

for nearly two hours with the closest attention I am told I have got the wrong end of the stick and do not know what I am talking about. If I may have an assurance from the leader of the House that he will not rush this Bill through Committee I may say that personally I shall be very much obliged.

On motion by Hon. H. P. Colebatch, debate adjourned.

BILL — NEWCASTLE-BOLGART RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Received from the Legislative Assembly and read a first time.

House adjourned at 8.13 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 7th September, 1915.

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

QUESTION — WAR AND UNEMPLOYMENT DISTRESS RELIEF FUND.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY (without notice) asked the Honorary Minister:

1, Has his attention been drawn to a placard, on the walls of the Immigration Office, stating "The War and Unemployment Distress Relief Fund is exhausted, and the committee have been compelled to further reduce the relief afforded for bare necessities of life, and 800 children are appealing for food. Donations received within"? 2, Have the Government been informed that such distress exists? 3, If so, why have the Government not afforded the necessary relief from the State Children's Department to these children? 4, Will he give instructions forthwith to have this objectionable placard removed from a Government building? 5, Will the Government consider the advisability of giving the War and Unemployment Distress Relief Fund Committee a building in a less public position to administer their funds?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister) replied: 1, No. 2, No. 3, Practically answered by No. 2; but I desire to say this in regard to the subject, that the State never allows a child to want. 4, I will consider the matter. 5, No. The War and Unemployment Distress Relief Fund Committee also administer the Patriotic Fund, and it is advisable that that fund should have a central office.

QUESTION — STATE SAWMILLS, LAND CLEARED.

Mr. S. STUBBS (for Mr. Allen) asked the Minister for Works: 1, What was the cost of clearing the four acres of land at Big Brook, namely, the land adjoining the cottages erected for employees of the State Sawmills? 2, Why was the land cleared, and for what purpose is it at present used or intended to be used?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Eleven acres of land have been cleared, not four acres. The cost of clearing amounted to £17 per acre. 2, For the purposes of a school and an orchard.

QUESTION—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE BOARD.

Fallowing and harvesting operations.

Mr. WANSBROUGH asked the Minister for Lands: In view of the fact that the Industries Assistance Board and the Agricultural Bank are turning down applications for horses and machinery for fallowing and harvesting operations, thereby diminishing considerably the board's asset in the land itself, and, at the same time, the State's progress, will he inquire into the matter with a view of affording the settlers affected the very necessary assistance? 2, Is it a fact that farmers have been prohibited from interviewing members of the board; and, if so, why?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, The Industries Assistance Board is referring requests for horses and machinery to the Agricultural Bank, where the settlers under the board are mortgaged to the bank, and if the bank cannot approve, the board considers and decides the application on its merits. Reasonable requirements will be granted. 2, No, but it is impossible for members of the board to be interviewing farmers and, at the same time, giving consideration to requests as a board. Therefore, farmers are required to make their inquiries from an officer specially set apart for the purpose, who will submit their requests to the board, or a member thereof, for decision. Where the matter is of sufficient importance, an appointment can be arranged.

QUESTION—WATER SUPPLY ON AGRICULTURAL RAILWAYS.

Mr. WANSBROUGH asked the Minister for Water Supply: 1, Has any action been taken by his department to provide water supplies along the Brookton - Corrigin, Corrigin - Merredin, and Yillimining-Kondinin railways? 2, If so, will he say at what sidings such work is in progress? 3, The nature of such works, whether wells or dams? 4, What undertakings are contemplated in the immediate future?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLY replied: 1, Yes. 2, A considerable amount of work has already been done and further proposals are in hand at Wogerlin, Jura, Gnarning, and Kulin. Proposals are also forward for supplies at sidings generally. 3, Supply will be by tank or well in accordance with local conditions. 4, It is proposed to arrange for a supply at necessary points on railway lines in agricultural areas.

QUESTION—ROAD CONSTRUCTION, KONDININ DISTRICT.

