

that where the Registrar General considers a marriage to be one of expediency and he is requested by a minister of religion to do so, he can register a layman to perform a marriage.

The Minister for Housing: I think you will get into trouble with the church by suggesting that interpretation.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am interpreting the provision as it appears to me. The word "such" is in the provision; the word "expedient" is in it and the word "requested" is in it. That is the provision. The Registrar General can, if he considers it expedient, at the request of a minister of religion, register a layman to perform that marriage only. So it will not help much outback. I do not agree with those who think this measure will cause squabbles between the contracting parties, because they must decide that they wish to be married in a certain church before approaching a minister of religion who in turn will request the Registrar General to exercise his authority under this provision. What about the individuals who have no desire for a minister of religion to intervene on their behalf.

The Minister for Housing: You may have something there.

Mr. MARSHALL: That is the position, as I see it. If the Minister wished to do something for the people of the outback to save them a great deal of expense—at this juncture in the history of the State there are many people far-removed from the city who are assisting in the development of industry in the North-West and the hinterland generally, and who find it expensive to come to the city for such a ceremony, and in some cases their employers cannot afford to lose their services for any period of time—he should give consideration to this aspect. Provision should be made for such people. I do not know whether the House would agree to a justice of the peace or the local police constable being registered to perform marriages at the request of the contracting parties, but I feel it should be made possible for them to be married easily and cheaply. The marriage of expediency should be provided for, but so should other marriages, and I would like the Minister to give further consideration to that provision.

I agree with the Minister that there are many stickybeaks who might wish to search

the register to gain information to which they are not entitled, in order to satisfy their curiosity. I would like the provision covering adopted children to cover also illegitimate children. When any person wishes to gain certain information, even when the individual about whom information is desired has been born out of wedlock, the Registrar General should be given some discretionary power. No-one would object to information being made available for legitimate purposes, but not merely to satisfy the appetite for scandal. I support the second reading, as the provisions of the measure are necessary and urgent for the purposes of the parent Act.

THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING (Hon. R. R. McDonald—West Perth—in reply) [10.18]: I will consider the matters raised by the member for Murchison, and will deal with them when the Bill is in Committee.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 30th September, 1948.

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

QUESTIONS.

RAILWAYS.

(a) *As to Standard Gauge, Kalgoorlie-Fremantle.*

Hon. A. THOMSON asked the Honorary Minister for Agriculture:

On the 14th December, 1945, the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the standardisation of railway gauge, Kalgoorlie to Fremantle, on page 10, clause 5, made the following recommendation:—

That a complete investigation be made of the territory embraced in the area running in a south-westerly direction from a suitable point in the vicinity of Southern Cross to the Corrigin district and thence westerly in the direction of a developmental railway route recommended by a former Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. Stileman, or along any other route found suitable to Fremantle. Such investigation to proceed simultaneously, if possible, with the survey operations now in progress on the route parallel to the existing 3ft. 6in. line between Kalgoorlie and Fremantle, and be carried out by an independent railway construction engineer.

(1) Was an independent railway construction engineer appointed to examine the Southern Cross-Corrigin district route to Fremantle as indicated in Stileman's report?

(2) If not, why not?

(3) Has any report been submitted to the Government regarding this route?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) The Railway Advisory Board was reconstituted and the matter referred to them.

(3) The board's report was submitted in 1947.

(b) *As to Transport of Pyrites, Gypsum and Firewood.*

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Honorary Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Has priority been given for the transport of pyrites and gypsum to the extent of 100 trucks per week?

(2) What is the reason for the continued shortage of trucks supplied to Kumarl siding for transport of firewood to the Kalgoorlie Power Corporation?

(3) In view of the serious results to the goldmining industry consequent on short supply of firewood, will the Minister see

that this commodity is given similar priority to pyrites and gypsum?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Kumarl's requirements for firewood traffic are 25 wagons weekly. This order was fully met during September, and for August 96 per cent. of the order was loaded.

(3) Answered by No. 2.

HORSESHOES.

As to Shortage of Supplies.

