I do not see why they should be so described. I move an amendment—

That in line 3 "public" be struck out.

We shall then have only one class of inspector throughout the State. The amendment will not do any harm to the Bill and I hope the Minister will accept it.

Hon. A. BURVILL: I support the amendment. If the Bill is passed, it will be cheaper to have temporary inspectors, and these officers, under a chief inspector, will be trained in the work they will have to perform. Before a certificate is granted for engine-driving, a candidate for it has to assist to drive an engine for a period of six months. Under the Bill the position should be parallel to that. Temporary inspectors in the country should be qualified to the degree that they should have a chief inspector over them.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: If the amendment is carried the effect will be

that the inspectors will become Government servants.

Hon. H. STEWART: I suggest that the Minister should postpone the further consideration of the clause and get the opinion of the Crown Law Department on it.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I have no objection to that course. I move—

That the further consideration of the clause be postponed.

Motion passed.

Clause 6—Inspector to keep minutes and report to chief inspector:

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 "chief inspector" be struck out and "Minister" inserted in lieu.

We provide that the inspector shall first of all report to the chief inspector, who will pass on the report to the Minister. Thus we have two people doing the same work at double cost. There is no reason why inspectors should not report to the Minister direct, and so save a certain amount of circumlocution which means expenses and loss of time.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The effect would be the same under your amendment.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It would not be a very wise thing to do, because if we have a chief inspector he might just as well go into these matters.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Clause 11 provides for inspectors issuing instructions and seeing that they are complied with. Clause 12 provides certain penalties. If some builder receives an instruction from an inspector and, later, an accident happens and there is a possibility of prosecution, that builder ought to be supplied with a copy of the report submitted by the inspector to the chief inspector. I move an amendment—

That the following be added to the clause, "And such report shall be open to inspection without charge, at the office of the chief inspector."

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: It would not be wise to agree to this. The clause covers practically all the inspector's work. Why should the report be open to anybody and everybody?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: There may be in the report some confidential matters for the chief inspector to forward to the Minister. It would not be wise that those reported upon should have access to the report, at all events at that stage. I hope the amendment will not be carried.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: I have had experience of the Inspection of Machinery Act. That Act is of equal importance with the Scaffolding Bill. It provides that the inspector's report shall be open to inspection by any interested person. The same provision should be made here.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: This goes a lot further. Every inspector has to keep full min-

utes of all his proceedings. It covers all his work. Why should such minutes be open to inspection by the general public?

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Why should they not?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: It would not be at all wise. Of course, if proceedings were being taken against a person it would be only fair to let that person see the report.

Hon. H. STEWART: Section 10 of the Inspection of Machinery Act is word for word identical with the clause. Mr. Harris might well achieve his object by inserting an amendment in the part of the Bill that provides for inquiries.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 7—Powers and duties of inspectors:

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I move an amendment—

That in line 1, before "time," the words "at any reasonable" be inserted; and that in the same line the words "by day or by night" be struck out.

I do not see why an inspector should have the right to go into a contractor's place at midnight on his mere belief that the contractor is constructing gear or scaffolding for use next day. The public have too many taskmasters over them. Under the clause, not only may the inspector go in at night when scaffolding is being constructed, but he may go in at night if he has any reason to believe that any gear or scaffolding is in course of construction. Surely he might wait until it is constructed before he inspects it to see if it be safe. From Melbourne we have heard something about spooks. I think this might well be called the spook clause. The House should not give these taskmasters unreasonable powers. It is intolerable that we should give an inspector power to demand admittance at, say, three o'clock in the morning.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It would not be necessary for any inspector to demand admittance unless work were going on. If men were working at scaffolding at three o'clock in the morning, it would be the inspector's duty to be there to see that the scaffolding was properly erected. The inspector must have power to attend to his duties at any hour of the day or night.

Hon. A. Lovekin: But under the clause he can demand admittance if he thinks scaffolding is being constructed.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: And he should have that power if scaffolding is being constructed.

Hon. J. Nicholson: It is an objectionable power to give.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: If we have inspectors we must give them power to do their work. Any inspector doing anything unreasonable will be called over the coals for it.

Hon. H. STEWART: Mr. Lovekin's contention is a reasonable one. The Inspection

of Machinery Act contains a paragraph as follows—

Such entry may be made at any time in the day-time whether such machinery is in motion or not, or at any time if such machinery is in operation. That is a far more important provision than is contained in the clause in this Bill. The clause should be limited to "the or a properly authorised inspector" for this particular work.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I support the amendment. We do not want a Bill that would harass those who are responsible for the erection of scaffolding.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I move a further amendment—

That in Subclause 2 paragraph (b) be struck out.

I fail to see why we should allow a builder to be examined under the third degree in order that an inspector may find out what he wants to know. If there is anything wrong, the inspector can report it. He has no right to interfere with the liberty of people.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It would be unwise to strike out this paragraph. An inspector would not do more than make the necessary inquiries to find out if the Act was being properly carried out. We have no desire that the Bill should operate harshly against anyone.

