

That was for the purpose of attracting men there to drink, and I do not think that is carrying out the true intention of a State hotel. In regard to the proposed hotel we should have had some information as to the style of the building, so as to be able to judge whether we should leave the hotel to the State or hand it over to a private individual.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (in reply): I do not wish to delay the House but I desire to furnish Mr. Kingsmill with some information in regard to certain points which he raised. The hon. member was surprised that instead of amending the Licensing Act we simply introduced a Bill giving us authority to establish a State hotel at Dwellingup. While in the first instance, the idea occurred that the Act should be amended, yet, after mature consideration we came to the conclusion that the best course to follow was to come to Parliament and explain the object we had in view. A peculiar position had arisen involving a hardship to some 600 people, and we thought that if we came to Parliament and explained the hardship and the circumstances in which we were placed by the adverse local option poll, Parliament would exercise its common sense, and if it approved of the measure enable us to carry out our intentions. It is intended that the Licensing Act shall apply to this hotel in every respect. With regard to the probable cost of the hotel, I am not in a position to furnish any information, but members may be sure that every economy will be exercised consistent with the convenience and comfort of people in that district. The Government have no desire to waste money, and members may rely upon it that having regard to the present state of the finances economy will be exercised. At any rate, I assure members that there will be no waste or extravagance so far as the structure and provision of furniture are concerned. I am pleased, indeed, with the reception afforded to the measure by the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

*House adjourned at 5.48 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Thursday, 30th November, 1911.*

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

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

*Mr. A. A. Wilson and Collie Magistrate.*

Mr. A. A. WILSON (Collie): I wish to make a personal explanation. On the 9th November I asked the Minister for Justice—

Is he aware that Mr. Barlee, R.M., recently, at Collie, tried two cases on the same day, and allowed Collie Burn alleged co-operative miners 13s. 5d. per day wages in the one case, and 5s. per day wages, for miners not working at Collie Burn, in the other case?

I desire, in justice to Mr. Barlee, to make an explanation. I find, on investigation,

that 12s. a day, or 4s. each for three separate cases heard on the same day, was given to the workers and 5s. a day to the strikers for one case. This morning I met Mr. Barlee and a very amicable arrangement was arrived at. I am sure he intended no injustice to be done.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Minister for Works: Return of Government offices rented (ordered on motion by Mr. Lander).

By the Minister for Mines: 1, Papers relating to siding at Stoneville (ordered on motion by Mr. Turvey); 2, Return of Collie coal ordered by Railway Department and supplied.

#### QUESTION—SCARCITY OF LABOUR AND MATERIAL.

Mr. FRANK WILSON asked the Premier: 1, Is he correctly reported as having said in connection with a proposed new railway, "The present difficulty was with regard to men and material; they could not get men and material sufficient for the lines they had already in hand"? 2, If so, what steps do the Government propose to take to supply the shortage in men and material?

The PREMIER replied: 1, The statement referred to is substantially correct, but the impression which I desired to convey was that it would be impossible to obtain sufficient men and material to immediately undertake all the work for which requests had been made. 2, The Government, however, are prepared to take steps to obtain all the necessary men with expert knowledge, and the material required for any works which receive Parliamentary authorisation, and where it is deemed absolutely necessary to complete the works at a greater speed than is possible at present. My remarks, however, related chiefly to obtaining a sufficient number of experts and men with the experience essentially necessary for the works in hand, or contemplated.

#### QUESTIONS (2)—EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

##### *Science Teaching.*

Mr. PRICE asked the Minister for Education: 1, What is the cost of the rooms and appliances attached to the central schools for the purpose of science teaching? 2, Have any arrangements been made for the proper organisation and supervision of this teaching? 3, Do instructors from the technical schools teach science in the primary schools at a special additional rate of pay? 4, Will this additional pay, if any, be granted to other teachers engaged in the like work? 5, Does the department think it advisable, in view of what is being done in other countries, to delay the appointment of special teachers?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, The cost has varied, according to locality, from £670 to £750 for buildings. Furniture and equipment has averaged about £140. 2, Arrangements have been made for the organisation of the work, and are being made for its supervision. 3, One Technical School teacher and one School of Mines teacher have been employed temporarily, with additional payment, the work being entirely outside the scope and hours of that for which they were appointed to the Technical School and School of Mines. 4, If they are employed under similar conditions, yes. If they are members of the ordinary staff of the schools, and do the work in their regular hours, no. 5, It is intended to have specially qualified teachers in charge for next year's work.

##### *Modern School Training.*

Mr. PRICE asked the Minister for Education: How many children were presented by the Modern School at the last Adelaide Junior Examination? 2, Is it a fact that children from this school who entered for the Senior Examination were told by the head teacher that he would take no direct responsibility for success or failure? 3, If none were presented at the Junior Examination, would it not have been better for children who have already passed the Primary Examination to have

remained at the various central schools, seeing that such work is undertaken at such schools? 4, Do inspectors visit this school for the purpose of examining the efficiency of the teaching staff? If not, what external test is there to determine this?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, None. 2, No. 3, If their only object was to pass the Adelaide Junior, yes. If they wished to get the course provided by the Modern School, no. 4, (a) No; (b) the papers set and worked at the final examination are forwarded to the department.

