

BILLS (4)—FIRST READING.

1. Courts of Session.
 2. Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments.
 3. Local Courts Act Amendment.
 4. Evidence Act Amendment.
- Received from the Council.

BILL—FREMANTLE MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACT AMENDMENT.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 10.54 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 13th September, 1921.

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

QUESTION—REFRIGERATOR, PERTH.

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Minister for Agriculture: Is it his intention to lay on the Table of the House the report of the board of inquiry or commission in connection with the proposed erection in Perth of a refrigerator?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: It is not clear from the question what report is required by the hon. member, but he may inspect any papers relating to this matter and then move for what he requires.

QUESTION—FRUIT STALL, PERTH RAILWAY STATION.

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Will he take the necessary steps to establish a fruit stall or kiosk at the Perth

railway station? 2, If so, will he make it a condition of leasing that the daily period during which such stall or kiosk be kept open for business be such as to give opportunity for travellers on all trains to purchase fruit?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1 and 2, The right to sell fruit at the Perth railway station is embraced in the lease of the rights to sell refreshments, which lease does not expire until the 30th June, 1923. The Commissioner proposes to arrange suitable accommodation for the display and sale of fruit, which will enable the lessee to make a feature of this branch of the business.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to inform the House that I have appointed as temporary Chairmen of Committees the member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie) and the member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo).

BILL—STALLIONS REGISTRATION.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending the Bill.

BILL—BUILDING SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. T. Broun—Beverley) [4.37]: A notice of a proposed amendment appears on the Notice Paper for consideration on recommitment of this Bill. That amendment was prepared in order that it might go before another place when the Bill is being considered by members there. I do not know how it came to appear on the Notice Paper of the Assembly. I do not intend to move for the recommitment of the Bill. I move—

That the report of the Committee be adopted.

Question put and passed; the Report adopted.

BILL—INSPECTION OF MACHINERY.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 1st September.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.39]: As the Bill provides for the continuation of most of the provisions of the existing Inspection of Machinery Act, 1904, and for a few amendments, it is essentially a measure for consideration in Committee, and I do not propose therefore to take up the time of the House in discussing the Bill at the second reading stage. Generally speaking, the Bill meets with my approval. It must be expected, of course, regarding any Act that has been in operation without amendment for the past 17 years, that the experience of the department in administering the Act

will result in the discovery of defects. While the Bill may be objected to in some quarters on the score that it proposes to go too far in bringing under the purview of this legislation plant which is now exempt, it can be held on the other hand that wherever people are working in connection with machinery or plant, be it ever so small, the Government have a duty to perform to see that the plant, machinery or boiler is inspected periodically in order that those concerned may not take risks. The principal alteration in the Bill has reference to the extension and broadening of the interpretation of the word "boilers." The broadening of that interpretation will commend itself generally to the majority of the House. A much needed improvement is that which provides for a reciprocal arrangement regarding the issue of engine-drivers' certificates. The present position has given rise to a considerable amount of hardship regarding men who secured their drivers' certificates in one or other of the Eastern States, and who subsequently came to Western Australia only to find that they were not permitted to follow their occupation until they sat for a further examination. If the other States of Australia will introduce and pass similar legislation, whereby engine-drivers qualified and in receipt of certificates in one or other of the States can follow up their occupation in another State, it will remove a source of considerable inconvenience and annoyance which exists at the present time. There are many points that could be considered on the second reading, but can preferably be dealt with in Committee. I do not know that many amendments will have to be made during the Committee stage.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (Forrest) [4.42]: I did not have the pleasure of listening to the introductory remarks of the Minister for Mines when introducing the Bill. I congratulate him on the fact that he has brought forward this measure, because on perusal I find that it contains many commendable provisions. Certainly it is a consolidating measure, but it extends the scope of the department enabling the officers to cover a wider range than was possible previously. That aspect particularly appeals to me. I do not profess to have the knowledge that the Minister has as to the necessity for boiler inspection, but regarding machinery other than boilers, there has been a laxity in the provision of safeguards for life and limb in connection with many industries. The first portion of the Bill that appeals to me is the clause which provides for a considerable extension of the department's powers of inspection in excess of those possessed by the officials in the past. There is one point, however, that I would like cleared up so far as it affects the Commissioner of Railways. We find that the railways and tramways are exempt from the provisions of the Bill. I would like to know whether this means that the State Sawmills will be exempt as well.

There is a clause that deals with timber permits but it often happens that this ambiguity creates a difficult position. If the Minister assures me that the machinery at the State Sawmills will be subject to the provisions of the Bill, I will be quite satisfied. Regarding Clause 6, there is a provision covering the duty of inspectors, and some alterations are indicated. It would be a good idea if we had provision for local inspectors, even if they acted only in an advisory capacity, to supplement the work of the district inspector. In other industries it is customary to throw a little responsibility on to local people who have the capacity and knowledge to assist to see that the provisions of an Act are observed. That aspect can be discussed in Committee and the Minister can then give me the information I seek. Clause 12 sets out that the district inspector has power to call to his aid anyone competent to give advice and information, and I believe, so far as machinery is concerned, although there are some provisions dealing with that aspect in the Bill, it would be a good scheme to have someone who could anticipate accidents or disasters; someone with a knowledge of where machinery was defective who would apprise the district inspector, in case he was not able to patrol the whole of his district. I do not think an annual inspection of machinery sufficient. In regard to agricultural machinery I agree with the Bill, but when it comes to modern continuous process plants, or machinery on a large scale, as in the timber industry, more frequent inspections are necessary. I again stress the point that if the district inspector is unable to make more frequent inspections than are provided for in the Bill, local men of knowledge and common sense will be able to assist him. It is provided that guards be put over dangerous machinery. On looking up statistics I find that during the past 10 years there have been about a dozen fatal accidents, due to machinery being insufficiently guarded. There again, local advisers—the employer is not likely to sing out—might assist the district inspector in the prevention of serious injury and loss of life. Where men are working at high pressure among machinery a big responsibility rests on those whose duty it is to see that the machinery is properly guarded. The Bill makes provision in this direction, but does not go far enough. Another point: it is provided that records made by the district inspector shall be filed at the magistrate's office and open to inspection by the owner of the machinery or his authorised representative, but not by any other person. I do not think that information should be the exclusive property of the proprietor of the machinery. If any other person is sufficiently interested in the machinery, if he wishes to satisfy himself that in a particular case the inspector is doing his work, the report should be open to his scrutiny. Under the Bill only the proprietor of the machinery will be permitted to peruse the report. The clause deal-

ing with the liability of owners in the first instance might well be tightened up, for under it an owner of defective machinery would be able to shunt the responsibility on to the employee. Clause 52 provides that the Minister may direct an inquiry in the case of a fatal accident. Surely in such a case the inquiry should be mandatory, and not left to the discretion of the Minister. I do not know whether the Minister thinks that provision sufficient, seeing that there are other clauses governing the conduct of inquiries, but I think we might well insert "shall" in lieu of "may." The same clause prescribes who are to be present at a coronial inquiry. The inspector has power to summon witnesses and must give the employer adequate notice. Personally, I think provision might be made for the attendance of a representative of the workers engaged in the industry. If that were done, greater interest would be taken in the policing of the measure, and in consequence more adequate protection afforded. I commend the Minister for having brought down the Bill. It will meet with a storm of opposition in some centres, if only because it is so wide in its scope. I am pleased that the Government should have realised the necessity for such a measure. It is many years since I waited on the Government as a deputation asking for such a Bill. Since then many lives have been lost as the result of unguarded machinery. I do not suggest that all would have been saved had we had the Bill years ago; still such a Bill might have preserved one or two of them. Many employers will look upon it as inquisitorial, as representing too much interference by departmental officials. But if there is one department whose officials stand fairly high in public estimation, it is that devoted to the inspection of machinery. Those officials apply themselves diligently to seeing that the Act is carried out. If in the past they have not been entirely successful, it has been due to the fact that they had not the power which the Bill proposes to give them. I support the second reading, and I trust that in Committee the Government will see their way clear to accepting certain necessary amendments.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Seaddan, Albany—in reply) [4.53]: I am not altogether taken by surprise at the reception given to the measure, because everybody realises that where persons are called upon to earn their living adjacent to machinery or boilers, it is the duty of Parliament and of the Government to see that they are properly protected. We have endeavoured to do that in the Bill. Several of the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Forrest can be better dealt with in Committee. However, I point out to the member for Forrest that under Clause 69 we can authorise any person to go into any place where machinery or boilers are situated and satisfy himself that everything is in conformity with the conditions under which the

machinery certificate was granted. In point of fact we do call upon those employed about machinery to satisfy themselves that the plant is in good working condition.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Their finding should be in writing; otherwise the employer might deny that the matter was ever mentioned to him.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Since it is solely for the worker's own protection, he ought to put it in writing. But under the other provision it would be simpler for him to get the inspector to visit the place, so that his attention might be drawn to the defect.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Clause 69 deals with certificates, not with defective machinery.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: But the certificate shows the condition under which the machine or boiler should be worked. If the conditions prescribed by the certificate are not being observed, the authorised inspector can take action, and while inspecting the certificate, can also inspect the plant. There are several persons exercising that authority to-day. They are really secretaries of unions interested in the working of the machinery, and they draw attention to anything which may be defective, thus avoiding the necessity for the employee taking action which might land him in difficulties. I believe that under these two clauses we can meet the circumstances referred to by the hon. member. There is nothing in the Bill to prevent a person authorised by the Minister inspecting and reporting. However, we can discuss all these points in Committee.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Interpretation.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I remind hon. members that wherever the Bill amends the existing Act it is intimated in the margin.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3—Repeal:

Hon. P. COLLIER: This clause states that the Acts mentioned in the first schedule are hereby repealed. I do not agree that the Mines and Machinery Inspection Act, 1911, should be repealed. Will it be competent for me to move in the direction of amending the schedule when it is reached in order to retain this Act, or should I move an amendment now?