Mr. WANSBROUGH asked the Minister for Works: 1, What steps are being taken in connection with the clearing of feeder roads to the railhead at Kondinin? 2, Will he give an assurance that same will be ready in time to remove the coming wheat harvest?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Provision is being made on this year's Estimates for feeder roads to agricultural railways, and work will be proceeded with in their order of urgency. 2, A special effort will be made to provide feeder roads in time for next harvest.

QUESTION—RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION, ESPERANCE NORTHWARDS.

Mr. GREEN asked the Minister for Works: 1, Is it true that the engineers for the construction of the Esperance Northwards railway have been recalled from Esperance? 2, When will the construction and laying of rails be proceeded with? 3, When is it anticipated that the first 30 miles will be completed? 4, When will the full length of 60 miles be open for traffic?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, The engineers recently at Esperance were sent there in connection with the deviation of the railway, and to fix site for new jetty, which is one of the first essentials. Plans are now in hand. 2, 3, and 4, Delays have been occasioned on account of the difficulties which the

department is experiencing in its endeavours to make satisfactory freight arrangements. Negotiations are still being pursued, but it is difficult to say at present when the actual construction of the permanent way can be commenced. Tenders were recently called for rails and fastenings, the prices submitted being very much higher than on previous occasions. The lowest tenderers did not tender to specification, but the department is now in communication with them endeavouring to secure a quote to the Western Australian standard. It is therefore impossible at this stage to say when the line will be completed to 30 or 60 miles. I may add that this information was given to the member for the district some weeks ago.

QUESTION—RAILWAY STATION, GERALDTON.

Estimate and Cost.

Mr. HEITMANN: To ask the Minister for Railways: 1, What was the amount of the original estimate for the construction of the new railway station, buildings, etc., at Geraldton? 2, What has been the cost up to date?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, The original estimated cost of the buildings, sidings, etc., was £56,389, but in consequence of additional work being decided on, the estimate was increased to £63,438. 2, Expenditure to the end of August was £61,664. The above figures are exclusive of land resumption.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Minister for Mines: Report of Mines Department for year 1914.

By the Attorney General: State Hotels, profit and loss account for year ended 30th June, 1913, together with Auditor General's report.

BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENT.

Introduced by the Minister for Lands, and read a first time.

BILL—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—MINES REGULATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [4.46] in moving the second reading said: This Bill marks the third attempt during the past three years on the part of the Government to amend the Mines Regulation Act, 1906. The Bill of 1913 was a very full and comprehensive measure and contained all the amendments which, in the opinion of the Government, were necessary to bring the Act up to date and to provide an adequate measure of protection for the lives of the men engaged in the mining industry. This Bill in comparison is a very modest measure, consisting of only 14 clauses. It relates to only one phase of the Mines Regulation Act, namely, the appointment of inspectors, their duties and the methods of their appointment. I wish to say at this stage that, from the fact that this is quite a different Bill from the one brought down by the Government on previous occasions it is not to be taken that we have in the slightest degree foregone any of the principles contained in the Bill of 1913. This Bill is a small one because we think the time is inopportune for the larger one; also this is in keeping with the promise given at the commencement of the session that no Bills of a controversial nature would be introduced during this session. The other more important and more debatable Bill has been laid aside in favour of this comparatively small and unimportant one.

Mr. Taylor: The other was equally as necessary as this.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is so. It might be asked why, in the laying aside of so many important proposals contained in the former Bills, this one, dealing with the appointment of inspectors, has been specially selected for amendment on this occasion. The reason is because, of all the previous Mines Regulation Acts, I believe none is of such far-