#### QUESTION—LAND SELECTION IN TIMBER COUNTRY.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Minister for Lands: 1, How many survey parties have been surveying before selection in the Bridgetown and Warren country? 2, Is he aware that land carrying valuable timber is being allotted to selectors? 3, Does the Minister approve of encouraging selection on these areas before the timber is removed?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, Fourteen parties. 2, No. The blocks are not made available for selection until after inspection and report by an officer of the Forestry Department. Those containing good timber are reserved. 3, No; not on land containing good timber.

#### QUESTION—TIMBER ON ORPHAN- AGE RESERVE.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Have 1,000 acres of Wandoo country been granted for orphanage purposes near Karrijin? 2, Has any provision been made to ensure the Railway Department having the sole right to the Wandoo timber growing thereon?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, An area of 1,000 acres has been reserved for orphanage purposes at Werribee Siding. 2, The reserve has been made subject to the right of the Crown to enter upon the land at any time for the purpose of obtaining Wandoo timber, and to the

condition that no such timber shall be cut without the permission of the Forestry Department.

#### QUESTION — RACE CLUBS LEGIS- LATION.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Premier: 1, In view of the general dissatisfaction that has been caused by the erratic decisions of the committee of the West Australian Turf Club and their nominees, do the Government intend to introduce a measure giving the Government power (a) to review decisions of the committee; (b) to grant licenses to the various clubs to use the totalisator; and (c) generally to deal with the question of registration of racing clubs?

The PREMIER replied: It is not intended to introduce legislation this session to review the decisions of the West Australian Turf Club committee, or to deal with the question of registration of racing clubs, but the Government are introducing a Bill to extend the use of the totalisator.

#### QUESTION — ORCHARD INSPEC- TORS, APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. GEORGE asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Have the two positions of orchard inspector and fruit packer been filled? 2, Up to what date were applications invited in the advertisement appearing in the Western Australian newspapers? 3, Up to what date were applications invited in the advertisements appearing in Eastern States newspapers? 4, If an extension of the time for receiving applications were found necessary, was it advertise in Western Australian newspapers as well as in the Eastern States? 5, If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, Two orchard inspectors have been appointed recently, but the position of fruit packer has not yet been filled. 2, Applications were invited for the former positions in Western Australian newspapers from 9th September to 16th September, 1911. The applications for the latter position have

appeared in Western Australian newspapers from 9th September to 16th September, 1911. 3, Applications for the two former positions were not invited in the Eastern States. Application for the latter position (fruit packer) were invited in the Eastern States newspapers from 23rd October to 28th October, 1911. 4, The time for receiving applications was not extended. Applications received in response to the advertisements appearing in the local newspapers disclosed that the applicants did not possess adequate experience. Thereupon applications were called in the Eastern States in order to widen the range of choice. 5, See 4.

#### QUESTION—RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION, KATANNING-NAMPUP.

Mr. A. E. PIESSE asked the Minister for Works: 1, What date is specified for the completion of the Katanning-Nampup railway contract? 2, Have the contractors been granted an extension of such date? 3, If so, what rates are the contractors authorised to charge during such extension?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied,—1, 28th December, 1911. 2, No. 3, Answered by 2.

#### QUESTION—LAND IMPROVEMENTS, CONCENTRATION.

Mr. A. N. PIESSE asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Can improvements, to be made on several conditional purchase blocks held by one person or a group of persons, be concentrated on one or more blocks? 2, Is he aware that such instruction has been the custom in the past. 3, Does he propose to repudiate information given to conditional purchase leaseholders by officials in the past?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied,—1, Yes, if the group of persons are in partnership. 2, Yes. 3, No.

#### QUESTION—SAVINGS BANKS, STATE AND COMMONWEALTH.

Mr. FRANK WILSON asked the Premier: Are the Government acting in co-

operation with the Governments of the Eastern States in making representation to the Commonwealth Government in opposition to the proposal to establish a Commonwealth Savings Bank in competition with the Savings Banks of the different States?

The PREMIER replied: Immediately the Government were made acquainted with the intentions of the Federal Government with regard to instituting Savings Bank business under the provisions of the Commonwealth Bank Bill, a memorandum pointing out the effect of the same upon the finances of the State was despatched to the Prime Minister by the first possible mail. The Government have since received the full text of a similar memorandum submitted by the Premiers of the Eastern States to the Commonwealth Government, and have telegraphed concurrence therein.

#### QUESTION—DAIRYING, ASSISTANCE FOR CARNARVON.

Mr. McDONALD asked the Minister for Lands,—1, Is Government assistance being granted to any person in Carnarvon in the dairying industry? 2, If so, to what extent?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied:—1 and 2, The Department of Agriculture lent for about a week the services of its irrigation expert to advise a firm that is attempting lucerne cultivation with irrigation at Carnarvon. This official's help is similarly given to settlers in all parts of the State.

#### QUESTION—RAILWAY ROUTE, TRANS-AUSTRALIAN.

Mr. McDOWALL, for Mr. Lewis, asked the Premier: Is it the intention of the Government to consider the desirability of constructing the proposed Transcontinental line along a route from Norseman, via Brookton, connecting with South-Western line at Armadale?

The PREMIER replied: No decision has been arrived at in regard to the route to connect with the Trans-Australian railway at Kalgoorlie, but the matter is receiving the earnest attention of the Government.

## BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Licensing Act Amendment.

2, Collic Rates Validation.

