have had. I venture to say that if the previous Government had not taken the steps which it took in the face of severe criticism, even from its own supporters—

The Minister for Mines: Pretty costly steps.

Mr. COURT: That Government got the coal and kept industry going at a stage when the coal supply was very critical.

The Minister for Mines: It left a heritage to the incoming Government of having to pay thousands of pounds.

Mr. COURT: The Government was left a wonderful asset. This was the only State with no coal shortage, and the Government had the coal available to keep the vital economy of the State going. All these things have to be weighed up in considering the coal situation. In spite of the remarks of the Minister to the contrary, the greatest bargaining weapon available to the Government in the last few months was the presence of the third company.

The Minister for Mines: It is a figment of your imagination.

Mr. COURT It was the greatest weapon available to the Government and it should not be lost sight of. I thank the Premier for undertaking to table the papers. We look forward to seeing the papers with great interest.

Question put and a division called for.

The ACTING SPEAKER: As there is no member voting with the noes, under Standing Order 205, I call off the division and declare the question passed.

Question thus passed.

House adjourned at 10.45 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, 19th September, 1957.

CONTENTS.

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.

METROPOLITAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Light and Power Points.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN (for Hon. N. E. Baxter) asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) How many primary schools in the metropolitan area are without an electric light point in each classroom, and the necessary power points for visual education?

(2) If any are without these installations, would he advise the names of the schools?

(3) What would be the approximate cost of wiring and installing light points, and necessary power points for visual education in a five-classroom school?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) This information is not available.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

(3) This depends on the circumstances of any particular case.

OMNIBUSES.

Chassis Design.

Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Further to my questions regarding high entrance steps on the new under-floor-motor Daimler buses, is it not a fact that before the bus chassis arrived in Western Australia sketch plans were prepared by, or were in the possession of, the department, which plans provided for three steps?

(2) Will he lay such sketch plans upon the Table of the House?

(3) How high are the steps which are at present fitted?

(4) Will he also lay upon the Table of the House the chassis plans of the buses?

(5) Is it not a fact that, in England, buses of the same type are fitted with a hydraulically-operated door and step, which operation provides three steps?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes, it is not a fact.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

(3) Ground to 1st step—15½ inches.
1st to 2nd step—13½ inches.
2nd step to floor—13½ inches.

(4) Yes.

(5) No knowledge.

COOLGARDIE-ESPERANCE RAILWAY.

Alteration of Time-table.

Hon. G. BENNETTS asked the Minister for Railways:

Is it the intention of the Railway Department to alter the time-tables on the Coolgardie-Esperance line in the near future?

The MINISTER replied:

No alteration is under consideration at present.

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES.

Mechanical Failures.

Hon. J. D. TEAHAN asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) How many failures have occurred on X and XA diesel locomotives due to heads, pistons, and block faults, in the last six months?

(2) Have any occurred with the new type of parts being supplied?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Any damage to heads and blocks has been a direct result of piston failures, of which there were 16 in the last six months.

(2) No.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Details of Bores.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) How many bore holes, in the search for water, have been put down in the following areas—

(a) Salmon Gum properties;

(b) Grass Patch properties;

(c) any other sites in Mallee area (excluding Esperance)?

(2) To what depth were they drilled?

(3) When were they put down?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) (a) Nil.

(b) Nil.

(c) 18—North of Gibson's Soak.

(2) Depths varied from 8ft. to 74ft.

(3) In 1952.

BILL—LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT (No 3).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. A. R. JONES (Midland) [2.21]: There is very little that I desire to say with regard to this measure. I have no real objection to it as I think it deals with something that was overlooked when the previous amendment was made to the Act, allowing hotels to serve two bottles of beer on Sunday mornings in the Goldfields. area. My only reason for objecting to the amendment is that at the moment a parliamentary committee has been appointed to inquire into the liquor laws and to conduct a full investigation before submitting a report to Parliament.

While that committee is investigating the position thoroughly, I do not know that we should tamper with the Act by means of small amendments, two of which, I believe, are before Parliament at present. These questions should be held over until the committee has made its report, because it might recommend more comprehensive amendments to the Act; and in that event, anything we do now might be rendered redundant, as well as necessitating an extra printing of the Act, which would entail considerable expense. For those reasons I appeal to members not to support the Bill. I have no doubt that when recommendations made by the committee I have mentioned are available it will be found that the Goldfields will receive justice in regard to our liquor laws.

On motion by Hon. L. A. Logan, debate adjourned.

BILL—LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 15th August.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. H. C. Strickland—North) [2.28]: This is another small measure to amend the existing Act; but after listening to what Mr. Jones had to say, I feel that there is some merit in his suggestion. This Bill aims to bring certain hotels within the radius prescribed so as to enable them to hold the special Sunday sessions, which of course has reference to the period allowed on Sundays—an hour morning and afternoon—during which those hotels may trade. Even if we alter the prescribed radius by a few miles, there will still remain many people who will be just one or two miles outside that radius; and no matter what we do, that position will apply.

I am not in favour of creating any new anomalies; and I feel that the Bill before us, if agreed to, will simply make it easier for those who wish to get a drink on Sunday to do so. Until this and the previous measure have been further considered, in the light of the suggestion made by Mr. Jones with reference to the committee that is at present investigating the liquor laws, I intend to reserve my decision in connection with this Bill.

On motion by Hon. L. A. Logan, debate adjourned.

BILL—TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Second Reading.

HON. L. C. DIVER (Central) [2.29] in moving the second reading said: This is a short Bill which I am submitting to the House for consideration owing to the administrative action of the Police Department in regard to the issuing of motor-vehicle drivers' licences.

We are all aware that a new departure has been made in the issuing of motor-vehicle drivers' licences, in that each person who is the holder of a motor-vehicle driver's licence, and who wishes to renew that licence, may do so by going to any traffic office in the metropolitan area set out on the licence; or, if the individual is resident in the country, he may take the expiring licence to a police station, where he is issued with an interim receipt. His old licence is retained by the officer in charge of the police station. It is kept there with others; and when a sufficient number has accumulated, they are sent in bulk to the chief traffic office for renewal. In due course that licence is returned to the police station where the country resident will eventually pick it up.