reaching importance to the lives and conditions and the daily work of the men employed in the industry as that which relates to the inspection of our mines. So this has been selected because it is by far the most important, and also because the need for it is considered to be very urgent. The Bill deals only with the class of inspectors and the method of their appointment, and I think the only debatable clause in the Bill is that which relates to the appointment of workmen's inspectors. I wish to point out that this principle, giving the right to the men employed in the mines to appoint inspectors from their own ranks, is not a new one. It exists—in different forms certainly, but in some form or another—in practically all the legislation of the world dealing with the control and regulation of mines. There have been many commissions appointed in different countries at different times to inquire into this phase of mine working, and even in our own Act, the original Act of 1895, provision was made whereby the men employed in the mines might appoint one or two of their number to inspect at any prescribed time the workings of the mines. That provision was retained in a somewhat amended form in the Act of 1906, but those who are most concerned, those who have had the most experience of the operations of that Act during the past 10 years, have claimed, and I think rightly, that the provision in our existing Act has been entirely inadequate. That is best borne out by the fact that for the past nine years those sections have been availed of on only about two occasions. I wish to give the House some information in regard to what has been done in other countries concerning this principle. I have here a précis compiled by the State Mining Engineer from evidence and reports of a Royal Commission on Mines whose sittings extended from 1906 to 1911 in Great Britain. The minutes of evidence taken before that commission are very informative, and the State Mining Engineer has selected some passages from it which bear on this particular question. He says—

The evidence of Mr. M. Delevingne, representing the Home Office, ques-

tions 19 to 28. Referring to the appointment of workmen's delegates to inspect the mines (under powers quite similar to those in our own Act of 1902) Mr. Delevingne says, "The Home Office has been advised by the inspectors that this power, where it is exercised, has been found to be very beneficial." Again (question 24), "In 1899 this system of examination of mines by or on behalf of the men was investigated by a German Commission. They came to the conclusion that the system had given good results in England, the principal practical advantage in the eyes of both masters and men being that its existence was an inducement to the subordinate officials to keep the mines in good order. The report of the inspector for the Yorkshire district says that examinations of this kind do an incalculable amount of good: they tend to keep the discipline up to the required standard, and to prevent slackness on the part of officials. The question of how this power and its use could be extended and improved is a matter which the Home Office suggests should engage the consideration of the Commission." Page 7. Again in reply to question 66, Mr. Delevingne says that the Home Office most certainly wishes to encourage inspection locally by the workmen, but (question 67) preferred to leave it to the inspectors of mines to answer whether the miners would prefer appointing two men permanently for a district. In reply to question 70 he repeats that the results of having practical working men to inspect the mines have been "extremely satisfactory in every way." Page 36. Questions 392-393. In reply to questions as to alleged victimisation of workmen's inspectors. Mr. Delevingne said that "the Home Office has never in my experience received any well-founded complaints that men were dismissed for making such reports, nor has it had any application to provide for their protection." Page 400. The report of the German Commission on the Inspection of Mines by Workmen in Great Brit-

ain, France, and Belgium, referred to by Mr. Delevingne forms Appendix XL. to Vol. I. of the Minutes of Evidence. It shows that in Great Britain mine employees select two of their number to inspect and report, at least once a month if they so desire, at their own cost. France—Delegates are elected for three years by secret vote of the men to inspect workings twice a month and that the cost is paid by the State in the first instance but collected from mine owners later. Belgium—The miners' associations and employers in conjunction submit to Government names of candidates for appointment as delegates who are appointed by Government for three years and paid by Government. This report says that "the system of inspecting delegates has generally given good results in England, and not very good results in France. In England the system may be said to give general satisfaction. The workmen see in the system the fulfilment of an urgent desire of theirs. For them it is a satisfaction to feel that the miners are examined as regards their safety by men who enjoy their confidence. On the other hand, the mine owners and their representatives recognise the wishes of the workmen as regards such inspection to be justified, and they perceive in the system a means by which any fears of impending danger may best be set at rest. They find that the delegates in general make trustworthy reports and seldom exaggerate, even if they occasionally say too much about trifles. The Government inspectors also fully approve the system of workmen inspectors." The German Commission's report on the French system is not at all favourable, owing apparently to imputed failure to appoint experienced and intelligent men only as delegates, and to the fact that the Government system of inspection and supervision is so complete that there is little use in having the workmen's inspectors also. The German Commission preferred the Belgian system because in it "an important guarantee is obtained for the election of