Introduced by the Attorney General.

## BILLS (3)—THIRD READING.

1, Early Closing Act Amendment.

2, Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act Amendment.

Transmitted to the Legislative Council.

3, Deputy Governor's Powers, *passed*.

## BILL—WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT.

*Third Reading.*

Mr. HOLMAN Murehison) : Not having had the opportunity of speaking on the second reading of this measure it was his desire to make a few remarks at the present time. There was no intention on his part to oppose the measure, because he realised that the amendments which it contained had been approved by a select committee which sat last session. It was his desire, however, to point out the absolute necessity for taking the question of workers' compensation generally into serious consideration at the earliest moment. There were many important amendments which should be brought about. At the present time the Act was a long way behind those which were in force in other countries, and in this State there were serious difficulties cropping up almost every day. A very large body of men employed by the Government were absolutely prevented from getting compensation. He referred to the case of workers following the dangerous occupation of hewing. If they received an injury they were not entitled to any compensation ; at least, that was what they said. In his (Mr. Holman's) opinion, however, they were entitled to compensation. The Railway Department, because these men worked under a certain system, declined to pay compensation if injuries resulted. The same thing obtained in the Works Department.

These men followed a dangerous occupation, and they should be entitled to receive compensation if they were injured. Every other employer in the State paid compensation for injuries, and the Government should endeavour to see that the men were treated properly by bringing in amendments which were so essential. There were other matters of vital importance in connection with the measure and which had come under his notice. If a workman was not employed for a less time than three years and he happened to be killed, his dependents were only entitled to receive an amount equal to his earnings during the preceding three years period, or if he was employed for a shorter time then shorter time had to be calculated. A case had come under his notice where a man had worked for a certain length of time, and he had been earning as high as £3 10s. per week, the full rate of wages, but because he lost a certain amount of time through no fault of his own his dependents had been forced to accept a smaller sum in settlement of his compensation. This was absolutely unfair and unreasonable, because if a person happened to be killed, those left behind were entitled to the full amount of compensation, and the Act should be amended in that direction, as obtained in New Zealand. Another important matter was that a case had been tried in this State, and simply because the person who was killed happened to own a house, which was occupied by his mother and children, those who employed him desired to deduct a certain amount from the compensation merely because he owned that small property, and their claim was that the people the unfortunate man left behind were only partial dependents. That was unfair. Because a person happened to leave a home for his wife and children, or his mother and children, or his brothers and sisters, these people should not be penalised in the amount of compensation which was due. Another serious question was the fact that if a man was separated from his wife and children and was not supporting them at the time of his death, those people were not entitled

to receive compensation. He maintained they should receive compensation. The Act in New Zealand had been amended in that direction. Then, again, the question of serious and wilful misconduct should receive attention. In New Zealand compensation in those cases was paid if a person was killed or if he was permanently injured. Personally he had had great experience in connection with the working of this legislation, and from the number of cases which had come under his notice, at least 20 drastic amendments would be required to be introduced before the workers could receive the treatment which was due to them. There should be a schedule setting forth the amount a worker should be entitled to for an injury which might result in the loss of an arm or an eye, or some other serious injury, just as was the case in New Zealand, and the amount of compensation to which the person was entitled should be increased to £500, which was the amount fixed in New Zealand, and in the event of a fatal accident the dependents should also be entitled to this amount. These were all matters of absolute necessity and should be brought about at the earliest date. One had to appreciate the efforts put forward by the member for Yilgarn in submitting the amendments that were before the House, and it was pleasing to know that this measure had got through the Legislative Assembly. So far as it went it would prove of great benefit to the workers at the same time, but we did not go far enough. It was not possible to do everything this session, but it was to be hoped that the Government next session, when bringing forward a comprehensive measure, would deal with the various matters to which he had referred, and bring the legislation into line with that of advanced countries, such as New Zealand and England. The few cases he had mentioned were merely those which had come under his personal observation. Another matter which should receive consideration was that in dealing with the payment of compensation the legislation should be made so clear that there should be no necessity to go to a lawyer. Cases had

come under his notice where fully one-third of the compensation which was paid went into the lawyers' pockets. If we were to give the worker compensation he should receive the whole amount and the law should be made so clear and easy of administration that the worker would receive the benefit of the whole of that to which he was entitled. If a schedule were attached to the measure setting forth the amounts to which workers were entitled for the various injuries received, there would be no difficulty at all. All these matters to which he had referred were of great importance, and the difficulties he had mentioned should be rectified at the earliest possible moment. But as he had mentioned, as there was no hope of making the alterations this session the Government should lose no time at the beginning of next session in bringing down a more comprehensive measure. The third reading of the Bill would receive his support.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