That is causing quite a lot of inconvenience; and, on inquiry, it was found that this practice had been adopted by the Traffic Branch under Section 23 of the Traffic Act simply as a piece of administrative machinery in carrying out the requirements of that section. Section 23 does not provide any hard-and-fast method to be adopted by the Police Department in the renewal or issuing of traffic licences.

Apart from being inconvenient, this procedure has other shortcomings; because after the licence has been initially issued—and if this practice is to continue—a person is able to put his driver's licence in an envelope and post it to his nearest police station, or to the central authority, for renewal, regardless of what infirmity or defect he may be suffering from—regardless of the fact that he may have poor eyesight or some other physical deformity.

We have heard a great deal about the hazards of the road caused by defective motor-vehicles. But whether a motor-vehicle be defective; whether it be mechanically unsound and its brakes not all that is desired; or whether it be quite sound, it is no better than the man who is at the helm, and in control of it. It is imperative, therefore, that as far as practicable the driver's licence be renewed from the police station nearest to such driver.

Consequently this Bill proposes, by a very short amendment to Section 23, to delete certain words in Part I which state that the commissioner or officer operating under him may issue a licence. My amendment proposes to delete the word "may" and insert the word "shall" in lieu so that any officer who is in charge of a police station shall, on the request of the motor driver for the renewal of his licence, issue a renewal provided that other parts of Section 23 are complied with.

The other provisions of Section 23 deal with the ability of the person and detail certain standards that are required of that person before such licence can be issued. But if the applicant fulfills all those requirements it is proposed to make it mandatory for the officer in charge of the police station to issue such licence.

On the back of the existing licence the question of postal facilities is also mentioned; and I feel that this could run into quite a considerable sum of money in the aggregate, quite apart from the amount of time that would be wasted. We hear a great deal from all political sections of the community to the effect that they believe in decentralisation, and that such work should be done away from the city as is possible. Yet in this instance we have a golden example of how those in charge of the administration of the Traffic Act are doing their level best to centralise all the work they can. I feel I can confidently ask for the support of every member of this Chamber if he really and conscientiously believes in decentralisation. If he does I am sure my proposed amendment will be supported.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Do you like that piece of paper or would you rather have the book form?

Hon. L. C. DIVER: There is no question in regard to which I would rather have: this piece of paper, or the old type of licence. There is simply no comparison. My amendment does not cover that aspect; but I have yet to meet any individual who approves of the Cheap-Jack type of licence we have today. Previously a piece of paper was glued into the old licence, which was neat, handy and durable; and it amazes me that it has been departed from.

Hon. Sir Charles Latham: It was a good souvenir taken away from us.

Hon. L. A. Logan: It was not as good as the older one.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: To that extent I might have included something in my amending Bill.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It contained a driver's record.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: Yes, it did; and in that regard some of us were fortunate because we have been driving motor-vehicles for many years but still hold a cleanskin licence. However, there is an element of luck in it, because the most competent motorist on the road makes a driving error every day—that is where the element of luck comes in.

That is extraneous to the matter under consideration; and I do not want to confuse the issue in regard to the present position, which I wish to remedy. It is in regard to the country dweller in particular who, in years gone by, could walk into the police station, present his licence—accompanied by the deposit required under the Traffic Act—and obtain a renewal of his license; and then walk out knowing it was up to date, and the whole transaction was completed. The position today is, as I have already stated, just a muddle and

confusion so far as many country dwellers are concerned. I trust I will get the support required in this Chamber and, in due course, from another place. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

BILL—LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 17th September. Hon. W. R. Hall in the Chair; Hon. J. D. Teahan in charge of the Bill.

Postponed Clause 538—Council to impose general rate:

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported on this clause after Mr. Mattiske had moved the following amendment:—

That after the word "property," in line 16, page 402, the following new subclauses be inserted:—

(4) In the valuation of land on the annual value, the following rules shall be observed:—

(a) "Land," for the purpose of such valuation, shall include all reclaimed or unreclaimed land, and all houses, buildings and other structures or property erected thereon or thereunder, but shall not include any machinery, whether affixed to the soil or not.

(b) The annual value of ratable land which is improved or occupied shall be deemed to be a sum equal to the estimated full, fair average amount of rent at which such land may reasonably be expected to let from year to year, on the assumption (if necessary to be made) that such letting is allowed by law, less the amount of all rates and taxes and a deduction of twenty pounds per centum for repairs, insurance and other outgoings.

(c) The annual value of ratable land which is improved or occupied shall in no case be deemed to be less than four pounds per centum upon the capital value of the land in fee simple.

(d) When more persons than one are in separate occupation of a building erected on any portion of ratable land, each of them shall be deemed to be in occupation of a part of such land, and the annual value of such part shall be taken to bear the same proportion to the annual value of the whole of the land as the annual rental value of the part of the building occupied by him bears to the annual value of the whole of the building.

(e) The annual value of ratable land held under any tenure peculiar to goldfields or mineral fields shall be the fair average annual value of the land of the same quality held in fee simple in the same neighbourhood, with the buildings erected thereon, but without regard to the value of any other improvements made or work done upon the land, and without regard to any metals or minerals contained or supposed to be contained in it.

(f) The annual value of ratable land which is unimproved and unoccupied shall be taken to be not less than ten pounds per centum on the capital value:

Provided that no land shall be considered to be unoccupied if the same is a portion of the original grant from the Crown, and let or occupied with any part of the same lands belonging to the same owner that are occupied and rated.

(g) No allotment or separate portion of ratable land shall be valued at an annual value of less than three pounds:

Provided that, when the same person is the owner of two or more parcels of unoccupied land adjoining one another, such parcels shall be valued as one.

