

scientifically. Members' duties in attending to the requirements of their constituents are never easy, more especially in the case of some members of this House who represent wide and scattered areas; and members thoroughly deserve a holiday respite from their labours in this Chamber. I would like to join in the tribute that has been paid to the hon. Mr. Drew for the ability, the tact, the industry, and the fairness he has invariably shown in his leadership of this House. (Members: Hear, hear!) From him, and from the Honorary Minister, Mr. Hickey, I have received nothing but courtesy and kindness. I wish to thank all the members for the consideration they have shown to me in my office as President, and also to thank them for the help they have given me. I have received special help from my old friend and colleague the Chairman of Committees, the hon. Mr. Cornell. The Clerk of Parliaments and the Clerk Assistant have also rendered me valuable assistance, and I fully agree with what has been said regarding the "Hansard" staff. To that staff the House is indebted, and our thanks are due to them. In wishing hon. members a happy Christmas may I express the hope that they, and also this great State in which we are all so deeply interested, may enjoy a very prosperous new year.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 9.33 a.m. (Friday).

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 16th December, 1926.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 11 a.m., and read prayers.

PAPERS PRESENTED—RAILWAY PROJECT, KONDININ EASTWARD.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. A. McCallum—South Fremantle) [11.3]: The Premier recently laid on the Table certain papers relating to the district which would be served by the projected Kondinin Eastward railway. The Engineer-in-Chief has since proposed a different route going out from Kondinin and ultimately right through to Salmon Gums, linking up with Corrigin, then coming on to Brookton and so to Armadale and Fremantle. It would then be a trunk line with Fremantle at one end and Esperance at the other. A second line would come in at Southern Cross and link up with Pingrup. This proposal of the Engineer-in-Chief was referred to the Railway Advisory Board. They have just held a hurried meeting, and there is a division of opinion amongst them on the matter.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Can we all speak on this?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I merely wish to lay on the Table certain papers, including the Engineer-in-Chief's report, and to say that it is not the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill this session. We propose to allow the Railway Advisory Board time for further investigation. A Bill for a railway to serve the country referred to will be introduced early next session.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I do not think the Minister should make a statement of that kind without members being permitted to discuss the proposal. The Minister had not the permission of the House to make a statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: At this late hour of the session I allowed the Minister to explain the position. It is not usual to debate a statement or an explanation, and I think it would be irregular if I allowed a discussion now.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I agree with you, Mr. Speaker, but the point is whether the Minister is entitled to make a speech in that way when presenting papers—a speech setting out his intentions when there is no opportunity of debate. It has never been done before.

Hon. G. Taylor: The Minister had not the permission of the House to make a statement. In any case, such a statement is not usually allowed if it is on a controversial subject.

The Premier: This is not controversial.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is the custom of all Parliaments to permit Ministers a certain latitude that is not allowed to private members in making explanations.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MIGRATION, DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. W. C. Angwin—North-East Fremantle) [11.6]: I regret the incident just recorded, because I wanted to make a statement to the House.

Mr. Latham: With the permission of the House you will be able to do so.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: If it is not an electioneering dodge.

Mr. SPEAKER: The privilege has been extended to Ministers from time immemorial to make explanations. Ministers owe a duty to the House to make explanations. Until an explanation is made,

hon. members will not know whether permission should or should not be granted. The Minister for Lands is in order.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: As most members are aware, there has for some considerable time been difficulty in obtaining domestic servants in Western Australia, or in Australia. The difficulty essentially is that under the migration agreement the cost of fares must be borne by migrants. If they borrow the money, they have to pay it back on arrival in Australia at the rate of about 10s. per week. We have had requisitions for domestics for some considerable time, and for the reason indicated it has not been possible to fill those requisitions. To-day the following letter from the Commonwealth Immigration Office has been received by my office:—

Passage rates for domestics. I desire to inform you that approval has been given for free passages for domestics. This additional concession is applicable to all sailing from London after 1st December, 1926. The granting of free passages to nominated domestics is left to the discretion of the Deputy Director, Migration and Settlement Office, Australia House, London. (Signed) L. J. Hurley, Deputy Director.

The usual cost of a passage is £11.

QUESTION—TRAFFIC FEES, KING'S PARK.