such persons as possess most knowledge of the subject and will refrain from interfering in matters outside their competence. This guarantee arises from the provision that the delegates are not elected directly by the workmen, but named by the Government from a list of candidates proposed for acceptance by a body comprising an equal number of employers and workmen, and that the delegates must have had long practical experience and a certain amount of theoretical knowledge also. Their appointment at a fixed and sufficient salary ensures their greater independence of the employers than is the case with the French delegates. The Belgian delegates entirely cease working whilst holding the appointment, and become more or less officials." The First Report of the British Commission does not deal with our present subject at all, but the Second Report discusses it very fully. Sec. (iii), p. 21, on "Qualifications of Government Inspectors," and (iv.), p. 26, on "Examination of Mines on behalf of Workmen," containing the conclusions of the Commission, while page 214 contains a minority memorandum on Qualifications of Government Inspectors, and p. 216 one on Inspection by Workmen. On p. 228 is a memo. on the system of Inspection of Mines in France. The various arguments on all sides of the matter of appointment of inspectors of mines appear to be very fully and fairly stated in the above reference, and special attention is directed to the remarks on page 25, wherein the Commission recommends that inspectors of mines should be of two classes, (1) highly trained technical men of wide practical experience and (2) a new class of assistants to inspectors. Regarding the latter, the Commission say "We are not of opinion, however, that it is essential that all the work of Government inspection should be carried out by men who are equally qualified. We think that a useful field of work is open to a new class of assistants to inspectors. The type to which we refer

is men who have had thorough practical experience in work underground. The work of inspection delegated them ought to be suitable to their qualifications. It is not to be expected that they should decide difficult questions, but matters of detail affecting the sufficiency of timbering, shot-firing, and kindred matters could be dealt with by them with advantage. In fact, as regards many details, such men as these would have special knowledge which would prove very valuable to the higher grade inspectors in the same way as the assistance of a practical mason is of great value to an architect in examination of a building. Although the men so appointed should not be debarred from entering the higher ranks of the inspectorate, yet it should be clearly understood that they could only do so on passing the same examination as that passed by the higher inspectors; for we clearly feel that no man ought to be allowed to deal with the more difficult questions in mining unless he has passed a strict examination of the highest character. No number of years' experience of a practical character should be allowed in the case of the upper ranks of the inspectorate to dispense with the necessity for a theoretical knowledge of mining engineering." The second class of inspectors proposed by the British Commission would be permanent Government officials appointed by the Secretary of State. The Appendix on "Inspection of Mines in France," p. 225, shows that in that country a somewhat similar division of inspectors of mines to that proposed by the British Commission has already come into force, there being "two classes of Government inspectors, (a) Government mining engineers (*Ingenieurs des Mines*) and (b) *Controleurs des Mines*. The system of miners' delegates appointed by the men at their own instance and cost applies in addition to the Government inspection. The British Commission, p. 31, expressed satisfaction with the existing provisions of the law relating to inspection of mines by workmen

(which is practically the same as in the W.A. Act of 1906), and said "Our proposal for the creation of a new class of inspectors with lower qualification does not affect the operation of this rule, and we are of opinion that it should be retained in its present form. The right of the workmen in an individual mine to inspect the mine at their own cost periodically by representatives of their own number, is a very valuable one."