(5) Where the buildings on any ratable land constitute a factory within the meaning of the Factories and Shops Act, 1920-1954, and the capital value thereof exceeds an amount of ten thousand pounds then, notwithstanding anything contained in Subsection (4) of this section or

elsewhere in this Act, the annual value of such land shall be one quarter of the amount which, but for the provisions of this subsection, would otherwise be its annual value.

(6) Where at least one-third of the councillors sign and cause to be delivered to the mayor or president, as the case may be, a demand that—

(a) where the general rate imposed by the council of the municipality is assessed on the unimproved value of the property, such rate be assessed on the annual value of the property instead of on the unimproved value thereof or

(b) where the general rate imposed by the council of the municipality is assessed on the annual value of the property, such rate be assessed on the unimproved value of the property instead of on the annual value thereof,

and that the question, whether or not the proposed alteration in the method of assessment of the rate imposed be effected, be submitted to a poll of the electors of the municipality, the mayor or president, as the case may be, shall cause the question to be submitted to a poll of the electors of the municipality to be held on a day appointed by him, being not less than forty-two days nor more than seventy days after that on which the demand is delivered as aforesaid.

(7) In the taking of such poll, the provisions of subsections (6) and (7) of section ten of this Act shall apply.

(8) If at the poll a majority of the valid votes cast is in favour of the alteration in the method of assessment of the rate imposed, the Governor shall by Order declare that such alteration shall apply and take effect as at the date of commencement of the next financial year of the municipality.

Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Subclause (4) contains, word for word, the same provisions as are at present in the Municipal Corporations Act, and is therefore not objectionable, although it would be preferable if the provisions were redrafted to eliminate some ambiguities.

Subclause (5), however, is most objectionable and would cause considerable consternation among local authorities if its import was realised. It amounts to the derating of all factories, the capital value of the buildings of which are valued at £10,000 so that only one quarter of the ordinary rates would be charged. This practice operates in England and has been consistently under attack by local authorities for many years, the discussion during the past few years being particularly heated and demands made from all over the country for the elimination of this concession. Local authorities in England consider that the factories can pass on their rates as part of their cost of production; and therefore, as their market may cover the whole of the country or the whole of the world, purchasers of the goods should bear the cost of amenities which are supplied by the council instead of simply the local residents being forced to supply amenities to the factories at one quarter of the normal rate.

The vast majority of factories of any areas would have land and buildings valued at £10,000 and they would then all receive the concession. The small factory which might be struggling and worthy of some assistance would have to pay full rates. The absurdity of this position can be realised if it is remembered that a factory having had buildings valued at £10,000, and with rates in the district of, say, 2s. 6d. in the £, would be forced to pay a rate of £50. A factory with its land valued at £1 more—i.e., £10,001—would only have to pay £12 10s. 8d. If any concession is to be given it should apply to all factories or should be on a definite proportion. However, it is considered by the department and would be considered by local authorities to be a most unwise move to give factories this concession. At present factories are valued, for annual value, at 4 per cent. of their capital value.

Hon. H. K. Watson: That is my point.

Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Yes. Mr. Mattiske appears to think that the value of machinery could be included in the valuation of a factory. By paragraph (a) of Subclause (4) the machinery is excluded from the land and therefore could not enter into the valuation of the land and buildings. As factories could not readily be assessed at an estimated rental value—i.e., in the case of a factory the land and buildings of which are valued at £10,000—the annual value for rating purposes would be £400.

The dangers inherent in derating have been recognised in England; and a report made by a study group of the Royal Institute of Public Administration and published this year contains the following comment:—

> We recognise that derating was introduced to help industry and agriculture during a period of trade depression. Its continuance after these

conditions have ceased to exist has deprived local authorities of the full benefits which many would otherwise have enjoyed from the expansion in the national income and from the growth of agriculture and industry in recent years. The loss of this income has been a particularly important factor in raising to such a high point the dependence upon grants of a number of local authorities. We realise that a decision about the future of derating may depend largely upon considerations which lie outside the field of this study. As a matter of local government finance and as a means of reducing the dependence of local authorities on government grants, we recommend its abolition. If, for reasons of national policy, subsidies for agriculture and industry are held to be necessary, we feel very strongly that such provision should be made entirely from the National Exchequer.

This group included such personnel as chairman, F. A. Cockfield, finance director, Boots Pure Drug Co. Ltd., formerly one of H.M. Commissioners of Inland Revenue and Director of Statistics and Intelligence to the Board of Inland Revenue; W. L. Abernethy, Deputy Comptroller, London County Council; D. N. Chester, C.B.E., Warden, Nuffield College, Oxford; Mrs. Ursula Hicks, University of Oxford; F. C. Lane, O.B.E., formerly Assistant Chief Valuer, Board of Inland Revenue; R. S. McDougall, County Treasurer, Hertfordshire; Dr. A. H. Marshall, C.B.E., City Treasurer, Coventry; Professor R. C. Tress, University of Bristol; Sir John Wrigley, K.B.E., C.B., formerly joint Deputy-Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Local Government; and Mrs. E. B. Wistrich, Secretary and Research Officer.

Their opinions should not be lightly disregarded. It is considered serious that such a new procedure should be adopted in regard to the rating of factories.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: The views just expressed or read by Mr. Teahan do not get away from the fact that factories are in a special category; and that the Parliament of the United Kingdom, notwithstanding that report, has seen fit not to adopt it. In the United Kingdom, factories are rated at one-quarter of what would otherwise be the annual value.

I suggest that in Western Australia the question is doubly important because of the system we have of rating on unimproved values or of annual values. I would say that the ideal system of valuation for any factory would be on the unimproved value of the land. This would bring about equity with the rest of the community.

The Bill as introduced provided for rating only on the unimproved value; but the committee has decided that local governments are to have the option of rating either on unimproved value or annual value. This is all right so long as the annual value of the property is reasonably capable of being calculated. If the property is a house, we know what it can be let for; or if it is a property in St. George's Terrace we know what it can be let for; and no question arises as to what is its fair annual value.