Hon. W. J. GEORGE asked the Minister for Works: 1, Under what powers is the proposed charge for access to King's Park by motor vehicles levied? 2, Seeing that the need for funds to deal with the roads within the park is urgent, will he in the allocation of traffic fees provide a sufficient sum for this important work annually? 3, If so, will he arrange that the proposed charge per vehicle be withdrawn and so leave the people's park open to the poor equally with the rich? I may say part of my question has been deleted. I suppose that is in accordance with the customs and forms of the House. I fail to see, however, why it should have been deleted. To me the matter represents a great principle.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Under the Parks and Reserves Act, 1895. 2, No, for the reason that the Traffic Act provides that the fees shall be divided amongst local authorities, and the King's Park Board is not a local authority within the meaning of the Act. 3, Answered by No. 2.

QUESTION—STRIKES AND WAGES PAYMENTS.

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Minister for Works: 1, Whether as a member of the disputes committee during the locomotive engine-drivers' strike of 1921 he submitted, as a term of settlement of the strike, that "the men should be paid for the time they were on strike"? 2, If so, did the Government apply this principle to the men who recently went on strike on the Norseman-Salmon Gums railway? 3, If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, 2 and 3, There has been no strike of locomotive engine-drivers during the term of this Government. The particulars relating to the Norseman-Salmon Gums dispute were given to the House yesterday.

QUESTION—AGRICULTURAL LAND, EAST OF PINGRUP.

Mr. THOMSON asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Is he aware that there is an extensive area of land suitable for settlement in the area east of Pingrup? 2, What steps are being taken by his department to make it available for settlers?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, No. There are, however, small patches of first-class land, but second-class land predominates. 2, For 20 miles east of Pingrup the land is already open for selection. Consideration is being given to throwing open land further east.

QUESTION—RAILWAY LOOP, NEWDEGATE.

Mr. THOMSON asked the Premier: Has he instructed the Railway Advisory Board to report on a railway loop extension to link Newdegate, passing east of Lake Magenta and connecting with Pingrup?

The PREMIER replied: The Railway Advisory Board has been asked to submit a comprehensive report on the best means of opening up the country east of Pingrup and Newdegate.

QUESTION—LOCOMOTIVE STAFF HOURS.

Hon. G. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Has he, during his three years of administration of the railways, limited the shift of the locomotive drivers, firemen, and cleaners to eight hours? 2, If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Wherever possible the shifts are arranged to cover eight hours, but in a service such as exists in this State the running staff time cannot be limited to eight hours each shift. In many cases the eight hours would expire in the section. Regarding conditions of employment, an agreement was entered into during the administration of the present Government which provides, inter alia, for overtime rates to be paid after eight hours' work, whereas formerly 10 hours' work was necessary before overtime rates were paid. 2, Answered by No. 1.

QUESTION—GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, OVERTIME.

Hon. G. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is it true that the men employed in the Midland Railway Workshops and other Government departments work eight and three-quarter hour shifts without payment for overtime? 2, If so, why is this permitted?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, In the Railway Department wherever possible the 44 hours have been worked from Monday to Friday without payment of overtime. 2, At the request of the whole of the staff concerned.

QUESTION—RAILWAY GAUGE UNIFICATION.

Mr. NORTH (without notice) asked the Premier: In view of the Council's concurrence in the Assembly's resolution urging the unification of railway gauges, does he think any advantage would result from transmitting the resolution, or making representations on the subject, to the Federal Government?

The PREMIER replied: I can only say that the matter will be fully considered and that the question will be taken up with the Federal Government.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the undermentioned Bills:—

1, Coal Mines Regulation Act Amendment.

2, Lake Brown-Bullfinch Railway.

- 3, Dairy Cattle Compensation.
- 4, Ejanding Northwards Railway.
- 5, Boyup Brook-Cranbrook Railway.
- 6, Royal Agricultural Society.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED FROM COUNCIL.

1. Adoption of Children Act Amendment.
2. Kojonup and Powerup Road Board Loans Validation.

Without amendment.

BILL—GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Message.

Schedule of three amendments insisted upon by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Lutey in the Chair: the Minister for Railways in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 2—Delete the word "repeal" and insert in lieu thereof the words "amend by omitting the words 'deducted from any salary, wages, or emoluments due to such person, or may be'":

No. 2. Clause 3—Delete:

On motions by the Minister for Railways, the Council's amendments were again not agreed to.

No. 3. Clause 4, Subclause 1, paragraph (e)—Delete "and," in line 1, and insert after "deputy," in the same line, the words "and his substitute":

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: I move—

That the amendment be no longer disagreed to.

