

the reserve at Narembeen provides that the change over of the site for the school shall only be agreed to when the people there agree to pay the cost of removing the school and re-erecting it. When I was up there some time ago the school buildings did not seem at all suitable for the purpose, and even now the Minister might well consult the people and suggest that they ask for better school buildings. Narembeen is an important centre, and when we pay £100 for removing a small building we do not get much for our money. If the present building could be sold for some other purpose and the money used to aid in the erection of a more suitable structure, the people would have better value for their money. None of the other proposals in the Bill is important until we come to that dealing with the Claremont Road Board. I had something to do with this matter when we made an advance to buy additional land. This land that has been bought is vested in the Crown, and the Minister is agreeing to the sale of the present reserve, which is unsuitable for recreation purposes, in order that repayment may be made to the Treasury of the money advanced. The State is not losing anything: in fact we are gaining something. It is our duty to provide recreation grounds, and we have made that provision rather badly down there. But we want to see that the local authority are given land that they can sell. Of course if it were actual foreshore we should object to the disposal of the land. The matter has been carefully gone into by the department, and the proposed exchange must be approved. There is no question about that. I understand it is not arranged quite in a way that will meet with the approval of the local authority or with the convenience of those who will buy the blocks. If that is so I hope the Minister will agree that the Surveyor General may look further into the matter before we finally pass the Bill. Any necessary amendment could be made in Committee. I suggest that the second reading be passed, and that we then have a little delay until the local authority has consulted with the Surveyor General, who would advise the Minister. We want to see houses erected there, and so we ought to meet the wishes of the local authority, who know more about it than we possibly can. I suggest we pass the second reading and

delay the committee stage until this investigation has been made.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

House adjourned at 9.36 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 22nd August, 1929.

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

QUESTION—PARLIAMENT HOUSE COMPLETION.

Hon. Sir EDWARD WITTENOOM asked the Chief Secretary: Do the Government intend to carry out the wishes of both Houses of Parliament, as expressed in resolutions from both, that Parliament House and grounds should be completed as the most fitting memorial of this Centenary Year?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: The difficulty of obtaining loan moneys will not permit of this venture being undertaken during the present year.

BILL—TRANSFER OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.35] in moving the second reading said: Very little explanation is necessary regarding this Bill, as it is explained in the printed memorandum. The

measure has been found necessary in order that land sold under warrant of execution, or under a writ, may be transferred and the new owner receive a proper certificate of title. That cannot be done now. While the transfer is registered in the register book, the registrar does not issue a title; and land is very difficult to deal with in these circumstances, and in a sale would not reach its proper value. So that all parties may have their interests conserved it is desired that the registrar be empowered to issue a title, and have the whole transaction completed in a satisfactory manner. Applications for transfer in the ordinary way have to be accompanied by the duplicate certificate of title, but obviously in the case of a forced sale against a debtor the duplicate is seldom available and consequently cannot be produced to the registrar. Knowing that his land is to be sold under a warrant of execution he may, and sometimes does, disappear and take with him the duplicate certificate of title, and so a title cannot be issued to the purchaser. This provision is already made with regard to land sold by local authorities for rates, so there is no new principle introduced to which objection can be taken. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. SIR EDWARD WITTENOOM (North) [4.37]: At one time—last year I think it was—I had an opportunity of discussing with the Premier the introduction of new Bills; and we both agreed that the time had arrived when the enormous introduction of new measures should cease. It seemed to both of us that each new Administration rather prided itself on having been able to get numerous Bills through Parliament. I suppose the Premier and I had a brain wave, or an ability wave, and we came to the conclusion that instead of the introduction of heaps of new Bills there should be consolidating measures. Here is a Bill to which the criticism of the Premier and myself applies absolutely. Of all the measures that have been passed by Parliament, the Land Act has sustained most amendments, and involves more difficulties than any other. Now we are asked to agree to a further amendment. I put it to the Chief Secretary, who is as brainy a man as the Premier, that instead of all these amendments being made there should

be a consolidation of the Land Act and its amendments. I have been told that there are already from 18 to 20 amendments of the Act. How can anyone know where he stands? Why not let us have consolidation? This fresh amending Bill will make the position worse than ever.

On motion by Hon. H. Seddon, debate adjourned.

BILL—STAMP ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.38] in moving the second reading said: A similar Bill to this is introduced each year to extend the operation of the Act for another 12 months. The present Act expires on the 30th June, 1920. It is necessary that the Bill should be passed to enable existing rates of duty to be charged from that date. Duty on conveyance or transfer or sale of any property under the 1905 Act was (a) where the value did not exceed £25, for every £5 and fractional part of £5—6d.; (b) where the value exceeded £25, for every £25 and fractional part of £25—2s. 6d. By the Stamp Act Amendment Act of 1916 paragraph (a) was amended by the deletion of the words "for every £5 and also for every fractional part of £5" and by the insertion of "6d. and 2s. 6d." in place of "6d." The paragraph thus reads "does not exceed £25—2s. 6d." In addition, the following words were inserted:—"And on and after the 1st day of June, 1917, until the 30th day of June, 1921, additional duty equal in amount to the duty as prescribed by paragraphs (a) and (b)." This has the effect of making the duty 3s. for every £25 or part thereof. This additional duty was brought into force during the War and has been re-enacted from year to year. It would be impossible to ascertain the amount collected annually in regard to this specific duty. To revert to the old rate of 10s. per cent. would seriously affect the revenue derived from this source. The rate of 20s. per cent. is almost on a par with that charged in other States. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom, debate adjourned.