A factory, however, is a different proposition. It has no rental value as such. It is erected for the express purpose of conducting the factory that it houses; and as Mr. Teahan has said, the invariable practice in valuing factories is not to arrive at a straight-out net annual value as with other buildings, but to take an arbitary figure of 4 per cent. on the total capital value of the premises. It is all very well to argue that rates paid by a factory can be passed on; but that is not so. The Albany Woollen Mills ran at a loss for 25 years. It could not pass on the rates.

The Minister for Railways: It would pay payroll tax as well.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: Yes; but we are not discussing payroll tax at the moment.

The Minister for Railways: Despite the fact that it showed a loss.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: Yes. For 25 years there would have been difficulty in finding a buyer for the property or letting it for any other purpose; yet the company had to pay the rates on the full annual value based on the calculation of 4 per cent. of its capital value. The same thing applies to a meatworks or a flourmill. The erection of silos would increase the annual value of a flourmill.

Perhaps I could again mention the illustration I gave the other night. There is a vacant block of land worth £5,000; and under the proposal, the annual value of it, at 10 per cent., is £500 and the owner of that vacant block is assessed at an annual value of £500. Adjoining that vacant block of land, with no more amenities than are enjoyed by the owner of the block to which I have referred, there is another block of the same area and value; but on it is erected a factory worth £100,000. The annual valuation of that adjoining block under the Bill is £4,200 as against £500 paid by the fellow next door.

On the proposition contained in Subclause (5), that factory would still pay on an annual value of £1,050; or in other words, double the annual valuation of the land of equal value next door. I suggest that if factories are not to be assessed on the unimproved value basis, some special concession ought to be made if they are being assessed on the annual value basis.

Mr. Teahan has mentioned that it is the opinion of his advisers that if the concession is to be applied at all it should be applied to all factories and not merely to those the capital value of which exceeds

£10,000. I have no serious opposition to that proposal; but I would point out that if a factory is being carried on in a shop or small building, with not a very large capital value, in nine cases out of ten that building could be used for any purpose.

It is only when we get to the really large factories—such as woollen mills, steel mills, timber mills and factories like that, where there is a heavy outlay for the purposes of the industry—that the anomaly really arises; and I imagine that is the reason why the figure of £10,000 is mentioned.

In these days, when we hear so much about the necessity for encouraging industry to this State and of the desirability of decentralising industry and establishing it in our country districts, I suggest that this proposal is only fair and reasonable. I emphasise that this would not derate the factory. Its owners would still have to pay as much as any other ratepayer in the district—as much as the owner of an unimproved block next door who was serving no useful purpose in the community. In the instance I have given, the owner of the factory would pay double what the owner of the unimproved land would pay.

The other evening the Minister for Railways pointed out that the wording of proposed Subclause (5) could conceivably apply to any shop or other establishment which is a factory within the meaning of the Factories and Shops Act but which is not the class of factory I have been discussing; and so I intend to move an amendment to proposed Subclause (5) to cover the point. I move—

> That the amendment be amended by inserting after the figures "1954" in line 4, of proposed new subclause (5) the following words:—
>
> > (being a woollen, flour, timber, steel or other mill, or meatworks, or a building wherein goods or materials are manufactured, treated or produced and not being a shop or retail establishment)

Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: If any fault can be found with this it is that the definition is a little too loose. It would cover a small establishment producing softgoods or something of that nature—a number of buildings that were never intended to be covered.

Hon. R. C. Mattiske: There is still the £10,000 qualification.

Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: That may be so.

Amendment on amendment put and passed.

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

Ayes	10
Noes	7
Majority for	3

Ayes.

Hon. L. C. Diver	Hon. L. A. Logan
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. R. C. Mattiske
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. F. D. Willmott
Hon. Sir Chas. Latham	Hon. J. Cunningham *(Teller.)*

Noes.

Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. R. F. Hutchison	Hon. F. J. S. Wise
Hon. K. C. Strickland	Hon. F. R. H. Lavery
Hon. J. D. Teahan	*(Teller.)*

Pairs.

Ayes.	Noes.
Hon. J. M. Thomson	Hon. G. Fraser
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. G. E. Jeffery
Hon. H. L. Roche	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. C. H. Simpson	Hon. J. J. Garrigan
Hon. G. MacKinnon	Hon. G. Bennetts

Amendment, as amended, thus passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Postponed Clause 576—Power of council to transfer or convey land:

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I move an amendment—

> That the words "a mortgage, if any, in favour of the Commissioners of the Rural & Industries Bank of Western Australia" in lines 33 to 35, page 429, be struck out.

Similar words occur in other clauses but I cannot see why any concession should be given to the Rural & Industries Bank. It should rank equally with other trading banks for the purposes of this measure.

Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: The position here, as in other clauses, is that preference should be given to the Rural & Industries Bank. It is reasonable to expect that to occur. The R. & I. Bank is an instrumentality of the State. It has been the policy of this and previous Governments to provide preference for this institution, presumably on the ground that it is not a bank in the normal sense, but is an agency of the Crown for the development of the State, and therefore should be treated as such and given a preference similar to the Crown itself.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I understand that the R. & I. Bank has £2,500,000 in guarantees; and if this provision is agreed to it will escape the responsibility of having to contribute towards the upkeep of the local authorities in the districts where the properties concerned are situated.

The Minister for Railways: That only applies to bank premises.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: This clause relates to the power of the council on the sale of land, presumably in respect of unpaid rates. That being the case, there should be no distinction between the R. & I. Bank and any other bank or mortgagee. While the R. & I. Bank is an agency of the Crown, I would point out it has been set up as a State instrumentality, and apart from that it carries on the same functions

as any private bank. It accepts deposits and lends money at the usual security and rate of interest.