The CHAIRMAN: If this clause is passed, it will be competent for the hon. member to amend the schedule.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—Non-application of Act:

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The member for Forrest raised the point whether the Commissioner of Railways would be exempt from inspection with regard to the plant

operating the sawmills. The sawmills are not "used on or employed in the working of the Government railways." I shall ascertain from the Commissioner whether they are brought under the operation of this measure and if they are not, then before the Bill finally passes I shall move the necessary amendment, unless there are good reasons for doing otherwise. He may have competent inspectors already doing the work, but I think the work should be done by inspectors in the district.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 5—agreed to.

Clause 6—Chief Inspector and inspectors:

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In this clause will be found a provision, which probably the Leader of the Opposition has not sighted, covering the repeal of the Mines and Machinery Inspection Act of 1911. Subclause 5 practically embodies the provisions of the 1911 Act, and that is why we suggest its repeal.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not think it does embody the provisions of the 1911 Act. The subclause gives power for an inspector of machinery to exercise any or all of the powers of an inspector of mines, but the Mines and Machinery Act of 1911, while doing that, also gives an inspector of mines the authority to exercise all or any of the powers conferred upon the chief inspector or any inspector appointed under the Mines Regulation Act 1906, the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1902, or the Inspection of Machinery Act 1904. While Subclause 5 gives power to appoint an inspector of machinery an inspector under the Mines Regulation Act, there is no power to appoint an inspector of mines an inspector of machinery.

The Minister for Mines: The Mines Regulation Act does that.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If that were so, there would have been no necessity for passing the Act of 1911. That Act enables an inspector of mines to exercise all or any of the powers of the chief inspector or of an inspector "under all or any of the said Acts." That confers a wider and more comprehensive power than is contained in the Mines Regulation Act. It means that the Minister may appoint any inspector of mines to exercise all or any of the powers under the Mines Regulation Act or under the Inspection of Machinery Act, and he may also appoint an inspector of machinery to exercise all or any of the powers under this measure or under the Mines Regulation Act. However, we can deal with that when the schedule is being considered. Can the Minister inform me whether there is any intention of reducing the number of inspectors or inspections of mines by qualified inspectors appointed under the Mines Regulation Act and of transferring their duties to inspectors under the Inspection of Machinery Act? The Minister, in the course of his second reading speech, mentioned cases in which, to save overlapping and expense, it

would be advisable to appoint an inspector of mines or machinery to carry out the whole of the inspection necessary with regard to mines and machinery in isolated places. It is desirable to have this power, but I hope the Minister has not in mind any proposal to supplant to any considerable extent the work now being performed by inspectors of mines. While an inspector of machinery might be qualified to inspect the workings of a small mine, in most cases he would not be qualified to undertake the inspection of mines of any magnitude.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I think the Leader of the Opposition is quite wrong in his contention regarding Subclause 5. This Bill provides for the inspection of machinery, but it also provides that outside of such duties an inspector may, by order of the Governor-in-Council, exercise the powers of inspector of mines under such restrictions as may be considered necessary. The Mines Regulation Act provides that an inspector of mines may exercise the powers of an inspector of machinery if required. The Act which the hon. member has in mind was never proclaimed because it was found to be unworkable.

Hon. P. Collier: It has never been put into operation. It would have been if there had been a change of Government.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Act was passed in 1911 and the Labour Government did not apply it.

Hon. P. Collier: The Minister would have applied it if he had remained in office.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: As a general principle we did not desire to apply it. All that the Leader of the Opposition desires is met by this subclause. We are not seeking to lay down a general rule. For the sake of convenience and economy and without taking undue risks, we may allow an inspector of machinery to make an inspection of mines. We do not propose to go any farther. To do so would be undesirable.

Hon. P. Collier: The Minister would have power to do it if he so wished.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The power should be given.

Hon. P. Collier: So long as it is not abused.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not know that it could be abused. We are merely providing that an inspector may exercise any or all the powers subject to such conditions or restrictions as the Governor may think fit to impose. If it were a question of inspecting underground workings where men were employed, we would not permit him to do it. If it were a question of measuring up certain work, we could safely ask him to do it.

Hon. P. Collier: If you so desire, you can do it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Quite so, but I would not be foolish enough to take the risk and responsibility of asking an incompetent man to certify to the safety of a mine. We want the opportunity to use these men, where it can safely be done, to do work of little or no value; certainly of no value

from the point of view of safety. Generally it would be to report on certain driving or cross-cutting or other work done in a mine.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am not clear on this subclause. In these days of economy we are likely to have a dearth of inspectors because the Government will not appoint more than are necessary. In a locality remote from the inspector's place of abode, there might be some defective machinery, and the Minister might authorise any person to inspect that plant. He, however, would have only the right to look at the certificate issued with regard to the boiler or machinery, and the certificate might be out of date. Provision is made in the Bill for the inspector to visit the machinery twice in a year. The machinery may become defective five months after that inspection. Therefore it would be wise to give the Minister power to allow the inspector to delegate his authority to someone else to report in cases where obvious defects in machinery arose.

Mr. BOYLAND: We do not know what any future Minister for Mines may do in this matter. It would not be desirable to allow a man to inspect a mine if he knew nothing about mining. The clause should be looked into before it is passed.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Bill, which has not yet been proclaimed an Act, does more than the hon. member realises. Ever since 1911 we have had power to do what has been suggested, but what the Bill now before us does it to consolidate the other measures and grant these powers in a restricted form. We are, therefore, safer under the consolidating Bill than we would be if we retained the Act which it is proposed to repeal. I would point out to the member for Forrest that it is undesirable for Parliament to place upon public servants the responsibility of saying that machinery is absolutely safe for the whole period of 12 months, and thus remove any onus from the owner. The owner must still carry the responsibility of seeing that his machinery is safe for those engaged in working it. As a protection against the ignorant employer, we arrange for annual inspections. Under the Bill we provide for the granting of an exemption certificate in cases where the owner can produce evidence that he has kept his machinery in repair, and that it is in good order and condition. We also have a provision authorising persons to move about amongst these plants, and report if they are not safe. Our object is to cut out a great deal of the expense that is now being incurred in constantly supervising these plants, and substitute the more economical arrangement of utilising the services of some other qualified person.

Mr. McCallum: You mean one of the employees.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Some qualified man amongst those engaged in connection with the machinery. When an employer can show, on the word of some quali-

fied man, that the plant is in good working order and safe, we do not want to go to the expense of sending a highly paid official to see the machinery. We can cut out a lot of our inspection work without injury to anyone. In cases where there are men engaged in large numbers, the ordinary methods of inspection will be adopted.

Mr. McCALLUM: I agree that a good deal of expense could be saved, but I fear that if an employee is called upon to certify to certain machinery and reports adversely upon it, he may lose his position. This will be throwing an immense responsibility upon employees. They are only human, and naturally look after their positions. I should like a little more information from the Minister as to how he proposes to follow out his suggestion. Does he propose to notify the employers that he will accept the certificate of some selected employee?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There will be no restriction of inspection in cases where large bodies of men are employed. I object to sending out a departmental official to inspect some small plant which the owner himself may be operating, or with which only one man is connected, when our office records show that the plant is entirely safe. Should any doubt arise as to the safety of machinery, a responsible man would, of course, be sent up.

Mr. McCallum: The employer will know what you are doing?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. It is absurd to suggest that some employee will be hounded from one end of the State to the other because he certifies that certain machinery is not working satisfactorily. It is not asking too much to request that a man engaged on a small plant situated some distance out in the country should give us a report as to the condition of the engine, Boilers, we must always inspect. It would not be worth an employer's while to make a false report to the department, because he himself would be liable.

Mr. McCALLUM: I should like to give an instance of what I mean about the position of the employees. A strike occurred at a box factory in West Perth, and 20 lads came out. Each of these lads had lost at least one finger, and said he had not been paid any compensation. The lads had made no complaints about the machinery. When I visited the place I found the whole building was rocking, and that not a single upright was firm. Yet the certificate was posted on the building.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Was the certificate one covering boilers, or covering machinery?

