

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 3rd December, 1930.

	PAGE
Questions: Wheat bonus	2254
Harvesters	2254
Unemployed, arrests	2254
Bills: Salaries Tax, recom.	2254
Finance and Development Board, 2r.	2255
Housing Trust, returned	2259
Land Act Amendment, returned	2259
Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment, Com. report	2259
Vernin Act Amendment, 2r.	2278
East Perth Public Hall, 2r. Com. report	2280
City of Perth Endowment Lands Act Amendment, 2r.	2281
Anatomy, Council's amendments	2282
Roads Closure, Council's amendment	2284
Reserves, Council's amendments	2284
Discharge of Orders	2285
Collie Recreation and Park Lands Reserve, Order discharged	2285
Licensing Act Amendment, 2r.	2285
Adjournment, special	2286

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

QUESTION—WHEAT BONUS.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Lands: Regarding his announcement that the State Government were urging the Federal Government to pay 1s. bonus on wheat, will he explain—1, Whether the bonus is to be paid so as to ensure a uniform return to all producers; 2, Or whether the bonus is to be paid when the wheat is actually sold, regardless as to whether sale price may be 2s. one month and 3s. per bushel the following month; 3, Or whether some form of marketing organisation to ensure uniform payment is contemplated?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, 2, and 3, If the bonus is granted, it must apply to the whole of Australia, and the basis of distribution can only be laid down by the Federal Government.

QUESTION—HARVESTERS.

Mr. PIESSE asked the Premier: 1, How many State harvesters have been (a) manufactured, (b) sold and supplied, since the 30th June, 1929? 2, How many are now on order?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Since 30th June, 1929, (a) 12, (b) 11. 2, None.

QUESTION — UNEMPLOYED, ARRESTS.

Mr. SLEEMAN asked the Minister for Police: 1, What offence was committed by the unemployed yesterday previous to the arrest of a number of their members? 2, If any offence was committed, was this offence anticipated in view of the fact that the prisoners' motor van was on the spot ready?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE replied: 1, They were charged with marching in procession through the streets of the city without first having obtained authority. 2, Yes; a certain element among the unemployed had publicly stated their intention to march in procession through the city from Wellington Square to Parliament House in defiance of authority.

BILL—SALARIES TAX.

Recommittal.

On motion by the Premier, Bill recommended for the further consideration of Clause 3.

In Committee.

Mr. Richardson in the Chair; the Attorney General in charge of the Bill.

Clause 3.—Interpretation:

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It will be remembered that the member for South Fremantle raised the point that members of the A.W.U. employed by the Government would not come under the broad exemption which we inserted in the Bill in the Committee stage. This point, I think, was well taken. It illustrates how difficult it is to pass any legislation that will be free from the charge of inconsistency. However, the Government very definitely do not intend that those men shall come under this measure. Consequently I move an amendment, which will exclude them, as follows:—

That after "fixed," in line 5 of the definition of "Officer," the words "either directly or indirectly" be inserted.

Members of the A.W.U. employed by the Government do work and are paid under conditions similar to those of persons whose wages and conditions are fixed by the Arbitration Court.

Mr. Panton: Except that they make separate agreements with different Ministers for whom they may be working.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Yes, but actually the conditions and wages they enjoy are based on the awards of our Arbitration Court and on the basic wage. So the amendment will cover those men. I am prepared to make the definite statement that the Government will not attempt to bring these men within the ambit of this law. If any question should be raised on the subject, the Government have ample power under the proviso to Clause 5 to deal with the situation.

Mr. McCallum: Someone may quarrel with that undertaking if it is not clearly embodied in the Bill.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It is of course desirable that the Act itself should be clear on the point, but it is extraordinarily difficult to make it so. These men will not be subject to the Act. I wish also to refer to the case of the professional railway officers and the ordinary railway officers. The Government will not permit either of these classes of persons to pay the tax as well as suffer a reduction that might come about through a variation in the basic wage. The professional officers work under a Federal award. I understand they have already suffered a reduction at the rate of £16 a year owing to a drop in the basic wage.

Mr. Corboy: And they were previously receiving £6 a year less than they should have had.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The Government will undertake to see that these men do not pay twice. The same undertaking is given respecting the non-professional railway officers who move up and down in accordance with the understanding arrived at between themselves and the Commissioner. When the basic wage goes up the unions approach the Commissioner and arrangements are made with the Classification Board to increase the salaries proportionately. If there is a drop the same kind of action is taken by the Commissioner and the rates of pay are reduced accordingly. The Government will undertake that these men shall not be called upon to pay the tax as well as suffer a reduction through the basic wage.

Mr. McCALLUM: I am sure the Attorney General is anxious to achieve the same end as we are, but I am doubtful whether his proposal will do that. Members of the A.W.U. are not entitled to get an award under the Industrial Arbitration

Act. I should like to know if the clause is governed by the words "under the terms of an award or industrial agreement." If that is so, the insertion of the new words does not carry us much further. The salary referred to in the clause is that which is paid under an agreement or award defined under the Act, which does not cover the A.W.U.

The Attorney General: The Chief Secretary agrees that this will meet the case.

Mr. McCALLUM: I should have thought that a simple thing to do was to say "Where they are governed by an award or agreement under the Industrial Arbitration Act, or an agreement made by the Minister." The Minister, however, may refuse to make an agreement and again the men would be cut out. I do think, however, that before the word "fixed" the word "ordinarily" should be inserted.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I am prepared to embody the word "ordinarily" in my amendment, and should be glad if the Chairman would make the necessary adjustment. I know the idea in the mind of the member for South Fremantle is to meet the situation of men whose remuneration is not at the moment fixed by any agreement but who, it is hoped, will later on be provided for by such agreement.

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

Bill again reported with a further amendment.

BILL—FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

Second Reading.

THE PREMIER (Hon Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.1] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is intended to, and will if passed, give authority to a finance board to provide funds for the Agricultural Bank. Parliament has always appropriated funds for this institution, and to-day we are depending upon the same method for the raising of money by the Federal Treasurer. We have first to go to the Loan Council, and then the Federal Treasurer raises the money. When it comes to ordinary work, we can say, and do say, that we have not the money and therefore cannot carry on the work; but the operations of the Agricultural Bank go on from

day to day. The institution is always carrying responsibilities which must be met. Men are engaged upon clearing land on authorities issued perhaps a year or more ago. The other day the total of authorisations outstanding was just under £900,000. The bank authorities thought it advisable to cancel all the long-dated authorisations; but even now there are outstanding authorisations to the amount of £330,000, and work is being done under them. Other authorisations, moreover, have to be made. Therefore it is necessary that we should be in a position to meet our commitments for this institution quite apart from our ordinary requirements. The bank is an institution somewhat apart from ordinary Government activities. The Financial Agreement controls the raising of money, and for the moment we find it difficult to get even a limited amount. Now, in the other States there are semi-Government institutions which have separate borrowing powers; and by this Bill we ask for similar powers. The Sydney and Melbourne Metropolitan Boards of Works, the Melbourne Harbour Trust, the Melbourne Tramway Board, and the Sydney Water and Sewerage Board all have separate borrowing powers, and raise their funds outside the Loan Council. At the first meeting of the Loan Council which I attended, authorities totalling £7,200,000 to be raised by these semi-Government bodies were mentioned. Naturally, nothing was done without consulting the Federal Treasurer. I propose under the Bill to create this finance board, which would have power to borrow on behalf of the Agricultural Bank. We shall deal with the London and Westminster Bank, where we have had an overdraft for eight years. This overdraft we use for loan work, raising the money when the London and Westminster Bank thinks the time favourable to pay off the overdraft. I am hopeful that we shall be able to make such an arrangement for this finance board, which naturally will require a very much less amount. In times such as we are now passing through, it is very convenient and comfortable to have the means of helping farmers who will be in distress as regards putting in the next harvest; but naturally we are powerless unless the Federal Government can raise the money for us. As in all the money raised we share with the other States on the basis provided in the Financial Agreement, it might happen that we

should not be able to get funds at all. It is important that the development of our industries should be carried on. Our farmers, particularly our single-crop farmers, are long-term debtors. It has to be remembered that we take men from the ranks of the workers for the development of the country, men who have very little if any money, because they have only earned wages during the years that have gone before. Accordingly we have to finance them. There are many things that this State will have to provide for itself, such as preserved milk, cheese and bacon. They are foodstuffs that could very well be produced here, but will not be produced by the aid of men who have money now. We must look for their production to men being settled on the land with the backing of the Agricultural Bank. We are bound to lose some money by this process, I suppose; but the indirect gain is enormous. Just imagine the indirect contributions to the Treasury from the production of wealth by men who have been established under the bank. Last year agriculture returned about £25,000,000, which is nearly twice as much as is owing to the Agricultural Bank and the various concerns attached to that institution. Without that help, we should be in a very bad way. Therefore I have no hesitation in asking for authority to appoint a finance board who will raise a fund that is absolutely essential to further development. We can hardly expect men to go enthusiastically on to the wheat lands to-day, and they are not going; but there are other avenues which they can be encouraged to develop. In that direction we can do some work which is in a sense quite apart from the work we have already done of helping our own people to become farmers. To-day our boys find it difficult to get into permanent employment, because there are no factories and the offices are overcrowded. I wish to make it quite clear that under the Financial Agreement the Commonwealth Government pay one-half of the sinking fund on all new loans. That is a decided advantage to the State. Under the scheme proposed by the Bill, the Commonwealth would not make any contribution towards sinking fund, which would have to be found by the board.

Mr. Willcock: The Bill provides for the Treasurer to make advances to the board, too.

The PREMIER: So far as the money is raised under the Financial Agreement, it would carry sinking fund. The present funds of the Agricultural Bank would be transferred to the board, and all moneys, no matter how raised, for the Agricultural Bank would pass to the control of the board.

Hon. P. Collier: Are you satisfied that you can borrow for this purpose outside the terms of the Financial Agreement?

The PREMIER: I have ascertained that there is no objection to the course proposed. Other semi-Government institutions have no trouble in borrowing.

Hon. P. Collier: I understood it was the other way about. I understood they were subject to the Financial Agreement.

The PREMIER: No; they are free. The Federal Treasurer refers them to the Loan Council. Naturally we should not rush on the market in competition with the Federal Treasurer.

Hon. P. Collier: Some of them have power to borrow without the consent of their Governments. Others, again, can only borrow with the consent of their Governments. You are making the power to borrow subject to the consent of the Governor in Council.

The PREMIER: Yes.

Hon. P. Collier: They will not borrow without the consent of the Governor in Council?

The PREMIER: The Loan Council will raise no objection.

Hon. P. Collier: They cannot; but the board will not be able to borrow except with the consent of the Governor in Council?

The PREMIER: Borrowing must be with the approval of the Governor in Council. The board appointed to control the financial section will consist of three members. The General Manager of the Agricultural Bank will be chairman. The Under Treasurer will be the second member. The third member may or not be a member of the civil service for the moment. However, he will be a member of the civil service. The board will not only be responsible for the raising of the money, but also for the payment of interest and sinking fund. It will be their duty to see that the interest and sinking fund are got together.

Hon. P. Collier: How will they get on if the interest and sinking fund do not come in?

The PREMIER: Then their own funds will have to cover the matter temporarily. Usually, there is something approaching a million pounds of interest outstanding. That would be about a year's interest. Sometimes the amount is lower. At any rate, the board will have to become responsible in that respect, even if they have to come to the Government to get the money. There is no intention to make any changes in the personnel of the Agricultural Bank, who will carry on their work as they are doing now. It will be necessary for them to satisfy the finance board that the money is being wisely spent and that interest is being collected. Enormous sums are being controlled by the Agricultural Bank to-day; I think the outstandings total £12,000,000. I have made some references to outstanding loan authorisations. They are lower now than they have been for years past, because of the existing position. The State is responsible for all money that the bank has invested and will be responsible under the new scheme. It will hardly be necessary for me to point out that the effect of a bad season must be serious for the Treasury. To-day's crop is a record one, but unfortunately the prices are at a very low level. It would be still more serious for us, however, if we had a complete failure of the crop. Thank God, we have never had a complete failure yet, although in 1914 we had a serious drought. Even then it did not apply to the whole of the wheat belt, or to the South-Western portions of the State. The position of the Agricultural Bank has been serious since we accepted the limitations imposed under the Financial Agreement. It is advisable to remove the current difficulties as far as we can by the appointment of a finance board. It will be realised that because of this, the responsibilities of the managing trustee of the Agricultural Bank will be considerably increased. Conditions that operated in the past were much easier than those of the present or of the future. I need not dwell upon our financial difficulties, which have greatly increased. It will be found that in a finance board, clothed with the responsibility of meeting interest charges on existing investments and in respect of any further borrowings, we shall have a body that will assist considerably in the management of our financial institutions generally. The usual machinery clauses are

included in the Bill to provide for the establishment of the board and the appointment of the members.