## BILL—AGRICULTURAL BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

### *Message.*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending this Bill.

### *Second Reading.*

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. T. H. Bath) in moving the second reading said: It gives me very great pleasure indeed to move the second reading of this Bill, because the position which has necessitated this measure is that of continued development of the agricultural industry in this State. Since 1894, when the first Agricultural Bank Act was passed, the record has been one of continued additions to the capital of that bank in order to keep pace with the increasing needs of those who have settled upon our agricultural areas, and it is pleasing to note that during the course of that time, under the careful and capable

management of those who have been entrusted with the control of the bank, we have sustained very little indeed in the nature of a loss on the transactions. The present amendment is for the purpose, firstly, of increasing the capital of the bank by a sum of £500,000, which the managing trustee informs me will be sufficient to carry us on till the next financial year, and, secondly, for the purpose of extending and liberalising the functions of the bank. At the present time there are a number of limitations which are imposed upon the trustees of the bank. Firstly, there is a limitation as to the total amount that may be lent, and there are also limitations as to the particular manner in which the money may be expended, and in the course of my own personal experience, coming into contact with those who find it necessary to resort to this institution for accommodation, I have found that these limitations very often act adversely to the settlers. For instance, the Agricultural Bank practically takes the settler up before a security has been created and accommodates him with a loan at a reasonable rate of interest for the purpose of effecting improvements upon his holding; but when those improvements have been effected, and when he has attained to a stage whereat his holding may be regarded as a productive proposition if he then requires accommodation, in a great many instances he finds it necessary to leave the Agricultural Bank and resort to other institutions which will carry him further on. But in order to secure that accommodation from the chartered banks, or from private financiers, he is obliged to take up his loan from the Agricultural Bank and substitute for it a loan from these other institutions at a higher rate of interest. I have always held that if it is good enough for the Agricultural Bank to help a settler to create a security, it should also be good enough and advantageous for the Agricultural Bank to lend him money after that security has been created, and in this particular measure I seek to accomplish that purpose. It is provided here that subject to the provisions of the Act, and the discretion of the trustees of the bank, they will have power

to lend money upon the security just as the chartered banks do, providing, of course, a safeguard in regard to the margin between the amount they may lend and the value which they place upon the security; and with that margin of security for the bank I see no reason, except, perhaps, in particular instances, why the bank should dictate as to how that money should be expended. The bank has the security, and if the money is unwisely expended and the loan becomes a doubtful one from the point of view of further development by that particular holder, the bank still retains the power of foreclosing upon the holding, and with that power, I fail to see that any disastrous result can ensue.

Mr. Turvey: Is there a fixed margin?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No; we are leaving that to those who are controlling the institution, just as it is left to those who control the chartered banks; they decide what is a fair margin between what they advance and the value of the security, and we should have sufficient confidence in those in charge of the Agricultural Bank to give them this increased power. I will show now how these increased powers will operate to the advantage of the settler. The bank will still be able to advance money by instalments for the purpose of effecting improvements, and it will still have power to withhold those instalments if the improvements are not carried out satisfactorily, but we know that many settlers expend money outside that advanced to them by the Agricultural Bank and create a security greater than that created by the funds obtained from this institution. When they have cleared a certain area of land and effected certain improvements in the way of fencing, it is not so much to their advantage to go to the bank for another advance for further improvements as it is to utilise the improvements they have already effected in order that their holdings may be made reproductive, and very often settlers find it necessary to finance at that particular stage. They may find it necessary to purchase implements for the cultivation of their land, but the Agricultural Bank, under the existing conditions, fails

to come to their assistance, and they have to go to private institutions or private financiers to get assistance for this purpose. If this amendment is carried they will in future be able to go to the bank and say—"You have lent me certain money for improvements, and with that money I have created a security. I now require a sum of money to finance me for a certain term and I want you to advance me that sum," and the bank will be able to comply. There are many instances of how the limitations at present imposed inflict hardships upon the settlers. Take, for instance, the purchase of breeding stock. It is quite right to provide that money shall be expended in the purchase of breeding stock and dairy cattle, but in the case of farm horses, one effect of that limitation has been to force up the price of mares in the market to a prohibitive degree, and to force up the prices of ordinary farm horses, geldings, in sympathy with the rise in the price of mares. To the settler who wants horses to cultivate his land it is not so much an advantage to him to have breeding mares, as it is to have geldings which will do the work, and which he can use continuously, and under this provision the bank will advance him money for the purchase of farm horses in order that he may carry on his work. Then, again, in regard to the purchase of agricultural implements, the amount at present advanced is altogether too small for the purpose of equipping a farm. I admit that in the case of some settlers there is a tendency to load themselves up with agricultural implements unnecessarily and, consequently, to burden themselves with obligations to the sellers of implements to such an extent that they find it difficult to carry on; but if, on the other hand, the settler can offer sufficient security and can furnish evidence that he can use the additional machinery to advantage, I fail to see why we should impose any limitation as to the amount he should be lent by the Agricultural Bank for the purpose of acquiring agricultural implements; and in this case, again, the amount will rest in the discretion of the trustees.

Mr. George: Is there any restriction as to where the machinery shall be made, as to whether it shall be local machinery?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No; that is not imposed in the present case: we propose to deal with that in a different manner altogether. Under the existing conditions we find that the local manufacturers have been unable to avail themselves of the provision in the Agricultural Bank Act, or, at least, only to a very small extent indeed. I have had that on their own statement. The only other amendment which we seek to secure in this measure is to do away with the schedule for the payment of interest and the repayments of principal, which was provided in the amending Act of 1906. That schedule could have been worked fairly easily if the bank had confined itself to payments in decimal numbers, say £10, £20, £50, or £100, but where sums of say £12, £16, £56, or £146 were paid over for improvements which might have been effected, the necessary calculations under that schedule increased the work without any apparent benefit to the settlers for whom the schedule was designed, and in order that the work may be facilitated and unnecessary work in the office dispensed with we are seeking to do away with that schedule. I commend this measure to the attention of the House, because I realise that if the Government are to carry on their purpose of ensuring that the lands of the State shall be utilised for genuine productive work and not for merely speculative and trafficking purposes, then we have a further duty to perform of ensuring that where the settler needs accommodation in order to carry on that work, he shall not be subject to any combined influence on the part of those outside the State institution, who may seek to use him as a lever in order to force us from our purpose. The State should be there to render assistance and to co-operate with the Lands Department in ensuring that where we dispose of our agricultural and pastoral lands those lands shall be utilised for productive purposes and not for the purpose of speculation. I think this measure will prove of advantage to the settlers, and I hope that it



will meet with no opposition from the members of this House. I move—

*That the Bill be now read a second time.*

On motion by Mr. George, debate adjourned.