Mr. McCALLUM: Machinery. Electric current was being used. All the boys were afraid to mention anything that happened in the place, lest they should get the sack. If that kind of thing can happen in the heart of the Capital, what may not occur in isolated localities? The clause should safeguard the employee more clearly.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not see what bearing the hon. member's contentions have on the clause. Where boys or girls are employed in any numbers, there will be inspection under this measure. In the case mentioned by the hon. member the trouble was, really, that the boys were not organised. But surely I am not to be asked to appoint an inspector specially to sit in a box factory?

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 7 to 10—agreed to.

Clause 11—Powers and duties of inspectors:

Mr. HICKMOTT: Will inspectors under this Bill be empowered to inspect agricultural machinery, such as chaffcutters?

Hon. P. Collier: That class of machinery is dealt with later. The hon. member has not read the Bill.

Mr. HICKMOTT: An inspector is now travelling about the country districts inspecting machinery. He inspected a chaffcutter on my place. He makes a charge of 5s. to every person whose machinery he inspects. Is the inspector to be paid by the people whose machinery he inspects?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I cannot say off-hand.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Clause 14 deals with the matter, and provides that an inspection fee must be paid. However, the Governor-in-Council has power under that clause to declare at any time that any particular machinery shall not be subject to inspection.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 12 to 14—agreed to.

Clause 15—Young persons not to be employed in certain cases:

Mr. McCALLUM: Under Subclause 4 no person under the age of 16 years may operate a passenger lift. A case now before our Arbitration Court seeks to fix the minimum age here at 18 years, as it is in Victoria and New South Wales. But if Parliament decides the age, the court will not interfere with it. A boy of 16 is very young indeed to operate a lift carrying passengers. I hope the Minister will agree to the minimum age being fixed at 18 years. Buildings of many storeys are being constructed in this city, and consequently more responsibility attaches to lift attendants.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member would be quite in order in moving the deletion of the word "sixteen," with a view to the insertion of "eighteen."

Mr. McCALLUM: I move an amendment—

That in Subclause 4 "sixteen" be struck out, and "eighteen" inserted in lieu.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have no great objection to the amendment, though undoubtedly some boys are men at 16. Personally I would discourage boys and girls doing anything whatever before they were 18 years

of age, but the trouble is that someone has to keep them in the meantime. For my part, I would be willing to make the minimum age under this subclause 21 years. Still, we should not hamper boys who want to make a start in life. The question of the age is largely a question of the boy.

Mr. McCALLUM: It is more in the interests of the passengers than the boys that I desire to see the age increased. I have in mind the lifts at Boan's and at Foy's, which take 12 or more passengers.

The Minister for Mines: So many lifts now are automatic.

Mr. McCALLUM: They are safer than ordinary lifts, which always have attendants.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: We are making a new provision to deal with lifts. The hon. member will notice that in Subclause 4 of Clause 17 we set out that every lift shall be provided with doors, locks, and other safety appliances approved by an inspector: provided that the owner of every lift not so fitted shall be allowed six months after the commencement of the Act to comply with the requirements of this particular clause, and that inspectors may apply any tests to lifts as may be prescribed whenever those tests may be deemed necessary. Therefore, when this Bill becomes law, no passenger lift will be permitted to be worked unless it has safety appliances. Then those lifts will be the simplest things in the world to work.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 16—Persons having machinery subject to this Act to notify inspector:

Mr. PICKERING: I notice that in this clause the question of agricultural machinery is dealt with, that is to say, that the inspection shall take place only once in two years. In turning to the schedule of the Act which we are amending, we find chaff-cutting machines are regarded as agricultural machinery. The new schedule includes all classes of machines employed by a farmer. Some of the machines used by farmers are worked by steam. In such cases would boilers be inspected, as other boilers, or only every two years?

The Minister for Mines: Machinery does not cover boilers.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Why the special privilege in regard to agricultural machinery?

The Minister for Mines: It is purely in the discretion of the inspector.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Bill does not place any discretion in the hands of the inspector in regard to machinery other than agricultural. It is obligatory there. Here we have special provisions for agricultural machinery.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And you would not have to go hundreds of miles either in order to inspect it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: In these days rapid strides have been made in connection with machinery. A few years ago there was

scarcely any machinery on the land. I assume that the whole object of the Bill in insisting upon an inspection of machinery once a year is to protect life and limb and to avoid the possibility of accident. Are we to say that the unfortunate farm labourer who works 75 hours a week in the farming districts, attending some agricultural machinery where there are boilers which are likely to explode, is to take an extra 12 months risk? Has he not enough to put up with? I do not know any section of the community more likely to take risks with boilers and machinery than the farmer.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: Agricultural machinery is not worked all the year round.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is all the more reason why such machinery should be inspected. After it has been standing idle for six months one never knows when it will explode. Just as the farmer will leave a piece of machinery exposed to the elements all the year round, so he will neglect a boiler, and yet it is provided that that boiler can go without an inspection for two years! The drudge who is employed on the farm has to take a risk over and above the man who is working in comfortable surroundings in a city factory. All along the line we can see the imprint of party significance on this Bill. If I may be allowed to use the expression, we can see the unseen hand in it; we can see the insidious imprint right through it, the imprint of the executive.

Mr. Money: Which executive?

Hon. P. COLLIER: The executive. There is only one executive that has any power or influence.

Mr. Angelo: Is this mere scandal "Monger"-ing?

Hon. P. COLLIER: There should be no preferential treatment.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: They say that fools rush in where Angels fear to tread. If the member for Sussex had not raised the question the clause would have been passed without opposition. Therefore, it should be due to that hon. member to reply. As a matter of fact, I am not keen on the clause and it will not matter if it is struck out. It says, "All machinery shall be inspected at least once a year . . . and agricultural machinery which may be inspected only once in two years at the discretion of the inspector." That can go out because in a subsequent clause there is provision by which we may grant an extension on certain conditions. If an inspector is satisfied he may allow a certificate to continue for two years. But he must satisfy himself that it can go on for another year without inspection. The clause says "may" be inspected at the discretion of the inspector.

Mr. Mann: Do you include an oil engine and chaff cutter on a farm?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Any machinery on a farm. It is not desirable to provide in an Act of Parliament for an inspection to be made at the expense of the community, of something which we know

does not need to be inspected. The clause is clear and definite enough. If there is going to be any risk in allowing the machinery to go on without inspection for another 12 months the inspector will not take the responsibility.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 17 to 33 agreed to.

Clause 34—Owner to notify inspector of repairs:

Mr. LAMBERT: The clause contains a reference to adding to or taking away from a boiler of any fittings or appliances, in any manner to alter the construction of a boiler. It is possible to take away appliances without altering the construction. For instance, one can instal a feed pump instead of an injector and that would not alter the construction of the boiler. I think the references I have mentioned should be struck out.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The words referred to should not be struck out. The Bill sets out the essential fittings and appliances attached to boilers. To other than those fittings and appliances, it does not apply. In the circumstances, it is not necessary to strike out these words.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 35—agreed to.

Clause 36—Fees for inspection of boilers and machinery:

Mr. MANN: I would like to know whether electric motors are covered by this clause and if so, by what method the fees for inspection are to be adjusted. Provision is made for the adjustment of fees for engines and other machinery, but I cannot see any provision for the adjustment of fees in connection with electric motors. Practically, all the small factories in Perth use electric power and I should like to know whether it is intended to increase the fees.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In some cases it is intended to increase the fees, but in others it is not intended to do so. The charge for an inspection of a group of machinery is not likely to be increased, but where we have to make an extensive and technical examination of plant, such as a winding plant, we consider that the fee paid should be commensurate with the work done. In some cases the inspection we make is not so much from merely the standpoint of safety, but it is one which no owner would make for himself. Under such an examination, the inspector will point out faults or weaknesses to the owner, which otherwise, in all probability, will remain undiscovered. The inspector will be a highly technical officer. The cost of inspection in connection with the small plant referred to by the member for Perth (Mr. Mann) is not likely to be affected to any appreciable degree.

Mr. Mann: Why make increases in one instance, whereas provision is made for the issue of a certificate without charge in the case of machinery driven directly by steam?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That only applies to plant operated by steam from a boiler, which is inspected. In other words we do not desire to make two charges. We inspect the plant which is driving the other machinery and make a charge for that, but do not make a charge for the work done in connection with the remaining portion of the plant. The exception is, as indicated in the clause, in connection with winding-engines. In that case there is a more technical inspection.

Mr. PICKERING: What provision is being made regarding fees for the inspection of farming machinery other than boilers?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They will send the account to the farmers. We know what they do with them.