This amendment represents the correction of a grammatical error.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment no longer disagreed to.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

Request for Conference.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: I move—

That a conference be requested with the Council on the Government Railways Act Amendment Bill, and that at such conference the managers for the Assembly consist of Mr. North—

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It is usual to ask the Opposition if they want to go on these conferences.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: We have not had time. Things have been so rushed.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Yes, you have had time. You are always overlooking us like this. It is only common courtesy that we should be asked. However, I have no objection.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: I take it Mr. North will be willing to act and, the Leader of the Opposition having no objection—

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I have not been asked whether I have any objection.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Well, I ask the hon. member now. To complete the motion, I move—

That the managers for the Assembly be Mr. North, Mr. Withers, and the mover.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly transmitted to the Council.

Sitting suspended from 11.18 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RESOLUTION—RAILWAY GAUGE UNIFICATION.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had assented to the Assembly's resolution.

RESOLUTION — METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Suggested Board of Works.

Message from the Council received and read requesting the concurrence of the Assembly in the following resolution:—

That this House is of opinion (1) That in the interests of public health the immediate completion of the metropolitan sewerage scheme is a vital necessity; (2) That in order to secure a continuity of policy, a metropolitan board of works should be created to take over the whole of the metropolitan water supply, deep drainage and sewerage schemes, with full power and authority to carry on those undertakings.

MR. MANN (Perth) [4.0]: I move—

That the Council's message be considered at a later stage of the sitting.

Question put and passed.

BILL—APPROPRIATION.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

BILL—GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Message—Conference agreed to.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to a conference in the President's room forthwith, and that it had appointed as managers Hon. J. Nicholson, Hon. A. Lovekin, and Hon. J. M. Drew.

Sitting suspended from 4.5 p.m. to 5.27 p.m.

BILL—GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT.

Conference Managers' Report.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS
(Hon. J. C. Willecock—Geraldton) [5.27]: I have to report that the managers of the conference met and have agreed to make the following recommendations:—

Clause 2. Conference recommends that the words proposed to be inserted by the Legislative Council be deleted, and the following words be inserted in lieu thereof:—

“Provided that in the case of a permanent employee (as defined in Section 69) where the loss occasioned by such damage is deducted as aforesaid, then such employee shall be entitled to appeal against such deduction to the appeal board as provided in Section 69.”

Clause 3. Amendment of Legislative Council to stand.

With respect to Clause 2, I stated when moving the second reading of the Bill that the whole bone of contention had been that the Commissioner had the right to deduct moneys from the wages, salaries or other emoluments payable to the railway employers, without the men having any right of appeal. Now, by including the proviso I have read, we will give the employees that right of appeal and that may be regarded as satisfactory. At the same time, in my opinion, the same policy will be continued and Section 52 will not be availed of by the Commissioner. In the event of it being availed of, the employees will have the right of appeal. Regarding Clause 3, there seemed to be no hope of agreement with the managers representing the Council and rather than lose the Bill we agreed to allow

the amendment of the Legislative Council to stand. I move—

That the report of the managers be adopted and that a message accordingly be transmitted to the Council.

Question put and passed.

BILL—STATE INSURANCE.

Council's Message—Amendments insisted on.

Message from the Council insisting upon a schedule of four amendments, to which the Assembly had disagreed, now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Lutey in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 2, interpretation of “Workers’ compensation insurance business.”—Delete the words “or otherwise” in line five and insert the following words: “and at common law for compensation to employees engaged in mining or quarrying or stone crushing or cutting to employees of the State Government or of any State trading concern.”

No. 2. Clause 4, Subclause (3).—Delete “seven” in line 2 and insert “one.”

No. 3. Insert a new clause to stand as Clause 12 as follows: “12. This Act shall remain in force until the thirty-first day of December, 1927, and no longer.”

No. 4. Title.—Insert after “business” in line two, the words “as herein defined.”

On motions by the Premier, the foregoing amendments made by the Council were again disagreed to.

Resolutions reported, and the report adopted.

Request for Conference.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [5.35]: I move—

That a conference be requested with the Council and that at such conference the managers for the Assembly be the Hon. A. McCallum, Mr. Davy, and the Hon. P. Collier.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly transmitted to the Council.

Sitting suspended from 5.36 to 6.15 p.m.