## BILL—SHEARERS AND SHED HANDS' ACCOMMODATION.

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. FRANK WILSON (Sussex): I am sorry the member for Gascoyne, when introducing this measure, seemed to give more attention to complaints with regard to the accommodation or lack of accommodation for hands on the different stations than to the principles embodied in the Bill, so that it has been necessary for members to read the measure through for themselves to find out exactly what it means. I have not the slightest objection to the principles of the measure. We on the Opposition side, I believe in common with members on the Government side, think that workers, no matter where they are employed, should have proper and reasonable accommodation; and as I understand that the Bill has been drafted mainly on the South Australian measure, and embodies also some provisions from other Eastern States, I see no reason why it should not become law in Western Australia. There are, however, some matters that will have to be given consideration when the Bill is in Committee. I hope the member for Gascoyne and hon. members opposite will not ask us to go into Committee on the Bill this afternoon, as there will be several amendments to be proposed when in Committee, which I think can be taken next week, if the hon. member will agree to that course. My attention has been called to the Victorian Act, where there is provision made for tent accommodation. The provision in that Act provides that requirements with regard to accommodation shall not apply where tent accommodation has been provided for shearers to the satisfaction of the inspector. A similar clause might be embodied in this measure. We must not forget

this aspect of the question, that shearers are employed for a very short time during the year, perhaps for a month or five weeks at the outside each year, and if they have reasonable tent accommodation I do not think in our climate they are going to grumble very much.

Mr. McDonald: They will grumble.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: Some men always grumble.

Mr. McDonald: Some men have cause to.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: And some are never satisfied. I feel sure that the great majority of the shearers are quite satisfied if they have a good tent to live in, and would have it in preference.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: Then why did the agitation for this selfsame measure take place right throughout Australia, if they were content to live in tents?

Mr. FRANK WILSON: There is no agitation right throughout Australia, because this measure is in existence right throughout Australia. The hon. member must be somewhat dense if he does not perceive my argument. In the Eastern States they provide that where tent accommodation is supplied to the satisfaction of the inspector it is sufficient.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: The same provision is made in this Bill.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: No, it is not. That is what I am pointing out. I want it to be put in this Bill. Another point I may mention in passing for the consideration of hon. members is with reference to portable shearing plants. I understand this method of shearing is in vogue in the Eastern States, and is being introduced into Western Australia. They take these machine-shearers round, and the men who work the plant go with the portable machinery, and have all their necessary camping facilities and accommodation with them. I think the Victorian Act provides that where portable shearing plants are utilised they are exempt, and I think this might also be given consideration as far as our State is concerned. The Victorian Act makes provision that the health and well-being of the shearers and labourers must be properly looked after. The inspector has power in this regard, as he has with

regard to tent accommodation. The Bill before us provides that the sleeping accommodation shall be divided into compartments to contain not more than four persons. For my part I do not think that is advisable or necessary. I think it is much healthier to have 20 men in a big room than to have them jammed in a cubicle with four bunks in. Provision might be made to prevent bunks being put one on top of another to any height. I do not believe in that exactly. There ought not to be more than two tiers of bunks, if there are tiers at all. The practical workers will be able to explain to the House whether it is desirable to have these double bunks or not. When members will finish their merriment I shall continue.

Mr. Swan: We are wondering what you know about it.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: I would like to know what the joke is.

Mr. Green: You are the joke.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: That is the courteous sort of interjection the hon. member is inspired to utilise on an occasion of this sort. When someone is dealing with something which he knows nothing about the idea of the hon. member is that every person who is addressing himself to the measure also know nothing about it. I wonder where the hon. member got his experience! In the post office at Kalgoorlie? Or was he ever in a shearing shed, or has he ever had any experience on a station? I do not know whether the hon. member has ever slept in a tent. At any rate, if he has not, I have.