Hon. A. L. LOTON (for Hon. L. A. Logan) asked the Honorary Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Is he aware of the acute shortage of horseshoes in this State which is causing horse owners in the Geraldton district grave concern?

(2) Will he take this matter up with the Honorary Minister for Supply and Shipping, who is now in the Eastern States, to arrange for an immediate shipment?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

CHARCOAL IRON.

As to Production, Sales, etc.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Honorary Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What was the total tonnage of pig iron produced at the Wundowie Charcoal Iron Plant from its inception to the end of August, 1948?

(2) What was the tonnage sold and at what price?

(3) What other products have been produced at Wundowie?

(4) What was the quantity of each, and what amount was received for the sale of each of these products?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied:

(1) 2,087 tons produced.

(2) 1,213 tons sold for £8,948. Selling price varied between £7 7s. and £8 4s. 6d. per ton f.o.r. Wundowie according to grade up to the 1st September, 1948. Since the 1st September, 1948, all pig iron prices in Australia have been increased by £1 2s. 6d. per ton.

(3) Sawn timber, firewood, methanol and wood tar.

(4) Sawn timber—1,171 loads produced, 821 loads sold for £9,280. Firewood: 13,300 tons produced, 182 tons sold for £137. Wood tar: 600 tons produced; none sold. Methanol: Experimental quantities produced; none sold.

BILL—CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT (No. 1).

Third Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. G. B. Wood—East) [4.34]: I move:

That the Bill be now be read a third time.

Question put.

The PRESIDENT: As the third reading must be passed by an absolute majority, I shall divide the House.

Division taken.

The PRESIDENT: I have counted the House and assured myself that there is an absolute majority of members present. There being no dissentient vote, I declare the question duly passed.

Question thus passed.

Bill read third time and *passed*.

BILL—WHEAT POOL ACT AMENDMENT.

Third Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. G. B. Wood—East) [4.38] in moving the third reading said: I desire to give the House some information which I promised yesterday. I find that the situation is somewhat different from what I previously stated. The percentage or margin deductions have been made since 1919 and the actual sum so retained from the amounts paid to the farmers is roughly £65,000. The remainder of the fund is made up from activities carried on by the wheat pool. For instance, the pool has a stevedoring company in England which arranges shipping and the sale of wheat. I do not know what the other activities are, but all of them have resulted in swelling the £65,000 to £130,000.

I have obtained some other figures which I shall submit to members. The average margin per farmer is 3s. 2d. per year. If the average farmer had restored to him what was taken, he would over the whole period have received only £2 7s. In reply to my inquiry, the chairman of the pool said that he did not know of any farmer who had asked for a refund of the money retained, and he added that it would be quite impossible to allocate it. As I have said, the deductions commenced in 1919, and some of the farmers are dead while others have retired from the industry. I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Assembly.

BILL—NEW TRACTORS, MOTOR VEHICLES AND FENCING MATERIALS CONTROL.

Recommittal.

On motion by the Honorary Minister for Agriculture, Bill recommitted for the further consideration of Clauses 1, 4 and 6, the Second Schedule and the Title.

In Committee—Title Amended.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Honorary Minister for Agriculture in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—Short title and commencement:

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I move an amendment—

That in line 1 after the word "tractors" the word "and" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed.

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I move an amendment—

That in line 2 the words "and fencing materials" be struck out.

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

Clause 4—Transition:

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I move an amendment—

That in line 13 the words "or of new fencing materials" be struck out.

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

Clause 6—Interpretation:

1420 [COTTON] The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I move an amendment—

That the definition of "fencing materials" be struck out.

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

Second Schedule:

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I move an amendment—

That in lines 1 to 5 of the definition of "commercial motor vehicle," the words "constructed or adapted for the carriage of more than eight adult passengers or principally for the carriage of goods, and includes every chassis designed to form part of such a motor vehicle" be struck out.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: How will the definition read if the amendment is carried?

The CHAIRMAN: Last night the Committee amended this definition by adding after the word "vehicle" in line 1 the words "of a capacity not exceeding one ton," so that the definition will read, if this amendment is agreed to, "'commercial vehicle' means a motor vehicle of a capacity not exceeding one ton."