Conference with Council.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Assembly's request for a conference and that

the Council had appointed as managers Hons. J. Nicholson, G. Potter and J. M. Drew.

BILL—GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Further Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the recommendations of the conference.

Sitting suspended from 6.18 to 9.35 p.m.

BILL—STATE INSURANCE.

Conference Managers' Report.

The PREMIER: I have to report that the managers have met the managers from another place in regard to the amendments that were disagreed to, and have failed to arrive at an agreement.

Sitting suspended from 9.37 p.m. to 12.30 a.m.

BILL—TIMBER INDUSTRY REGULATION.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it no longer insisted on its amendments Nos. 8, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29, 30 and 31; that it insisted on its amendments Nos. 23, 25, 28, 34, 38 and 41; that it agreed to the further amendments on the Council's amendments Nos. 1, 4, 10 and 43, and to the amendments consequential on the Assembly's acceptance of its amendments Nos. 13-16 and 24, but disagreed to the Assembly's amendments on its amendments Nos. 36, 37 and 39, now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Lutey in the Chair: the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I move:

That the Assembly disagree to the requirements of the Council.

Mr. Sampson: It is rather difficult to grasp what is being disagreed to, unless we have some explanation.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member can get the information from the Notice Paper.

Question put and passed; the Council's requirements not agreed to.

Request for Conference.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. A. A. McCallum—South Fremantle) [12.38]: I move—

That a conference be requested with the Council, and that at such conference the managers for the Assembly be Miss Holman, Hon. G. Taylor, and the Hon. A. McCallum.

Question put and passed and a message accordingly transmitted to the Council.

QUESTION—ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. SAMPSON: May I, at this stage, ask the Minister for Works if it is intended to give consideration to the amendments proposed by the Council to the Road Districts Act Amendment Bill?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Premier will announce the policy of the Government in due course.

BILL—TIMBER INDUSTRY REGULATION.

Council's Further Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Assembly's request for a conference and that the Council had appointed as managers Hons. J. W. Hickey, J. Nicholson, and A. Lovekin.

Sitting suspended from 12.45 a.m. to 3.45 a.m.

BILL—TIMBER INDUSTRY REGULATION.

Conference Managers' Report.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. A. A. McCallum—South Fremantle) [3.53]: I have to report that the Conference managers, having met, recommend the following amendments:—

No. 23. Clause 14, Subclause (1).—Insert after "nearest" in line seven the words "police, resident, or" and consequential amendments throughout the Bill.

Nos. 25 and 28. Clause 16, Subclause (1).—Council's amendment agreed to in line one and in the ninth line after "shall," delete

the Council's amendment and insert the following:—

"unless he shall prove to the satisfaction of the Court that same has been removed or altered by some particular person without his consent."

No. 34. Clause 21, Subclause (1).—Council's amendment deleted; Clause to stand as printed.

No. 36. Clause 22, Subclause (13).—Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 37. Clause 22, Subclause (15).—Subclause to be altered to read as follows:—

"Requiring bush lines to be cleared of dangerous trees."

No. 38. Clause 22, Subclause (19).—Redrafted to read "for the inspection of the housing and accommodation provided for workers."

No. 39. Clause 22, Subclause (21).—Subclause re-drafted to read as follows:—

"Generally for carrying this Act into execution."

No. 41. Clause 27.—Delete the words "appointed as" in line 3 and insert "or"; and after "magistrate" in same line insert the word "appointed."

I move—

That the report be adopted, and a message be transmitted accordingly to the Council.

Question put and passed.

Sitting suspended from 3.58 a.m. to 5 a.m.

BILL—TIMBER INDUSTRY REGULATION.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the recommendations of the conference.

BILL—PUBLIC WORKS ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Amendments.

Returned from the Council with a schedule of two amendments which were now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Lambert in the Chair; the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 2, Subclause 1.—Delete all the words from the beginning down to and inclusive of the word "or" in line five, and insert in lieu thereof the following:—"Delete paragraph (a) of Section 63 of the Public Works Act 1902, and insert the following in lieu thereof:—(a) The value of such land with any improvements thereon

or the estate or interest of the claimant therein as on the first day of January last preceding the notice in the *Gazette* of the taking of the land if the notice is gazetted before the thirtieth day of June, or if the notice is gazetted after the thirtieth day of June, then as on the first day of July last preceding such notice, without regard to any increased value occasioned by the proposed public work":