Hon. P. Collier: The trustees of the Agricultural Bank will still continue to function as such, quite apart from the operations of the finance board?

The PREMIER: Yes. The trustees will remain in control of the position.

Hon. P. Collier: As in the past?

The PREMIER: Yes. The finance board will be charged with the responsibility of raising funds and of financing operations generally, but will not interfere in the slightest with the operations of the Agricultural Bank. The general manager of the Agricultural Bank will be chairman of the finance board and will still be in charge of the bank itself. There will really be the finance board between the trustees and the Government, but the board will have nothing to do with the work of the Agricultural Bank trustees. We do not interfere with the provisions of the Agricultural Bank Act under the Bill. The authority embodied in that Act will be necessary. It will not be possible to spend money, even when it is raised by the board, unless that money is within the margin available under the limitations imposed by the Agricultural Bank Act. At present a considerable margin of authority for increased funds still stands under the Act. Some months ago the Commonwealth Bank loaned to the Agricultural Bank £200,000 for special work, such as fallowing and so on. The bonds that were given to the bank as security represent the only debentures in existence under the old authority that the Agricultural Bank has always held.

Mr. Willcock: Was not that loan guaranteed by the Federal Government?

The PREMIER: No. The Commonwealth Bank loaned the money subject to the debentures, which form their security. That is a temporary arrangement.

Mr. Willcock: But did not the Commonwealth Government guarantee the Agricultural Bank to the Commonwealth Bank?

The PREMIER: No.

Mr. Willcock: They said they would do that.

The PREMIER: There is, of course, a rural credit department of the Commonwealth Bank, which in turn is part of the machinery of the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. Willcock: I do not know that it is part of the Commonwealth Government's machinery.

The PREMIER: The State has handed to the Commonwealth Bank the debentures I have referred to. I merely mentioned that point because those debentures are the only ones issued under the recently amended legislation. The object of the Bill will be fully realised by the House. It is necessary to carry on the operations of the bank untrammelled by any failure on the part of the Loan Council to procure funds. That is a condition that obtains at the moment.

Hon. P. Collier: Have you in mind the borrowing of money in Australia or overseas?

The PREMIER: It is in my mind to borrow overseas and to secure the help of the London and Westminster Bank to help us temporarily by means of an overdraft pending the borrowing of a long term loan. I propose really to finance the matter as the Leader of the Opposition did when in charge of the previous Government, and as I myself did for years.

Hon. P. Collier: The arrangement will be merely temporary pending the flotation of a long term loan.

The PREMIER: That is so. The same method of finance will apply as obtained prior to the advent of the Loan Council. I am sure the Westminster Bank will be willing to assist us. It will be inadvisable to hold money on credit if we can make the necessary overdraft arrangements.

Mr. Willcock: Oh, for the day when we will be in credit again!

The PREMIER: The position may improve and it may be that before the Prime Minister (Mr. Scullin) leaves London he may have made some arrangements under which the London market will be available to us again. I do not think we could afford to pay 6 per cent. on money borrowed for Agricultural Bank purposes, and that is the rate that applies to Australian borrowings. Then again, I do not think it would be advisable to borrow on the Australian market. We want the cheapest money we can procure and to get it when money is available. There are many advantages to be derived from that method of finance. It will free us in respect of any money that the Federal Government can borrow for loan works that have to be carried out. Every year our authorisation for the Agricultural

Bank goes on. This year we may not have to spend quite so much because at the moment wheat growing is not popular. We have not been able to clear the additional area desired for crop and, in the circumstances, we cannot wonder at that. A considerable percentage of our borrowings has been used for Agricultural Bank purposes. The board will relieve the position regarding flotations authorised by the Federal Loan Council in respect of money we shall require to lend to individuals. Western Australia lends a great deal more to individuals than is loaned from borrowings in any other State. The Leader of the Opposition knows how insistent the Agricultural Bank trustees are in their demands for money to meet their requirements.

Hon. P. Collier: In our last year, I think the amount required was £800,000.

The PREMIER: Yes. If we go back over a period of years it will be found that the requirements verged on £1,000,000 annually, and sometimes it was far more than that.

Hon. P. Collier: That is a big cut out of the State's loan programme for the year.

The PREMIER: Yes, it is. When good times come again for wheat farmers, there will be a tremendous demand for money. We will not require so much money this year, but I hope that condition will not last. I referred earlier to the need for granting assistance to put in the new crop. If 4,000,000 acres are put in, it will cost about £4,000,000 to undertake that work. At least £2,000,000 will be necessary to assist those who will require aid in their cropping operations, and not all by the Agricultural Bank. It is in the interests of the bank's securities that the fallow land shall be cropped. Naturally, the bank must collect the interest owing so that they may be able to grant further assistance. People who are fighting the elements must take risks. Should the rains fail them, then they will have to fall back on the people who backed them, and the Agricultural Bank must not be restricted, as it is, to the limited borrowings permissible under the Loan Council. There is nothing more I need say concerning the Bill. It is perfectly clear that in other States there are similar semi-Governmental institutions that raise enormous sums of money. We shall not require to raise an enormous sum here, but we shall need some funds to enable us

to continue development, and, therefore, we propose that the responsibility for providing them shall be vested in the finance board. It will really be a farmers' finance board charged with the responsibility of raising money, and of seeing that it is properly invested and that interest is collected. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

1, Housing Trust.

With amendments.

2, Land Act Amendment.

Without amendment.

BILL — INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

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

Clause 1—Short Title:

Mr. McCALLUM: It is desirable that the Bill should have a correct title. We have many statutes the fundamental principles of which are not indicated in the titles. For the convenience of all who have to consult the laws, the title of the measure should show clearly what the Bill seeks to accomplish. Then in years to come when students are discussing the Mitchell regime, they will be able to find the measure passed for a reduction of wages. The whole speech of the Minister for Works was in favour of a reduction of wages. I move an amendment—

That the words "Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment" be struck out with a view to inserting "Wage Reduction" in lieu

The clause will then read, "This Act may be cited as the Wage Reduction Act, 1930," etc.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The clause clearly expresses the object of the Bill, as the hon. member well knows. As stated in the heading, it is a Bill for an Act to make provision in the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912-1925, for the adjustment and amendment of the basic wage during the

currency thereof. The hon. member said my speech indicated that this was a wage reduction Bill. He quoted portions of my speech and, as usual, was deliberately unfair. The portion he quoted could be twisted to suit his purpose. I resent his statement that my speech was in favour of wage reduction. It is for the court, and not for me, to say what the basic wage shall be.

Mr. SLEEMAN: I agree that this is purely and simply a wage reduction Bill. The Government have not introduced it to raise the basic wage for the worker. They see a chance to secure a reduction, and have hopped in quickly to get it. The measure will not do a particle of good towards relieving the unemployed difficulty.

Mr. KENNEALLY: If the Bill did not become law, what would happen? A considerable amount of additional wages would be paid to the workers. Therefore that answers the question whether it is a wage reduction Bill. The declared intention of the Minister is to get to the court before the end of June and enable the court to reflect in its determination the reduced prices of commodities. Why should he object to giving the correct title to the Bill? The Government are reaching out to save certain money, but it will be dearly saved if it be at the expense of the goodwill of the people. I see no reason why we should not be prepared to come out in our true colours. It is as well for those who follow to be able to get some information as to what this measure is, who introduced it, and what its effect will be. The people of the future will be bound to look for a wage-reduction measure and they certainly will not look for it under the caption "Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment." Therefore we must give it its correct name.

Mr. BROWN: How on earth this can be called a wages reduction Bill is completely beyond me. It is quite possible that with a reduction in the price of foodstuffs there may be a reduction in wages, but it is also possible that in three or six months time if foodstuffs increase in price, wages may also advance. I can come to no other conclusion than that these are stonewalling tactics again, and members opposite are very badly in need for something to talk about when they move an amendment such as that which has been submitted.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The member for Pingelly is distinctly out of order in accusing

us of stonewalling, and I claim the protection of the Chair against him. To stonewall is highly disorderly, and therefore to say that the House is disorderly—for that is what the hon. member means—is a reflection on you, Mr. Chairman, as much as it is against me as a private member. If any member has been guilty of stonewalling, you, Mr. Chairman, have condoned it. I take exception to such a comment coming from the member for Pingelly. We should convey to the people that we are endeavouring to support the ambitions of the Government in regard to legislation.

The Chief Secretary: You have raised a point of order; you can't debate it.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: No, I drew attention to what the member for Pingelly said and I accept the apology that he intends to make. Of course I have no wish to inconvenience the Committee by sitting down to enable the hon. member to tender the apology, though I do believe he whispered something about regretting what he said. Regarding the amendment, we should endeavour to have a title that will indicate exactly what is intended by the provisions of the Bill. If we are to have wage reduction, we must realise its influence upon another section of the community, and one can illustrate that there is room for sacrifices to be made. The man that holds war bonds gets an extra 1 per cent.

The Chairman: I remind the hon. member that we are not discussing war bonds.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: It has been claimed that a reduction in wages is justified by the reduced cost of living. A man who receives 1 per cent. less interest enjoys the reduced cost of living, and in addition his interest is free from taxation. I think the man who holds war bonds, after reading the reasons why the Bill was introduced, will conclude it is up to him to play his part, and pay taxation.

Mr. Griffiths: He will rush it.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Unlike the hon. member, I have faith in human nature. This is not a question of party politics, but a question whether others will realise that help is required at the present time. This is a reasonable amendment, and will serve to convey to the public what is being done.

Mr. RAPHAEL: The Government should be prepared to come out into the light of day with all their actions. This

amendment is a perfectly just one and will serve to enlighten the people. When we have legislation designed to bring down the condition of the workers, the Government ought to be pleased to let everybody know what it really means. I appeal to the Government to accept the amendment.

Mr. McCALLUM: I cannot understand the Government's objection to the amendment. Because it is set out in black letters at the top of the Bill that the Bill has something to do with arbitration, is no proof of its relation to arbitration, is not evidence that the essence of the Bill is arbitration. The whole of the Minister's arguments and facts were designed to show that a reduction in wages was desirable. He built up to 1½ million the figure by which he wanted the workers cut down this year. I did not misquote the Minister; there was no necessity to misquote him, for his statement, like his intention, was clear. His case was exclusively for the reduction of wages. He said the cost of living to-day was 5s. less than when the court fixed the basic wage, and that therefore it was necessary to reduce the basic wage. So if the Bill is not for the purpose of reducing wages, what is it for? If I have misunderstood the Minister, so too has every other member. He took us all over the world in search of reasons why our basic wage should be reduced. He showed that share values had fallen in New York and in London. Did he by that imply that the basic wage in Western Australia should be increased? The Minister totalled up the figures I quoted last night and from them argued that the workers were getting money to which they were not entitled. He let it be clearly seen that he desired to take that money from them. The member for Pingelly demands that the basic wage should be reduced every three months.

Mr. Brown: I did not say that. I said the object of the Bill is to have the basic wage reviewed more frequently.

Mr. McCALLUM: In order to repudiate the wage fixed last June.

Mr. Brown: When the cost of living is low, would the hon. member like to have to pay a high basic wage?

Mr. McCALLUM: The purpose of the Bill is to upset the decision given last June. Does the hon. member understand that?

The Minister for Railways: No, nobody does.

Mr. McCALLUM: To what end is that decision to be upset? Certainly not to increase the basic wage. The hon. member will go back and tell the cockies that he supported the Bill because if it were rejected wages would rise.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. McCALLUM: Quite a number of members opposite must have voted for the Bill believing my statement was correct, and that the position set forth by the Minister was wrong. They thought the Bill was brought down to reduce wages. If that is not so the best thing to do is to defeat it straightaway, for it evidently does not meet with the views of members opposite who voted for the second reading. If it is a Bill to reduce wages, my amendment should be carried. Why did the Minister quote the figures he did if not with the intention of bringing down the wages rates to the Federal rates? At present our rate is 7s. above the Commonwealth rate, whereas in New South Wales the rate is a shade below the Federal rate. It is suggested that because New South Wales is below the Federal rate we should follow that example. If I have misinterpreted the figures, what construction should be placed upon them? Did the Government refer to the reduction of 1s. in house rent merely to indicate that landlords were becoming philanthropic? The Minister used figures supplied by the Government Statistician before they had been made available to the public. Because one industry in the State is unable to make ends meet, the workers as a whole must come down to its level. The Minister did not quote the wheat farmers and their position, with any other object than to bring the workers down to that level. Undoubtedly the correct title of the Bill is a wage reduction Bill.

Mr. ANGELO: I am reminded of these words:—

It is easy enough to smile,
When life flows along like a song,
But the man who's worth while
Is the man who can smile,
When everything goes dead wrong.