Mr. Green: Not very often.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: I have slept in a shed, and that is more than he has done, possibly. But I certainly hold the opinion that no owner on a sheep station or elsewhere would ask his shearers to sleep in a pigsty or a hen-house, as the hon. member introducing the Bill stated. That was his argument. I do not know that shearers are expected to sleep in a pigsty. And the hon. member went on to make a joke, I suppose, by saying the pigs sometimes came in and rooted the shearers out. These are the points that it strikes

me, casually reading through the measure, we might amend so as to make the Bill better than it is now. Otherwise I do not see that there can be any opposition at all to legislation of this description. Everyone wishes to see the men properly handled and dealt with and reasonable facilities given to them, notwithstanding what hon. members may think I and others on this side of the House think. They apply to themselves all the virtue in this direction; no one has any consideration for mankind but themselves; they are the only saviours and protectors. If it is a shearer or a tram driver, or worker on a mine, then of course a man has only to be an employer to wish to treat these men unfairly, indeed to injure them in health as well as in pocket. I dispute that aspect of the question altogether, but I want at any rate intelligent hon. members, who do see some good even in their opponents, to recognise that even members on this side of the House are wishful to see the workers properly dealt with in reasonable terms.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY (Moore): It is a pity there should be cause for a measure of this sort to be brought before the House at all, but if it is necessary, and there are those in Western Australia who will not afford proper accommodation for the people they employ, shearers and others, I suppose Parliament has to come in and protect these people. I have observed that it has been found necessary, unfortunately, throughout Australia and New Zealand to have a measure such as this on the statute-books. The Bill does not coincide entirely with all those measures; it differs in many instances, from some of them. I think it would be well to define what a building should be, or at any rate to give the employer some idea of what class of building he should put up. I notice in the South Australian Act it is not necessary to provide what we may call rooms not to hold more than four men, and from that I gather that, if advisable, a large room can be provided to accommodate all the shearers. Hon. members will agree that they do not wish to put the owners of stations in the backblocks, men perhaps who have not

started very long and have not got very good accommodation, to put up very extensive accommodation for the hands they employ for two or three weeks only. If in the Kimberleys or any of the far-off northern places a man has 32 shearers at work, it will be necessary for him under this Bill to provide a house with eight rooms in it, when probably the manager of the station has not more than a cottage of two rooms. That would perhaps put the station to a very great expense. Even members on the other side of the House, anxious as they are, and we are, to see that men should be given proper accommodation, do not desire to harass the employers any more than necessary, though at the same time they are anxious to see that fairplay should be done to all parties, I hope. I think the House might take into consideration the advisability of giving the employer the right to erect suitable tents for shearers in shearing time. Many of our people in the country live under tents and, personally, I would prefer canvas with a good fly to wretched galvanised iron. Our surveyors have the canvas camps, and very comfortable they make them. I would much rather camp on a clean spot in a tent recently erected than in, perhaps, some large building which had been left unoccupied during the greater part of the year, and which was almost in an unhealthy condition. Indeed, most men would prefer a nice, clean canvas camp to a wretched galvanised iron building, having only a few feet of accommodation. I understand that during the recent conference of shearers' representatives with the representatives of the pastoralists' association in this State the representatives of the shearers declared that the men would be quite satisfied with good tent accommodation, that, indeed, they would prefer it to galvanised iron accommodation. I know for a fact that representatives of the shearers have thus expressed themselves, and I hope that hon. members, while seeing to it that under the provisions of the Bill the shearers get proper space and proper comfort, will not put the employers to unnecessary inconvenience and expense merely for the sake of two or three weeks in the year. If

greater comfort can be obtained by cheaper means I think we should make provision for it. For my own part, and I think I voice the views of all those who employ shearers, I am desirous of seeing our men properly accommodated. I think that if any employer will not voluntarily accommodate his men properly he should be made to do so. I say again I regret that there should be any need in Western Australia to bring forward a measure of this kind, and I trust that the employers of labour who are already desirous of acting fairly and considerately towards their employees will not be sacrificed on the altar of a Bill like this.

Mr. TAYLOR (Mount Margaret): I am pleased to see that the measure is meeting with little or no opposition. As has been stated by the mover, the accommodation provided for shearers in the North-West has not been all that might have been expected. I would like to point out that when the wool-growing industry in the Eastern States was at the stage at which it is to-day in Western Australia the conditions of accommodation in the Eastern States were just as bad as they are here to-day. Within the last 25 years, however, we have seen grow up in the Eastern States first the shearers' union and, subsequently, the general labourers' union, the two bodies to-day being practically one large organisation sufficiently strong to successfully urge upon respective Governments the necessity for passing a measure of the character of the Bill. I remember many years ago, when I was shearing, no provision was made by Act of Parliament prescribing the accommodation to be erected by the squatters; but, watching the progress of the wool-growing industry in the Commonwealth I have found that the conditions under which the shearers now live are above comparison with those of the time when I was following shearing; and I am safe in saying that the conditions here to-day are no worse than they were in the Eastern States 20 odd years ago. In Western Australia it is absolutely necessary that a measure of this character should be passed. I daresay that on some of the older stations which

have been in occupation for a long time fairly good conditions are provided for the shearers; but on the newer stations further out the conditions are indeed bad. From my own personal experience I do not altogether agree with the provision in the Bill for four men in a room. Only once in my experience did I meet with this four-men-to-a-room system. That was at a station on the Castlereagh. It was a remarkable fact that every year for three or four years while I was in that part of the country epidemics of influenza were most severely marked in that shed. Each year the shearers there were suffering from influenza and cursing the four-men-to-one-apartment system. Of course I cannot positively say that this system was the cause of the epidemic; certainly the shearing shed was on the side of a hill where the wind blew bleak, and shearing started in August, a month in which you sometimes got cold weather on the Castlereagh. The hon. member in charge of the measure has had experience of that part of the State where the Bill will most forcibly apply, and no doubt he has the advice of the men who are going to live in those huts; but while I would prefer the system of a large hut I am not at all in favour of the two tier system of bunks one above the other. I think in Western Australia where land is not dear one tier of bunks is quite sufficient. I have had experience of one or two huts in Queensland in which there was but one tier of bunks, and I must say that these were the most comfortable huts I ever lived in. Of course inconveniences arise from having a large number of men in one room. At the largest shed in which I shored we had 96 men in one room, there being four tiers of bunks around the walls and down the middle of the apartment. Of course no meals were served in that hut. I see that provision is made in the Bill that no cooking shall be done, or meals served up, in the sleeping apartments. I think the sleeping apartments should be wholly separate from the cooking apartments, because in shearers' huts table cloths are dispensed with, and if the "off-sider" does not sweep up too often the débris which inevitably reaches