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

Title:

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I move an amendment—

That in line 2, after the word "Tractors" the word "and" be inserted.

Amendment put and passed.

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 the words "and new fencing materials" be struck out.

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

Bill again reported with further amendments and an amendment to the Title, and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

BILL—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. G. B. Wood—East) [4.52] in moving the second reading said:

This small Bill contains two amendments, one requested by the Friendly Societies Council of Western Australia, and the other a consequential amendment which was overlooked when the Act was last dealt with in 1946.

The first amendment concerns the charge made by societies for copies of their rules. The Act provides that a copy of the rules of a registered society or branch shall be given to every person on demand on payment of a sum not exceeding one shilling. When a person joins a friendly society, it is usual to give him a free copy of the rules but any additional copies must be purchased and non-members must pay for copies they require. This particular provision was inserted in the Act in 1894. Members will be well aware that the cost of printing has increased somewhat since then. Societies state that they cannot get their rules printed for the small sum of one shilling per copy and have asked that the statutory purchase price be increased. In order to cover possible future increases in costs, the Bill seeks to make copies available at "such sums as shall be approved from time to time by the Minister." No sum is specified but it is left to the discretion of the Minister.

The other amendment which, as I have said, is consequential, relates to Section 36. In 1946, Section 7 was amended to permit a member of a friendly society taking up to a maximum of £500 for death benefit or endowment insurance, the previous sum being £300. The necessity for a consequential amendment to Section 36, which refers to the same subject, was overlooked and the opportunity is now taken to rectify it. The Bill, if passed, will enable friendly societies to get their money back for printed copies of their rules. I do not suppose it is anticipated that they desire to make a profit from the selling of the rules but they at least require to get their money back.

Hon. G. Fraser: Most of them give copies to their members.

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I suppose they are entitled to do that, but they are not allowed to charge more than one shilling and possibly some societies cannot afford to give copies of their rules without payment. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. E. M. Davies, debate adjourned.

BILL—MARGARINE ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. G. B. Wood—East) [4.55] in moving the second reading said: Part IV of the Margarine Act provides for the regulation of the manufacture and sale of margarine in Western Australia. Paragraph (a) of Subsection (1) of Section 25 specifies the maximum quantity of table margarine which the Minister may declare that holders of margarine licences may manufacture in any one year. The maximum is at present fixed at 364 tons or 7 tons per week. The Minister may also fix the maximum quantity which respective holders of margarine licences may manufacture. The Bill seeks to increase the permissible maximum quantity of table margarine which can be manufactured in Western Australia in any one of the next three years to 480 tons or 40 tons per month. There are only two firms in Western Australia manufacturing table margarine.

In view of the fact that this extra margarine may influence the butter industry, the Government purposely has inserted in the Bill provision that the manufacture of this extra margarine shall last only for three years, and, at the end of that period, the matter can be further reviewed. Of the two firms manufacturing margarine in this State, one, the principals of which are in the Eastern States, produces $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons weekly; the other is a local organisation producing $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons weekly. That means that the local organisation is permitted to manufacture two tons less than that allowed the Eastern States firm. These quantities were fixed in 1940 by the then Minister.

Representations were made to me concerning the position and I thought it desirable that these two firms should be put on an equal basis, to which the Government has agreed. The Meadowlea Company has a licence to produce $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons per week and Kaseley's is permitted to manufacture $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons. With the introduction of butter rationing there has been a greater demand for this commodity. If the Bill is agreed to, it will give some relief to householders and make up for the inadequate ration of

butter. It will also increase the amount of butter which can be sent oversea, particularly to England. I consulted one of the persons connected with the butter industry and he advised me that he did not consider there was any danger at all to his industry, and certainly not for the next three years. The Bill will put these two firms on an equal basis but it will increase, rather than take away, the amount permitted to be produced by the Meadowlea Company. The local firm has received requests for this commodity from hospitals throughout the State and even as far afield as Darwin, but it is unable to fulfil all the orders received. The Bill, in my opinion, is an encouragement to local enterprise and it cannot harm any other industry, but will do a lot of good.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Will their plant cope with the added quantity?