The Committee owe thanks to the member for South Fremantle. After a long and weary all-night sitting he was able, first thing this afternoon, to introduce a fund of

light comedy into what is really a very melodramatic situation. No member on this side of the House likes this Bill. No one wants to see legislation of this character. We have not liked the previous Bills. Probably we shall not like Bills that are to follow. However, we must discharge our duty to the State. It is true we have had sectional taxes. This Bill will impose hardships on some members of the community, but we all have to suffer. The amendment is purely jocular.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The Bill makes for either increase or decrease of the basic wage. Just now there is likely to be a decrease, but in future there may be increases. The amendment should describe the measure as "A Bill to reduce or increase wages." The Bill says that "the basic wage for the time being prescribed in every award and industrial agreement shall automatically become increased or decreased."

Mr. SLEEMAN: At election time hon. members opposite proclaimed that on no account would their leader stand for reduction of wages. For that reason they do not like the amendment, and wish the Bill to go forth under a false name. If the Arbitration Court did see their way to increase wages during the current financial year, the Government would bring down another Bill to prevent it.

Mr. KENNEALLY: The parent Act is entitled "An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to industrial disputes, and other relative purposes." The present determination of the basic wage should operate to the 30th June next. The Bill proposes to take out of the pockets of the people some millions of pounds, on the Minister's own estimate. Can a measure with such a purpose be termed anything but a Bill to create industrial disputes? In no shape or form is it a Bill to terminate industrial disputes by arbitration or conciliation. The present title is a complete misnomer. Members opposite are ashamed of their own action. The Government, if they remain in office, can be relied upon to see that no increase of the basic wage is made under the Bill. Ministerial members do not wish to help in the correct baptism of the measure. Last night's sitting awoke them to the fact that the Bill does not tend to popularise them. The amendment should be carried.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	20
Noes	..	..	..	23
Majority against ..				3

AYES.

Mr. Collier	Mr. McCallum
Mr. Corboy	Mr. Millington
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Munsie
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Hegarty	Mr. Troy
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Walker
Mr. Kenneally	Mr. Wansbrough
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Lutey	Mr. Withers
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Panton

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angelo	Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Parker
Mr. Brown	Mr. Patrick
Mr. Davy	Mr. Piesse
Mr. Doney	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Ferguson	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Griffiths	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Keenan	Mr. J. M. Smith
Mr. Latham	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Wells
Mr. J. I. Mann	Mr. North
Mr. McLarty	

(Teller.)

PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Wilson	Mr. H. W. Mann
Mr. Raphael	Mr. Teesdale

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—New section: Provision for review and adjustment of basic wage during the currency thereof:

Mr. McCALLUM: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 of the proposed new Subsection 1, "quarter in the" be struck out, and the word "half" inserted in lieu.

The change over from annual to quarterly adjustments will mean going from one extreme to the other, and I think a half-yearly adjustment will meet all requirements and will lend more stability to wage conditions. Our idea in the amending Bill we introduced was not to have any definite time fixed for an adjustment, but the Legislative Council provided that there should be at least an annual revision. In one of the other States, the legislation has been altered to

provide for half-yearly adjustments, and, in my opinion, quarterly reviews are too frequent as there are often violent fluctuations between one quarter and another.

Mr. SLEEMAN: I support the amendment, not because I like it but because I realise that it is all that remains for us to hope to achieve in the interests of the workers, and it is certainly the lesser of two evils. A half-yearly review will give the Government Statistician and the Arbitration Court some time to deal with other business. They will not have that opportunity if they are called upon to devote the bulk of their time to work associated with the fixing of the basic wage quarterly.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The clause indicates that there is to be a review and adjustment of the basic wage during its currency. I do not think a quarterly review would be just to those concerned. We ask the Committee to extend a little further consideration to the workers than is proposed in the Bill. Some members on the Government side of the House are not altogether enamoured of the Bill, and this will enable them to meet our objections half way.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The point seems to be overlooked that there has been a violent change in the cost of living during the last few months. The member for Leederville said that the Bill could not be given effect to until some time next year. If the fixation of the basic wage is limited to half-yearly periods, it is possible that there may be an increase in the cost of living during the ensuing six months and the workers will be deprived of any advantage they could have secured from an earlier adjustment.

Mr. Wansbrough: We will take the chance of that.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: There has been an extraordinary change, and I think there will be a further upward alteration in the future. I say that with all sincerity. The member for South Fremantle spoke about the legislation in the other States and I gave all those particulars during the second-reading debate. The South Australian Act was amended in 1921 to provide for half-yearly adjustments and the New South Wales Act was amended in 1926 to provide for adjustments at intervals of not more than six months. The Queensland Act provides for adjustments "from time to time" and the Commonwealth Act provides for adjustments quarterly. In Vic-

toria and Tasmania no basic wage provisions obtain, and the awards follow the Federal declarations quarterly. I have not heard of any attempt being made to alter the Federal system and I think it will be in the interests of all concerned if we adhere to quarterly adjustments.

Mr. KENNEALLY: Quarterly adjustments may cause violent alterations. What is the use of quarterly adjustments based upon the cost of seasonal goods, the prices of which are high or low during one quarter only? What would be the use of fixing the basic wage on the price of commodities such as potatoes and eggs that fluctuate so violently seasonally? If we are to have a basic rate declared on or before the 15th June, and operative from the 1st July following, what will happen to the figures supplied to the court for the quarter ended the 30th June? The basic wage would have been declared on the 15th June. It is necessary, not only to adopt the amendment, but to alter the date upon which the basic wage shall be declared. If we are going to repudiate our undertaking to the workers, let us reduce it by at least half. That would be fairer and more workable. Then the period for which the basic wage would be declared would be one marked by less violent changes in prices.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Minister has explained that the shortest term in other States is half yearly.

The Minister for Works: I said Queensland makes adjustments from time to time.

Mr. McCALLUM: The practice in Queensland has been to adjust the rate annually.

The Minister for Works: It has been adjusted twice within three months.

Mr. McCALLUM: In Queensland the court holds an annual sitting, just as we have done. The Minister said that under the amendment there would be no declaration until July, but according to the wording of the clause, it could be made operative from any date.

The Minister for Works: No alteration after the first one.

Mr. Panton: There will not be too many quarters between January and July.

Mr. McCALLUM: I understood the Minister to say that there would be no adjustment between now and July, the January figures not operating because of the Christmas vacation. Under my amendment only one adjustment would be missed. There is no-

thing unreasonable in asking for what the other States have. Quarterly adjustments were never thought of. The Commonwealth Statistician's figures that would give any idea of the cost of living date back in a complete form to 1920. Up to that year the Commonwealth Statistician did not deal with clothing. It is no argument to say that because the Government have the quarterly adjustments we should have them also. It is better that our adjustments should be uniform with those of the States than with that of the Commonwealth.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Act provides that the State Government Statistician shall supply to the court index figures for the last preceding quarter as early as possible. As the member for South Fremantle knows about the 20th of the month, after the quarter, we get the figures from the State Statistician, and they are published in the Press. The member for Leederville interjected the other night that the court would be in recess and would not come back until February, and because the Bill would not go through for two or three weeks there would be no sitting until the court returned. Assuming the court sits, then the member for South Fremantle wants the adjustment for the following six months. The next adjustment would be in July, and by that time perhaps there might be a change the other way and it would go against the worker. I gave the figures the other night showing what had happened in Queensland. In the space of three months the Queensland court reduced the cost of living, and that court did it under their Act which says "from time to time." I have an extract here from remarks made by Justice Higgins on the Engineers' Award No. 113/1920. He said—

It is very gratifying to find that a practice has grown up, and is increasing now that employers and employees have come to understand the ways of this court, of agreeing to vary the basic wage periodically, according to the fluctuations of the tables of the Commonwealth Statistician. The tables are applied to my rough and tentative finding of 7s. per day, 42s. per week, in the Harvester case of 1907.

It is generally speaking universal in all awards. On my second reading speech I mentioned the Merchant Service Guild. In one case the fluctuation had to be 20 points, and in another case 13. Twenty points mean a shilling, and I have placed a shilling in

this Bill. I see no reason for the amendment. I feel certain it would not be in the interests of the workers.

Mr. RAPHAEL: The Government should be prepared to meet us in this direction, and not by their action penalise not only one man but all his dependants. We are told that no repudiation must take place in respect of the capitalist, but we find that the Government are prepared to repudiate the whole of the promises they made to the poor workers who have been so misled, and now in addition the workers are to be penalised. The Government are not doing their job by fixing a three-monthly period for adjustments. We find that there is no call on the capitalist class to show how much profit they are making in that period. I appeal to members, who have made so many promises which they have failed to fulfil, to try to keep one to-night. It is up to them to keep at least half the promises that they made and help us to retain what we have.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the hon. member not to reflect on members.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I don't think I could; I am not capable of reflecting on them, but if I were to express my feelings I might get into trouble. I hope that the time will never come when, on the hustings, I shall be found making promises that I have no intention of keeping. I hope hon. members opposite will keep their word just for once, and make the adjustment period six months instead of three.

Mr. MILLINGTON: An amendment like this should be closely argued, should not be simply decided on a vote. Prior to the introduction of this measure, members of the Arbitration Court were always in difficulties over the interpretation of the Act. I remember some drastic criticism on that score indulged in by a certain president of the court. If the clause be passed as it stands, the construction the president of the court will put upon it will be that in each and every quarter a prime inquiry should be made.

The Minister for Works: That is right.

Mr. MILLINGTON: The clause does not say so.

The Minister for Works: But Section 121 of the parent Act says so.

[Mr. Angelo took the Chair.]

Mr. MILLINGTON: But this is an amendment of the parent Act, and so will be taken by the court as a new instruction to hold an inquiry each and every quarter. It would be all right if it could be made clear to the court that the basic wage inquiry is to be made once a year, as a present, and that at the end of the half year the basic wage is to be reviewed. I only wish the basic wage when declared could be earned by the workers. It is fixed on the assumption that the workers work 52 weeks continuously in every year. The court will be asked to arbitrate for men and women who are not working continuously. The Government should issue an instruction that where full time is not worked, these automatic adjustments shall not operate. In view of the widespread rationing of work, it is nonsense to instruct the court to assume that all the workers are working full time. I am sorry the Minister is no longer here; I believe he has gone away to think over what I have been saying.

The Minister for Lands: Why not cease stonewalling?

Mr. MILLINGTON: I am not stonewalling; I am very serious. Arbitration is not popular with the Country Party, whose members have been inviting the farmers to vote for the abolition of arbitration. It would serve the Government right if the court, after considering this remarkably ambiguous clause, laid it aside altogether. It will save a good deal of the time of the House and save the court many a headache if the Minister will accept the amendment as a *via media*. The amendment is a fifty-fifty proposal, and so should appeal to a fifty-fifty Government. I am sure the court would not like to bring in a finding that would be different from what the Minister intended. The employers are beginning to grow tired of the principle of arbitration, and the workers do not view it too favourably. Neither party will know how it will get on from quarter to quarter. Turmoil and dissatisfaction will rule everywhere in industry. It will be too late then to point to this pernicious principle as being the responsible factor. If we could get this fifty-fifty amendment agreed to, I am sure the member for South Fremantle and others would do their best to see that the adjustment of the basic wage was adhered to. I am sure such a conscientious man as the Minister for Works would have many sleepless nights if he thought he had fath-

ered a Bill which had led to the dislocation of industry. It will require some strength of mind on his part to accept this amendment. Here is a chance for him to drop all party differences. If this amendment be carried, the rest of the Bill will be viewed by the Opposition from an entirely different angle.

Mr. PANTON: This clause particularly affects the issue I was discussing last night with the Minister. It provides that the Government Statistician shall supply the court with information which it may take into account in determining the basic wage. Once a year only will there be an open inquiry. After the basic wage has been fixed at this open and exhaustive inquiry, merely upon a set of figures supplied by a Government official, the court may change the whole thing. Trade unionists will not be ready to place the whole question of their wages in the hands of one man. Mr. Bennett does not collect this information himself; it is supplied to him by the very people who will benefit from this Bill. What means have the unionists of checking these figures? How can the Government expect the workers calmly to view a reduction in their wages under circumstances such as these? Will the court have discretion to decide what constitutes the end of a quarter? Will it start from the time when the last basic wage was declared? I presume the adjustment will be made every quarter, as from the end of the first quarter following on the 30th June. The final quarter of the current financial year will begin on the 1st April, a fitting day to indicate how the workers will be fooled. What will happen with regard to the quarter beginning on the 1st January? Are the members of the Arbitration Court to take their Christmas recess at some other period of the year? Will the court sit in February and declare a basic wage for half a quarter? I agree with the Minister for Railways that there is likely to be a downward course of the basic wage for some considerable time, and we are asked to pass this clause on a quarterly basis. Will the January declaration of the basic wage be retrospective?

The Minister for Works: I guarantee that it will not be retrospective.

Mr. PANTON: How can the Minister guarantee that? The members of the Arbitration Court are not subject to political influence.

The Minister for Works: The members of the Arbitration Court have some intelligence.