And so on. The report goes on to show that the subject of workmen's inspectors is one which has been very exhaustively dealt with in different countries, and, coming to our own State, the matter has also been inquired into by Royal Commissions and by other means. The Royal Commission appointed in this State in 1904 reported and recommended in favour of the method and principle of appointing workmen's inspectors as laid down in this Bill and as sought to be enacted by the Government from time to time during the past three years. That Commission was one, I think, which no hon. member will say has not a very high standing and is not well qualified to express an opinion upon that and upon the general working of mines. It consisted of Mr. A. Montgomery, M.A., F.R.G.S., State Mining Engineer; Dr. R. L. Jack, LL.D.; Dr. Ernest Black, the president of the Central Board of Health; Mr. E. A. Mann, Inspector of Government Explosives; Mr. T. Hewitson; Mr. Fergie Reid, and Mr. John Carr. On that Commission there were at least three practical mine owners of long experience and possessing a knowledge of all phases of mine working. Mr. Hewitson was a mine manager and was well known on the Golden Mile in the early days. Mr. Fergie Reid was a practical miner for many years and, I believe, throughout most of his life, and Mr. John Carr, who represented the Miners' Union on that Commission, has been a working miner for practically the whole of his life. After an inquiry lasting some six or seven months that Commission reported as follows with regard to the appointment of workmen's inspectors:—

In view of the importance of ventilation and good sanitary conditions in and about mines to the health of the men employed, it seems to us reasonable that they should themselves have facilities for inspection and report in metalliferous mines in the same way as they have in the collieries. To make the check-inspectors' office of the most value they should be permanently engaged in the larger centres and not merely employees of the mine told off to go round from time to time, though this might be necessary in smaller places. We are of opinion that they should be appointed and removed by the recognised associations of miners of each district, subject to approval by the Minister for Mines, who should, however, possess full power to dismiss them if he thinks fit, that they should be paid by the associations with the aid of a subsidy from the State, and that they should report through the Inspectors of Mines.

That is all that is asked for in the Bill. That report was submitted in 1905, namely 10 years ago. We have made no further progress to-day than was made in those days with regard to the appointing of these inspectors, as recommended by that Royal Commission. In giving evidence before that Royal Commission Mr. Inspector Hudson, who was for many years in charge of mines on the Golden Mile, and was for something like 14 years an inspector in the Mines Department of this State, and who is now Chief Inspector of Mines in Tasmania having acquired that position some 12 months ago), said—

Check inspectors were appointed by the workers themselves in the collieries of New Zealand. Inspections of the workings were made from time to time, and comments were entered in a book. Such a system would be useful in metalliferous mines, but the person appointed should be a salaried official. Men would have to be regularly appointed. A man like that would be able to get more information than the present inspectors seemed to get, and

such a system would be useful for improving the ventilation and sanitation of mines. It seemed to be a great difficulty to get any information from the men as to their troubles. Such check inspectors would be more in touch with the actual workers.

That was the opinion of a practical man, who had had many years' experience on our Eastern goldfields. The State Mining Engineer has consistently supported and advocated the appointment of workmen's inspectors on the lines laid down in this Bill. So far back as 1909, in reply to a request from the organisations on the goldfields for the appointment of these inspectors, Mr. Montgomery, the State Mining Engineer, in a minute to the then Minister for Mines, said—

This matter was very fully discussed at the time the Mines Regulation Act, 1906, was before Parliament. I then expressed the opinion, which has only been strengthened since, that it would be judicious to have check inspectors, appointed by the men, but this was over-ruled, owing to strong opposition from the Chamber of Mines. It seems to me that the Chamber go very greatly against their own interests by opposing the inspection by the men, as the protection thereby afforded to them should greatly outweigh any inconvenience and annoyance occasioned by these persons' action.

That was the opinion of Mr. Montgomery in 1909, and he holds the same opinion to-day. However, the then Minister did not take the same view as the State Mining Engineer did, and, as a result, nothing was done. Following up that opinion given so many years ago Mr. Montgomery in 1913 in reference to the matter writes again in this strain:—

The system proposed in the Mines Regulation Bill of 1913 now before Parliament provides for election of workmen's inspectors by the duly registered unions of mine workers already recognised by the Legislature as the official representatives of the workmen as a body, subject to regulations and approval by the

Minister, and on appointment these inspectors will become Government officials during their term of tenure of the office. The Minister will have complete control of them once they are appointed, and may remove them at his pleasure. The method of their appointment would secure that they are men in whom the workmen have confidence, and if their term of office were restricted by the regulations to one, two, or three years as may be decided, their desire for re-election would doubtless operate to keep them always in close touch with the workmen and anxious to meet their views. At the same time they would be under the control of the district inspectors and unable to take any independent action on serious debatable questions without reference to them, and if necessary to the Minister, so there need be little fear that any ill-judged or hasty action on their part could seriously injure the interests of the mine owners.