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Instead of the value being as at the 1st January in any case, this amendment makes the value as at the 1st January or as at the 1st July, whichever may be the last preceding date. That is to say, the value can date back six months at the most instead of a year. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Mr. DAVY: The amendment will ruin the existing Act by introducing into it a degree of uncertainty which has never yet existed. For the words "the reasonable and probable price at which the land might be expected to sell" the amendment substitutes "the value." As soon as the word "value" is used, it brings in the question of goodwill and all sorts of other problems which have created precedents in the law courts and doubt and difficulty in all countries where that word has been adopted in this connection. The present formula in our Act was originally inserted by Sir Walter James, and for many years it has thoroughly well preserved the interests of the resuming authorities, though in certain cases it has operated rather harshly towards persons whose lands have been resumed. I have frequently acted for claimants whose lands had been resumed, and still oftener for local authorities who were resuming; and I am satisfied that from the point of the resuming authority we cannot improve on the formula we now have. The amendment will complicate and obscure the position, and will certainly defeat the object of the Minister for Works in bringing down the Bill. I hope the amendment will not be agreed to.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: As regards the point taken by the member for West Perth, I am advised by those in the Government service who have been doing this business that although the wording of the Act is different, what the amendment states has really been the guiding principle of the court.

Mr. Davy: It has not.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: That is what I am told. The Crown Law Department inform me that in actual practice there is no difference at all between what the amendment proposes and the existing formula. When the Bill was before this Chamber I stated that the court in all its decisions adopts the procedure set forth in the Commonwealth Act.

Mr. Davy: I am sorry to have to disagree with you.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: That is what I am told not only by the Land Resumption Officer but also by the Crown Law Department.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Minister ought to remember that lands are resumed under the Act by local authorities as well as by the Government. The Government can always do justice if they please. The value of the land upon resumption may be higher or may be lower than the value at the 1st January preceding. Recently a property was bought for £4,500, and almost at once resold for £6,000 to a man with a thorough knowledge of land values. The £4,500 would be the figure taken by the Government for resumption purposes. A genuine purchaser would have to lose except it be a Government resumption. The measure will apply where land is resumed by any local authority. It might be an injustice to a legitimate owner, where the price has gone up legitimately. I can understand the Minister's wishing to protect the Government against inflation of value, due to knowledge of their intentions having leaked out.

Hon. G. Taylor: This will not give sufficient protection.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It will protect the Crown to some extent, but values change very rapidly.

Hon. G. Taylor: Not much in six months.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Minister wants to protect the Government against inflation of value in ways that he suggested when he was moving the second reading. I do not think the amendment will improve the measure and it might do an injustice. I am told that the City Council make frequent resumptions. In order to ensure protection to the Crown against fraud we are with the Minister, but I am afraid this amendment will end in injustice being done.

Mr. DAVY: The amendment is very clumsily drafted. It is going to land the

Government in a situation that they did not expect. The Government will be wise if they retain the present conditions, because we shall be substituting for the definite formula set forth in the Act the vague indefinite word "value." In asking members to reject the amendment I would like to remind them that the City Council, who are a more frequent resumming authority than the Government, though perhaps their resumptions are not so large in value, have resumed hundreds of blocks of land and, for the first time in history, they went into court last Monday. Never before had they contested a claim; they had always been able to settle on the formula existing in the Act. I urge the Minister to reject the amendment rather than change the whole basis of compensation, upon which all resumptions have been made in the past. The original amendment left the formula as the reasonable and probable price, but fixed a date on which it was to be arrived at. What we have in the Act has stood the test for 24 years, and has not caused the City Council, the second most important resumming authority, to go into court until last Monday. We should leave well alone.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 2. Clause 2, Subclause 2—Insert after the word "last" in line 7 the words "or the 1st day of July, as the case may be."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This involves the same principle and is consequential. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

Sitting suspended from 5.27 a.m. to 8.45 a.m.

BILL—SOUTH-WEST ELECTRIC POWER.

Council's Amendments.

Returned from the Council with a schedule of five amendments, which were now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Lutey in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 9, paragraph 1—Insert the words at the end of the paragraph, "who shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote":

The PREMIER: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: I do not like to give anyone two votes. No man should have both a deliberative and a casting vote.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 2. Clause 17, Subclause 2—Insert at the beginning the words "Enter into an agreement with the Government to":

The PREMIER: This is another important amendment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Premier will have to give a continuous right over the water otherwise no one will be justified in putting money into the venture. The amendment clearly improves the clause. There is no doubt the people concerned in this scheme will require a long tenure.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: It is alleged that in the report furnished by Mr. W. H. Taylor he said there was not enough water in the Collie River to dilute a moderate nobbler of whisky.