Mr. PANTON: Should a determination arrived at after full inquiry be upset because of figures obtained by the Government Statistician from unknown sources? Under the Bill the workers will have no appeal except direct action. This State has enjoyed industrial harmony hitherto, but the Bill will not operate in that direction. The workers will not be content to battle for the best basic wage obtainable and then have it upset on the strength of figures which they have had no opportunity of checking. I shall not voice my protest here, but shall make it in a place where it will have some effect. The member for Perth has among his constituents numerous workers who will be affected by the clause. Does the hon. member repudiate the promises he gave them at election time?

Mr. Parker: The member for Perth will move an amendment presently.

Mr. PANTON: If the Minister for Works is not yet prepared to give way, we on this side must keep on trying.

Mr. HEGNEY: In the circumstances I support the amendment, as furnishing the best course available. The representatives of the parties concerned should be heard on each occasion of the fixing of the basic wage. To alter the determination at the end of the three-monthly period will be distinctly unfair to the workers. The object of giving the basic wage a currency of 12 months is to bring about stability. The Minister has mentioned that in various States, including New South Wales, the currency of a determination is six months. I have here the "Industrial Gazette of New South Wales," from which I shall quote some interesting opinions expressed on the 25th September, 1928, by Mr. Justice Piddington, a leading industrial authority and adjudicator—

The Commission will review its decisions on cause shown, and since the exercise of its statutory initiative when it determined to declare a separate rural wage is a decision, then the announcement made in 1927, and repeated in 1928, is reviewable like any other decision. These illustrations will show how ungrounded is the claim of the employers' associations to invoke by legal process a decision from the Commission as to the holding of a living wage inquiry or its date. To entertain that claim as a legal right would easily depose the Commission from its position as custodian of living-wage law, and make it umpire in a series of six-monthly challenges between de-

bating teams. If we now re-opened the general living wage at the instance of employers' associations we could be moved, six months after our decision, and no matter what the decision was, by employee associations, and in another six months by employer associations, till all stability of industrial rights or obligations disappeared in a perpetual see-saw of controversy. As each notice of motion was served we must either refuse the applicant a hearing on the ground that we have already held an inquiry, in which case we should be reminded that our decisions are always reviewable, or else grant the application. In my judgment on the general living wage in 1927 I pointed out that the Act does not oblige the Commission to determine a standard of living and declare a living wage every six months. I said, "It may here be observed that it is a mistake to suppose that the Commission is to redetermine the standard and to redeclare the living wage every six months. To do so would be to deprive both employers and employed of the stability and security which it has been from the outset one of the objects of industrial arbitration to achieve If the standard, and with it the living wage, were to alter with the frequency possible under the Act, employers would be subject on the one hand to fluctuation, which would gravely hamper their contracts and production and trading campaigns, while the employees would have the standard of living which the law desires to have secured to them as insecure as ever against the (at times) violent alterations in their well-being."

In that passage Mr. Justice Piddington pointed out that a declaration of the living wage every six months would result in constant see-sawing as between the employers' association and the employees' organisation. While that is so, the amendment is certainly preferable to the provisions of the clause itself. I maintain that the original arrangement for 12-monthly reviews should stand. The Government should give reasonable consideration to the amendment and afford the workers at least some security, and accord them the rights they should enjoy during the currency of the award as it stands now. What other purpose has the clause than to secure a reduction in wages? The Government have exhibited indecent haste to bring down wages merely because the cost of commodities has shown signs of declining. Then again the workers have a right to be heard upon any application for a readjustment of wages.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: I was under the impression that should the Minister for Works not be equal to the recognition of the merits of the amendment, that the Premier, who does count in the councils of the State,

would take into consideration the advisability of securing a measure of industrial peace. The six or seven years of immunity from industrial trouble that we have enjoyed in comparison with the experience in our sister States, was achieved as the result of the Arbitration Act. Now the Act is to be altered. This is a matter of policy, and the Premier is responsible for the Bill, but he has not assisted his Ministers. The Bill will largely destroy the effectiveness of the Arbitration Court because the additional work thrown upon that tribunal will prevent them from keeping pace with the work of the court.

Mr. Sleeman drew attention to the state of the Committee.

Bells rung and a quorum formed.

[Mr. Richardson took the Chair.]

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: We are entitled to know what prompted the Government to introduce this provision. What is the need for it? In my opinion the Bill has been dictated by the Premier.

The Minister for Works: Other speakers have said the Country Party are responsible for it.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The court will be saddled with additional work and will not be able to cope with the claims presented to it. We are entitled to have an explanation from the Premier.

The Premier: What is your reason for objecting to it?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The Premier ought to make a statement.

The Premier: You have said that 16 times already.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: But the Premier could satisfy me with one reply. I am glad there is another place, because I do not think members there will approve of this provision.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	19
Noes	.	..	..	23
				—

Majority against .. 4

5 —

AYES.

Mr. Corboy	Mr. Munste
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Raphael
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Hegney	Mr. Troy
Mr. W. D. Johnson	Mr. Walker
Mr. Kenneally	Mr. Wansbrough
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Lutey	Mr. Withers
Mr. McCallum	Mr. Panton
Mr. Millington	

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angelo	Mr. McLarty
Mr. Barnard	Mr. James Mitchell
Mr. Brown	Mr. Patrick
Mr. Davy	Mr. Plesse
Mr. Doney	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Ferguson	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Griffiths	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Keenan	Mr. J. M. Smith
Mr. Latham	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Wells
Mr. H. W. Mann	Mr. North
Mr. J. I. Mann	

(Teller.)

PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Wilson	Mr. Parker
Miss Holman	Mr. Teesdale

Amendment thus negatived.

Mr. H. W. MANN: I move an amendment—

That after "statement," in line 3 of the proposed new section, the words "in the prescribed form" be inserted.

Section 152 (9) of the Act provides for certain matters to be prescribed. The member for Geraldton, speaking last night, complained of the manner of gathering the information on which the reports were furnished. Quite a number of differences are apparent between the Commonwealth and State returns. Rent for a four or five roomed house at Geraldton is shown by the Commonwealth as £1 2s. 8d. and by the State as £1 6s. 3d. There should be a prescribed form so that a uniform return would be received from all centres.

Mr. Wansbrough: Do not you think the statement should be made on oath?

Mr. McCallum: This clause does not deal with returns to the statistician. It deals with returns from the statistician to the court.

Mr. MANN: If the court required information in a prescribed form—

Mr. McCallum: The court has no say in the collection of the information.

Mr. MANN: But I want the information to be collected on a uniform basis. I un-

derstand that the Federal Act requires the information to be supplied on oath or by declaration, but I do not wish to go that far.

Mr. KENNEALLY: I oppose the amendment. Apparently the member for Perth has not read the Bill.

Mr. Sleeman: If he knew what was in it, he would oppose it.

Mr. KENNEALLY: The clause provides for the statistician to supply a statement to the court. It does not deal with the collection of the information. What we have challenged and shall continue to challenge is the source of the information supplied to the statistician. The statistician merely works out a sum on information supplied to him. If some arrangement could be entered into, the information could be made available to the consumers.

The Premier: The amendment will improve the Bill.

Mr. KENNEALLY: Why does not the Premier enlighten us in that direction? The amendment has no more to do with the Bill than have the flowers that bloom in the spring? Under the proposal we say that the court should be supplied with the returns on a prescribed form. Surely the hon. member who moved the amendment is acting under a misapprehension. The amendment will make it a ridiculous measure and I ask the Committee not to make the Bill more ridiculous than it is.

Mr. McCALLUM: I will do what I can to help to secure a stricter supervision of collecting data. But the amendment asks that the Statistician should supply the information to the court, not from the individual who supplies the information to the Statistician. I see grave danger in the proposal. If information is to be supplied on a prescribed form, the form will be prescribed by the Government and its scope may be limited. Thus, instead of the court having full and open play, it will be limited to just what the Government like to prescribe on a given form.

Mr. H. W. Mann: The court will prescribe.

Mr. McCALLUM: Who said so?

Mr. H. W. Mann: The Bill provides for that.

Mr. McCALLUM: If the information is to go from the Statistician to the court, it means that the Government may limit the

information the court will get. The member for Perth is all mixed up.

Mr. Kenneally: Then he is quite normal.

Mr. McCALLUM: There is a heap of information that the court may want and the prescribed form may limit it. The court may not want to be limited. Why does not the hon. member admit what is at the back of his head. He certainly does not want the court to have all the information.

Mr. H. W. Mann: If I could, I would move to provide a prescribed form for collectors.

Mr. McCALLUM: That would not make the collectors get information. There is a printed form that they fill in now. I can see all sorts of complications and positive danger in the amendment. It is an outrageous proposal. Why does not the hon. member admit that the amendment has nothing to do with the collectors? He is trying to shut the statistician's doors against the court. Fancy establishing on limited information a standard of wages for the people! Why not let the court have the full knowledge?

Mr. H. W. Mann: You are making statements that are quite untrue, and making them deliberately, knowing that they are quite untrue.

Mr. McCALLUM: I ask, Mr. Chairman, that that be withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must withdraw the remark.

Mr. H. W. Mann: I withdraw.

Mr. McCALLUM: The index figure indicates and values of certain commodities, and all are set out under four different headings, as in the latest declaration, food £1 16s.; rent £1; clothing 13s. 6d.; miscellaneous 15s. 6d. Each year it is contended that the information supplied is not full enough, that more is wanted, and each year it is proposed either to add to or take away from the list under "Miscellaneous." The prescribed form might wipe out half that list.

The Premier: The court will prescribe the form.

Mr. McCALLUM: Of what advantage will that be? At present all the court has to do is to ring up the statistician's office and get whatever information is required. Then there is always an argument about the rent. On the latest occasion the Manjimup rents were given as being 6s. 6d. on the average. That was queried before the court, and on inquiry it was found the average was really 15s. 6d. See the damage that might

be done if the court were hobbled in its inquiries!

Mr. H. W. Mann: That is one of the reasons why I am trying to get this in.

Mr. McCALLUM: The hon. member is trying to get it into the wrong place.

Mr. H. W. Mann: You are putting up a long argument on a wrong principle.

Mr. McCALLUM: I can see what is going to happen. To propose such a thing as this when a man's wages are involved is a wicked thing. The hon. member is endeavouring to deprive the workers of the advantage of the court being fully informed.

Mr. H. W. Mann: I demand, Mr. Chairman, that that be withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN: I did not hear the remark. Perhaps the hon. member will repeat it.

Mr. McCALLUM: I will repeat it all right. I said that if the amendment is carried it can have no effect other than to limit the information secured by the court. If the information is to be in a prescribed form, there must be a limit to that information. What else can the amendment do?

Mr. Panton drew attention to the state of the Committee.

Bells rung.

Mr. PANTON: Should the bells be rung, Mr. Chairman, before you report to the Speaker?

The CHAIRMAN: I think so.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. SPEAKER: I have counted the House. There is a quorum present.

Mr. PANTON: I should like your ruling, Sir. In the event of the Chairman's attention being drawn to the state of the Committee, should he not report to the Speaker before the bells are rung, and should they not then be rung at your direction?

Mr. SPEAKER: So long as I have been connected with the House, and for the sake of convenience, the bells are rung by the Chairman or by the clerk at the Chairman's direction. This is done in order to facilitate the business. It is quite in order for the Chairman to direct the clerk to ring the bells.

[Mr. Angelo took the Chair.]

Mr. McCALLUM: It would be impracticable to put the information in a prescribed

form. Frequently during argument a couple of times in an hour the court will require further information.

Mr. H. W. Mann: Read the Bill and you will see the necessity for the amendment.

Mr. McCALLUM: The hon. member has not read the Bill. I appeal to the Premier not to limit the court's access to the statistician's information. How could the court function if it were restricted to the use of information only when in the prescribed form?

The Premier: The hon. member's desire is to give the court power to set up the request for information.

Mr. McCALLUM: There is no limit to the information for which the court may call. No form could be devised that would be likely to embrace all the information required in an argument for fixing the basic wage.

Mr. H. W. Mann: I desire that the court shall have all the information it desires.

Mr. McCALLUM: Then the hon. member should withdraw the amendment, because it will only restrict the court. When there is only one court operating, there is nothing to be gained by limiting its information to a prescribed form. The court should be free, and the whole of the information in the statistician's office should be open to it.

The Attorney General: It would be difficult to provide what the hon. member desires in a measure of this kind.

Mr. H. W. Mann: I said that earlier in the debate.

Mr. Kenneally: Then why not withdraw the amendment?

Mr. McCALLUM: The hon. member is attacking the question from the wrong point. The clause refers to "all other information."

The Attorney General: Would not the amendment enable the court to lay down what other information it requires and do it by regulation?

Mr. McCALLUM: No; it is not possible to foresee the information that the court would require in an argument on the basic wage.