Normally the R. & I. Bank does not give a guarantee. I understand the guarantee is given by the Treasury, in the same way as it might give a guarantee to the National Bank or the Bank of New South Wales, as has been done on a number of occasions in the past. There is the undeniable fact that the R. & I. Bank carries on the same functions as a private bank, so I cannot see any reason why it should be distinguished from other banks.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I understand this provision to mean that where a council sells land for unpaid rates, the purchaser is subject to rights of public enjoyment, rights of the Crown, and rights of the State. The purchaser is also subject to a charge, if any, imposed by the Commonwealth, and to rates and taxes imposed then or afterwards. He is also subject to a mortage, if any, in favour of the R. & I. Bank. In certain cases the R. & I. Bank holds land in the capacity of a semi-government instrumentality, and some distinction should be made between that type of land and other land held under mortgage.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: Uniformity could be obtained by saying "a mortgage, if any, in favour of any bank in Western Australia." Thus the R. & I. Bank would not be singled out; and any land sold for unpaid rates would be sold subject to any mortgage thereon due to any bank. I find it difficult to believe that a bank holding a mortgage on a property would force the property to be sold because rates were outstanding. The amount would have to be very high before any bank would take such action.

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: The point raised by Mr. Watson is commendable. If any amendment is made to this clause it should cover mortgages to any bank and not merely to the R. & I. Bank. I cannot visualise any conditions when this provision would be applied, but the possibility could arise. Mr. Roche says that he is aware of instances where such a course of action has been taken. In that case it might be preferable to enlarge the provision rather than restrict it. If Mr. Watson desires to include all trading banks I have no objection.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move—

> That the amendment be amended by striking out the words "a mortgage, if any."

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do not agree to either the amendment or the amendment on the amendment. The reason the R. & I. Bank is mentioned is that over the last few years there have been settlers on the land west of the Midland Railway line to whom no bank would give any finance. Of its own volition, the R. & I. Bank would not do so; but, by Government direction, these people were given some assistance. That is when this position would arise—when the R. & I. bank debt would remain.

Amendment on amendment put and negatived.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: I move an amendment—

> That after the word "Australia" in line 35, page 429, the words "or any other bank" be inserted.

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

Ayes	....	8
Noes	....	13
Majority against	....	5

Ayes.

Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. J. Murray
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. Sir Chas. Latham	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. R. C. Mattiske	Hon. F. D. Willmott
	(Teller.)

Noes.

Hon. J. Cunningham	Hon. L. A. Logan
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. L. C. Diver	Hon. J. D. Teahan
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. R. F. Hutchison	Hon. F. J. S. Wise
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. G. Bennetts
Hon. F. R. H. Lavery	*(Teller.)*

Pairs.

Ayes.	Noes.
Hon. J. M. Thomson	Hon. G. Fraser
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. G. E. Jeffery
Hon. C. H. Simpson	Hon. J. J. Garrigan
Hon. G. MacKinnon	Hon. G. Bennetts

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Postponed Clause 579—Application of purchase money:

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: The principle concerned in the amendment I have on the notice paper is precisely the same as the one in the amendment with which we have just dealt; and therefore I should not proceed with it. But I feel there must be some further information on this point, and I would ask the Minister if he would have someone look into it in more detail.

The Minister for Railways: With what object?

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: When the land has been sold, the purchase money is applied in certain ways—firstly, in payment of expenses, etc.; secondly, in payment of unpaid rates, costs, and other amounts due to the council; and, thirdly, in payment of money due under mortgage to the Commissioners of the R. & I. Bank. I feel there should not be any concession to the Bank. There must be some very definite reason beyond what we have already been given why there should be such preferential treatment. However, I will not proceed with the amendment but will endeavour to seek further information from the department; and after getting that information,

if I am not happy about it, I will submit an amendment for consideration at the recommittal stage.

Clause put and passed.

Postponed Clause 586—Power to have land revested in the Crown if rates in arrears three years:

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I think that Mr. Logan put his finger on a point in connection with the validity of the Crown's claim when he referred to the guarantees by the Crown in connection with mortgages on land upon which no other bank would lend money. In Section 89 of the R. & I. Bank Act there are provisions relating to rates on agricultural properties. In this Chamber there are members who at some time in their business lives owed money to the Agricultural Bank or the R. & I. Bank.

There are, too, men who have been members of road boards, and they know that banks have at all times been very reluctant to find money to pay rates to local governing authorities. But Section 89 of the Rural & Industries Bank Act governs what the Crown must do in that connection; and the provision in this Bill for the sale of land by the local government after rates are three years in arrear gives to the Crown the right to be reimbursed. I think that is the connection. I believe Mr. Mattiske's suggestion was right, that there will be a complete explanation because of the continuous repetition of the words referred to. I think the matter should be deferred and inquired into and dealt with on each clause on recommittal.

Clause put and passed.

Postponed Clause 588—Interpretation:

Sitting suspended from 3.47 to 4.5 p.m.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I move an amendment—

> That after the word "clinics" in line 4, page 443, the words "ambulance services" be inserted.

Under the Act and under the Bill municipalities can spend revenue on ambulance services; but one knows that the amount of revenue a municipality has for this work is scarce. The Act does not provide that it can borrow money or strike a loan for ambulance services. Money is provided for kindergartens and welfare clinics; and this facility should exist for ambulance services, because these committees experience great difficulty in raising funds.

Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: There is no objection to the amendment.

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

New clause:

Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: There are on the notice paper a series of new clauses and subclauses dealing with the possible effect on staff in the case of the amalgamation of municipalities. We all know that it is reasonable to assume that amalgamations will take place in the future. These amendments seek to protect the rights of staff.

It will be appreciated that staff who had ceased to be employed would find it very difficult to obtain further employment on application. The first of the proposed new clauses provides that on amalgamations such staff shall be transferred and appointed for at least a period of two years. If members will read the amendment they will find it self-explanatory, and I do not think there is any point in going through all the provisions in detail. It has been on the notice paper for several days now and members can see for themselves the full purport.

In the event of any disagreement with regard to staff being taken over, there is provision for the Governor, by proclamation, to make a decision on the issue, and such decision is binding. Pending the proclamation, temporary approval is given until the proclamation becomes effective. I move—

> That after the word "amended" in line 5, page 32, the following new clause be inserted:—

Transfer of Officers. Cf. N.S.W. L.G. Act, s. 20C.