Amendment put and passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 8-10—agreed to.

Progress reported.

BILL—INSPECTION OF MACHINERY ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Hon. T. MOORE (Central) [9.12] in moving the second reading said: This Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly with the object of making a small amendment to the Inspection of Machinery Act. The object is to provide for those who are employed in the working of lifts. We should be able to say who should conduct the lifts that are used in the city. This Bill sets out who shall be employed in that capacity. Clause 2 says—

No person under 21 years of age shall be employed in the control of a passenger lift.

That is a desirable thing. We do not want boys to work lifts. It is not a useful occupation for them, being a kind of dead-end for them. They should be employed in some occupation that is likely to be of use to them later on. The Bill also provides for those who are at present working lifts. It gives to returned soldiers, who have come back maimed, the right to get these lift obs. There are unfortunately several re-

turned soldiers who are incapacitated, and are not in a position to take up manual labour. Where possible we should reserve to them occupations such as this. Many employers in the city have made a point of giving such positions to returned soldiers who have lost a limb, and they should be commended for this. Other employers, however, finding that they can employ boys at a lower wage place them in control of their lifts, and are not inclined to give maimed soldiers the work. It does not alter the position regarding those who are in employment now.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: Does this affect automatic lifts?

Hon. T. MOORE: As a rule there are no attendants for automatic lifts.

Hon. R. J. LYNN: Then it refers to passenger lifts.

Hon. T. MOORE: Yes. I do not think there will be any opposition to the Bill. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. H. STEWART (South-East) [9.16]: The Bill seeks to amend Section 15 of the Inspection of Machinery Act passed in 1921. That section sets out that "no young person under 18 years of age shall be employed in control of any passenger lift." The Bill seeks to alter that provision by setting out that no person under 21 years of age shall be employed in the control of such lifts. I understand the object of the Bill is to provide employment for maimed and limbless returned soldiers, but that does not seem an adequate reason for raising the age of those who may be employed in control of lifts from 18 to 21. With the rates of pay available here for young men 18 years of age, any such alteration should not make it less difficult for the maimed men to secure employment. I sympathise with the object in view and believe that these returned men should be employed for the work mentioned. I am prepared to go so far as to agree to legislation providing that the returned maimed and limbless soldiers shall have preference in employment on lifts. The reasons given to-night, however, do not sway me to a decision to alter a section of a permanent Act to merely raise the age from 18 to 21. The ostensible reason for the change that has been given is not adequate. I fail to see any justification for the amendment suggested.

Hon. G. POTTER (West) [9.20]: I can follow Mr. Moore in every word he said in moving the second reading of the Bill. He would have been more explicit in his explanation of the measure had he not been under the impression equally with me, that every member was aware of the real purpose of the Bill. Mr. Stewart has raised a point as to whether the object of the Bill is to do something for the returned maimed and limbless soldiers. The request for the Bill emanated from the organisation known as the Returned

Maimed and Limbless Men's Association of Western Australia.

Hon. H. Stewart: Would it not be better to make the age 25 or 30?

Hon. G. POTTER: There can be no objection to such an amendment because all the men concerned are over that age. Certainly they are maturer in experience than some of them are in years. If the age were raised to 25, I would not object to such an amendment.

Hon. H. Stewart: Would that not tend to achieve your object better?

Hon. G. POTTER: If Mr. Stewart advocates such an amendment in Committee, I will support him strongly, because it will make assurance doubly sure. There are many of these maimed and limbless men looking for work. By virtue of their peculiar disabilities many of them are unable to learn a new trade. Some have had to give up a trade on account of the loss of a limb and are faced with the necessity to rehabilitate themselves in life under most difficult circumstances. More particularly is this so in view of the state of the labour market, although the outlook in that regard is somewhat brighter now. The fact remains, however, that many of these men are greatly disturbed to-day as to how they are to be situated in the commercial life of the city. We have been told that there are 70 lifts operating in Perth and of these 63 are attended lifts. If they were manned by returned soldiers, it would be but a drop in the ocean to relieve the unemployment amongst these men. Every consideration should be extended to these returned soldiers, particularly because the majority of jobs offered to them are of a temporary nature.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Would their object be better obtained if we raised the age to 25 years?

Hon. G. POTTER: Perhaps it would.

The Minister for Education: It might cut some of them out.

Hon. G. POTTER: I do not think so, because the majority of the men enlisted before 1917. That is roughly six years ago and at that time they had to be at least 19 years of age before they were accepted for military service.

Member: Some were not that age.

Hon. G. POTTER: I am familiar with most of the maimed and limbless soldiers and I do not think any of them are under 25 years of age. The pity of it all is that some are rearing young families. The proposal to raise the age is a good one. The position of the younger men is not so hard, for they have had opportunities to attend vocational classes, and they have been prepared for various trades and callings. I need not waste the time of the House by expressing the confidence I have in the majority of these men. It is perhaps a somewhat delicate thing for me to say at the moment, but I may refer as a sample of the maimed and limbless men who are out of work, to one we have in this Chamber. I refer to the acting head messenger.