the floor after each meal is apt to accumulate. Moreover, if one man is ill in his bunk while the rest of the shearers are dining, or, during the evening, are engaged in rigging shears in preparation for the next day's operations, it is very inconvenient for that sick man in his bunk. From my own experience I hold the view that the sleeping apartment should be entirely separate from the apartment in which meals are prepared or served. More than that, I have found in my shearing time—and I followed shearing for a number of years practically over two of the largest States in the Commonwealth—that it was not alone the sleeping accommodation which was deficient, but that the sanitary arrangements were something shocking. That was the point upon which the men were more dissatisfied than they were with the sleeping accommodation. Of late years I have been told by men with whom I shored 20 odd years ago, and who are still shearing, that so elaborate is the accommodation to be found in the Eastern States to-day that both bath-rooms and lavatories are provided, and that if I were to go back I would not recognise the old stations once so familiar to me. These squatters can provide accommodation for shearers in the Eastern States, as I have described, without any difficulty. May I be permitted to say at the time I was following shearing, first we were receiving 3s. and 3s. 6d. a score, and we raised that price by our efforts to £1 per hundred, and it stood at that for many years, but since I have been over here, during the last few years, I notice the squatters are prepared to pay 22s. 6d. per hundred and 25s. In this State I believe it is more than 25s. as shearers are scarce. When the squatters were getting shearing done, by contract at 3s. 6d. per score they were not prepared to give the shearers proper accommodation. Now that competition is less keen in the other States they are prepared to pay 25s. per hundred, which is 5s. per score and the accommodation which I have described is provided by an Act of Parliament. There will be no hardship on the squatters of the State if the Bill becomes law. The measure will not work a hard-

ship as it has not worked a hardship in the Eastern States, and in the administration of the measure I suppose there will be sufficient discretion observed, and those who are not in a position to run up accommodation under the Act at once will have sufficient time given them so as to come within the scope of the measure. I do not know whether the accommodation proposed by the member for Moore (Mr. H. B. Lefroy), who suggested canvas sheds, would be satisfactory. It is not likely to be successful in any part of the State where there is a likelihood of rain falling during the shearing season, but if there is dry weather men can make themselves comfortable in canvas sheds if they are properly fixed and their bulks nicely arranged. I do not think it should be compulsory that that kind of domicile should be erected. As to the portable machines and accommodation being provided for the men, as spoken of by the leader of the Opposition, to me that is foreign. I have no knowledge of them. In my time shearing machines were just coming into vogue, that is about 22 years ago, and as far as portable shearing machines were concerned they were unknown, they were not thought of. In those days it was not thought they would be the success they apparently are. I think so far as the opposition by the hon. member is concerned it can be easily got over. If this Bill makes the necessary provision for the men that are taken to the shearing sheds, then they will come under the measure.

Mr. Frank Wilson : They will be portable.

Mr. TAYLOR : That necessarily will mean that the provision for the men and machines will be of canvas or calico. I think the member in charge of the Bill would be willing to make provision for that class of shearing accommodation if it obtained in this State. I think I am right in saying we are looking ahead somewhat. In this State there is none of this class of shearing, but it is well that we should look ahead and make provision. I hope the Bill will pass this session without opposition and also remain on the statute-book

so that we shall be able to know that we in Western Australia have swung into line at this late date with the Eastern States. So far as the pastoral industry of Western Australia is concerned, I hope the Bill will compel those who are negligent in looking after the requirements of their employees to give them that comfort and to conduct their work under such conditions that will not interfere with the health of the men.

Mr. McDONALD (in reply) : I should like to say a few words in reply to remarks made by some members on the Opposition side with reference to the Bill. In the first place I am thoroughly in accord with the member for Mount Margaret, who has had a large and varied experience in shearing in the Eastern States. He had to fight the fight that we are trying to fight in endeavouring to get decent accommodation for the men.

Mr. Frank Wilson : There is no fight about it.

Mr. McDONALD : I have been fortunate enough to obtain possession of reports from the organiser of the Australian Workers' Union, and the reports deal solely with hut accommodation, or want of it. I do not intend to go through the whole of the reports, but from these extracts I can assure members that this Bill is an absolute necessity. I am more than pleased to know that there is no opposition, or slight opposition, to this measure: as the member for Sussex just remarked, there was no fight. As to tent accommodation, at the conference between the shearers and pastoralists held about two years ago, the question of hut accommodation came up for argument, and one of the members of the Pastoralists' Association suggested that this matter should come under the Factories Act. Another member asked whether the shearers would be satisfied with tents, and one member of the delegation representing the shearers said, yes, they would be very well satisfied if they could get good 8 x 10 drill tents. That was his opinion and not the opinion of the delegation, and I am sure ever since he has been very sorry he spoke. In two or three instances where the accommodation was not sufficient at a par-

ticular shed the men have refused to go to work until the accommodation had been made suitable. On account of the difficulties and the hurry needed to get building material at Carnarvon and far-away places, tents have been used, but in all these cases a protest has been made against their occupation. As to four bunks in one room, that is a great number for one room if there is to be comfort. The member for Mt. Margaret mentioned the instance of an epidemic of influenza prevailing on a station.