Mr. PICKERING: That has been illustrated by the Leader of the Opposition. I should like to know what procedure will be adopted.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In the great majority of cases the value of the inspection is much more to the agriculturist than the cost of the fee for his certificate. The inspector, who is a technical man and highly qualified, will point out where a little attention will add materially to the life of the farmer's plant. The fees charged do not by any means compensate for the work done, for, in addition to the inspection, advice is given free. That is as it should be. The department is not out for money-making purposes, but it is intended to cover the cost of the work. I have given the chief inspector instructions that the department has to be paid the cost of the inspection, in one way or another. We cannot continue to make inspections which are of benefit to the community and of benefit to property unless the people pay for those inspections. I am trying to introduce a method of keeping the cost down to the lowest possible point, at which point the cost must be paid. I do not wish to "put it over" the agricultural community, but the farmers must pay their fair share of the costs.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It will be interesting to members to note that at last we have a Minister from the Country Party who intends to force payment for the inspection of agricultural machinery.

Mr. Pickering: Were you more lenient when you had something to do with this?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I never had anything to do with it.

Hon. P. Collier: I did, but according to the member for Pingelly (Mr. Hickmott) I never inspected his machinery for over eight years.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Minister says he will insist upon his department paying its way. How can he insist on the department paying its way when, as the member for Pingelly says, the farmers merely take the bills, look at them, and that is the end of it?

The Minister for Mines: In another clause we provide that the certificate shall not be issued until the fee is paid.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If an attempt is made to enforce payment the agriculturist will get out of it somehow. Unless it is laid down in black and white that these fees have to be paid, they will not be paid. There is no doubt that the Minister is treading on very dangerous ground in forcing payment of this description. Specific provision should be made for payment. The Minister will probably be confronted with the excuse by some of the farmers who will say that they are under the Industries Assistance Board, and that the Moratorium Act applies to them.

Mr. Pickering: Are you in favour of agriculturists being exempted?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They should be protected even against themselves; someone might seek to force upon them what might be an unjust charge.

Clause put and passed.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Clauses 37 to 51—agreed to.

Clause 52—Inquiry into cause of accident:

Hon. P. COLLIER: This deals with the point raised by the member for Forrest. Subclause (5) provides that the coroner shall notify the district inspector of the date of the inquiry, and that the inspector may call witnesses. We might well go further and make provision, as in Section 35 of the Mines Regulation Act, which would enable a representative of the deceased, a representative of the workers' association in the district, and also the employer, to be present at the inquiry and examine witnesses. I will move to add a new subclause—

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Before we come to that, I should like to move an amendment. Subclause (5) provides that the coroner shall give the district inspector notice of the date on which it is intended to hold the inquiry. That is not always practicable. The method is to open the inquiry, view the body and continue the inquiry later. The inspector might be hundreds of miles away when the inquiry is first opened. I move an amendment—

That after "shall" in line 2, the words "if practicable" be inserted; that after "district" in the same line "sufficient" be deleted; that in line 3 "hold" be deleted and "open or continue" inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I move an amendment—

That the following be added to stand as Subclause (6):—"A representative of the person killed, and a representative of

the workers' association in the district, or any industrial union of workers, or a representative of the majority of the workmen employed in the world, appointed in writing by such workmen, and a representative of the owner, may examine the locality of such accident and be present at an inquest, and may examine any witnesses as to the cause of the accident, subject nevertheless to the order of the court."

Mr. LAMBERT: Certainly some such safeguard should be inserted. I regard all coronial inquests as farcical. They should be done away with altogether. When the police are looking for a conviction they have the picking of the jury, which reduces any coronial inquiry to a farce.

Mr. Mann: That is not correct.

Mr. LAMBERT: Notwithstanding anything the hon. member has to say, I have had so many instances of it that the hon. member's views will carry but very little weight with me. Coronial inquests are a farce and a disgrace, and should not be permitted.

Mr. Gibson: It is not necessary to have a jury at a coronial inquest, unless the coroner thinks fit.

Hon. P. Collier: In mining inquests it is still necessary to have a jury.

Mr. LAMBERT: On one of the big mines some time ago, a fitter was killed by the bursting of a steam pipe. The head engineer on the mine had ordered the fitter to tighten a cast flange under a steam pressure of 200lbs. to the square inch. When the fitter exercised a little force the flange broke, and as a result he is now somewhere else, telling his life's story. The engineer was acquitted without any blame. Nineteenth of coronial inquiries result in the same way. They are farcical. I am glad that a safeguard is being inserted for the workman who is liable to be killed as a result of the stupid advice tendered by a superior.

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

Clause 53—Drivers in charge of engines or cranes or hoists:

Mr. MONEY: The six months exemption granted in paragraph (a) of Sub-clause 3 is not sufficient. The dairying industry is growing to such an extent that it is necessary to increase rather than diminish the period. I move an amendment—

That in line 5 of paragraph (a) of Sub-clause 3, "six" be struck out and "nine" inserted in lieu.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The object of the clause is to ensure that a dairyman who has a plant operating for more than six months in a year shall have a certificated man in charge.

Hon. P. Collier: It is lenient to grant an exemption of six months.

Mr. Money: It will hamper the industry if you insist upon it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The experience of the last 16 or 17 years has shown that it is desirable to have a certificated man when a boiler is used during the greater part of the year. The provision will not affect the industry to any extent, and the isolated dairy-men who will be affected will find it to their advantage to have a skilled man in charge.

Mr. LAMBERT: I desire to move a prior amendment.

Mr. Money: I ask leave to temporarily withdraw my amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr. LAMBERT: An owner who chooses to accept the responsibility might be permitted to use a boiler, but he should not be able to order an unskilled person to fire it. I move an amendment—

That after "exclusively" in line 3 of paragraph (a) of Sub-clause 3 the words "by the owner or owners" be inserted.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I cannot accept the amendment because it will restrict the exemption to those cases where the person in charge is the owner. An engine of this type used *bona fide* on a farm for agricultural purposes should not require a certificated man if used for less than six months in the year. If it is worked for a longer period, a certificated man should be employed.

Mr. LAMBERT: If the farm is so small that the farmer cannot afford to employ a man and chooses to take the risk, well and good. If he is in a big enough way to employ a certificated man, he should do so. If exemption can safely be granted for six months, it could be granted for six years. The employer should not have the right to force a man out of employment or to compel an unskilled man to take charge of an engine. If the amendment is accepted, no harm will be done to the small agriculturists whom the Minister is seeking to protect.

Mr. MONEY: According to the interpretation clause, a boiler is any vessel in which steam is generated above atmospheric pressure. In the dairying industry, it is essential to have steam to cleanse utensils.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: The definition specifies steam generated for working machinery.

Mr. MONEY: A successful dairyman must use milking machines, and the effect of the amendment would be to insist upon the owner operating them himself or employing a certificated man. It is not practicable; the industry could never stand it.

Mr. LAMBERT: If the Committee was not so liberal it would cut out many of these exemptions. There are other industries in the community to be considered besides that connected with agriculture. The man who is making a profit out of an industry ought to have the responsibility of running the machinery connected with it, and if he cannot

manage it himself he should find a certificated man to do it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The clause is liberal as it stands, and will meet the position quite well. We have looked at the matter from a practical point of view, and I think this will meet the situation without any undue risk to anyone.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. MONEY: The period during which dairying may be continued has now been prolonged to seven or eight months in the year, and farmers have been advised to grow summer fodder so as to still further lengthen the period. I move an amendment—

That in line 5 of paragraph (a) of Sub-clause 3, "six" be struck out and "nine" inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 54—Board of examiners:

Hon. P. COLLIER: What is meant by "two qualified persons?" In my opinion at least two members of the board of examiners should be certificated engine drivers. As the clause now stands the board may consist of the Chief Inspector of Machinery and some other person who holds no certificate. There would thus only be one man on the board who must be a certificated engine driver. I should like to have some explanation from the Minister.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The present system has been in operation for several years and has given satisfaction to all concerned. It is not necessary for more than one man on the board to hold a certificate. The Engine Driver's Association have not complained.

Mr. LAMBERT: I hope the clause will not be amended along the lines suggested by the Leader of the Opposition. If two members of the board were certificated engine-drivers they might think it necessary to pill every candidate who was up for an engine-driver's certificate, whether he was competent or not.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 55—Certificates of service for internal combustion engine-drivers, boiler attendants, and electric crane drivers:

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Under this clause, any person who has been following this particular calling for some time will not be required to undergo any examination. If he has worked for a period as boiler attendant or as a person in charge of an engine, he will receive a certificate by virtue of his service.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 56 to 81—agreed to.

Clause 82—Regulations:

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: Will subclause 10 curtail the privileges of this Chamber?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No. I move an amendment—

That in Subclause 10 the words "and shall not be questioned in any proceedings whatsoever" be struck out.

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

First Schedule:

Hon. P. COLLIER: I move an amendment—

That "1911, No. 38, Mines and Machinery Inspection Act, 1911" be struck out.