Mr. H. W. Mann: My amendment makes provision for that.

Mr. McCALLUM: The hon. member is becoming stubborn.

Mr. H. W. Mann: You are wrong.

Mr. McCALLUM: How could the amendment help in the slightest degree? It is

not possible to have prescribed forms to cover all the various types of information required.

The Attorney General: No.

Mr. H. W. Mann: The information would not be available.

Mr. McCALLUM: That is the point I am making. Why should not the hon. member withdraw his amendment? It cannot meet the situation.

Mr. H. W. Mann: Suppose at the first quarterly review the court decides that fuller information be given on the next quarterly review; it will ask for that to be done.

Mr. McCALLUM: That would be put in the form of a letter to the Government Statistician.

Mr. H. W. Mann: I want the court to prescribe the form in which the information shall be given.

The Attorney General: That would not prevent the court from getting any other information desired.

Mr. McCALLUM: The amendment provides that the statement shall be supplied in the prescribed form. If the clause is left without any limitation the court will be in a position to get all the information it requires.

The Attorney General: As the Bill stands, the Government Statistician will decide what statements will be put in. All the amendment says is that the initial form shall be that which has been prescribed by the court.

Mr. McCALLUM: Then what is the use of the amendment?

Mr. H. W. Mann: Why are you arguing against it?

Mr. McCALLUM: Because it is loaded. I have no ulterior motive in opposing the amendment except that I want to see the court free.

Mr. H. W. Mann: You are placarding all the virtues upon yourself.

Mr. McCALLUM: The hon. member will not open his mind to see the danger in his proposition. I am fearful of it. The homes of the people are in jeopardy.

Mr. H. W. MANN: I regret that the hon. member should accuse me of putting forward something that is loaded. The court is being asked to give a decision of great importance to the parties concerned. There is nothing in the Bill providing for the calling of further evidence, or for the

cross-examination of the Government Statistician on the information he supplies. As set out in Section 152 of the Act, the court should say what information it desires. This power should be set out in the Bill. If the first set of information supplied by the Government Statistician is not full enough, the court should have power to advise him of the information it requires. The court knows what will be useful to it in coming to a decision. It will have the same desire as the hon. member to do the right thing. He is wrong in imputing motives against those who hold views different from his own. The hon. member should not seek to take to himself all the virtue in the State. I am endeavouring to do right, just as he is. If the manner in which the power is expressed does not meet with approval, it can be altered.

Mr. KENNEALLY: If we pass the amendment, we shall merely be prescribing what is attainable. The court will be able to utilise Subsection 8 of Section 142 by prescribing what is required. The amendment asks that the information should be given in a prescribed form. What the member for Perth desires, the parent Act already provides. If the clause passes without amendment, the court can prescribe a form on which information is to be given. There is power for that in the parent Act.

Mr. H. W. Mann: No. All the power the court have is to accept a statement from the Government Statistician's office.

Mr. KENNEALLY: That assertion has been proved incorrect. The subsection gives power to make regulations prescribing any act or thing necessary to supplement or render more effectual the provisions of the Act as to the conduct of proceedings before the court. The court has power to prescribe a form setting forth the lines on which information is desired. Under the amendment, however, the court could not get the information except in the prescribed form.

Mr. H. W. Mann: Prescribed by the court.

Mr. KENNEALLY: The contention of the member for South Fremantle holds good, that we should not limit in any manner the information going before the court. As soon as we attempt to impose a limitation, we shall be moving in the direction of having Parliament controlling the Arbitra-

tion Court. Let the court be free, unfettered and untrammelled in obtaining information. The amendment should be withdrawn. The mover has admitted that he cannot get it inserted where he wants it. Then the better course is to let the matter alone, and not try to get the amendment in somewhere.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The strong opposition to this amendment is surprising. I fail to see the danger which has been suggested. After all, the scheme on which the Bill is drafted is that the initiation of the inquiry is by delivery of a statement to the court. All the amendment does is to give the court the power, if they choose to exercise it, of saying what form that statement shall take. If I had the slightest suspicion that the amendment might have the ill results suggested by the member for South Fremantle, I would oppose it. If there is no prescribed form, any old form will be used. Many things are directed to be done in accordance with regulations and by-laws, but are done without those things existing. Under the Adoption of Children Act, regulations are supposed to be made, but none exist in fact. If no regulations were framed, the court would carry on without them. All that is intended in the amendment is that the initial statement furnished by the Government Statistician shall be in a form prescribed by the court and embodying information that the court may desire. It cannot restrict the perfect freedom of the court to secure all the information necessary.

Mr. McCALLUM: It is clear to me that once the form is prescribed, the information to be furnished by the Government Statistician will be limited to the particulars embodied in that form. That has been my experience in the past.

Mr. H. W. Mann: But the court will ask for all that is required.

Mr. McCALLUM: I have had considerably more experience than any member sitting on the Government side of the House, and I am aware of the dangers and possibilities of such a proposal.

[Mr. Richardson took the Chair.]

The Minister for Railways: You are seeing red to-night!

Mr. McCALLUM: I don't want to see red; I don't want to see danger in a mat-

ter of this description. There is nothing of more vital importance than the welfare of our men, women and children, and their interests are to be determined on a possible basis of restricted information. If my fears are groundless, and the amendment will do no harm, why press it?

Mr. H. W. Mann: Then you have no confidence in the court.

Mr. McCALLUM: I am not arguing from that standpoint, but from the point of view of restricted evidence.

Mr. H. W. Mann: But this will merely allow the court to ask for what is deemed necessary to enable them to arrive at a determination.

Mr. McCALLUM: Once parties enter into an inquiry of this description, no one can possibly tell what information will be required to enable a settlement to be reached.

The Attorney General: The only point about it is whether the amendment will interfere with the freedom of the court to secure all the information necessary. You say there is a danger of that; for the life of me, I cannot see how there can possibly be any such danger.

Mr. McCALLUM: I am sure the proposal is dangerous. In any case, the amendment is not necessary in order to enable the court to call for what information they require in whatever form is desired. I have with me copies of documents issued by the court showing what information was required from the parties concerned, and the various headings are set out.

Mr. H. W. Mann: And you will admit that has not curtailed the freedom of the court.

Mr. McCALLUM: Of course it has not, but it shows that the amendment is not necessary. The amendment will not help in any degree whatever, for it can only restrict the inquiries of the court.

Mr. H. W. Mann: I say it is a necessity to the Bill.

Mr. McCALLUM: Then what was the draftsman doing, to omit a necessity?

The Chief Secretary: Draftsmen often make errors.

Mr. McCALLUM: Yes, I have discovered quite a few of them.

Mr. H. W. Mann: Do you think you are the only one who can discover errors?

Mr. McCALLUM: Frequently when a case is being heard before the court it is found necessary to send out for special in-

formation. Nobody can ever say exactly what information will be required during an inquiry. Fancy making it necessary that all information supplied must be in a prescribed form! If the amendment is not loaded, why is it being pressed?

Mr. H. W. Mann: Every member is entitled to press his amendment.

Mr. McCALLUM: But when the best that can be said in favor of it is that it will do no harm, why press it? I hope the amendment will be defeated.

Mr. KENNEALLY: I understand that what the member for Perth desires to have inserted in the Bill is a provision that will enable the court to get whatever information it requires. Subsection 1 of Section 152 of the parent Act makes provision that the court may make regulations for prescribed forms and documents to be used for the purpose of the Act. There we have provided the very thing the hon. member is seeking to insert in the Bill. Yet the claim has been advanced that unless we agree to the amendment the court will not have power to get this information in a prescribed form.

Mr. H. W. Mann: All that this does is to compel the statistician to supply information.

Mr. KENNEALLY: While Section 152 provides for the information to be supplied, the amendment would limit it to information supplied in a prescribed form. The information available to the court should not be limited.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The fears of the members for South Fremantle and East Perth are not well founded, but at the same time, the amendment is redundant. Any information supplied to the court would be in a prescribed form. A tribunal charged with the duty of fixing the basic wage and requiring information to carry out that duty must specify certain heads. In other words, they must prescribe a form.

Mr. McCallum: The court merely draws up a form.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: That is prescribing it; there is no difference.

Mr. McCallum: But this must have the approval of the Governor.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Not at all.

Mr. McCallum: The Act provides for it.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The hon. member means that the exercise of the power by the court must be approved by the Gov-

ernor, but the Governor has approved of the power to the court. In my opinion members are fighting a shadow and have been doing so for hours. The court has all the powers that the amendment would give it. It already prescribes the definite form in which it requires the information.

Mr. McCALLUM: If the amendment be pressed, I shall move to add words to it in order to relieve some of my fears. I move—

That the amendment be amended by adding "but which will in no way limit the information which the court may require the statistician to supply."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I have listened to the discussion for the last two hours and I do not consider that the amendment will do either harm or good. The member for South Fremantle desires to ensure that the effect of the amendment will be nullified. I ask the Committee to reject both proposals.

Mr. Kenneally: Had you said that before it would have saved two hours discussion.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I wished to hear the views of the Committee. The whole of the powers desired are provided for in the Act. The court has always asked for the information it required and has received the information from the statistician.

Amendment on amendment put and negatived.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. SLEEMAN: I move an amendment—

That after "quarter," in line 6 of the proposed new section, the words "together with a detailed statement giving the methods employed in arriving at the variation, if any," be inserted.

The amendment is necessary because we shall be practically giving the power of making the determination to the statistician, without representatives of the employers and employees having an opportunity to cross-examine the statistician or put up a fight for their respective interests. The details of how the Government Statistician makes up the information he supplies to the court should be shown, and, if necessary, he should be cross-examined.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I oppose the amendment. The court always asks for the information referred to by the hon. member, and invariably gets it. That is al-

ready provided for in the Act. The amendment is certainly not designed to improve the Bill. The hon. member should be fair.

Mr. Sleeman: If you were a worker you would better appreciate the position.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Members opposite have done nothing for the past few hours but oppose the Bill. The court need not act solely upon the information that is supplied by the Government Statistician. It can be trusted to get together all the information it requires to enable it to arrive at a proper conclusion. Only when the court is satisfied with the proof afforded to it will a decision be given.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The amendment is an effective direction to the court that it should check the information supplied to it by the Government Statistician.

Mr. Sleeman called attention to the state of the Committee:

Bells rung, and a quorum formed.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: As it will be necessary, according to the Bill, to review the basic wage more often in the year we ought to examine again the parent Act from that point of view. We do not know enough about the methods employed by the Government Statistician in arriving at his decisions on various points connected with this matter. As the Bill stands, the matter is decided purely on the Government Statistician's figures, no evidence being called. At the annual review, in addition to the figures submitted by the Statistician, the question of the basic wage is argued by the representatives of employers and employees. At the quarterly review there is no such discussion. The member for Fremantle asks that the Statistician when submitting the figures should state the methods employed. Further, the member for South Fremantle will move that the Statistician's statement shall be subject to examination by representatives of both sides. Such examination is the more necessary when the basic wage is declared quarterly instead of annually. Both the employer and the employee should have the assurance that their respective interests will be protected. The matter is of grave importance, affecting the standard, methods and quality of living of men, women and children. The difference between us is that one side considers the determination

should be done often, while the other side considers it should be done thoroughly. The members of the court should know exactly how the Statistician has arrived at his statement. Later, this clause should be amended so as to afford representatives of both sides opportunities to further investigate the Statistician's figures, so that, if necessary, the statement may be referred back to him for further inquiry. In the absence of such precautions injury may be done to humanity.

Mr. McCALLUM: I see no inconsistency between the Opposition's stand on this amendment and their stand on the last one. The Minister could have saved time on the previous discussion by rising earlier to say he was opposed to the amendment. The present amendment asks for information as to the basis on which the Statistician's figures are framed.

Mr. KENNEALLY: I hope the amendment will be accepted. The Minister has admitted that the annual declaration is still to take place on or before the 15th of June each year, and to begin to operate in the 1st July following. Under the Bill the declaration will be subject to quarterly variations. If the annual declaration is still to take place and the parties interested are to appear in the proceedings before that declaration is made, then the information on which the quarterly declaration is to be based should be made available to the representatives of both sides. Those representatives can advance their contentions as to the cost of living before the annual declaration; and if that procedure was to be consistently followed, there would not be so much opposition to the quarterly declaration. But the procedure is not to apply to the quarterly determinations. The annual inquiry will become more or less a farce, because the altered conditions imply that the basic wage will be declared on the Statistician's figures. If we do not provide that details shall be available to the court before the annual declaration is made, then the court will not know exactly on what the Government Statistician arrived at his conclusions, which influenced the fixing of the quarterly basic wage. Care should be taken to see that the utmost possible information is placed before the advocates representing their respective principals, so as to enable them to deal with the basic wage on an adequate basis. The decisions arrived at quarterly will be largely dominated by the

Government Statistician's figures, and the amendment will ensure that full details regarding the methods adopted in compiling the information, together with the reasons that influenced his decision, shall be made clear by the Government Statistician to the court. I am afraid the annual declaration will be somewhat of a farce unless the details and complete information I have referred to, are available to the advocates.