Mr. George: Only one station.

Mr. Heilmann: You could get over the difficulty by having a certain cubic air space for each person.

Mr. McDONALD: We are asking that at least 360 cubic feet of air space should be given for every man. As to four men in one room, hon. members know of the objectionable features in that direction. Some men are early risers and they desire to go to bed early, and they are disturbed by men going backwards and forwards all night. Some men want to read when in bed, and therefore they want the light, while some men do not want the light after nine o'clock.

Mr. George: Some men smoke and others do not like it.

Mr. McDONALD: I have not heard much objection on the part of men to smoking, but there is an objection to the light, especially when there are slush lamps. Some men snore extensively, and the men sleeping alongside object to it.

Mr. Taylor: You will find all the boots around that bunk the next morning.

Mr. McDONALD: Then, again, as to the Victorian Act, provision was made for tent accommodation, but that tent accommodation had to be to the satisfaction of the inspector. Our difficulty here is that the tent accommodation is to the satisfaction of the squatter. The reference I made yesterday to pigs and shearers being put together in one hut is borne out by the reports of the organiser. At a station on the Great Southern railway—

There is no sleeping accommodation, men put in a sty to sleep with pigs, full of vermin, and rotten sheep skins hanging overhead.

That is according to the report of the accredited organiser of the Australian Workers' Union.

Mr. George: Why not give the name of the place and let people know?

Mr. McDONALD: I will give the name of two or three good places, we are tired of the bad places. Here is another report—

Accommodation very poor, sleeping room 15 x 27, 16 bunks, one window and door, with earth floor, very dirty and dilapidated. Kitchen 30 x 14, two windows boarded up, very dirty, earth floor full of holes. Latrine accommodation, two compartments for 26 men, pit system. Station hands, no accommodation, sleeping in wagons or cart-sheds, no latrine accommodation, 14 white men and 15 natives.

Here is another—

Accommodation very poor, sleeping hut 24 x 14, no windows and 14 bunks, iron building and filthy, and dead snakes in the hut.

Mr. George: What is the height of the hut?

Mr. McDONALD: No height is given but it is generally about 8 feet. I have some worked out here but the first one I worked out came to 378 feet, so I decided that I would not give that. Here is another—

In fine weather men dine in bough shed and when raining have to dine in sleeping hut. Cook's galley 12 x 12, has to cook and sleep in the same, insufficient cooking utensils, and no meat-safes or meat-house. Flies very bad and no latrine accommodation.

The hut accommodation is very bad as a rule but here is one, and I will mention the name, it is the Wagga station on the Murchison line, belonging to Broads, it is one of the good places. The report says—

First class accommodation, separate sleeping rooms, eight men in 16 x 14, rooms well ventilated, very clean, cement floors and whitewashed throughout. Dining room 35 x 12, very clean and whitewashed, and well ventilated. Everybody well satisfied, the best treatment I have seen on my trip.

If this can be managed at one station there is no reason why there should be dirty and filthy conditions at other stations.

Mr. Moore: But that is close along the railway line.

Mr. McDONALD: I can take you out to the Boolatharra station, the property of Mr. Butcher, but I may say that these owners are not paupers. I am referring to squatters, and I may tell members that, according to the income tax returns, I find that 150 graziers paid in income tax last year £150,000. Surely they can spare a little of that to give proper accommodation to the men. I need go no further but move the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *Committee stage.*

Mr. McDONALD moved—

*That the Speaker do leave the Chair and the House resolve into Committee to consider the Bill.*

Mr. FRANK WILSON: The hon. member should not ask the House to go into Committee at once. Members had not time to even read the clauses let alone compare them fully with similar legislation in the Eastern States.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: The Bill is precisely the same as the New South Wales Act.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: It was not the same as a copy of the New South Wales Act which was before him. He had indicated in the few remarks he made on the second reading that there were certain clauses that might be added to the Bill and others that might be omitted, and members should have time to put amendments on the Notice Paper. It would not be possible to move new clauses at the present time; it was necessary to have them in print. If we rushed this Bill through we would not get a proper measure. There was no hostility to it. The member for Gascoyne would clearly understand that all approved of legislation in that direction, and members wanted to assist him to get a measure

which would be effective and which would give the necessary facilities without putting an undue burden on those who would have to provide the facilities.

The PREMIER: We can go into Committee and then we can report progress.

Mr. Frank Wilson: Very well.

Question put and passed.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Holman in the Chair; Mr. McDonald in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Saving:

Progress reported.

#### QUESTION—FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. FRANK WILSON, without notice, asked the Premier: Can the Premier state when hon. members may expect the Budget?

The PREMIER replied: I am giving close attention to the preparation of the Estimates, and I think I will be ready to deliver the Financial Statement next week. I think it will be about the end of next week.

*House adjourned at 4.5 p.m.*