That Act should be allowed to stand, since it gives power to the Minister to appoint the Chief Inspector of Machinery, and any of that officer's inspectors under the Mines Regulation Act, to exercise any or all of the powers under this measure. The powers under the 1911 Act have not been exercised so far, but it may be found desirable at any time to exercise them, especially for the purpose of effecting economy in administration. One set of inspectors are working under the Inspection of Machinery Act, and another set under the Mines Regulation Act, and possibly it may turn out that the work under both Acts can be done by one set of inspectors.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I raise no objection to the amendment, because the Minister administering this measure need not exercise the powers under the 1911 Act unless he thinks it advisable. The aim of the 1911 Act is really the amalgamation of staffs of inspectors, as mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition.

Amendment put and passed; Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Schedules 2 to 7, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILL—LAND AGENTS.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair, the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—Short Title and application:

Mr. PICKERING: The operation of the Bill should extend beyond the metropolitan area. The fact of a hall-mark being given to metropolitan land agents by the measure will tend to reduce the status of land agents in the country. The registered man will be likely to get the business in preference to the unregistered agent. Certainly registration should apply to land agents in such towns as Bunbury, Busselton, Northam, Albany. I move an amendment—

That the words "and shall be operative only in that portion of the State included within the boundaries of the Metropolitan, the Metropolitan-Suburban, and the West Electoral Provinces" be struck out.

The PREMIER: I fail to see the purpose of the amendment. All the land agents who do an extensive business are in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Pickering: Are all the land sharks in Perth?

The PREMIER: There may be some at Busselton. As I stated in moving the second reading, there are in the country districts many men who do a little in the way of land business, but very few of them would take the trouble to get registered and pay the license fee and arrange a bond of £500. If the measure applies to the metropolitan area all that is necessary will be achieved. In the event of its being found that country agents suffer from the operation of the measure, we can amend the Act next year. It is wise to legislate by easy stages. We want to protect the people where the real business is done, and we want country residents to have the convenience of local land agents.

Mr. O'Loughlen: This measure gives no protection whatever. It simply establishes a privileged body.

The PREMIER: I do not agree with the hon. member at all. In my opinion, it is right to restrict the operation of the measure to the metropolitan area.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am not able to follow the reasoning of the Premier in opposing the amendment. The only object in introducing the Bill is to protect the public. Surely the person having business with a land agent in Northam or Albany, or any other centre in the country, has the same right to protection against the unscrupulous land agent as the individual in Perth.

Mr. Underwood: All the unscrupulous land agents are in Perth, it would appear.

Hon. P. COLLIER: What ground is there for the assumption that all the unscrupulous land agents are gathered together in Perth?

The Minister for Mines: That is not the point. It is that the land agent in the country does not carry on such a large business as does the land agent in the city. If you forced the country agent to take out a fidelity bond for £500 and required him to pay £5 for his license, many of them would go out of business.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That objection can be overcome easily by reducing the amount of the license fee and of the fidelity bond respecting the country land agent. By securing the registration of the agents in the country, we will afford protection to the people in the country as well as to those in the city.

The Premier: How much business is done by land agents away from the city?

Hon. P. COLLIER: There is a considerable amount done in all the principal towns. The principle, however, is the same.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Royce and Taylor at Dowerin do more business than some of the land agents in town.

Hon. P. COLLIER: There is no warrant for saying that the land agents in Perth are more unreliable or unscrupulous than those engaged in the same business in the country

districts. Even supposing there was only one land agent in a country town, surely we should protect the public in that town—if it is necessary to afford that protection. There does not appear to be one argument to warrant the application of this Bill to the city that does not apply equally to the country towns.

The Premier: Except that the bulk of the business is done in the city.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That does not affect the principle of the Bill. The necessity to protect the people—if that necessity does exist—in the city applies equally regarding people in the country. Where there may be five men doing business with a land agent in Kalgoorlie, for instance, there may be 5,000 doing business with 100 land agents in Perth, and the principle applies equally in Kalgoorlie as in Perth.

The Premier: We will exclude Kalgoorlie.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I want to include Kalgoorlie and Boulder. It would be wrong to exact the same license fee from those in the country towns.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They could do the same as under the Auctioneers' Bill. There could be two licenses, country and metropolitan.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The land agent in the country could be asked to pay a smaller license fee and take out a fidelity bond for £200 or £250, if deemed necessary.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: Some of the country agents do more business than the city people.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Seeing that this measure is not introduced for the purpose of obtaining revenue, but merely to secure the licensing of land agents for the protection of the public, the matter of fees does not count. We could make the license fee for the country land agent £1 so long as we secured his registration. That will assure that the agent will have to submit himself to the scrutiny of the licensing court in order to obtain his license. I have not much knowledge of the operations of land agents in the city. In the country, however, it is quite possible that a land agent may not deal fairly with his clients.

The Premier: It would not be fair to ask these people to register, seeing that they do so little business.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Where is the objection? There are many land agents in Perth who are struggling and will find it hard to pay the license fee provided and to take out the necessary fidelity bond. In some of the country towns there is only one land agent and he has a monopoly of the business. On the other hand, there is keen competition in the land agency business in the city. That fact is borne out by the number of land agents who are members of their association.

Capt. Carter: There are over 100 members of the association.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Only six or seven of those members operate in the country dis-

tricts; all the rest are in Perth or Fremantle. Seeing that there is this competition, it will be hard for some of them to provide the necessary fees. The Premier should agree to the amendment for it is wrong to pass piecemeal legislation. It should be made to apply all over the State. The list of members of the association shows that there are land agents in Narrogin, several in Wagin; there is one in Northam, and another in Albany.

Mr. Pickering: What about Geraldton?

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am only referring to those who are members of the association. There may be others at these places as well. There are others at Collie, Kalgoorlie, and several other places. The Premier should reduce the licensing fee and make it apply to all, if it is necessary to make it apply to any. I do not believe that a measure of this description should be used for taxation purposes.

The Premier: It will cost something to administer the measure.

Hon. P. COLLIER: We should provide sufficient to cover the cost of collection but not seek to make revenue out of it.

Mr. ANGELO: I agree with the member for Sussex that what is good enough for the city, should do for the rest of the State. There are more chances of wrongdoing by land agents outside than inside the metropolitan area, seeing that in the city the purchaser and the seller can go to the Lands Titles Office, see that there is a clear title to the land and complete the deal. The position is different in the North-West, or elsewhere throughout the country districts. There, to a great extent, we are in the hands of the land agents.

Mr. Underwood: Will this Bill make them more straight in their dealings?

Mr. ANGELO: It will not make them more straight but it will give the public protection. It is more necessary that the land agents should be registered in the different towns of the State than in the metropolitan area.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I support the clause as it stands. The Bill casts a stigma upon every land agent to whom it applies. I understand that the Bill has been asked for by the land agents of the metropolitan area, who desire to be stigmatised.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The members of the association expressed a wish for the Bill.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I say the land agents of the metropolitan area desires to be stigmatised as unreliable. That being so, I do not know that they should pass it on to the people in my district, or to the people in the Premier's district. The Bill should apply to those who ask for it and not to respectable people outside the metropolitan area. I hope that later we will strike out Clause 4, but, in the meantime, I trust that this clause will remain as printed. It will show that we recognise that we have honest land agents in the country districts who do not require an Act of Parliament to control them. A land agent in Carnarvon may be just as honest as a shipping or stock and station agent in that

centre. Seeing that the country districts do not desire to be stigmatised under this Bill, we should not include them.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: I support the amendment. The Bill is introduced to protect the public against unscrupulous land agents.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Did the public ask for the Bill?

Member: No, the land agents.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The public asked for it.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Not one of them asked for it.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: The Bill is intended to protect the public for there have been too many land ramps in Western Australia during recent years.

Mr. Wilson: Especially during the last two or three years, with soldiers' money.

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: For the last 10 years there have been these ramps. The Bill should be applied to the country districts as well as to the metropolitan area because there are unscrupulous agents outside as well as inside the metropolitan area. The Premier argues that it would be unfair to small land agents in a village like Northam. As a fact, the land agents in Northam are doing quite as big a business as land agents in Bayswater or North Perth. Why should the little land agent in the metropolitan area have to pay this heavy fee while the wealthy land agent in Northam goes scot-free? I admit that the proposed fee is rather high; but we could reduce it. I am opposed to legislation restricted to some particular area.

Mr. O'LOUGHLEN: Although opposed to the Bill as a whole, I will support the amendment. The arguments advanced in favour of extending the area over which the measure will operate are unanswerable. If a man is desirous of being crook, the Bill will not make him straight. The Bill will not prevent land ramps; people will still be taken down in land transactions, without the intervention of registered land agents at all. There are in Perth many land agents not members of the association. I do not like the disparagement cast upon land agents, the majority of whom probably are just as honest as any other section of the community. I hold that for those engaged in the preservation of public health there should be an exclusive charter, but where only purely commercial transactions are involved, we can afford to leave it to the public.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: It is clear that you have never bought a block of land.