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes. I was in touch with Mr. Kaseley today and also with Mr. Back, who is the chairman of directors, or manager, and they said that they had anticipated the passing of the Bill and had already made provision for more materials, which will come from the Eastern States. I asked them what they would do if the Bill was not passed and they told me if that happened they would be able to dispose of the extra material they had ordered. Personally I can see no objection to the Bill and I trust that members will agree with me. All it does is increase the total permissible output to 480 tons per annum, which means each firm will be permitted to manufacture 240 tons.

Eon. L. Craig: Has not the Meadowlea Company made an application for an increase?

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: Why not make it 750 tons?

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Members can do that if they so desire. I can see no objection to the Bill at all and personally I would not mind if it went further, particularly in view of butter rationing.

Hon. J. M. A. Cunningham: Margarine was put on the table here and members did not know the difference.

Hon. H. Hearn: Yes, they did.

The **HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE**: At any rate, there is a big demand for this Western Australian product and consignments are sought from as far afield as Darwin. The Bill includes a safeguard in that it will apply for only three years. The restriction was imposed in the interests of the butter industry. I do not think it would matter if the quantity to be manufactured were increased to 1,000 tons each year. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [5.1]: I support the Bill and adopt the same attitude as that indicated by the Honorary Minister. However, this is one control that I would like to see dispensed with altogether.

The Honorary Minister for Agriculture: I cannot agree with you there.

Hon. G. FRASER: I think circumstances warrant that course. Originally I supported this legislation when it was first introduced, and I know that it has worked no injury to the butter industry. On the other hand, it was necessary at that stage to curtail operations. Nowadays the boot is on the other foot. It would be a good thing if the control were removed and treble or more of the quantity of margarine manufactured in the State were available to the public.

One great difficulty experienced in an industrial area such as ours at Fremantle is the provision of cut lunches for men engaged in factories and elsewhere. I have had to approach the Rationing Commission on many occasions in order to secure a small ration of butter for some of the shops in my district so that sandwiches could be supplied to the workers. Although some thousands of men required lunches daily, there was only one shop catering for the business, and members can imagine the loss of time involved. The men had to queue up just as though they were attending a theatre or some other pleasure resort. Eventually small rations were made available to two other shops and that eased the situation. Plenty of people are using table margarine and while it is not equal to butter, it is a very good substitute. When used in sandwiches, the difference is not noticeable. The table margarine now available is an excellent substitute for butter.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. G. FRASER: It has eased the situation considerably and at the same time has not reacted to the detriment of the butter industry. I would like the Honorary Minister to consider if it is not possible to drop this legislation altogether. If that were done, I am sure margarine would be used by many families whose butter ration at present is not sufficient to meet all requirements.

Hon. H. Hearn: It is good for cooking.

Hon. G. FRASER: Yes. As a matter of fact, in my household it is like giving them a £10 note if they are provided with a pound of margarine. In fact, they would welcome the margarine more than the money.

Hon. H. K. Watson: You must have goodwill somewhere if you can get a pound of margarine.

Hon. G. FRASER: It is so scarce that it is only once a year or so that it is obtainable. In all the circumstances, I can see no reason for the continuance of this control and should the necessity arise in future to reimpose control in the interests of the butter industry, it could be done. Naturally, I shall not oppose the Bill because it seeks to increase the quota of margarine available to the public. I hope the Minister will place my suggestion before Cabinet with a view to ascertaining whether it is not possible to cease this control altogether.

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

BILL—HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT.

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

BILL—BUILDERS' REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (**Hon. G. B. Wood—East**) [5.7] in moving the second reading said: This Bill contains two important and several minor amendments which have been recommended by the Builders' Registration Board and the R.S.L. The parent Act was introduced in 1939 following representations by builders' organisations, distributors of building materials and the Building

Trades Union. Its objects were to ensure the competency of building contractors, to protect the public against unqualified builders, to appoint a board with power to determine the course of training—including practical experience—to be undertaken by any person desiring registration, to prescribe examinations and to issue, suspend, or cancel certificates of registration. Any appeal against a decision of the board was to be made to a stipendiary magistrate.