20A. (1) Where by reason of the exercise by the Governor of any of the powers conferred by Section 12 of this Act, a new municipality is constituted, or the boundaries of a municipality are altered, every person who immediately before the day of such constitution or alteration was a servant of the council of any municipality affected, and who was wholly or principally employed on or in connection with any work, trading undertaking, right, power, authority, duty, obligation, or function which becomes transferred to, vested in, exercisable by, or conferred or imposed upon the council of the new municipality or of another municipality, shall on such day (subject to any agreement which may be entered into between the council of the municipality affected, the council of such new or other municipality and the servant)—

(a) be transferred to the service of the council of such new or other municipality; and

(b) become a servant of the council of such new or other municipality; and

(c) be paid salary or wages not less than at the rate of which he was employed immediately before such day until such salary or wages is or are varied or altered by the council of

such new or other municipality: Provided that such salary or wages shall not be reduced for a period of at least two years from the date of such transfer, except to the extent necessary to give effect to any fluctuation in the needs basic wage as defined in the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912; and

(d) be deemed to have been appointed and employed by the council of such new or other municipality under the provisions of this Act.

The person so transferred shall on and from such day until otherwise directed by the council of such new or other muncipality continue to perform the duties which attached to his employment immediately before such day.

(2) Where any condition of employment of any person so transferred to the council of such new or other municipality is at the date of his transfer regulated by an award or industrial agreement, such condition shall continue to be so regulated until an award regulating such condition and binding the council of such new or other municipality is made by a competent tribunal, or such condition is regulated by an industrial agreement to which the council of such new or other municipality is a party.

(3) The period of service with the council of one or more municipalities or districts under this Act of any person so transferred shall upon such transfer be counted as service with the council of such new or other municipality for the purposes of this or any other Act, or of any regulation or by-law or of the terms and conditions of any staff agreement, or of any award or agreement made under the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912.

(4) The transfer of any person under this section shall not affect any right to leave (including long service leave) of absence accrued prior to such transfer.

(5) (a) If the employment of any person transferred under this section is terminated by the council of any such new or other municipality, otherwise than for misconduct, within a period of two years from the date of his transfer, or if any person so transferred resigns his position with the council of such new or other municipality within the period commencing one year after, and ending two years from, the date of his transfer, and the council has prior to the date on which his resignation was tendered failed to offer him in writing continuous employment at a salary or wage at least equal to that received by such person immediately prior to the date of his transfer, and such failure is not occasioned by the misconduct of such person, the council of such new or other municipality shall grant to such person a gratuity equivalent to the amount of four weeks' salary or wages for each year of service, such salary or wages being reckoned on the average of the weekly salary or wages paid to such person during the fifty-two weeks immediately preceding the date of his transfer:

Provided that nothing contained in this subsection shall require the council of such new or other municipality to offer any person transferred under this section employment beyond the date upon which such person shall attain the age of sixty-five years:

Provided further that the amount of any gratuity payable under this subsection shall not in any case exceed an amount being the equivalent of the salary or wages, reckoned on the average of the weekly salary or wages paid to such person during the fifty-two weeks immediately preceding the date of his transfer, which such person would have received if he had continued in the employment of the council from which he was transferred until the date of his attaining the age of sixty-five years.

(b) This subsection shall apply only to a person who has been employed continuously by the council of any one or more municipalities or districts under this Act for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the day of his transfer to the service of the council of such new or other municipality.

(6) Where a person who is transferred under this section was engaged by the council of a municipality affected under a subsisting contract of service which provides for payment of compensation in the event of the termination of his employment, and the employment of such person is, before the expiration of the period of the

contract, terminated by the council of such new or other municipality otherwise than in accordance with the terms of such contract, the council of such new or other municipality shall pay to such person the amount of compensation provided for in the contract, and if the amount of such compensation be less than the amount that would be payable to such person under Subsection (5) of this section, shall also pay to him a gratuity equivalent to the difference.

A person who is entitled to receive any compensation, or compensation and gratuity, under this subsection shall not be deemed entitled to receive a gratuity under Subsection (5) of this section.

(7) The provisions of the Superannuation, Sick, Death, Insurance Guarantee and Endowment (Local Government Bodies' Employees) Funds Act, 1947, shall continue to apply to and in respect of any person transferred under this section in like manner and to the same extent as the said Act would have applied if this section had not been enacted.

(8) A servant of the council who at the time of the constitution of a new municipality or the alteration of a municipality is engaged on war service as defined in the Defence Act, 1903, of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, shall for the purposes of this section be deemed to be still in the employ of the council, and his war service as well as his service with the council shall be counted as service with the council for the purposes referred to in Subsection (3) of this section, and he shall be deemed to have been employed continuously by the council for the purposes of Subsection (5) of this section.

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I am going to oppose the inclusion of this proposed new clause because I think it cuts across the whole of the functions of the Arbitration Court and across the normal principles of employment. Taking the second point first, in any employment whatsoever the employee must always take the risk that the employer will not continue in his particular business indefinitely; and should the employer go out of business, it is then up to the employee to fend for himself and to get some alternative employment.

I do not think local government is any different from many other forms of employment where perhaps certain peculiar qualifications may be necessary, and I feel that the provision for compensation to be paid on a certain basis is wrong. This matter has been taken care of by the Arbitration Court when assessing the scale of salaries payable to local government officers, and we should not usurp the functions of that court in making amendments to this Bill.

One of the principal reasons for the amalgamation of certain local government areas is that it enables more economical functioning. During recent years, since the Royal Commission inquired into local government, considerable attention has been focussed on the possibility of different authorities in the metropolitan area amalgamating; and the principal argument in favour of amalgamation is that local government can thereby be carried out more efficiently, and therefore more economically, to the ratepayers. The whole effect of an amalgamation would be nullified because of an obligation to continue in employment all those who were previously employed by the two separate municipalities. I therefore feel it would be wrong to include the proposed new clause, and I hope it will not be agreed to.

Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: The staff of the municipality being absorbed could not leave their employment until the absorption took place. They are entitled to protection on an occasion such as this, particularly as this is a specialised form of employment. The cost factor, if taken over two years, would not be great. With absorptions, bigger and more plant is usually acquired, so that in certain fields the employment tends to increase. This particular provision would apply, I think, only to the main executive employees of municipalities. The cost would perhaps represent no more than a half per cent. of the rates, and this would be for an employee who had given good service. He would receive this benefit while he looked around to readjust himself. I feel that the compensation clauses are reasonable and fair. There is no desire to usurp any of the rights of the Arbitration Court. The court has not had a case put before it, or it has not done anything in regard to this question.

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: Under an amalgamation there may be a need to employ the staffs of both municipalities; but it would be entirely free for the new municipality to continue them in employment. I think that in actual practice, that is what would happen; but it should not be obligatory for the new municipality to carry them.

I feel that the difficulties envisaged by Mr. Willesee would not be as great as he, perhaps, thinks; because the average person involved in local government work is sympathetic to the employee. I think every effort would be made to enable the employee to get himself established in some other employment. Furthermore,

amalgamations do not take place overnight but are usually fairly long-drawn-out affairs. During that time an employee would have a good opportunity to become re-established. I still feel there is no need for the proposed new clause.

Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I have nothing to say in direct disagreement with what Mr. Mattiske has said. I agree that the members of the council would do their utmost to place the staff, because a close bond exists between the executive and the councillors. But what is wrong with having this provision in the measure? An important point is that if a man gets out of this type of employment, it is difficult for him to get back into it. He might have given a lifetime of service in a certain area, and it is difficult for him to get out of it; and if he does go, he has to take a position of lesser standing.

I merely want to write into the Bill something which will stabilise the situation; and, at the same time, give an assurance to employees that they will receive protection in the case of an amalgamation.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: On this occasion I agree with Mr. Willesee. In the case of amalgamations, the older men will be displaced, and very few others will want their service; yet they can have given loyal service for many years. It is fitting that something of this nature should be written into the Bill. Officers who apply for positions in municipalities will be comforted in the knowledge that they have the protection of an Act of Parliament if an amalgamation takes place, and they are entitled to that protection.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Unless some provision of this sort is included in the measure there may be a reluctance on the part of a local body to countenance amalgamation. The absence of such a clause might prevent an amalgamation. But I wonder whether we are justified in going as far as is suggested and including employees of not less than one year of service. Possibly the office boy will have to be employed. The period of service could be longer. A person who has just gone into the employment might not do it permanently, but one who has been in it for a number of years might expect a degree of permanency.

The only other point is whether we should agree that the salary should be paid for as long as two years. Would not a full year's salary be sufficient? In that period the officer concerned would have ample time to look around for something else; and this would certainly lessen the cost to the amalgamated body which might have to meet the salaries of two town clerks. I move an amendment—

> That the words "two years" in line 12 of Subclause (1) (c) be struck out and the words "one year" inserted in lieu.

Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I have no objection to the amendment. I suggested two years in the first place; but on reflection, I think the Committee might well accept the alteration to one year.

Hon. Sir CHARLES LATHAM: Does this mean that if there is a duplication of officers the two will be employed in the one office; or is it the responsibility of the local authority or the Minister to see that they are employed elsewhere?

Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: It would not be the Minister's responsibility; but it would be the right of the amalgamating body to employ all the staff taken over; or, alternatively, if it found it had a surplus of men, the provisions of this clause would make it obligatory for them to be employed for one year.

Hon. Sir Charles Latham: Suppose it was a small municipality such as Carnarvon?

Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: The Carnarvon authority could absorb the Gascoyne-Minilya Road Board and take over the entire staff. In such a case the secretary of that board would be the assistant secretary and there would be no problem.

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: That bears out my point; and in the case Mr. Willesee quoted, it would be the obvious thing for the amalgamating body to employ the staff.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: In the case of an amalgamation, if an employee is discarded as surplus to requirements he will, under this new clause, have to be paid compensation, on the scale set out. Then, if he is fortunate enough to obtain, very quickly, employment elsewhere, he will receive quite a pleasant surprise; and I think that the amount of compensation granted in such a case would be beyond what one would normally expect when leaving employment. In the normal case, when a person leaves employment, he gets all accrued leave to date, including long-service leave—and a lot of local government employees are enjoying that privilege—and so on.

We have spoken of the peculiar qualifications of local government employees. What are they? The town clerk may be qualified as an accountant, or in local government work; but that does not preclude him from obtaining employment elsewhere on the clerical side. Also, an engineer, or a building surveyor would have certain qualifications; and there is plenty of scope for his employment elsewhere. Local governing authorities take a lenient view in all cases affecting employment; and I know from personal experience that where peculiar conditions have obtained, such as a man's withdrawal before retiring age owing to

ill-health, a gratuitous payment has been made with the approval of the Minister. I think the same would apply to amalgamations.

I feel that in some of these cases the Minister has given approval perhaps knowing that he might not have the full argument as against the auditor; but if we were to alter the word "shall" in Subclause (1) to "may" I think it would be much more suitable. Then if a case of hardship existed, the local authority would have a legal right to do all the things that are set out in the new clause. But if no such hardship existed the local authority would have the moral right to say to the individual, "You are now receiving all your entitlements as regards leave, etc.; and as you are going to another job straight away, there is no moral obligation on our part to make any further payment to you." I think that, too, would cover what Mr. Willesee is trying to overcome.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: If I heard the hon. member correctly, he is attempting to go back.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has not moved anything as yet.

Hon. R C MATTISKE: Would I be in order in moving a further amendment on the amendment to delete the word "shall" and insert in lieu the word "may" in line 20 of new Subclause (2)?

The CHAIRMAN: No. I cannot allow the hon. member to go back at present.

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: Then I will have no alternative but to object to the inclusion of the whole new clause.

New clause, as amended, put and passed.

New Clause:

Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I move—

That the following new clause be inserted after new Clause 20A:—

20B. (1) The provisions of this section shall apply to the transfer of servants in any case where by reason of the exercise by the Governor of any of the powers conferred by Section 12 of this Act any whole municipality or whole municipalities and parts of municipalities are divided into a different number of municipalities.

