

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 17th September, 1925.

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

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 2), £1,232,000.

Second Reading.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.33] in moving the second reading said: In this Bill the Government ask for Supply for an additional period of two months. Under the previous Supply Bill, supplies were provided to the 31st August. The details of the moneys now required are as follows: Revenue Fund, £700,000; General Loan Fund, £500,000; Sale of Government Property Trust Fund, £30,000; Land Improvement Loan Fund, £2,000; total, £1,232,000. The Supply granted for the two months soon after the commencement of the present session represented: Revenue Fund, £850,000; General Loan Fund, £750,000; Sale of Government Property Trust Fund, £10,500; Land Improvement Loan Fund, £3,000; total £1,613,500. Treasurer's Advance amounted to £300,000, the grand total being £1,913,500. The expenditure to the 31st August from the Supply previously granted was as follows: Revenue Fund, £637,119; General Loan Fund, £437,945; Sale of Government Property Trust Fund, £12,254; Land Improvement Loan Fund, £1,632; a total of £1,088,950. The only difference between the amount asked for this year and the expenditure for the same period of last year is under the Sale of Government Property Trust Fund. This is due to an adjustment of the amounts due with respect to the Ravensthorpe smelters. The total amount asked for by this and the preceding Bill is: Revenue Fund, £1,550,000; General Loan Fund, £1,250,000; Sale of Government Property Trust Fund, £40,500; Land Improvement Loan Fund, £5,000; a total of £2,845,500; Treasurer's Advance, £300,000;

a grand total of £3,145,500. The amount asked for is based on last year's expenditure. During the first four months of last year the expenditure was: Revenue Fund, £1,474,021; General Loan Fund, £1,016,981; Sale of Government Property Trust Fund, £10,506; Land Improvement Loan Fund, £1,945; a total of £2,503,453. The expenditure this year is on very similar lines to that of last year. The Budget will be presented as early as possible. The financial results of the first two months of this year are slightly worse than those for the same period of last year. For instance, the expenditure for that period of 1924 was £1,164,888, and for 1925 it was £1,208,714, or an increase of £43,826. The revenue also showed an increase. As against £822,131 in 1924, it was £856,905 in 1925, an increase of £34,774. As compared with 1924, the deficit for the two months shows an increase of £9,052. The increase in the expenditure is largely due to increased interest and sinking fund, the increase being £30,915. The railways also show an increase of £10,014. The variations under other heads are not great. The increased revenue was due largely to: income tax increase, £20,472; land tax, £8,274; railways, £16,329; and timber, £6,656. Other increases and decreases are not large. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

Standing Orders Suspension.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.40]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Supply Bill to pass through its remaining stages at this sitting.

All I need say is that the Government wish to carry on the financial part of their administration with Parliamentary authority.

Question put and passed.

Third Reading.

Bill read a third time and passed.

BILL—FORESTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

BILL—CITY OF PERTH.

In Committee.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan in the Chair; the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 6—agreed to.

Clause 7—Borrowing powers:

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: It is considered that the clause may need some slight alteration. I would ask the Minister to report progress so that the position may be further considered.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move—

That progress be reported and leave asked to sit again.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: We should pass the Bill as promptly as possible because it is a matter of urgency. The object is to enable the Council, among other things, to acquire land that will allow the municipal authorities to extend Forrest Place through to St. George's-terrace. It is well known to hon. members that at the present time the Congregational Church authorities are erecting a building and until the Bill is passed the City Council cannot step in and acquire the land. The more that is spent in connection with the building operations, the more the citizens will have to pay. No objection was taken to the Bill in another place where it was scrutinised very carefully by the Minister for Lands (Hon. W. C. Angwin). This clause provides additional borrowing powers to enable the City Council to acquire land and so on, but the exercise of those powers will be subject to the consent of the ratepayers. There is a lot to be done before the municipal council can act, and if we hang up the Bill, it will mean more expense for the citizens.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member is exceeding the limit that should be imposed on such a discussion.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I ask the hon. member if he wishes, in these circumstances, to press for progress being reported.

The CHAIRMAN: I understood that the hon. member was doing so but it is contrary

to our Standing Orders to discuss a motion such as that before the Chair.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: By way of personal explanation, I would like to point out that the request I have made comes from the city solicitors as representing those concerned. I am in agreement with what Mr. Lovekin has said in view of the building operations that are going on.

Hon. T. Moore: Cannot we pass the Bill and then recommit it, if necessary?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Yes, we could do that, if the Minister withdraws his motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 8 and 9—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Do I understand that the report has been adopted?

The PRESIDENT: Yes.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Can I move for the recommitment of the Bill at the third reading stage?

The PRESIDENT: Yes.

House adjourned at 4.51 p.m.

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

BILL—INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.