The Act applies only to the metropolitan area, which is defined as that shown in the Second Schedule to the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act and extends from Fremantle to Midland Junction. The Governor, if thought necessary, may by proclamation bring other districts within the application of the Act. This has not been done so far, owing mainly to the difficulty of policing the Act in the country and the dearth of contractors there. The number of builders registered with the board has been steadily increasing and at present is about 800,

Provision is made in the Act for the appointment of a builders' registration board and it specifies the five organisations which shall be represented on that body. The present members of the board are Mr. Clare (Government Architect) who is chairman, Messrs. W. L. Brine (Master Builders' Association), J. P. Murray (Builders' Guild), A. B. Winning (Royal Institute of Architects) and J. Coram (union representative). I am informed that the board considers that its activities have tended to improve the standard of building and have ensured a more scrupulous adherence to contract and specification requirements. It is contended that the amendments contained in the Bill will further improve the general situation.

The principal amendment has been requested by the R.S.L. and refers to the amount of £400, which is the maximum value to which an unregistered builder may erect any building. In view of the diminished value of the pound, it is proposed to increase this figure to £600. Rises in costs of labour and materials since 1939 and the advent of the 40-hour week have contributed towards the necessity for this increase. It is not considered that an increase to above £600 is warranted as that would partly defeat the object of the Act

which is the protection of the public from unqualified or incompetent builders. Intermittent inspections are made by the board's inspector of work being done by registered builders who are required to rectify any unsatisfactory items reported by the inspector or by owners. Any increase above £600 would remove a considerable amount of work from the jurisdiction of the Act which, it has been found, is improving the general standard of building.

The provision regarding the penalties prescribed against unregistered builders who enter into contracts or engagements, is dealt with in another amendment. The present penalty does not exceed £20 for a first offence and £40 but not less than £20 for any subsequent offence. The board has found that on some occasions, notwithstanding conviction, the persons concerned have continued with the illegal building activity. In order to provide a deterrent it is proposed in the Bill to prescribe a further penalty not exceeding £2 for each day after conviction, for which the offence continues.

The Bill includes an amendment designed to assist the board in its efforts to discourage unregistered builders. This seeks to make it unlawful for any local authority to issue a permit to build to any person not registered by the board or not holding an exemption under the Act, unless such person intends to build the house by his own efforts for his own use.

Hon. G. Fraser: I do not like the sound of that.

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Although the board has appointed an inspector, it is often found difficult fully to protect the public and the trade in general against breaches of the Act. The board has therefore suggested this amendment to assist in its efforts. In order to discourage persons from attempting to deceive local authorities as to their bona fides, the Bill proposes a penalty not exceeding £50 or a maximum term of six months imprisonment. This penalty is substantial but should have the effect of discouraging prospective offenders.

The provision of permits to owner-builders follows the policy of the State Housing Commission which is to liberalise the issue of permits to build to persons

who can provide their own labour. This policy is designed to increase the building rate and has been quite successful. During the 12 months ended the 30th June, 1947, 91 homes were completed by owner-builders, or a ratio of 5.1 per cent. of the total output of 1,792. In the following 12 months, this figure had risen to 306 or 11 per cent. of the total construction of 2,771. These figures, of course, refer to the whole of the State and not to the metropolitan area only.

On the 1st July, 1948, 1,841 houses were in process of construction and of these 323 or 18 per cent. were being owner-built. An owner-built house, of course, is usually of a more modest type than that erected by a contractor and is generally, no matter how small, for immediate occupation. The 323 owner-built homes in course of construction at the 30th June, 1948, averaged in value £727 against an average cost of £1,245 for the 1,518 being erected by registered builders.

The Bill also requires that registered builders shall fix or erect at all premises under construction a sign showing their names and registration numbers. This is a request from the Builders' Registration Board. There have been cases of minor trouble, such as breaches of regulations, etc., which required the board's inspector to contact the builder immediately, and it has been difficult at times for the inspector to ascertain who the builder was or where his headquarters were.

Hon. G. Fraser: That would be very rare.