Seeing that this is the view, and has been the view consistently expressed by men well qualified from experience and training to express an opinion, surely Parliament is not going to stand in the way of such a necessary reform? I dwell upon this subject because it is the only principle of the Bill. It will be observed that the Bill provides for the appointment of three classes of inspectors. There is the district inspector, who will be the official Government inspector on similar lines to those which now exist. Then there will be the appointment of special inspectors, which will permit the Minister from time to time to appoint any person, or number of persons, to make special inspections to inquire into special subjects. It may be, for instance, that it will be necessary to appoint the Government Analyst to make a special inspection of mines in order to inquire into the effect of smoke from the explosions as it concerns the health of the men. It may also be necessary to appoint men with technical knowledge. It may be necessary further to appoint a medical man to go down below and make inspections with regard to the working of mines in order to furnish a report con-

cerning the effect on the health of the men employed. Under the present Act there is no power for any inspector except the official Government inspector to enter a mine, so that a provision is inserted in the Bill to meet an emergency of that character which might arise from time to time. There are the workmen's inspectors who shall be selected by the duly registered unions of mine workmen in accordance with the regulations and subject to the approval of the Minister. That is the whole bone of contention. It was so, at all events, two years ago in another place. After all, we should have regard to the interests of all of the men engaged in our mines. We have something like 6,000 men employed underground in gold mining in Western Australia. The first consideration for a Parliament, or anyone else, who is responsible for attending to these matters, should be that no stone was left unturned so that the conditions underground shall be such as to lessen as far as possible the risk of accident, and so that the conditions shall be as healthy as it is possible to make them in underground workings. The mines, particularly on the Golden Mile, go down to a great depth—several of them approaching 3,000 feet in depth, and, I think, one or two have exceeded even that. The conditions, therefore, are very different from what they were ten years ago and different from when the present Act was passed by Parliament. It will easily be understood that the working conditions of life 3,000 feet underground—which is more than half a mile down—are rather more likely to be injurious to the health of the men employed than they would be in the case of a mine of shallower depth. As the years go by the need for a more rigid inspection and for greater facilities of inspection of underground workings of mines has increased. The tonnage of gold ore, also, that has been broken has gone on increasing practically from year to year. In 1910 the tons of gold ore raised, per man employed, amounted to 186. In 1911 this had decreased to 184. In 1912 it had increased to 203, and in 1913 to 214. In 1914 the tonnage raised per man employed had

increased to 230, that is to say, the tonnage raised per man employed had increased from 186 tons in 1910 to 230 tons in 1914. This, I think, tends to show that if the value of the ore has been diminishing of recent years this would in a measure be compensated by the increased output of the men employed. I know that some of the increased output is due to the labour-saving appliances which have been used, to the increased efficiency and inventive skill of the engineers, the men responsible for the management of the mines, or to the improved methods. Whilst that may be responsible for some of the increase I do not think it has been responsible for the whole of the increase. The men themselves, I believe, have been speeding up to a greater extent in recent years than has been the case before. The value of the gold ore, also per man employed, has been steadily increasing likewise. In 1910 it amounted to £387; in 1911 it amounted to £381; in 1912 to £404; in 1913 to £420, and in 1914 it amounted to £436 per man employed. The figures for 1914 I suppose represent an amount which is about double the average income of each man employed in the industry. The value of the gold won per man employed means employed by the men both above and below. It would be a fair average to say that the earnings of the men are about £225 a year, which would be £4 10s. a week. I do not know that it averages even that much. Therefore, a man who receives £225 a year has, according to these figures, produced gold to the value of £436. That being the case I say there is nothing too much that can be done in order to improve the conditions of those men who are producing that gold. If we turn to the accident list it will be seen that during the past five years the figures are somewhat startling. We are accustomed to become greatly alarmed at the figures which we read from day to day of men who have fallen in battle or particulars of shipwrecks or casualties of a sensational character, but we are oblivious to what is going on about us, or as the member for Kalgoorlie would say, in regard to the soldiers of industry who have