Mr. WILSON: I should have thought the hon. member would not have insulted the intelligence of members by using words that were never uttered by Mr. Taylor. It is not fair to utter such trash.

Mr. DAVY: The amendment does not say who shall do the impounding of the river. The clause does not give any power to the Government to do anything.

The Premier: It is implied that the trust will do this.

Mr. DAVY: Then the trust may with the consent of the Government do certain things.

The Premier: Yes.

Mr. DAVY: Should we not say that? If we pass the amendment there is bound to be argument as to what it means.

The Premier: The intention is that the Trust shall do these things.

Mr. DAVY: We ought to be sure what it does mean.

Mr. Sampson: The intention is to limit the power of the trust as to the quantity of water that may be used.

The Premier: It is intended that the trust should not have unlimited power.

Mr. DAVY: You think it means "with the consent of the Government."

The Premier: Yes.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 3. Clause 17, Subclause 2, Line 1—Delete the word "the" and insert "such":

The Premier: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 4. Clause 17—Insert after the word "pool" in line 2 the words "as may be agreed":

The PREMIER: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Mr. Davy: That would more aptly apply to such things as eggs and so forth.

The PREMIER: I do not know whose amendments these are.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 5. Clause 20,—Delete the words "the Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Limited and other coal":

The PREMIER: This was a point that concerned the member for West Perth. He wanted to know why the Amalgamated Collieries were specially mentioned.

Mr. Davy: I do not think so, for I was not here during the debate.

The PREMIER: Someone referred to it and said that the clause was not wanted. This may be regarded as an important amendment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: My mind goes back to the explanation given of that clause. Its original object was to enable the trust to enter into agreements to supply any mining company with power, the Amalgamated Collieries Ltd. not being mentioned at all. The object of the insertion of that name was to connect the company with the scheme, as they would take 63 per cent. of the total current generated. The committee were some considerable time drawing up the scheme. If the scheme was to be successful, it was essential that the Amalgamated Collieries should take supplies of electricity from the trust. Arrangements were made whereby they would do so, though no agreement to that was signed. When the Bill was in Committee it was pointed out that if the clause was not there at all, the trust could still supply the Amalgamated Collieries. The name was inserted merely by way of attach-

ing the Amalgamated Collieries to the scheme, because without them it would not be a payable proposition. From the legal aspect, of course, the mention of the name is worthless.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I think the name was inserted in order that they might feel that they could make a long-term agreement.

Mr. Davy: Having mentioned them, we can now delete them.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It was thought that if the name was omitted, the Amalgamated Collieries might say, "We are not connected with the scheme now, and we will generate our own power."

Mr. WILSON: I agree with the Council's amendment, and would rather keep the Amalgamated Collieries' name out of the Bill.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

CLOSE OF SESSION.

Complimentary Remarks.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [9.6]: The business of the sitting and of the session being now concluded, I should like, before we separate, to offer you. Mr. Sneaker, the compliments of the season and to express the hope that you may have a very happy Christmas. Your term of office has been fairly smooth, and looking back over a number of years I think we may say that the conduct of this Parliament and the tone of the House compare very favourably with the tone and conduct of any that has gone before. I should also like to express the thanks of the Government to the Chairman of Committees and the temporary Chairmen, and to the Clerk, the Clerk Assistant and the officers of the House for their unfailing kindness and courtesy, which have been extended to us at all times. May I include in that expression of thanks the Leader of the Opposition and his supporters generally. The hon. gentleman has shown himself at all times considerate to me and to the members of the Government. Having had experience on both sides of the House, I know it is a great help to the Government when the Opposition are considerate—considerate, possibly, many times when there were lapses on the part of myself and my colleagues. I do not know what