When we see men of that calibre going round the streets looking for work, we realise what a great economic waste it is! What a great burden it must be to intelligent men of such description! If we pass the Bill it will absorb all the men who are available for employment, but it will do something to relieve the position. I commend the Bill to hon. members.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS (North-East) [9.28]: I support the second reading of the Bill. It is a laudable thing that the representative of the Returned Soldiers' League in another place and here should introduce such a measure. It has not been clearly pointed out that while there are 70 lifts throughout the metropolitan area in which young men and youths are employed, there are varying rates of wages fixed for the ages of 18, 19, 20 and 21, the rate for the last-mentioned age being full wages. The rate of wages encourages employers to secure younger men for these positions, most of which are in connection with the bigger establishments in the city. In raising the age from 18 to 21 the object was that the full rate should be payable, in the hope that employers would engage maimed and limbless soldiers at that remuneration.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY (East) [9.30]: How will the Bill affect lifts in hotels where a great number of people pass to and fro?

Hon. E. H. Harris: They are automatic lifts, are they not?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: The public are not allowed to operate them, but they may not be under the control of one person. Various young people are constantly carrying messages to all parts of an hotel at the instance of clients and visitors, and heavy luggage has to be conveyed to and from the different apartments. Would the limbless soldiers be capable of carrying out such duties? If the attendants in such establishments are confined to limbless soldiers, will it not be difficult to obtain men to carry out such duties? Hotel lifts are not constantly attended because there are certain slack hours, but they are in use day and night. Shall not we be restricting the convenience of the travelling public, as well as the service rendered, if we pass this measure? I should like to know whether inquiries have been made in that direction. If not, the debate should be postponed to enable the point to be considered.

Hon. T. MOORE (Central—in reply [9.33]): I am pleased at the reception given the Bill. I did not dwell upon it in moving the second reading because once before, when I happened to spend a little time in referring to returned soldiers, I was accused of doing something that was far from my intention. Mr. Stewart suggested that the age should be raised.

Hon. H. Stewart: I did not then apprehend the full significance of the Bill but from what had taken place, it seemed that

the raising of the age might better secure the men concerned.

Hon. T. MOORE: If a man is 21 years of age, he receives the full wage. It does not matter whether he is 25 or 35. The wingies and stumpies are the instigators of the Bill. Many of these men are out of work, and it is a deplorable state of affairs. I do not wish to rush the Bill through. If further inquiry is desired, it is only necessary to suggest it and I shall concur. In reply to Mr. Hamersley, I do not think there is one hotel of less than three storeys that has a lift, and surely the licensee of a three-storied hotel is in a position to employ a liftman. This should not be detrimental to the passing of the Bill. The hotels are doing well and should be employing these men. I do not think there is any justification for holding up the Bill on the ground that the hotel-keepers may be put to some inconvenience. They are the people to whom we look, and have a right to look, to employ these men wherever possible.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

House adjourned at 9.38 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 7th November, 1923.

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

QUESTION—WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS, CASKS.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Premier: 1, Was there a large number of casks imported for the use of the Wyndham Meat Works this year? 2, If so, what was the number? 3, What timber was used in the manufacture of the casks? 4, Was any firm or person carrying on business in Western Australia requested to quote for the casks to be manufactured in Western Australia out of timber grown in this State? 5, If not, why not?

The PREMIER replied: 1, A number were imported. 2, 933. 3, 901 Victorian Blackwood and 32 Victorian Oak. 4, No. 5, The management considered it improbable that Western Australian firms could have successfully handled the orders. Shipping and other arrangements did not permit of any uncertainty as to quality or delivery. In future local firms will be asked to quote for the supply of casks manufactured from local timber.

QUESTION—BROOME STORES, SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Premier: 1, Are stores or goods required by the Government for the town and district of Broome mostly shipped by the steamers trading to Singapore? 2, If so, what is the reason for not shipping such stores or goods by the State-owned boats?

The PREMIER replied: 1 and 2, Sometimes, but only when State steamers are not available, or arrangements for transport inland necessitate it.

QUESTION—GOVERNMENT WORKS, PREFERENCE.

Mr. LUTEY (for Mr. Corboy) asked the Premier: Is it a fact that instructions have been issued that on Government works ex-Imperial soldiers who have migrated to this State must be given preference of employment over native-born Australians?

The PREMIER replied: No.

QUESTION—ROAD MAKING, PERTH-ARMADALE.

Mr. WILLCOCK asked the Minister for Works: 1, Of the £10,963 spent on the Perth-Armadale road, what are the respective amounts paid by the bodies concerned? 2, Is it anticipated there will be any further expenditure on this road in connection with the present reconstruction or repairs? 3, If so, what bodies are contributing to the payments and what are the respective amounts?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Of the £10,963 spent on the Perth-Arma-