BILL—WORKERS' HOMES.*Second Reading.*

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [4.43] in moving the second reading said: The Workers' Homes Act, 1911-1928, was amended last session to authorise the board to undertake operations as provided in the Commonwealth Housing Act, 1927-1928. Advances under that Act can only be made by the Commonwealth Bank to prescribed authorities. Following the amendment of last session, the Workers' Homes Board have been duly approved as a prescribed authority under the Commonwealth Housing Act. There were 222 proposals in readiness for immediate attention under the scheme at the 30th June last, representing an amount applied for of £161,500. There were 274 applicants, in addition, who had been supplied with information and application forms concerning the scheme, many of which will undoubtedly mature within the next few months. For various reasons, the scheme could not be set in motion in this State until fairly late in July. From the 19th to the 31st July 16 applications were approved, for an amount of £11,500. Up to the 19th instant, however, the total approvals are 44 applications, covering an amount of £36,634. The guarantee provided for in this Bill has been requested by the Commonwealth Bank's legal advisers as essential for due security for advances made to the board from time to time. Such advances as will be made to the board by the Bank, to provide for proposals under the Commonwealth housing scheme, will be come a charge upon the finances of the State, and are repayable to the Bank at a rate of interest approved between the Bank and the board, plus principal repaid by borrowers. The many proposals awaiting attention, and the inquiries mentioned, indicate the extent of work in this State under the Federal Housing Scheme. The Bill is supplementary to the amendment of last session authorising the board to receive advances from the bank, the repayment of which is guaranteed by the Bill.

Hon. V. Hamersley: Is that the Commonwealth office or the State office?

THE HONORARY MINISTER: The State Workers' Homes Board is now approved of as a prescribed authority, and can receive advances from the Common-

wealth Bank under the Commonwealth housing scheme. This Bill is the guarantee for the amounts that will be advanced from time to time by the Commonwealth Bank to the Workers' Homes Board for the houses that will be built under the scheme. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Agricultural Lands Purchase Act Amendment.

2, Divorce Act Amendment.

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

BILL—WATER BOARDS ACT AMENDMENT.*Second Reading.*

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.52] in moving the second reading said: The Road Districts Act gives authority to impose, at any time during the year, a supplemental rate. It is obvious that this authority was given by Parliament in order that a board may not be financially embarrassed through its inability to levy a special rate in order to meet emergency expenditure. For instance, serious damage might be occasioned through floods, or a board, after levying the annual rate, might have pressure successfully brought upon it by the ratepayers to carry out works which were not estimated for at the time the annual rate was levied. There is no such provision in the Water Boards Act. That provision is in the Roads Act. Particular attention was drawn to this fact when the new water scheme at Wagin was completed and handed over to the Wagin Water Board on the 1st February last. The Water Board's financial year began on the 1st November, 1928, and ends on the 31st October, 1929. In accordance with the provisions of the Act a rate of 6d. was levied in November last,

this being amply sufficient to meet interest, sinking fund and other charges in connection with the old scheme. Prior to the commencement of the construction of the new works the board gave to the Minister a definite undertaking that they would, when the scheme was completed, take it over and levy the maximum rate of 3s. in the pound, it being necessary to do this so as to meet extra charges involved. When the Minister visited Wagin and officially handed over the new scheme, the board again voiced their intention to levy the high rate. But a question arose as to whether this could legally be done. The Solicitor General at first advised that it might be done, but there was an element of doubt. That being so, the Solicitor General was requested to draft a Bill which would make it possible for the Wagin board to levy a supplemental rate as from the 1st November, 1928, and incidentally it gives to all other water boards the same authority. I am advised by the Minister that so far as he knows there is in Western Australia no other water board in a position similar to that of the Wagin board. At a meeting of the board held on the 27th July the supplemental rate was struck and at the same time the board asked the Government that legislation be introduced to legalise their action. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. Lovekin, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.56]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday the 3rd September.

(Question put and passed.)

House adjourned at 4.57 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 22nd August, 1928.

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

QUESTION—MAIN ROADS, STATE CONTRIBUTIONS.

Charges to Local Authorities.

Mr. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Works: 1, What amount has the State contributed on the basis of 15s. in the £ towards the making of main roads, apart from developmental roads, under the Federal Aid Roads Agreement for the past three years? 2, What amounts were contributed from revenue under the Federal Aid Roads Agreement for the years 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29? 3, What amounts were charged by the Main Roads Board to the local governing bodies under the Main Roads Act, for the years 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29?

The **MINISTER FOR WORKS** replied: 1, £209,158. 2, 1926-1927, £23,996; 1927-1928, £15,345; 1928-1929, £20,333. 3, 1926-1927, £4,702; 1927-1928, £7,449; 1928-1929, assessment not due. No payments have been received to date.

QUESTION—FREMANTLE HARBOUR, REPORT.

Mr. SLEEMAN asked the Minister for Works: 1, Has he received the report of Mr. Rustat Blake on the Fremantle Harbour Scheme? 2, If so, when will it be available to the House? 3, If not, when does he expect to receive the report?

The **MINISTER FOR WORKS** replied: The report was presented to Parliament yesterday.