the fortune of war may be, but I think we may say that the present Parliament has done useful work for the people of this State. It may happen that some of us will not be back. Perhaps it would not be out of place were I to mention—although after so long a sitting I do not propose to dwell on it—that we know that at any rate there will be, by retirement, one vacant chair. I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my belief that the seat about to be vacated by my colleague, the Minister for Lands, will prove peculiarly difficult to fill. (Members: Hear hear!) Mr. Angwin has occupied an altogether unique and quite exceptional position in the public life of Western Australia for something approaching a quarter of a century. I venture to say that there is no man in this Parliament, or in any Parliament of which I have been a member, whose seat is more difficult to fill than Mr. Angwin's. Hon. members will have an opportunity of meeting my colleague before he leaves for London. We hope to give him a send-off, and there will then be an opportunity of expressing to him our appreciation of the exceptional services he has rendered to this State. For myself I can say that no man has ever had a more loyal and more thoroughly enthusiastic supporter than I have had in Mr. Angwin. He has been my prop and mainstay during the years that I have been leading the party, and for many years before that. While we shall miss him very much, we feel gratified at the knowledge that he will be translated to a place where he will still be able to render great service to Western Australia. In conclusion I wish the whole of the members of the House the greetings of the season. All have earned a rest and I hope that during the Christmas holidays, hon. members will be able to have a peaceful and pleasant time. Again I thank hon. members for the unfailing kindness, courtesy and consideration they have extended to me and to my colleagues.

HON. SIR JAMES MITCHELL (Northam) [9.11]: I, too, desire to wish you. Mr. Speaker, the compliments of the season and to say that during the past three years your conduct of the House has been exemplary. I agree with the Premier that it ought to be. I hope your occupancy of the Chair has not been made more difficult by reason of any display of feeling on the part of hon. members, who have sat in opposition

to the Government. I am sure it has not. We have met with unflinching courtesy from you while you have been in the Chair. I hope you will have a very happy time during the forthcoming season. I wish to thank the deputy Speaker, Mr. Lutey, who is also Chairman of Committees, and the officers of the House, for the untiring courtesy and kindness they have shown to the Opposition members during the session. I wish all members the compliments of the season. While sitting in Opposition we have endeavoured to discharge our duty in the interests of the people and of the country at large. The Premier acted in the same way when he sat in opposition too. Of course if we have not made probably as much fuss as we might have done, it has always been our desire to do our duty as an Opposition. We have done it in a way that seemed to us most effective in the interests of the people.

Mr. Teesdale: You have to fight all day to please some people.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: For the last eight years members sitting in this House have realised that their duty is to the country and they have endeavoured to serve the interests of the State. I, too, am extremely sorry that my old friend the Minister for Lands (Hon. W. C. Angwin) is going away. I do not know what I shall do without him. Certainly he will be a loss to the public life of this State. You, Mr. Speaker, have been for 21 years and seven weeks a member of this House. The Premier and I entered Parliament at the same time. There are in the House now five members who were here before us. They are my old friend, the Minister for Lands, the ex-Speaker, the member for Guildford, the ex-Minister for Works and the present Minister for Mines. All have held office just as we have held office. During the whole time I have been here my friend Mr. Angwin has been a member of the House. I have been very closely in touch with him throughout the whole of that time. I know his worth and I know his work. He has laboured as have few men in this House, whether sitting in opposition or on the Government side of the House. He is always working. Sometimes when we were in office, we thought he worked a bit too hard! He has always done his duty: always thinking, reading and delving, but always in the interests of the country. No one could have done more than he. We shall miss him exceedingly. We shall miss his little spurts of bad temper

and I shall miss his little notes that come to me frequently. Very often those notes placed him entirely in my hands. I am glad that he will still be in a position to serve the country. We shall have another opportunity of speaking about him and his work before he goes. My advice will be given to him when we meet on that occasion. In case I forget, however, I would like to remind him now that some of the duties he performed in this State will not be so necessary in a heavily populated country. I wish my colleagues on the Opposition side of the House a most prosperous time and I also convey that wish to members on the Government side, except of course, in March next. I should like to thank my supporters for their unflinching kindness to me while I have been Leader of the Opposition. The end of a session always presents a somewhat anxious outlook; at any rate, when we have to go to the country. I hope there will be a perfectly fair, clean and decent fight, as we have had for years past. I trust we shall give the people the fullest opportunity to make their selection, for that is their job. For many years past the people have had the opportunity to express their will without very much misrepresentation. There has been some, of course, from time to time, over some of which members had no control and were, therefore, not responsible. I do hope that after the election—if we all come back; of course some must fall by the way—we will be just as good friends as we are to-day before this Parliament is dissolved. Again I express my great pleasure on behalf of my party to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your courtesy and to wish you a very happy time.