(2) The council of each new municipality, and where whole municipalities and parts of municipalities are divided, the council of any municipality of which part has been taken, shall confer with one another and agree upon an arrangement as to the transfer of those persons who immediately before such division were servants of the councils of the municipalities affected.

(3) Where the councils have not agreed within a period of one month from the date of such division or within such further period as the Minister may allow the Minister may make such an arrangement.

(4) An arrangement under this section shall—

(a) in the case where whole municipalities are divided, provide for the transfer of all persons who immediately before such division were servants of the councils of the municipalities affected to the service of the councils of the new municipalities;

(b) in the case where whole municipalities and parts of municipalities are divided, provide for the transfer to the service of the councils of the new municipalities of—

(i) all persons who immediately before such division were servants of the councils of the municipalities wholly affected; and

(ii) such persons who immediately before such division were servants of a municipality from which part has been taken, as the councils of the municipalities affected may determine.

(5) An arrangement made under this section shall be embodied in a proclamation, and upon publication thereof any person affected by such arrangement shall—

(a) be transferred to the service of the council of the new municipality specified;

(b) become a servant of the council of such new municipality;

(c) be paid salary or wages not less than at the rate at which he was employed immediately before the publication of such proclamation until such salary or wages is or are varied or altered by the council of such new municipality:

Provided that such salary or wages shall not be reduced for a period of at least two years from the

date of such transfer except to the extent necessary to give effect to any fluctuation in the needs basic wage as defined in the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912; and

(d) be deemed to have been appointed and employed by the council of such new municipality under the provisions of this Act.

The person so transferred shall on and from the publication of such proclamation until otherwise directed by the council of such new municipality continue to perform the duties which attached to his employment immediately before such publication.

(6) The provisions of Subsection (2) to (8) inclusive of Section 20A of this Act shall apply to and in respect of the transfer of any person under Subsection (5) of this section.

(7) Pending the publication of a proclamation embodying an arrangement under this section, the Governor may by proclamation under this Part make such provision as the Governor may deem necessary or expedient for the temporary transfer to the service of any of the councils of the new municipalities of the servants of the councils of any of the municipalities affected and for the performance of the duties of such servants and for the payment of the salary or wages of such servants at the rates at which such servants were employed immediately before such division and for any other matter or thing incidental thereto.

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I move an amendment—

That the words "two years" in line 13 of Subclause (5) (c) be struck out and the word "one year" inserted in lieu.

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

New clause:

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: On behalf of Mr. MacKinnon I move—

That after the word "thing" in line 15, page 165, Clause 227 the following new clause be inserted:—

227A. The council of a municipality may so make by-laws—

(a) With respect to the control and management of parking stations established by the council under this Act and the management and operation of parking facilities provided by the Council under this Act;

(b) prescribing charges payable by any person using, or in respect of any vehicle occupying a parking station or parking facility so established or providing and differentiating in the fees charged in respect of the various classes of vehicles and exempting any person or vehicle or class of person or class of vehicle from paying all or any of those charges;

(c) prescribing conditions under which and the period or periods of time during which a parking station or parking facility may be used or occupied;

(d) providing for the protection of parking stations and parking facilties and all equipment pertaining to them against misuse, damage, interference or attempted interference by any person;

(e) regulating the parking and standing of vehicles in any parking station and prohibiting any person from parking or standing any vehicle in a parking station otherwise than in accordance with the by-laws;

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Members will recall that Mr. MacKinnon endeavoured previously to make provision for a clause to erect parking areas. His request was referred to the Local Government Department and was considered by the Minister. There is no objection to the insertion of the proposed new clause. It is an exact copy of the provision in the City of Perth Parking Facilities Act, with the exception of paragraph (b) which gives the right of differentiation in charges in cases where this power may not have been implicit in this provision.

New clause put and passed.

First Schedule—agreed to.

Second Schedule:

Hon. Sir CHARLES LATHAM: The first Act shown in this schedule is the Abattoirs Act of 1909. Is that Act being repealed?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: The repealed Acts are covered by the First Schedule. The Acts referred to in the Second Schedule are those that have been mentioned throughout the Bill. For instance, one clause has reference to the Abattoirs Act, 1909; but instead of putting that in every time the words "as referred to in the Second Schedule" are used.

The CHAIRMAN: That aspect is covered by Clause 5 of the Bill.

Hon. Sir CHARLES LATHAM: This is a case where the schedule tacks pieces of legislation on to the one under consideration. A person reading an Act and coming across this measure would be confused unless he had a knowledge of the tacking system that the Crown Law Department is adopting. For a time that was prohibited; and to follow it one needs the mind of a Philadelphia lawyer. It is a dangerous policy from the point of view of a novice. Of course, legal men can follow it; but the more they have to investigate these matters, the more expensive it is to the public.

Schedule put and passed.

Third to Fifth Schedules—agreed to.

Sixth Schedule:

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: Alterations will be required to this schedule because of amendments that have been made to the Bill.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: Numerous consequential amendments will be required, including some to the schedules. It is intended that before the recommittal stage all the consequential amendments will be listed and placed on the notice paper for consideration.

Schedule put and passed.

Seventh to Twenty-fifth Schedules—agreed to.

Twenty-sixth Schedule:

Hon. H. K. WATSON: Perhaps it would not be inappropriate at this stage to express regret that Moses did not make a second visit to Mount Sinai and bring down a law relating to local government, preferably in one tablet.

Schedule put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

House adjourned at 5.23 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 19th September, 1957.

CONTENTS.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.

COAL.

(a) Tenders for Supply to Government.

Hon. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Did the Government call tenders for the supply of coal to Government instrumentalities, prior to signing an agreement?

(2) If so, what was the lowest price tendered irrespective of the source?

The MINISTER replied:

Public tenders were called as far back as October, 1955. The lowest tender received was from the Griffin Co. for 100 per cent. open-cut coal at 37s. 4d. per ton for smalls.