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes; but it is not much trouble to put up a notice. Once upon a time all contractors did so for the purposes of advertisement.

Hon. G. Fraser: They still do.

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Some do. This measure will make it compulsory. I do not think it will be much of a hardship.

Hon. G. Fraser: It will be no hardship.

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The provision of a notice giving the builder's name and registered number would overcome this difficulty. Many builders erect such notices of their own accord for publicity purposes, so this

amendment should not prove repressive. The only other amendment deals with the return of registration certificates to the board. The Act requires that these shall be returned within 14 days on cancellation of a man's registration as a builder. As the Act also provides for the suspension of registration, it is considered that these certificates should also be returned to the board. This will prevent builders being able to use their certificates during periods of suspension. I do not suppose that is a very harsh amendment either. As I have already said, the increase in connection with the value of houses that an unregistered builder may erect, which I mentioned earlier, has been asked for, and there is a very good argument in favour of that course. Everything else has been subject to an increase. I am sorry to have had to mention the 40-hour week again.

Hon. G. Fraser: We are getting used to that.

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It is only one of the factors that have raised costs. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

BILL—STATE HOUSING ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 28th September.

HON. B. M. FORREST (North) [5.17]: Naturally I intend to support this Bill. I am very pleased to know it is the Government's intention to do something for the North, which up to the present has had a pretty raw deal with regard to availability of supplies. We in the North appreciate the difficulties occasioned by the shortage of houses, but we feel that there should not be any restriction of supplies in that part of the State. Even if one lodges an order for materials, generally three to six months elapse before they are received, owing to shipping difficulties. Very little piping and iron have been available in the North for many months.

I really do not know what will happen if a willy-willy strikes the coast this year. That generally happens about every two

or three years. The last one hit the coast about 100 miles north of Onslow, and I think members would be very surprised if they could see the devastation that was caused on two stations. Balmoral Station, which is about 130 miles south of Roebourne, was absolutely destroyed. The homestead, the shearing shed, the shearers' quarters, every outbuilding, 45 windmills and 300 miles of fencing were destroyed in a few hours. It is most necessary that stations in the North should have a few supplies on hand. The position there is quite different from that in the South, because here there is no devastation from willy-willies. I hope the Government will go further and release all goods that are necessary for carrying on the great industries of the North.

HON. G. W. MILES (North) [5.21]: I have pleasure in supporting the Bill, and I believe that people in the North will appreciate the change if we can get supplies. As Mr. Forrest said, it has been most trying in the past to endeavour to run a station or a business in that part of the State. For that reason, I welcome the Bill and wholeheartedly support it.

On motion by Hon. A. Thomson, debate adjourned.

BILL—NORTHAMPTON LANDS RESUMPTION.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 28th September.

HON. C. H. SIMPSON (Central) [5.22]: My object in obtaining the adjournment was to check up on the question of the Government's resuming certain lands near Northampton; and, more particularly, to afford my colleague, Mr. Logan, who lives in that part, the opportunity of informing the House of the background of the case. I find that there is an area adjoining the Northampton township of approximately 377 acres, the development of which has been held up for some time because it is owned by a company which has mineral rights there.

About 12 months ago I was in Northampton with the Minister for Local Government,

and the matter was mentioned by the chairman of the local road board. Representations were later made by the local R.S.L., which pointed out that if this land were resumed, it could be cut up into small holdings and made available for settlement. In fact, the R.S.L. went so far as to submit a plan which was based on a division of the property into lots of from five to 40 acres, according to the suitability of the land. The idea was that it would be satisfactory for dairying or orchards or the growing of tomatoes, and the whole area could be split up into 36 holdings.

The details of that plan are now in the possession of the Lands Department, which obviously can do nothing until the land is resumed. Whether it favours the plan or not, I am not in a position to say. I think myself that the area would be very suitable for the growing of citrus fruits. In my opinion, Northampton oranges are the finest in the State. The resumption of this land will definitely be of value to the town and district. I am satisfied this is a good move and have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

On motion by Hon. H. A. C. Daffen, debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 5.25 to 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. G. B. Wood—East): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday, the 12th October.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.1 p.m.