fallen by the way. We do not notice, or study, the toll that is being paid for the production of this immense wealth, and which is a sorry one indeed. In 1910—and the figures are on similar lines for some years past, and although I have gone back to 1910 I have no object in selecting that year—but in 1910 the number of fatal accidents in our mines was 29 and serious accidents 587; in 1911, 37 fatal accidents, 528 serious accidents; in 1912, 35 fatal, 491 serious accidents; in 1913, 26 fatal, 741 serious accidents; 1914, 26 fatal and 831 serious accidents, and for the first seven months of this year the fatal accidents number 20 and the serious accidents 487. For the 5½ years which I have quoted the total fatal accidents number 173 and serious accidents 3,667.

Mr. Harrison: Do you think that some of these accidents have been due to foreigners not knowing the language?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not think that is so; as a matter of fact foreigners who cannot intelligibly speak our language should not be working in our mines; it is contrary to the Act and wherever it is discovered the men are turned out. I do not think that any appreciable proportion of the accidents have been due to the cause indicated by the hon. member. A fair proportion of the 3,667 serious accidents are those of men who have been maimed or crippled for life or carry the mark of the accident, or who have to suffer because of the accident for the whole of their days.

Mr. Willmott: That is not your definition of serious injury. You say a man is seriously injured when he is deterred from working for fourteen days. It might only be a slight accident.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That may be so. I am prepared to admit that a fair proportion of the accidents only render the person incapable for a very short time. I do not say that of those which are classified serious accidents are all of persons incapacitated or injured for life, but a fair proportion are, and these figures are still increasing. Whilst in 1910 the serious accidents numbered 587, in 1914 they numbered 831, and for

the 7 months of this year 483, almost as many as the total for the year 1912.

Mr. Heitmann: What year did the altered definition of serious accidents come in, was it in 1906

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I think so. I should explain that in some degree a stricter interpretation was placed on the term serious accident than had obtained in years gone by. Accidents are now reported as serious that some four or five years ago were passed over and not reported at all, so that the increased number may be placed to that cause. I do not think that the inspectors are any less competent or are any way lack in the inspection of the mines, but the fact remains that there is a likelihood of accidents increasing as the mines go down and the conditions of mining become more difficult; the result is the inspection should be more rigid and closer than it was in years gone by when the mines were at a shallow depth. I have here an extract from a Home Office Blue Book; it is headed "Mines and quarries—General report and statistics for 1907—Colonial and foreign statistics—Statistics relating to persons employed—Output and accidents at mines and quarries in the British colonies and in foreign countries." Then it gives the figures for 1906. The death rate per thousand persons employed in New South Wales was 1.18, Queensland 1.21, South Australia .49, Tasmania .57, Victoria .95, and Western Australia 2.21. In 1907 the figures were: New South Wales .91, Queensland .75, South Australia 1.15, Tasmania .18, Victoria 1.16 and Western Australia 2.51. That was minuted by Mr. Gregory, the then minister, to the Under Secretary for Mines in which he stated, "In view of the terribly large percentage of deaths in Western Australia we must seriously consider the advisability of appointing check inspectors." That was in 1909 but that was the end of it as far as the appointment of check inspectors was concerned, but as observed by an official in the mines department it was not a good advertisement for mining in Western Australia. In addition to that we

