

# Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 6th October, 1931.

	PAGE
Swearing-in of member	4520
Questions: State Shipping Service, Wyndham schedule	4520
Electoral, Legislative Council elections	4520
Stock regulations, Kimberley cattle	4520
Workers' homes, reduction of interest	4520
Paper: Fremantle traffic bridge	4520
Bills: Interstate Destitute Parsons' Relief Act	
Amendment, IR.	4521
Dried Fruits Act Continuance, Cont.	4521
Adjournment: Royal Show.	4522

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

## SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.

The President announced the receipt of a return to a writ issued for the election of a member for the South-East Province, showing that Alexander Thomson had been duly elected. Hon. A. Thomson took and subscribed the oath, and signed the roll.

## QUESTION—STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

*Wyndham Schedule.*

Hon. G. W. MILES asked the Chief Secretary: In view of the isolated position of Wyndham, particularly during the wet season, do the Government intend, when fixing the itinerary of the State Shipping Service, to provide a monthly service instead of the existing service to that port?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: State ships will call at Wyndham on 17th October, 12th December, and 11th February. The trade offering during those months is not sufficient to warrant a more frequent service.

## QUESTION—ELECTORAL.

*Legislative Council Elections.*

Hon. G. W. MILES asked the Chief Secretary: Do the Government intend to amend the Electoral Act to provide for at least 30 days between nomination and polling day for Legislative Council elections?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: The Electoral Act already provides that a period not exceeding 30 days may be fixed between nomination and polling day.

## QUESTION—STOCK REGULATIONS, KIMBERLEY CATTLE.

Hon. G. W. MILES asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Do the Government intend to give effect to the resolution passed by the Council on the 23rd June, 1931, recommending the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the administration and application of the regulations under the Stock Diseases Act? 2, If so, when?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes. 2, The necessary arrangements are almost finalised.

## QUESTION—WORKERS' HOMES.

*Reduction of Interest Rates.*

Hon. W. H. KITSON asked the Chief Secretary: What action do the Government propose to take regarding a reduction of interest rates to clients of the Workers' Homes Board?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: Australian loan moneys advanced to the Workers' Homes Board will be charged for at a reduced rate, and the saving will be passed on to the board's clients. It will take some little time to estimate how much of the board's capital was borrowed in Australia and how much in London; there can be no reduction on that part borrowed in London.

## PAPERS—FREMANTLE TRAFFIC BRIDGE.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [4.37]: I move—

That the report of the marine survey of the Fremantle traffic bridge, carried out during 1930, be laid on the Table of the House.

The reasons that actuated me in placing this motion on the Paper were as follows: Some 18 months ago I asked the Minister certain questions regarding the inspection of the bridge and requested him to table the diver's report. The Minister at the time agreed to do so, and also promised that the depart-

ment would have a marine survey made, because the report then tabled had been made some four or five years previously. The Minister carried out his promise and about 12 months ago had another marine inspection made. Some three or four months ago I requested that the diver's report of the 1930 inspection be tabled. The Minister, in his reply, stated that the diver had submitted no written report, but that the engineer had submitted proposals and the Government were carrying out certain works, which, I understood, were to cost in the vicinity of £4,000. I thought it rather peculiar that no report should be submitted by the diver in 1930, seeing that there had been a report by the diver in 1926. On making inquiries I found that whilst the diver last year made no recommendations, the method adopted was that when he reached the surface, he reported to the engineer, and the engineer submitted a report. It was that report which I desired to have tabled. Whether it came from the diver or from the engineer I was not concerned, but I am concerned to have the report on that inspection for perusal. The mere fact of the Government having undertaken renovations to the bridge, costing about £4,000, shows that certain repairs were necessary, and as one of the representatives of the province, I feel it incumbent upon me to do everything possible to ensure that the bridge is kept in a safe condition. I dare say the Minister will be prepared to table the papers, but I did not wish to repeat the risk I took on the last occasion by asking a question because then, through a technicality, the papers were not tabled. If the Minister is prepared to table the papers, I am agreeable to withdraw the motion, but I thought it wise to explain my reasons for moving for the papers instead of asking a question.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.41]: In response to the request of the hon. member, I have pleasure in laying the papers on the Table.