The Minister for Works: That information will be available to the parties.

Mr. KENNEALLY: That refers to the annual investigation, but I am concerned about the quarterly decisions as well. I want the reasons for any alterations that determined the quarterly adjustments to be available to the advocates.

Mr. H. W. MANN: I intended to support the amendment because I thought it would achieve what I desired to do at an earlier stage. As the member for South Fremantle has asserted that this is done now, the amendment is therefore unnecessary. I shall vote against it.

12 o'clock midnight.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	20
Noes	..	..	..	22

Majority against .. 2

AYES.

Mr. Corboy	Mr. Millington
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Munzie
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Rapbael
Mr. Hegney	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Troy
Mr. Kenneally	Mr. Walker
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Wansbrough
Mr. Lutey	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Withers
Mr. McCallum	Mr. Panton

(Teller).

NOES

Mr. Angelo	Mr. J. I. Mann
Mr. Barnard	Mr. McLarty
Mr. Brown	Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Davy	Mr. Patrick
Mr. Doney	Mr. Plesse
Mr. Ferguson	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Keenan	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Latham	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Wells
Mr. H. W. Mann	Mr. North

(Teller).

PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Wilson	Mr. Parker
Miss Holman	Mr. Teesdale

Amendment thus negatived.

Mr. McCALLUM: I move an amendment—

That in line 7 of Section (1) of proposed new Section 124A the word "one" be struck out, and "five" inserted in lieu.

This deals with the money side of it, but I wish to say a word or two about a point raised by the Chief Secretary last night. Only yesterday while we were discussing the effect the reduction of wages would have on industry, that very point was being discussed at the basic wage inquiry in the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. The two discussions—ours and theirs—were proceeding simultaneously. The argument in the Commonwealth Arbitration Court is reported in this morning's "West Australian." Professor Copland, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce at the Melbourne University, was giving evidence. I do not subscribe to the idea that the views of these professional gentlemen should be accepted as unchallengeable. Rather would I take the opinion of a hard-headed practical man of affairs than that of these economists, some of whom have their heads too far in the clouds, and will not come down to earth. As I say, Professor Copland was under examination on the subject of reduced wages in the Federal Arbitration Court yesterday, and I want to submit this extract taken from the report in to-day's "West Australian"—

Assuming that a 10 per cent. decrease is made in the workers' wages, would the 10 per cent. extra going to the employers provide more employment?—Not exactly.

The employer may not employ additional men. He may buy a motor car or go for a trip?—No, he may not employ extra wage-earners.

Is there not some danger of shifting the spending power from these people who do spend to employers who do not spend?—No, I do not think so, because the employer is most anxious to increase his output if he can do so, to cover up his losses.

But the bigger the income of many of them the more they go in for luxuries?—I agree with that entirely. Some of them are setting a very bad example.

And if they get a little bit more off the worker they may set a worse example?—If I thought that would happen I would preach that the workers should get more instead of less.

The whole of this money is to be transferred from the worker to the employer, and the point to be decided is whether it is better for the nation's necessity, a viewpoint expressed by the Chief Secretary last night, or whether by the money being transferred to the employer it would create more employment than if it remained with the employee. The Premier himself has had an experience recently; he offered to the farmers money for new clearing, but they would not accept it for that purpose. At present the basic wage money is with the employees and they are spending it on Australian commodities. If the money be taken from them their spending power will be reduced and that will have its effect on industry, and men will be thrown out of work. So the money will be transferred to the employer. Even if the employer puts it back into industry it cannot create more employment than is being created to-day as the result of the money being put into circulation by the employee. There is always the possibility of the employer spending it on a trip abroad, on the Melbourne Cup or on a motor car, or investing it in Commonwealth bonds for use to pay interest overseas. The working man, on the other hand, would spend it and create more employment.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not know what precedent there is for the hon. member's proposal, but precedents are to be found in the Arbitration Court awards. I have mentioned those of the Merchant Service Guild where the variation is made when the alteration in the index figure is 20 points, and of the wharf labourers where the variation is made with an alteration of 13. I also explained that 20 points meant 1s. We could have specified 20 points in the Bill, but instead of that 1s. was inserted. The Bill does not require that an alteration shall be made when the variation is 1s.; it says 1s. or more per week. To provide 100 points, which would be five times the number stipulated in any Federal award, would not be right. I cannot accept the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. SLEEMAN: I move an amendment—

That in line 10 of the proposed new section the words "of its own motion" be struck out with a view to inserting "after hearing the representatives of the employers and employees

who shall have the right to cross-examine the statistician."

The parties, if they so desire, should have a right to be represented in the court and to cross-examine the statistician. Otherwise it will be not the court, but the statistician who will practically deliver the determinations.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The ordinary 12-monthly determination is being retained and registered organisations may appear before the court where evidence will be tendered and the rise or fall in commodities decided upon. After the court has decided what constitutes the basic wage, the standard will remain fixed for 12 months. The only variation will be that based on the statistician's figures and the cost of living during each quarter. If we provide that the court shall not act of its own motion, it will destroy the Bill. If we provided also that everybody could be represented at every inquiry, the court would be sitting the whole year round on the question of the basic wage.

Mr. SLEEMAN: This is the most important determination that the court has to make, and too much time could not be given to its consideration. The Government have not only brought down a wage reduction Bill, but apparently they wish to debar the parties from appearing. Consequently the statistician will, in effect, say to the court, "This is what I find and this is what you have to work on." It is only reasonable that the employers and employees should have the right to cross-examine the Government Statistician and endeavour to show him where his methods are wrong, if they happen to be so. I thought this was the one amendment the Minister would agree to. We are not asking anything for the one side that we are not asking for the other. If the Government refuse to accept this amendment they will be condemned for all time in the eyes of the workers as well as of the employers.

Mr. PANTON: The Bill provides that the basic wage may be altered once in every quarter. Only once in every year, in June, does the Minister intend that there shall be a full and comprehensive inquiry into the subject. As a result of that full inquiry the basic wage will be fixed, not for 12 months, but for the ensuing quarter only.

The Minister for Works: The court decides on the principle.

Mr. PANTON: To the worker one of the most important factors is the amount he receives in his pay envelope each week. Now he is not to draw that amount for the whole year, but only for the first quarter after the determination of the Court in the first instance, when the same basic wage may be renewed if the Government Statistician fails to satisfy the court to the contrary. Without any open inquiry the court will be able to alter the rate by as much as it thinks fit, according to the figures supplied.

The Premier: That is the Federal system.

Mr. PANTON: The Federal system is bad. There is no annual inquiry in the Federal arena.

The Minister for Works: Our system is better than that.

Mr. PANTON: Yes, it would be if we gave both sides the right to cross-examine the Government Statistician every quarter on the statements he puts in. In no court in the world will it be found that people are treated as they will be treated under this Bill. If there is a sudden rise in the cost of commodities, Mr. Carter, for the Employers' Federation, will want to see the figures and know how they are made up. The union representatives will want the same thing.

The Premier: I hope there will be a rise, or we shall all be "broke."

Mr. PANTON: If there is a rise it is all the more reason why both sides should have the right to see these figures. Who can say what will happen within the next six months?

The Premier: Or the next month.

Mr. PANTON: Both sides should have the right to inquire into the figures. It is a matter of only one day's hearing by the court. The slightest mistake on the part of the Government Statistician might make a tremendous difference in wages, up or down, and some opportunity should be given to both sides to test them out. We are asking little enough in advancing this last request.

Mr. SLEEMAN: I am prepared to discuss this Bill all night unless the Government are willing to show our side some consideration. Instead of doing that they have so far used their brutal majority against

us, and the Minister has not even replied to our statements.

The Minister for Works: You must have been asleep when I did so.

Mr. SLEEMAN: I am never asleep on these occasions. I am going to endeavour to see justice done to the workers. We are not asking for anything unfair. The Government Statistician may make a mistake in his figures; he is human and is therefore not infallible. We are all liable to make mistakes, even the Premier and the Minister for Works. Why should either the representative of the employers or the representative of the workers be debarred from examining the statistician's figures? If we are to get no concession whatever, we on this side will try to weary hon. members opposite. In this matter I speak on behalf of the employers too. Their representative, Mr. Carter, will be anxious to point out any mistakes which may be made by the Government Statistician and which may not be noticed by the court. Should not the statistician be subject to cross-examination when he has the livelihood of men, women and children in his hands? He ought not to be set up as a great white chief or a great slave chief. The court is to act on his figures without question. This is no small matter, and yet Ministerial members merely shake their heads and use their brutal majority. The Government are prepared to shove the Bill through without paying any regard to the workers, or even to the Employers' Federation. At other times Ministers are perfectly prepared to extend consideration to that body.

The Premier: You ought not to say that. It is not true.

Mr. SLEEMAN: It is true. The Government's trouble is that if they allow the Employers' Federation to be heard on this question, the workers must also be heard. Any change in the cost of living is to be inferred solely from the statistician's figures.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	19
Noes	..	..	..	..	22
					—
Majority against	.	..	..	..	3
					—

AYES.

Mr. Corboy
Mr. Coverley
Mr. Cunningham
Mr. Hegney
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Kenneally
Mr. Lamond
Mr. Lutey
Mr. McCallum
Mr. Millington

Mr. Munsie
Mr. Panton
Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Troy
Mr. Walker
Mr. Wansbrough
Mr. Willcock
Mr. Withers
Mr. Raphael

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angelo
Mr. Barnard
Mr. Brown
Mr. Davy
Mr. Doney
Mr. Ferguson
Mr. Griffiths
Mr. Keenan
Mr. Latham
Mr. Lindsay
Mr. H. W. Mann

Mr. J. I. Mann
Mr. McLarty
Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Patrick
Mr. Plesse
Mr. Sampson
Mr. Scaddan
Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Thorn
Mr. Wells
Mr. North

(Teller.)

PAIRS.

AYES.

Miss Holman
Mr. Wilson

NOES.

Mr. Teasdale
Mr. Parker

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

New Clause:

Mr. PANTON: I move—

That a new clause, to stand as Clause 4, be inserted as follows:—"This Act shall have effect as from and including the 1st July, 1931, and shall continue in operation until the 30th June, 1932, and no longer."

The Bill is purely experimental. The first part of the new clause will mean that we shall honour the contract entered into between the workers and the Arbitration Court that the award of the court issued as from the 1st July last, shall continue for 12 months. The Minister himself has said that nothing can be done regarding the legislation until after the Christmas vacation, and if we agree to the amendment, we shall at least fulfil the contract in respect to the basic wage declaration. Then, if we give the Bill a trial extending over 12 months, the Government will be able to note its operations. If they find that it leads to industrial unrest, as I think it will, they will then be able to drop the measure.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not propose to accept the amendment.

Mr. Panton: You will agree to nothing!

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It must be recognised that we are living in abnormal

times. I am surprised that the hon. member should class the Bill as experimental legislation. The provision for quarterly adjustments has applied in the Federal arena for years passed.

Mr. Panton: Not regarding the basic wage.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes. The amendment will mean that nothing can be done under the measure before the 1st July next.

Mr. Panton: I doubt if anything will be done before then.

Th MINISTER FOR WORKS: I shall be surprised if that is so. When we were dealing with another amendment, it was suggested that a day only would be required to secure a decision. Now a very different attitude is adopted. The hon. member's proposal is merely for the purpose of defeating the objects of the Bill.

Mr. Panton: I would not do such a thing!

Mr. SLEEMAN: One of these days the Minister will make a mistake and will agree to something! The amendment is reasonable and should be accepted.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I am disappointed that the Minister has not seen fit to accept the amendment. He would be wise if occasionally he showed himself agreeable to a compromise.

Mr. ANGELO: On a point of order. The first part of the proposed new clause provides that the Bill shall come into operation only from the 1st July next, whereas we have just agreed to a clause which says the Bill shall come into operation immediately after the new year. So the proposed new clause contradicts what we have already agreed to.

Mr. PANTON: On another point of order. Is the hon. member is order in occupying the time of the Committee with a pretext like this?

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot find in the Bill any provision that the Bill shall come into operation at any particular date. That will be for the Government to decide. The proposed new clause is in order.

Hon. M. F. TROY: If the proposed new clause be carried, Parliament, not the Government, will have decided that the Bill shall not come into operation until June of 1931. I do not think members opposite are very keen about this legislation. The anxiety of the Government is chiefly to introduce something that will serve to keep Parliament

going. I appeal to the Minister to accept the proposed new clause. The Minister is not wise in insisting upon every word in the Bill as printed, nothing more nor less. If there had been any demand for this legislation one could understand the Minister wishing to bring it into force as soon as possible; but as a matter of fact no one really wants the Bill at all.

[Mr. Angelo took the Chair.]