Mr. O'LOUGHLEN: That is so. If, as the hon. member suggests, he has been nipped in such a transaction, why does he not give us some particulars? He is too shrewd a Caledonian to be easily caught. On what ground is it urged that the public require to be protected against land agents? On the evidence submitted, I think the Bill is unnecessary.

Mr. Pickering: Even the driver of a motor car has to be licensed.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Because inefficiency in him involves danger to human life. In respect of land agents, the danger does not extend beyond the pocket.

Mr. Pickering: I hope you will remember that when the Architects Bill is before us.

The Minister for Mines: You should see some of the jerry-built houses for which architects are responsible.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: We are being asked to provide registration for a number of different groups claiming the right to be registered. There is no reason why the chimney sweep should not be licensed.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He is already licensed.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am only sorry the Bill was not defeated on the second reading.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Bill is quite necessary. Numbers of newcomers are continually arriving in the State, and when they go to buy a property they require to know that the person with whom they are dealing is one of character and standing.

Mr. Monecy: On a point of order: are we on the second reading?

The CHAIRMAN: No, we are dealing with the short title.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: An amendment has been moved to make the measure apply throughout the State. I am endeavouring to show that it should so apply. Quite recently a newcomer paid all the money he had as a deposit on a block of country land which he was induced to believe was worth £900. Then he went along to the Government and asked for assistance in the development of his land. As soon as the Government officials saw the land, they declared it to be worth not more than £320. The stranger had to forfeit his deposit. The Bill will protect such a man, because under it none but fair dealing agents will get licenses. The member for Pilbara characterised the Bill as a slur on the land agents in the metropolitan area, and said he did not want it extended to country districts. It is true the Bill has been asked for by the associated land agents in the metropolitan area, whose membership, by the way, so far from being restricted to the metropolitan area, extends pretty well throughout the State. Thus it will be seen that land agents in the country as well as those in the city think it necessary that land agents should be licensed. I agree that the Bill ought to be made to apply to the whole State.

Mr. MULLANY: I support the amendment. To a large extent the Bill in its present form would be ineffective, inasmuch as unscrupulous land agents desiring to work a ramp could rent premises in say, Northam, and so be exempt from the provisions of the measure.

Capt. CARTER: I support the amendment. The Bill is designed to protect a

certain element in our community, which may be called unsuspecting or unsophisticated, and which is unversed in the art of conveyancing. It is patent to all with a knowledge of land transference that there is important work to be done in such a transaction. Not two out of ten men picked up in the street could competently handle a transfer or intelligently peruse an article of conveyancing or contract of sale. Experience has proved that the community require to be protected. So far from being a slur on the association of land agents, this matter should be regarded in quite the opposite light, and the land agents should be commended for asking for this legislation. If we are going to be logical there is no reason why the Act should not apply to every land agent in the State. The metropolitan area certainly does a much larger business than the country towns, but I know of several country towns such as Katanning, Wagin and Narrogin where land agents are doing a very big business in connection with the sale of farms. It is necessary that a reputable as well as a trained person should handle the business of conveyancing.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is a lawyer's work, not a land agent's work.

Capt. CARTER: The hon. member's interjection indicates that there is certain lack of knowledge on his part. Many land agents draw up their own mortgages and do all their own conveyancing, and therefore it is necessary to ensure that this work be done by reputable persons. We have been asked for specific instances. One of the worst scandals that it has been my sorrow to know of in this State has been the mis-handling and misappropriation of soldiers' bonds. Therein lies one of the chief reasons for the association seeking to have this Bill made law. If any member of the association has been guilty of trafficking in soldiers' gratuity bonds in such a way as to be unworthy of the association, the association wants the matter thoroughly sifted and the individual dealt with in the only proper way.

Mr. Wilson: Move that progress be reported until a committee can report on that question.

Capt. CARTER: If it were necessary for the safe passage of this Bill to have a report on the machinations of certain individuals who have been trafficking in war gratuity bonds, I would certainly assist in getting it. As a land agent, a member of the association, a member of this House, as well as a returned soldier I am keenly anxious that this matter should be sifted. It is a scandalous disgrace to the city of Perth and will remain a disgrace until it is sifted.

Mr. Underwood: That does not affect the Bill.

Capt. CARTER: It was largely responsible for the introduction of this Bill.

Mr. Underwood: No; this Bill was talked of two years ago before the soldiers got their gratuity bonds.

Capt. CARTER: I was a member of the association which waited on the Premier and asked that this Bill be introduced. The Premier can hear me out when I say that one of the chief arguments used was that of the gratuity bonds scandal, which was then in full swing and now stands as a disgrace to the business men of Perth. Until the names of the men who have trafficked in the soldiers' bonds are published, the stigma of disgrace will rest upon every land agent in the city.

Hon. P. Collier: What has been done to make those names known?

Capt. CARTER: Representations have been made to the proper authorities that the names should be published. Promises have been given, but up to the present they have ended in promises.

Hon. P. Collier: There seems to be a powerful influence at work to prevent it.

Mr. Mullaney: Why do not the members of the R.S.L. make efforts to get a proper inquiry?

Capt. CARTER: It is the desire of every returned man and of every fair-minded man that these transactions should be sifted, and it is the duty of the Government to see that they are sifted. We have been told that this is a Commonwealth matter.

Mr. Underwood: It has nothing to do with the Bill now before us.

Capt. CARTER: It has everything to do with the Bill. It was one of the primal factors which led to the introduction of the Bill. Members of the association consider that if any of their members have been guilty of malpractice in dealing with these bonds, they should be turned out, and the association will take speedy action to that end when the information is available.

Mr. Underwood: Will the association grant the licenses?

Capt. CARTER: No, but they will work for the exclusion of snide agents from the benefits of the association. There is no legislation which will make men straight or moral, but there are Acts of Parliament which will help men to keep straight and prevent them from going wrong. This measure will not only deter men from indulging in snide actions in connection with land conveyancing, but will give the public confidence in the work of land agents, and benefit all parties concerned. I see no reason why the operations of the measure should be restricted to the metropolitan area. Suppose a Perth land agent was convicted of an offence and his license was cancelled, he would be able to go to Bunbury, Northam, or Kalgoorlie and start in business there. I hope that what I have said regarding the trafficking in gratuity bonds will receive consideration from the Government, and that something definite will be done.

The Premier: Why do not the people concerned take action?

Capt. CARTER: Any action I have taken has met with blank refusal on the part of the local authorities because this is regarded as a Commonwealth matter. I maintain that it is essentially a State matter, which we should see cleared up. There are very big names connected with it; men who are supposed to be honourable men, but are we to stand aside and protect them because some of them have gone for a holiday or a health trip? Every name should be published, and until this is done it will be a standing disgrace to Western Australia.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: I oppose the amendment. I am not aware of any country land agents who desire to be registered.

Hon. P. Collier: There is a cinap at Bridgetown we want to rope in.

Mr. J. H. SMITH: A country land agent may have only three or four sales a week and he cannot afford to pay £5 or £10 a year in addition to putting up a bond. If the metropolitan agents desire to be registered, let their wishes be met.

The PREMIER: It is evident that I cannot retain these words in the clause, but I hope that members will at least agree to reduce the fee and bond to land agents in the country. I do not at all agree with the reasons given by the member for Pilbara. It is strange to find members representing small country towns asking that this Bill should apply to the country. The business of land agency is done in Perth; very little of it is done in the country districts. I do not propose to reply to the whole of the discussion because this is not the proper time to deal with many of the matters which have been mentioned. This clause merely deals with the area in which this Act shall operate. If offences have been committed in connection with the soldiers' gratuity bonds, the guilty persons should be prosecuted by someone, but what have the Government to do with it?

Capt. Carter: The persons concerned are not in a position to take action.

The PREMIER: If there are persons who have offended against the law of the land, the law should be put in motion against them.

Mr. MONEY: In allowing the discussion to somewhat wander from the clause—

The CHAIRMAN: That is a reflection on the Chair. I am here to judge as to the relevancy of the discussion.

Mr. MONEY: I am only excusing myself for replying to some of the statements which have been made. One half of the troubles in connection with land transactions in Western Australia during the past 25 years have been due to land agents undertaking work they are not qualified to do. But for this, we would not have had that terrible anxiety and trouble in connection with the Cosnells estate. I could give from my own experience dozens of instances of trouble which has originated solely through land agents attempting to do work which they do not under-

stand. Properties have been sold without there being any title available.

Mrs. Cowan: Women have suffered, too.

Mr. MONEY: Yes. Land agents get a commission representing about 10 times the amount solicitors get for conveyancing work. This work should be done by officers of the court and not by land agents. If land agents have such a feverish desire not to be interfered with in their own work, they should not infringe upon the work that other people are qualified to do. If the principle is good in one part of the State it is good all over it.

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

Clause 2—Interpretation:

[Hon. G. Taylor took the Chair.]