**HON. G. FRASER** (West—in reply) [4.42]: As the Minister has acceded to my request, I ask leave to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

## **BILL—INTERSTATE DESTITUTE PERSONS' RELIEF ACT AMENDMENT.**

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

## **BILL—DRIED FRUITS ACT CONTINUANCE.**

*In Committee.*

Resumed from the 13th August; Hon. J. Cornell in the Chair, the Chief Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clause 2—Continuance of principal Act (partly considered):

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY:** There is a conflict in this clause owing to the fact that when the measure was previously under consideration here the print of the Bill in another place was sent forward, the amendments not being shown. Accordingly, progress was reported until this Chamber could obtain a print of the Bill as amended elsewhere. Further, a mistake had occurred through the amendment Act of 1929 being overlooked. Consequently the Bill was not in order. It is necessary now to pass two amendments. I move—

That after the word "thereof" in line 3, there be inserted "as amended by the Dried Fruits Act Continuance Act, 1929."

Amendment put and passed.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY:** I move an amendment—

That after the word "thirty," in line 4, there be inserted the word "two."

This amendment represents the correction of an error.

**HON. H. J. YELLAND:** The desirability of an alteration in the definition section of the principal Act has been suggested. There has not been an opportunity to go thoroughly into that question, and therefore I should like the Minister to report progress.

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

Title:

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY:** As Mr. Yelland thinks a further amendment may be necessary, an opportunity to recommit will be given.

The CHAIRMAN: This is a Bill to continue the operation of the Dried Fruits Act, and nothing else. The only amendment that could be accepted on recomittal would be one to extend the operation of the principal Act beyond 1935, or to a date earlier than the end of 1935. No other amendment could be accepted.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Could not the Title be amended so as to permit of another amendment?

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: Would I be in order in moving that the Title be amended so as to permit of the insertion of a new clause?

The CHAIRMAN: Nothing in the Title of the Bill indicates that there is to be any amendment of the principal Act except to continue the operation of that Act.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: If the hon. member wishes to amend the parent Act, I presume he will be in order in introducing another Bill for that purpose; but he cannot do that under the present Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: That is so.

Progress reported.

## ADJOURNMENT—ROYAL SHOW.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.50]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Thursday, the 8th October.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 4.52 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Tuesday, 6th October, 1931.*

	PAGE
Question: Canning stock route	4522
Bills: Firearms and Guns Act Amendment, 1R.	4522
Licensing Act Amendment (No. 4), 1R.	4522
Interstate Destitute Persons' Relief Act Amendment, 3R.	4522
Poor Persons' Legal Assistance Act Amendment, 2R.	4522
State Savings Bank Transfer, 2R, Com.	4523
Adjournment, Royal Show	4554

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

## QUESTION—CANNING STOCK ROUTE.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Works: 1, What was the total expenditure incurred in the reconditioning of the Canning stock route? 2, Is it the intention of the Government to employ a patrol party on the stock route to protect from destruction by natives the work already done? 3, What was the average cost of maintaining wells on the various stock routes in the North-West prior to those wells being handed over to the different road boards for care and maintenance?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, £22,139. 2, Not at present. 3, The average annual maintenance costs for five years ended 30th June, 1921, were as follows:—Mingenew-Port Hedland £783, Port Hedland-Derby £807, Leonora-Nullagine £972, Cue-Ashburton £212.

## BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Firearms and Guns Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Police.
- 2, Licensing Act Amendment (No. 4).  
Introduced by Mr. H. W. Mann.

## BILL—INTERSTATE DESTITUTE PERSONS' RELIEF ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

## BILL—POOR PERSONS' LEGAL ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENT.

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 30th September.

HON. J. C. WILLCOCK (Geraldton) [4.37]: There is not much to be said about this Bill, nor does it affect any vital principle. It merely simplifies the present procedure. The procedure now adopted concerning *in forma pauperis* applications has existed for many years, and no better method seemed to suggest itself. It has, however, been found from experience that a better method can be adopted, and that the Act can be made to work more smoothly by means of the amendments set out in the Bill.