Mr. KENNEALLY: Here is another opportunity for the Government to confound the Opposition by accepting the proposed new clause. On the Minister's own showing, there will not be much opportunity to get quarterly determinations before next July. All that the proposed new clause asks for is that the first declaration shall come into operation on the 1st July. If the proposed new clause be accepted, the undertakings to the workers will be observed. As for the second part of the proposed new clause, prescribing the period over which the legislation shall operate, that is not new, nor will it do any harm. I hope the proposed new clause will be agreed to, if only because it will absolve the Government from the charge of repudiation.

New clause put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	19
Noes	..	..	..	21
				—
Majority against	..	..	2	—

AYES.

Mr. Corboy	Mr. Millington
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Munsie
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Hegney	Mr. Troy
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Walker
Mr. Kenneally	Mr. Wansbrough
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Lucey	Mr. Withers
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Fenton
Mr. McCallum	

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Barnard	Mr. North
Mr. Brown	Mr. Patrick
Mr. Davy	Mr. Plesse
Mr. Ferguson	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Latham	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Thorn
Mr. H. W. Mann	Mr. Wells
Mr. J. I. Mann	Mr. McLarty
Sir James Mitchell	

(Teller.)

PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Wilson	Mr. Parker
Mr. Raphael	Mr. Thorn
Miss Holman	Mr. Teesdale

New clause thus negatived.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 19th November.

MR. MILLINGTON (Mount Hawthorn) [1.6]: This Bill contains several amendments which can be dealt with in Committee, but it also deals with one or two important matters of administration. The question of payment to members of the board who have been appointed to control the fund has presented difficulties. Although the board act in an honorary capacity, it is necessary to pay certain expenses incurred for meeting, especially when the meetings are held in Perth. The Auditor General has contended that funds from the pool must not be utilised for that purpose, but to me it always seemed fair that the fund should be self-supporting. The Government act as trustees for the money collected, and I cannot see that there is justification for providing money for the board's expenses, except from the fund. Therefore the Bill proposes to empower the Government to pay such expenses from the pool. Other costs of administration, such as the expense of transporting scalps from outlying districts to Perth, have also to be considered. Almost all the scalps are sent to Perth; in only rare instances is permission given to destroy them locally, but the difficulty is that no authority exists for utilising the fund to cover the cost of transporting the scalps. I agree that for the efficient working of the fund the powers sought are necessary. Another point dealing with the employment of trappers is debatable. I do not know whether the Minister has taken steps to ascertain whether the contributors to the fund agree with this proposal. In the past similar requests have been made. So long as the provision is carefully administered, there should be no objection, but once the power is given, there will be

difficulty in withstanding requests. On the statement of the Minister, the funds are being depleted by the payment of bonuses. The reserve capital has been used up, and there will be difficulty in financing during the year, even on the decreased bonuses. I agree that many justifiable requests have been received from dingo clubs for assistance to enable them to catch wild dogs. In some cases the members of these clubs have levied upon themselves to the extent of 3d. per sheep, in addition to paying the vermin tax and the local rates. One of these clubs had a standing offer of £10 a dog. It is impossible to engage people to catch these dogs for the ordinary bonuses of £2 per head. When requests were made to me for money for this purpose I was obliged to put the applicants off on the ground that I had no power to use the fund for this object. If the money is utilised with discretion I believe justification can be shown for the employment of trappers, but the principle should not be employed generally. Where clubs can show that they are doing their best and are carrying out additional duties irrespective of the bonus from the pool, the Minister would be justified in affording the extra assistance of a temporary or permanent nature, according to the circumstances. Care will have to be exercised to see that too much pressure is not brought to bear upon the Minister in the matter. I notice that he has revised the bonuses, and that the rates offering for dingoes and foxes have been reduced by half. I presume the amount received will be sufficient to enable the necessary number of trappers to be employed. There is no doubt foxes are increasing in number, and that they will become a menace unless they are checked. If the full tax is not again raised it will become imperative to keep down the bonuses.

The Minister for Agriculture: Now is not the time to raise it.

Mr. MILLINGTON: I presume the utmost economy will be exercised. It appears as if the fund had become depleted, and there will have to be a further reduction in bonuses to make ends meet. After a year like the present there will be difficulty in collecting the vermin tax. The matter of the vermin proof fence is a debatable one. I always took the view that the existing specifications could not legally be enforced. The present specifications

provide for a fence that may overhang the road. If an accident occurred I should say the victim would have cause for action.

The Premier: There is no doubt about that.

Mr. MILLINGTON: That was the specification.

The Minister for Agriculture: It is not in the Act.

Mr. MILLINGTON: No. Without a fence of these dimensions a farmer could not get exemption from payment of the tax. The Chief Inspector insisted that this should be the specification for a dog proof fence, and that only such a fence would entitle the owner to exemption from the tax.

The Minister for Agriculture: That would not prevent a cause of action against the Chief Inspector.

Mr. MILLINGTON: The action would lie against the owner of the fence. I presume the Chief Inspector now considers the new kind of fence will be sufficiently dog proof, and that on the amended lines it would still entitle the owner to exemption from the tax. The fence is now left to the discretion of that officer. It is a good move and will settle that argument. I should like to know the exact reason for certain amendments. I want to know, for instance, whether the Government are paying interest on the money in the pool.

The Premier: No one knows better than you do.

Mr. MILLINGTON: I am continually being asked about the matter. A fund has been subscribed by the taxpayers for a specific purpose. There stands to the credit of the Treasury many thousands of pounds. Are the Government allowing interest on that money?

The Minister for Agriculture: You had twice as much as we have.

Mr. MILLINGTON: Are the Government paying interest on the money?

The Premier: We are paying just the rate you paid.

Mr. MILLINGTON: I thought so. This shows the difference between the ins and the outs. Although we were asked why we did not allow interest on the money I do not know that there was any justification for paying it. A great deal of work is done by the Agricultural Department in administering the fund. The matter can well stand as it is. I do not suggest that interest should be allowed, but I wanted to know if

there had been any alteration in the policy, which was objected to when members of the Government were in opposition.

The Premier: There are times when it would be of no advantage.

Mr. MILLINGTON: Exactly. It appears to me that dingoes are increasing in number, as are also foxes and eagle hawks. The new definition of eagle hawk will make that position more clear, and will possibly lead to a saving of the funds through bonuses not in future being paid out for birds that do not belong to the wedge-tailed eagle type. By halving the bonus the Government may be able to get round on the increased number of foxes. At the start of the year there was a credit balance in the fund of £28,000. During the ensuing year the fund should be increased by £22,000. If so, the Government ought to be able to manage on the amended schedule. The Bill can better be dealt with in Committee. The amendments to the Act are necessary, and should provide for the better administration of the Act and the more efficient working of the department. I support the Bill.

MR. PIESSE (Katanning) [1.18]: I congratulate the Minister and the officers of the department upon the excellent report they have placed before the House. I hope the Premier and the Minister for Lands will be good enough to remember that a great proportion of the expenditure from the vermin fund is incurred amongst the pastoralists in the northern areas. I find that only about 30 per cent. of the money is spent in the agricultural districts, and that the balance is devoted to pastoralists in other districts. It is somewhat unjust that the agricultural portion of Western Australia should be called upon to bear so large a proportion of the expenditure. Many of our settlers can rightly complain that they have been in the past, and are now, required to pay heavy taxation—it has been increased by 50 per cent.—while there is very little vermin in their districts apart from the unfortunate kangaroos. As I have previously pointed out here, kangaroos are doing considerable damage in the agricultural districts, and in my opinion they should be classed as vermin under this Bill. I hope the Government will take the earliest opportunity of closely investigating the complaints already brought before Parliament as to destruction caused by kangaroos in the

wheat areas. The vermin tax is collected about the same time as the land tax; and I am wondering whether, in view of the reduced revenues of farmers this year, many of them will be able to pay even the vermin tax. I do hope that before the session closes the Premier will be able to afford settlers some relief from taxation, especially as regards the land tax and the vermin tax.

The Premier: I am bringing down a Bill to relieve the situation.

Mr. PIESSE: I am glad to hear it. The land tax should be deferred, or relief from it given in some other way. I wish to emphasise that settlers in the outer portion of my electorate have had considerable trouble with dingoes. Some dingoes are extremely cunning and destructive. As mentioned by the member for Mt. Hawthorn (Mr. Millington), residents often make contributions to dingo clubs, going to considerable expense and trouble for the purpose of destroying the pest, though they are not successful in every instance. The suggestion that special trappers engaged by the Agricultural Department should visit localities where dingoes are specially destructive is very wise. The people of the districts concerned have made representations on that point. I am sure splendid work will be done, giving farmers some return for their expenditure in the form of this tax.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—EAST PERTH PUBLIC HALL.

Second Reading.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. A. L. Davy—West Perth) [1.23] in moving the second reading said: The Bill contains a number of clauses, but most of them are purely machinery clauses and I do not think will interest hon. members at all. Some time ago the East Perth Progress Association, being desirous of having a hall for public purposes in the district, raised money by various means and induced the Government to vest a piece of land intended for reserve purposes, and make it available for the building of the hall. The structure was erected, but the public worried as to whether the hall was to be used entirely for public purposes. An argument arose about the matter. After a consultation with all

parties involved in the arrangement, an agreement was reached whereby the land with the hall on it was to be vested in five trustees, two of whom were to be selected from four persons nominated by the progress association, two to be selected from four persons nominated by the Mayor of Perth, and one to be chosen by the Government. The arrangement being acceptable to all parties to the discussion, this Bill was prepared in order to give the arrangement force in law, and also to create the body of trustees to control the operations of the hall. The hall is an excellent building, and it is important that it should be conducted properly in the interests of the whole of East Perth. Certain debts were incurred for the building of the hall, and the creditors to whom those debts are owed have not yet been paid. Therefore power is given to the trustees to raise money on the security of the property and pay off the creditors. I do not propose to detain members further with the matter. Most of the clauses of the Bill are such as would appear in a legal document rather than in an Act of Parliament; and I do not know that hon. members will be much concerned with them. The member for East Perth (Mr. Kenneally), who is well acquainted with the whole of the circumstances, had an opportunity of perusing the draft Bill; and I understand that he approves of what is being done. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. W. D. JOHNSON (Guildford-Midland) [1.28]: I merely wish to express my dislike of the provision, appearing in two or three clauses, which gives the Lord Mayor the right to select trustees. I have on previous occasions strongly opposed such a provision. Where there is an elected body, the responsibility for appointments of this kind should be on the elected body, and not on a Lord Mayor or other person or association. However, I know that this business is already complicated enough; and I understand that certain progress has been made towards realising the desires of the people concerned. Still, I do not like the provision in question.

The Attorney General: I am rather inclined to agree with you.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The Attorney General will remember that a Bill of this

kind relating to Geraldton was drawn on similar lines, and that similar objections were raised to it. However, at this hour I will not detain the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Panton in the Chair; the Attorney General in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 9—agreed to.

Clause 10—Powers of trustees in respect of reserve:

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Does the Minister realise that the clause provides extensive powers to the trustees, including the right to sell? That is unusual, and I am doubtful about the wisdom of such a provision.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I am not keen on extended powers being vested in trustees in these circumstances, but I think the clause contains adequate safeguards. It might be the desire of the people at East Perth at some future date to change the site of the hall, and the right to sell would then become necessary. Naturally, no Government would consent to the sale of any such property unless they had something concrete before them regarding the proposal.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 11 to 15—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILL—CITY OF PERTH ENDOWMENT LANDS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

MR. H. W. MANN (Perth) [1.35] in moving the second reading said: The clauses of the Bill deal with two separate phases. The first three clauses deal with the extension of the boundaries of the City of Perth, and have reference to certain endowment lands, while they also affect the system of rating. At present, the rating of the properties concerned is on the unimproved land values basis. Under that heading no provision is made for the owners of the pro-

perties to record their votes for the election of Lord Mayor or councillors of the City of Perth. It is not intended to delete that phase of the rating powers, but it is sought to overcome the difficulty by the inclusion of the words "in addition to the annual value" in Section 84 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1906. The effect of that will be that the owners of properties affected by the Bill will be able to record their votes at the municipal elections. I shall move to delete the last clause of the Bill. The explanation of that is that the Bill was drafted a long time ago and has been held in abeyance. Clause 4 dealt with the application of proceeds arising from sales of endowment lands, but that clause is not necessary now, and I will ask hon. members, when we deal with the Bill in Committee, to delete it. Although the property owners will be able to exercise the municipal franchise if the Bill be agreed to, they will not be called upon to pay any additional rates. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. McCallum, debate adjourned.

BILL—ANATOMY.

Council's Amendments.

Schedule of 40 amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Panton in the Chair; the Minister for Health in charge of the Bill.