MR. GRIFFITHS (York) [9.18]: In the absence of the Leader of the Country Party (Mr. Thomson) who is not at all well, and has had to go home, I desire to add a few words to those uttered by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. I wish you, Mr. Speaker, a bright and happy time this Christmas and also a good new year. I thank you for the courtesy and help you have extended to me personally and I again express the same on behalf of the Country Party. On behalf of them, too, I wish to thank the clerk and the officers of Parliament, not forgetting the "Hansard" staff, who I do not think I have heard mentioned so far.

Hon. G. Taylor: You ought to thank them, too!

MR. GRIFFITHS: I do, because I know that if our speeches were published in "Hansard" as we utter them, they might be regarded as very poor specimens of eloquence. I think this is the 21st week of the sittings of Parliament and during that time about 66 Bills have been handled. I sometimes wonder when I read the record of the thousands of Bills that have been passed by Congress in America, and remember that that sort of thing is going on all over the world, if a great deal of that work does not place limitations upon our activities and energies in some directions. It provides us with £600 a year each, so I suppose there is some compensation for the making up of all these laws. I wish everyone on both sides of the House a happy and prosperous New Year. No doubt we have had our little differences. After all, we are very much like a school here. Many of us have been like new boys who have been sized up by the more experienced boys. In this way we have found our natural levels, and been sized up by our fellow members. Possibly we receive a certain amount of appreciation as time goes on. The final closing up of Parliament always has a little touch of sadness about it. There are some perhaps with whom we may have had little skirmishes, but whom we respect nevertheless, who may not be here when Parliament resumes. We do not like to see them go down, even though they are our opponents. On behalf of the Party I wish all members a merry Christmas.

MR. SPEAKER ([9.22]: I highly appreciate the kind remarks which have been expressed concerning myself. I am pleased to echo the expressions of gratitude and thankfulness concerning the chairman of committees, the clerks, the officers of the House, and the "Hansard" staff. Whilst I have had the distinct honour of occupying this Chair I have felt how much the machinery of our legislative work depends upon the officers who are connected with the multifarious and trying duties they are called upon to perform. I am as grateful as hon. members to the officers, the clerks, and the chairman of committees, who have in every possible way made my duties easy and almost enjoyable. A note of sadness has been struck by Mr. Griffiths. Whether or not I am making my last speech from this Chair to-day, I cannot, of course, say. None of us can foresee what the future holds for us. I do not know whether fortune will bring me here again, and if I shall meet you all once more. Whoever goes

away, certainly one will miss at our next meeting of this Chamber our esteemed friend the Minister for Lands. No matter what vacant seats there may be, or what seats may be filled by other representatives, there will be always in my mind a picture of this House, of those who have taken part in the history of this State for the last three years. This will linger long in my memory, and that memory will be brightened by a recollection of the kindly deeds and the helpfulness I have received. The officers have done their duty well. I question whether I can call to recollection any Parliament in which I have sat—and I sat in three Parliaments before I had the honour to enter this one—that is the equal of this Parliament in its attention to its duties and the good feeling of members towards each other. Members have shown themselves to be possessed of that high quality which can make a distinction between their personal opinions and their duties to the nation. There has been no friction amongst members, and in consequence my duties have been comparatively light. There has been no example, I think, in Australian Parliaments equal to that afforded by the respect that each member has entertained for another's conscientious views, or equal to the efforts that have been made by all to meet difficulties as they have presented themselves in the course of legislation more generously than has been the case with our members. Whatever my future fate may be, I shall be proud to remember that I have had the honour of presiding over such an assemblage of legislators. Gratefully and from my heart I wish every member a merry Christmas, and a genuinely happy and prosperous New Year. Whatever roads the future may open to us from this starting point we shall, I hope, carry pleasant recollections of our time here. There is no doubt that the pleasure that lies before us in the festive season will be accentuated by the knowledge that we shall share it with our families and our dear ones, whom we have had to neglect so much in our attention to our legislative duties. I wish all the compliments of the season.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [9.27]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Thursday, the 20th January, 1927.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 9.28 (Friday).

Parliament was prorogued to the 31st January, 1927, by proclamation published in the *Government Gazette* on 14th January, 1927. By further proclamation published in the *Government Gazette* on the 31st January, 1927, the Legislative Assembly was dissolved as from and after the 31st January, 1927.