Hon. P. COLLIER: Do the words "land agent" embrace persons who hawk land for sale as a side line, but have no regular place of business? With reference to the allegation of the member for Leederville that a number of business men in the city have robbed soldiers of their gratuity bonds, I would draw his attention to the fact that this Bill will not affect that position. I am surprised that the Returned Soldiers' Association have not been able to secure the publication of the names of those responsible for this state of affairs.

Capt. Carter: They have had valuations made by Government officers. In one case a soldier bought a block for £37 10s. and it was valued by a Government valuator at £5.

Hon. P. COLLIER: No doubt there are numerous cases of this kind. I suggest that the hon. member can get the most complete inquiry into the matter by moving for the appointment of a Royal Commission. By this means the public can be made aware of the persons responsible.

Mr. Wilson: I have a motion on the Notice Paper for the appointment of a Select Committee.

Hon. P. COLLIER: A Select Committee will not have the same power as a Royal Commission.

The PREMIER: The clause will cover everyone who offers land for sale. If there is any doubt about it I will have the clause re-committed. It should not go out to the public that every man who sold land to a returned soldier and took over his gratuity bond in part or whole payment can be charged with having done something wrong.

Capt. Carter: That has not been stated.

The PREMIER: If men have been guilty of fraud they should be made to suffer for it.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3—agreed to.

On motion by the Premier consideration of Clause 4 (Application for license) postponed.

Clause 5—License:

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am opposed to the Bill, of which this clause is practically the essence. No doubt members have received a letter from the Land Agents' Association stating that during the debate on the Bill the member for Yilgarn had said that the most reputable agents would not join the Land Agents' Association, that I had interjected "and some of the most disreputable have joined," and saying that the association took exception to these remarks and enclosing a list of their members. So far as my remarks are concerned, I am compelled against my own belief, to accept the statement that there are no disreputable land agents.

The Premier: That has nothing to do with this clause.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes, because the clause deals with licensing. If land agents were reputable it would not be necessary to license them. There are shipping agents, live stock agents, indent agents, importers' agents, buying agents and others, all dealing with the money of the public. Out of all these we select one class, and tell them they must be licensed and that they must enter into a fidelity bond as a guarantee that they will not rob the public. We pick out the land agents as the only disreputable business people in the State.

The Minister for Mines: That is not correct. Do you say that every person who has to take out a fidelity bond is disreputable?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: These are the only persons who are required by law to take one out.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: What about book-makers?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: There is no legislation providing for a fidelity bond for book-makers. We are endeavouring to treat land agents as we have treated no other section of the people. If the Parliament of Western Australia passes legislation declaring that land agents are the only class of business men in the State against whom it is necessary to protect the public by legislation, one is compelled to infer that the land agent's occupation is disreputable. I do not hold that view, having had some business with land agents, whom I have found just as honest and honourable as any other section of the community. The passing of this Bill would represent a gross and gratuitous insult to many honourable business men. If the Land Agents' Association are prepared to accept the insult contained in this measure, then what few words I can say regarding them will not matter at all. Just let us consider some of the names mentioned in this list of land agents. One is Boans Ltd. The Committee can imagine our good friend Mr. Harry Boan taking out a fidelity bond of £500 as a guarantee of his honesty. The same remark applies to the firm of Connor, Doherty, & Durack, Ltd.

Then there is James Gardiner, Ltd. Mr. James Gardiner will have to get the signature of two citizens to certify to his respectability.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: We cannot make fish of one and flesh of another.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The question of soldiers' bonds, which has been introduced into this discussion, is utterly foreign to this Bill, inasmuch as land agents are not the only people who have dealt in those bonds. As is well known to the member for Leederville and the Returned Soldiers' Association, bookmakers and insurance companies have dealt in those bonds. I hope the clause will be defeated—which will mean the defeat of the measure.

Mr. MONEY: The Bill, while providing for the fidelity bond of £500, says nothing as to how that amount shall be applied.

The CHAIRMAN: The fidelity bond is provided for in Clause 4.

Mr. MONEY: The Bill should state where the money is to go.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I move an amendment—

That in Subclause 1, line 4, the words "any part of" be struck out.

This amendment is necessary, having regard to the schedules.

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

Clause 6—Licensee may transfer license:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Power has been given to the Treasurer to remit part of the license fee. This clause almost entitles the licensee to sell his license, and represents a material departure from the New Zealand Act, under which a license can be transferred only in the case of the licensee becoming a bankrupt or dying. We should assimilate our Bill to the New Zealand measure.

The Premier: This is a better measure than the New Zealand Act.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not in that respect. I move an amendment—

That in Subclause 1, line 1, the words "may transfer his license to any person" be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu: "or if he dies or is adjudged a bankrupt, his executors or administrators, or the assignee of his estate in bankruptcy, may transfer his license."

No man should be permitted to make a profit out of his license as land agent.

The PREMIER: I hope the Committee will not agree to the amendment. The clause provides that if a man takes out a license and subsequently sells his business, he may transfer his license to the purchaser of the business if the licensing court approves. If a land agent sells his business at the end of June, he would get 50s. for his license from the man who buys the business.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: He will get more than that.

The PREMIER: Nothing of the sort. The man who obtains the transfer of the license must be a man approved by the court, and the man who secures the license must go through the same formalities as if he applied for the license originally. All that the amendment will achieve is that the State will get a little more revenue, because the man buying an established business will have to pay a license fee for the full year. The clause is an improvement on the New Zealand provision. We have had enough trouble over this Bill already what with letters from land agents and others, and I am getting a little tired of it.

Mr. McCALLUM: There is a good deal of force in the arguments advanced by the member for North-East Fremantle. I have had experience on the bench in Perth when applications for various licenses, somewhat similar to the one under review, have been dealt with. I have seen the documents providing for the transfer of the businesses. There is trafficking going on in these licenses and there will be trafficking in the land agents' licenses if the measure is passed in its present form. If the business is an established one, the seller will make that a reason for asking a higher price from the purchaser. If extra money is to be paid because of the license for an established business, that money should go to the State rather than to the seller of the business. The clause will result in the limitations of the number of land agents for it will be found that Opposition will be raised to the granting of new licenses. Such opposition is shown to-day where new employment brokers' licenses are applied for. Why should there not be as much competition in connection with land agents' licenses as in connection with licenses of any other description.

Mr. Mann: I have only known opposition when it is a matter of repute.

Mr. McCALLUM: The hon. member knows that the opposition often comes from the other employment brokers. There has been similar opposition respecting other licenses. All these licenses tend to restrict the number of those engaged in the callings affected.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am sorry that the Premier has taken up a line of action to which I disagree in connection with the Bill. He said that what with so many letters and amendments and so on he was tired of the Bill, and would drop it.

The Premier: I did not say that.

The Minister for Mines: In any case the practice of sending such letters to members of Parliament should be stopped. It is a system of intimidation.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Minister has been here long enough to know that it is a common practice.

The Minister for Mines: It should be stopped. It is attempted intimidation.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is the duty of members to endeavour to improve Bills. I hold, although I withdraw my amendment—I do not think it makes any difference in any case—that the person who has been granted a license as a land agent should not be allowed to sell a license granted to him under this Bill. He should not be permitted to transfer it for 10s. Such a course is not fair to the State. A man with an established business will take his license into consideration when disposing of his business. That is not right. If the Premier is willing to keep the deficit growing and does not want more revenue, we will have to wait until we get on the other side of the Chamber.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I think there is more in the point raised by the member for North-East Fremantle than members seem willing to concede. Why should a man be allowed to transfer his license? The principle of transferring a license is perfectly sound where the premises are licensed, as in the case of an hotel, but not where the person is licensed. Why should the newcomer have to approach the court for approval of the transfer, seeing that under the clause it will resolve itself largely into a matter of form? Why have the court's approval at all? It will be no greater hardship on the man who buys a business to have to approach the court for a new license, than it would be for him to have to get the court's approval of a transfer. However, the principle, sound though it is in respect of licensed premises, should not be made to apply to the licensing of a person.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: Will you agree to a refund for the unexpired term of the license?

Hon. P. COLLIER: No, but I would make a reduction in respect of an application for a license in the middle of the year. The provision in the clause will assist a man in the selling of a business, but that is all that can be said for it.

The Premier: Why not strike out the clause altogether?

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am going to vote against it.

The Minister for Mines: One or two clauses fewer in the Bill will not matter.

Mr. MONEY: The main objection I have to the clause is that under it we lose the condition of the fidelity bond, which was never intended. In the circumstances the Premier would be well advised to leave the question of transfer alone.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	18
Noes	..	..	..	14
				—
Majority for	..	..	..	4
				—

AYES.

Mr. Angelo	Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Boyland	Mr. Pickering
Mr. Broun	Mr. Fiesse
Mr. Carter	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Durack	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Gibson	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. J. M. Smith
Mr. C. C. Maley	Mr. Mullany
Mr. H. K. Maley	(Teller.)
Mr. Mann	

NOES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. McCallum
Mr. Chesson	Mr. Money
Mr. Collier	Mr. Simons
Mr. Corboy	Mr. Underwood
Mrs. Cowan	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Davies	Mr. O'Loghlen
Mr. Heron	(Teller.)
Mr. Lambert	

Clause thus passed.