No. 1: Clause 2.—After "context" insert:—"Commissioner" means the Commissioner for Health for the time being under the Health Act, 1911-1919, and includes any officer temporarily acting as Commissioner.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

The original Bill provided power to appoint inspectors. When the Bill was here I said that actually the Commissioner for Public Health would do the work, and now the Council have pinned it down to that.

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

No. 2: Clause 2.—Omit the word "appointed," under definition of "Inspector," and insert "from time to time expressly nominated by the Commissioner for the purposes of this Act."

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: This amendment is consequential on the first. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

No. 3: Clause 3.—At the end of the clause insert the words "at an authorised school of anatomy."

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: We said that we would use the University buildings for the purposes of the Bill, but it is now proposed to set up an authorised school of anatomy. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

No. 4: Clause 4.—Omit the clause.

No. 5: Clause 5.—Omit "every inspector" and insert "the Commissioner."

No. 6: Clause 6.—After the words "lawful for" insert "the Commissioner and."

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: These are all consequential. I move—

That amendments Nos. 4, 5, and 6 be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's Amendments Nos. 4, 5 and 6 agreed to.

No. 7: Clause 6.—At the end of the clause, add the words "and, from time to time, as prescribed by regulation, shall report to the Minister in respect of every such inspection."

No. 8. Clause 7.—Line one, before the words "the Minister," insert "subject to this Act."

No. 9. Clause 7.—Lines 9, 10, and 11, omit the words "undergo . . . institution," and insert "be removed therefrom for the purpose of anatomical examination at some authorised school of anatomy."

No. 10. Clause 8.—Before the words "it shall," in line 1, insert "subject to this Act."

No. 11. Clause 8.—After the word "examination" insert "at some authorised school of anatomy."

No. 12. Clause 9.—Before the words “if any,” in line 1, insert “subject to this Act.”

No. 13. Clause 9.—After the word “examination” insert “at some authorised school of anatomy.”

No. 14. Clause 10.—Omit the words “inspector of the district” and insert “Commissioner.”

No. 15. Clause 10.—Omit the words “or if no such . . . death.”

No. 16. Clause 11.—Omit the words “medical practitioner . . . this Act,” in lines 1, 2, 3, and 4, and insert “authorised school of anatomy.”

No. 17. Clause 11.—Line 5, omit the words “or to examine anatomically.”

No. 18. Clause 12.—After the words “every person,” in line 1, insert “in charge of an authorised school of anatomy.”

No. 19. Clause 12.—Omit the words “inspector of the district. . . is removed,” and insert “Commissioner.”

No. 20. Clause 12.—After the words “so to do by” insert “the Commissioner or.”

No. 21. Clause 13.—Omit all words after the word “body,” in line 4, and insert “except at an authorised school of anatomy.”

No. 22. Clause 14.—Omit the word “so,” in line 1.

No. 23. Clause 14.—Omit the word “removing,” in line 4, and insert “receiving.”

No. 24. Clause 14.—Omit the word “removed,” in line 4, and insert “received.”

No. 25. Clause 14.—After the word “ground,” in line 7, insert “if so desired by any surviving husband or wife or any known relative.”

No. 26. Clause 14.—Omit the word “removed,” in line 9, and insert “received.”

No. 27. Clause 14.—In line 11, omit the words “inspector of the district,” and insert “Commissioner.”

No. 28. Clause 15.—Omit the word “inspectors” and insert “the Commissioner.”

No. 29. Clause 19.—Par. (2), after the words “every person” insert “or authority.”

No. 30. Clause 19.—Par. 3, (a), after the word “impede” insert “the Commissioner or.”

No. 31. Clause 19.—After the word “powers” insert “and duties.”

No. 32. Clause 19.—Par. (c), omit the words “any inspector . . . aforesaid,” and insert “the Commissioner”

No. 33. Clause 19.—After the words “book to” insert “the Commissioner or to.”

No. 34. Clause 20.—Omit the words “inconsistent with this Act”; insert “for the conduct, equipment, inspection and control of authorised schools of anatomy, for the discipline thereof and for.”

No. 35. Insert a new clause, as follows:—
3. The provisions of this Act shall, subject to the control of the Minister, be administered by the Commissioner and such inspectors as he may deem necessary.

No. 36. Insert a new clause as follows:—
4. (1.) The Governor, by license, may authorise the establishment of schools of anatomy at such places as he may determine, and may impose such conditions relating thereto as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct thereof. (2.) Any license under this section shall be subject to revocation by the Governor at any time.

No. 37. Insert a new clause as follows:—
11. Before the body of any deceased person referred to in Sections 8, 9, and 10 of this Act, is removed for the purposes of anatomical examination, the attention of any surviving husband or wife, or any relative known to the authority, or person having the body in his or her possession, control or power, shall be directed to the provisions of the said sections and consent thereto obtained in writing. The term “authority” in this section, includes any medical officer, nurse or other person who has attended such deceased person during his illness or stay in any such institution.

No. 38. Insert a new clause as follows:—
18. It shall be unlawful for any person to take or remove from a body of any deceased person any portion or specimen part thereof before such body is received into an authorised school of anatomy, or to take or remove, except for burial or cremation, any portion or specimen part of a body, from an authorised school of anatomy, or to have in his possession any portion or specimen part of a body which has been taken or removed in contravention of this section: Provided that this section shall not apply to a licensed person approved by the Commissioner taking or removing a portion or specimen part of a body or having

the same in his possession by and with the authority of an authorised school of anatomy for educational, scientific, or research purposes.

No. 39. Title.—Amend by inserting after the word "Act" the words "to provide for the establishment and regulation of schools of anatomy and to."

No. 40. After the word "anatomy," at the end of the Title, insert the word "thereat."

On motions by the Minister for Health, the foregoing amendments were agreed to.

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

BILL—ROADS CLOSURE.

Council's Amendment.

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Panton in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

Insert a new clause, to stand as Clause 7, as follows:—7. That portion of Miriam Street in the North Fremantle municipal district extending from the Eastern side of Bracks Street to the Western side of Napier Street is hereby closed, and all rights-of-way over the same shall cease on the passing of this Act, and the land comprised therein is hereby revested in His Majesty as of his former estate.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The North Fremantle council ask for the closure of a street between two blocks of land purchased by the Shell Oil Company. The road is unused and unmade. It is necessary to secure Parliamentary authority for the closure. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

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

BILL—RESERVES.

Council's Amendments.

Schedule of four amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Panton in the Chair; the Minister for Lands in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 9.—Insert after the word "institute," in line 8, the words "or if such institute be incorporated, then the said land may be leased to such incorporated body."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Under Clause 9 it is proposed to lease certain lands to the Postal Institute and another place has decided that if the institute become an incorporated body, the lease shall stand.

Mr. McCallum: Where is the land?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It is the Claremont Road Board's recreation ground near Point Resolution. An area is being leased on which work is being provided for unemployed members of the institute. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

No. 2. Clause 12.—Insert at the end a proviso, as follows:—

"Provided that if such land shall cease to be used as a Reserve for the purposes last mentioned, then the said land shall revert to and be again included in the said Reserve 1720."

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: This provides for the excision from King's Park of a certain portion of land for the purpose of putting down a bore upon it. In another place some opposition was shown to this. A proviso has been inserted there to provide that at the end of the term, if the Public Works Department do not require the land, it shall revert back to the King's Park Board. I have no objection to this. In all probability the land will never go back to the park. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

No. 3. Insert a new clause, to stand as Clause 15, as follows:—

15. All that portion of Class "A" Reserve 6161 for "Reforestation," at Yandil siding, as described in the Fourth Schedule, is hereby excluded from such Reserve to the intent that the land may be disposed of under the provisions of "The Land Act, 1898," and amendments.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: There is a Class A Reserve which was originally set aside for reforestation before the forest reserve areas were named. It is proposed to excise from this reserve a small piece of land to be thrown open again to the Lands Department. This is at Yandil siding, not far from Margaret River. The area involved is only about 120 acres, but it is necessary to get Parliamentary sanction for the transfer. The Forests Department concur in this. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

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

No. 4. Insert a new Schedule, as follows:—

Fourth Schedule.

All that portion of Class "A" Reserve 6161 bounded by lines starting from a point on the North boundary of Nelson Location 6687 situate about 14 chains from its North-East corner, and extending North-Westward about 25 chains; thence North-Eastward to the Western side of a road passing along the Western boundary of the Bridgetown Railway Reserve; thence along the said side of road North-Westward for a distance of about 20 chains; thence South-Westward about 22 chains; and thence South to the North boundary of Nelson Location 6687 aforesaid; and thence East along the latter about 37 chains 50 links to the starting point. (Area about 76 acres.)

All bearings and distances being approximate and subject to survey.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: This is consequential on Amendment No. 3. 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.

DISCHARGE OF ORDERS.

On motion by the Premier, the following Orders of the Day were discharged from the Notice Paper—

1. Transfer of Land Act Amendment Bill (Second Reading).

2. Limitation Bill (Second Reading).

BILL—COLLIE RECREATION AND PARK LANDS RESERVE.

Order Discharged.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [2.4]: I move—

That the Order of the Day, the second reading of the Collie Recreation and Park Lands Reserve Bill, be discharged from the Notice Paper.

HON. W. D. JOHNSON (Guildford-Midland) [2.5]: The member for Collie is not at present in the House. I should like to know whether this Bill was brought down at the request of the people of Collie, and, whether its discharge from the Notice Paper has been approved by the member for the district.

The Premier: That is in the hands of the Minister for Lands.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. G. Latham—York) [2.6]: The object of the Bill was to give certain powers to the Collie municipality and road board. There has, however, been some difficulty in getting a Bill drafted to suit the occasion. It is proposed to introduce one early next session. In anticipation of Parliamentary approval we shall probably give some authority to these people once we have arrived at an understanding between the two bodies.

Question put and passed.

BILL—LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. A. L. Davy—West Perth) [2.7] in moving the second reading said: There are two bodies in existence dealing with the same people, the Licensing Court and the Licenses Reduction Board. The latter was created by an amendment to the Act of 1922. It was then given a life of a definite length, but that life was extended, and will expire on the 31st December of this year. The Government feel that the powers of the Licenses Reduction Board are useful in the control and proper conduct of hotels. Its main power is to close up licenses where the requirements of the district do not justify them. The bulk of the work which was necessary then has been accomplished, but

as Western Australia contains many districts with varying populations, such as mining towns which break out here and close down there, it seems that it would be useful for the court to retain these powers, though it would not continue to use them to a large extent.

Mr. Willcock: There are no contributions to the fund now.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There is a reserve in the fund of between £6,000 and £7,000.

Mr. H. W. Mann: It is no use keeping it there.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It is very useful to have it there, for it pays the expenses of the Licensing Court.

Mr. Willcock: Suppose it had to be given back to those who contributed it?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It seems impossible to begin working out a scheme whereby that fund can be distributed in the proper channels. If this part of the Act were allowed to go out of existence, we should have to set about working out how to give it back. We could not give it back.

Mr. Willcock: Lots of people could make a claim upon the fund.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: One's imagination fairly boggles at the job someone would have in working out the sum. At present the money is doing extremely useful work in paying the expenses of the licensing court.

Mr. Willcock: Some of them.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Probably all of them for a period. The continuation of this power will not involve any additional cost. The court must be there. The continuation of this part of the Act merely enables the court to exercise certain functions which could not be exercised without this part.

On motion by Mr. Willcock, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [2.11]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 7.30 p.m. to-day (Thursday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 2.12 a.m. (Thursday).

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 4th December, 1930.

	PAGE
Sittings, additional hours	2286
Leave of absence	2286
Bills: Hospital Fund, report	2286
Forests Act Amendment, 2r.	2287
Appropriation, 2r.	2288
Premium Bonds, 2r., etc.	2288
Traffic Act Amendment, Assembly's further Message	2304
Roads Closure, Assembly's Message	2304
Reserves, Assembly's Message	2304
Anatomy, Assembly's Message	2304
Totalisator Duty Act Amendment, 2r., Com. report	2304
Friendly Societies Act Amendment, 2r., Com.	2306
Entertainments Tax Assessment Act Amendment, Com. report	2306
Entertainments Tax Act Amendment, 2r.	2308
Hospital Fund (Contributions), 2r., Com. report	2310
Motion: Collye Power Scheme	2310

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

SITTINGS HOURS—ADDITIONAL.

Standing Order Suspension.

THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.33]: I move—

That Standing Order No. 62 be suspended for the remainder of the present session.

A glance at the Notice Paper will show that we have a fairly large volume of business before us, in addition to which other Bills will shortly be reaching us from another place. Now that the session is drawing to a close, it is necessary that I should be in a position to deal with new business after 10 p.m. I trust members will be reasonable in the matter, so that we may not be crowded out and have very long sittings at the fag end of the session.

Question put and passed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Hon. G. W. Miles, leave of absence granted to Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom (North) for six consecutive sittings of the House on the ground of ill-health.

BILL—HOSPITAL FUND.

Report of Committee adopted.