Clauses 7, 8—agreed to.

Clause 9—Account of moneys received and their application:

[Mr. Stubbs resumed the Chair.]

Mr. MacCallum SMITH: No time is specified for the rendering of the account sales. It may be one day or one year after the sale. An unscrupulous agent may withhold the statement of the sale until forced to render it. There should be a time limit.

The PREMIER: It is prescribed that the accounts must be rendered forthwith. Surely, that is sufficient. However, you can put in any time you like.

Mr. Money: The provision in the clause is perfectly reasonable.

The Minister for Mines: The clause prescribes "on the receipt of the money."

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 10 to 15—agreed to.

Progress reported.

BILL—AUCTIONEERS.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 8th September.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported on Clause 11.

Clause 11—No person to act as an auctioneer after sunset or before sunrise:

[Mr. McCALLUM had moved as amendment that in line 4 after the word "company" the words "and no person shall act as auctioneer for the sale of vegetables between the hours of midnight on any Sunday and midnight on any Monday" be inserted.]

The PREMIER: I hope that the member for South Fremantle will not press the amendment. This Bill is not the right place in which to insert the provision. He is really

aiming to prevent Sunday work, but all his amendment will achieve will be the prevention of Monday auctioneering; the Sunday work could go on just the same. I am in sympathy with his object, because I see no need for Sunday work. I do not quite know what to advise him to do, but I hope he will withdraw the amendment.

Mr. MONEY: There is an old law dating back to the time of Charles I. still in force in Australia to prevent work on the Sabbath, under which a person is not permitted to follow on the Sunday his occupation of the other six days of the week.

Mr. McCALLUM: I am afraid that the market gardeners in my district do not know Charles I. The Act referred to by the member for Bunbury was unearthed at the time of the slaughtermen's strike, and brought the strike to an end. The trouble is that we cannot get the Chinamen to abide by its provisions. An Asiatic is prevented from working in a furniture factory or laundry on the Sabbath, and yet the Government have never attempted to take action against them for working in gardens.

The Minister for Agriculture: Could you prevent them from watering vegetables on the Sunday?

Mr. McCALLUM: I am not objecting to that. So long as auctioneering takes place on Monday, these market gardeners will work on Sunday. If the Premier will give an assurance that he will enforce the law so that market gardeners shall not work on Sunday, I shall be content.

The Premier: We would want another 100 police to enforce that.

Mr. McCALLUM: Why enforce it in the case of furniture factories and laundries and not market gardens? The Minister for Mines was illogical when he said it was absurd to prevent men working on Monday in order to save others working on Sunday, and then suggested an amendment to the Municipal Corporations Act to enable a by-law to be passed with the same object in view. According to his argument it would be absurd for us to do it but not for the local authorities. Will the Premier give the assurance for which I have asked?

The Premier: I cannot.

Mr. McCALLUM: Are we to understand that the Government intend to allow that law to remain a dead letter?

The Premier: You would be in trouble every Sunday.

Mr. McCALLUM: It is only the Asiatics who are forcing the Sunday working in market gardens now.

Mr. Lambert: They would be playing fan tan if they were prevented from working.

Mr. McCALLUM: If my object can be achieved in another way, I shall be satisfied.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: The Chinese would still sell their vegetables privately.

Mr. McCALLUM: I am against Sunday labour. There was a time when by agreement there was no auctioneering of vegetables on Monday.

The Premier: You want to run a steam roller over the whole State for the benefit of Fremantle.

Mr. Angelo: Why cannot that practice obtain now?

Mr. McCALLUM: The Asiatics themselves broke it down.

Mr. Angelo: Did the auctioneers sell their stuff?

Mr. McCALLUM: No, but the Asiatics waited outside the boundary of the municipality and came in at daylight ahead of the Europeans. No matter what action is taken the Asiatic will find some means of getting round it. If there is a law in existence to abolish Sunday labour the Government should put it into force. We want to guarantee that everyone shall have at least one day's rest in the week. Most of the market gardeners in my electorate are returned soldiers, and they are obliged to work on Sundays in order to compete against the Asiatics.

Capt. CARTER: In Perth there are £600 or £700 worth of vegetables sold on three distinct market days of the week. Practically no vegetables from South Fremantle are sold in Perth. Therefore, the legislation proposed will be purely of a parochial nature. One of the biggest sources of revenue in my electorate is the tomato-growing industry. Tomatoes ripen quickly and have to be picked and packed immediately they are ripe. This leads to Sunday labour, and to auctions on Monday. Many returned soldiers are also engaged in the retail trade, and these too have to be considered. I would suggest to the member for South Fremantle that a way out of the difficulty would be to boycott the Asiatic and cut the ground from beneath his feet.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	9
Noes	..	..	..	19
Majority against				10

AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Larabert
Mr. Chesson	Mr. McCallum
Mr. Collier	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Corboy	Mr. O'Loughlen
Mr. Gibson	(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Angelo	Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Boyland	Mr. Money
Mr. Brown	Mr. Pickering
Mr. Carter	Mr. Plessa
Mrs. Cowan	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Durack	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. J. M. Smith
Mr. C. G. Maley	Mr. Underwood
Mr. H. K. Maley	Mr. Mullany
Mr. Mann	(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 12, 13—agreed to.

Progress reported.

BILL—ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [10.46] in moving the second reading said: This is a very small measure, and very easily understood. I desire to introduce the Bill to-night in order that we may be able to consider it further on Thursday next. As hon. members are aware, a member of this House cannot nominate for a seat in the Federal Parliament. In Victoria and in Tasmania that position has been altered by Acts which we propose to copy now. What I am introducing to-night is a copy of the Victorian Act, which makes it possible for a member of the State Parliament to stand for a seat in the Federal Parliament without losing his State seat should he be defeated. My reason for introducing the Bill is not alone to make it possible for members of this House to nominate for Federal seats; the measure is based on broader reasons. I consider our representation in the Federal Parliament so important that the people should have the widest possible choice and should have the opportunity of electing as their Federal representatives men who have had experience in the State Parliament. All of us who have had any administrative experience know how difficult it is to carry on the affairs of this country and to provide sufficient revenue to meet our expenditure, in view of the ever-encroaching demands of the Federal authorities. When we agreed to federate, we did think that our responsibilities and those of the Federal authorities were clearly defined, and we thought we should be left with sufficient revenue to carry on the work of State government. Quite the reverse is the case. The Federal Government can and do use every possible avenue of taxation.

Mr. Pickering: And exploitation.

The PREMIER: Yes. They do this to such an extent as to make it almost impossible for the State Treasurer to obtain sufficient revenue to carry on the work of the development of the country. It has to be remembered that the Federal responsibilities are really very limited as compared with those of the State. If there is to be development, it must be by the work of the State. In this country of ours, all the work that means anything is the result of State activity. The Federal Government, it is true, deliver our letters, and attend to the Custom House, and have a Taxation Department and a Savings Bank, and control one or two minor activities; but beyond those things they do not come into the life of our people. We ought to be as well represented in the Federal Parliament as possible. I believe every elector in this State will realise that it will be an advantage to have in the Federal Parliament men who have served some time in this Parliament. It must be an advantage to any Federal representatives of ours to have had some experience in this State House. I think every member will ad-

mit that he found his legislative work much easier after some little experience of it. My view is that the experienced members of this Parliament should be permitted to nominate for a seat in the Federal Parliament without losing their seats here if they happened to be defeated, and this measure provides for that. A perusal of the Bill shows that under it a member of this Parliament may become a candidate for a seat in the Federal House upon resigning his State seat within 21 days of the issue of the writ for the election of a member to represent the Federal constituency, and upon giving notice to the Speaker that he is resigning with that object. If he is defeated then he again communicates with the Speaker. The State election consequent upon the action of the member is delayed until after the Federal election is completed. The member will be required to give notice to the Speaker if it is his intention to nominate for his old seat. If he does that, it will be the duty of the Chief Electoral Officer in this State to declare him elected without contesting the seat. It means that a member of the Assembly or of the Upper House can, if the Bill is passed, become a candidate for a Federal seat and his seat will only become vacant if he is elected to the Federal Parliament. If he is not elected and he wishes to, he can retain his seat without having to face an election. It is right that we should make this provision and I have no hesitation in asking the House to pass the Bill. We have discussed this question in this Chamber before, and several Parliaments, without having formally debated the matter, have agreed that some such provision should be made. The Federal Constitution is against us, but it has been overcome in Victoria and Tasmania by a measure similar to the one I am moving. If the Bill is passed, we shall be able to get over the difficulty in the same way. I hope members will realise that all I am asking is for the people to have an opportunity of electing as their representative in the Federal Parliament a member who has had experience in this Chamber or in the Legislative Council. We will not elect him or help him to be elected in any way. He will have to contest the election just the same as if he were not a member of this Chamber. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.