have the evidence supplied before Dr. Cumpston as a Royal Commissioner in 1911 in this State, and Dr. Cumpston declared that as a result of his examination of practically all the men or a great proportion of the men working in the mines, that 33 per cent. of them were suffering from fibrosis or what is known as miner's complaint. That is a very serious condition indeed. In view of the figures and the facts I have presented to the House it will be conceded at once that the men working in the mines are entitled to the utmost protection, and the most rigid inspection possible if it will tend to lessen the death roll as displayed by those figures. It may be asked why the existing provisions do not meet the case. Section 16 of the present Act provides that the men working in a mine may appoint any two or their number once a month, or oftener, to inspect the workings of the mines and enter the result of their inspection in a record book and forward it to the district inspector or the Government inspector. It has been contended by the opponents of this principal as laid down in the Bill that the provision in the existing Act meets all requirements? If it is contended by the opponents of the present Bill, or of a similar Bill as was introduced previously, there is no need for the measure because the existing Act provided all the machinery required for the inspection by the workers, but on the face of it a contention of that kind is absurd. Is it reasonable to suppose that the man working in the mine to-day will come out of the mine and inspect the workings of that mine to-morrow in company with the manager, and as a result of the inspection enter the particulars of the inspection in a record book stating that he believes that the working places in the mine are unsafe? Is it reasonable to suppose that the man would continue in the employment of that mine? If we put it the other way and say if the management—and I am not accusing the mine managers of being inclined to victimise—did not penalise the employee for reporting in that direction it must inevitably have the ef-

fect of toning down the men's reports. It is against human nature to expect that a man, while working in a mine, depending on that mine for his livelihood, will go and enter in the record book an adverse report on the conditions existing in the mine. It is asking too much to expect anyone to do that. What would one say if an employee of Boan Bros. or Foy and Gibson had the power under the Health Act or the Early Closing Act or the Factories Act to report on the conditions existing and against their employers? Is it to be contended that we can get, by a system of inspection of that kind a report which by any stretch of imagination would be correct? That is the view taken by the men as is shown by the fact that during the past nine years the men have not availed themselves of this provision. Only on two occasions have they availed themselves of the provision as laid down in the Act. The method as outlined in the Bill seems to me to be a reasonable one. It is that a union or organisation of mine workers shall appoint a man as workmen's inspector, not necessarily a man employed in the mine which he may have to inspect, but whoever they may choose so that he may inspect a mine from time to time. That has been opposed on the ground that it is giving too much power to the organisations. The question is asked, why should a union or an organisation have the right to select or appoint these workmen's inspectors? In reply to that I would point out that the law already in many directions does recognise organisations. The law in regard to arbitration recognises organisations and by a similar process of reasoning I should ask why is it that an organised body or set of individuals working in an industry are not supposed to approach the Arbitration Court? But so it is that that right is reserved to all organisations. If under our Arbitration Act only organised bodies of men are recognised, and they approach the Court for an award, surely there is nothing unusual or extraordinary in recognising the organised bodies of workmen with regard to the appointment of these inspec-

tors. It has also been contended that these inspectors would unduly harass mine managers, that they would interfere with them in all kinds of unreasonable ways, and that they would call the managers out of bed at midnight or one o'clock in the morning and take them down below on a tour of inspection of a mine. If men are unreasonable or become stupid or foolish, all these things might happen, but we do not find men to-day adopting such a stupid attitude in any walk of life. It is only fair to assume that the men who would be selected to fill the positions of workmen's inspectors would be men of good, sound, common sense, and they would be men, too, who would commend themselves to the majority of their fellow workmen. In any case, the Bill provides that these inspectors must be men under the control of the district inspector, that is, the official Government inspector, and that they shall only work under directions as may be prescribed from time to time by the Minister. The workmen's inspectors cannot do any great harm. In the first place Parliament has decided that it is necessary to have a measure containing all the things which in the wisdom of Parliament may or may not be done with regard to the working of our mines.

[The Deputy Speaker (Mr. McDowall) took the Chair.]

Mr. Hudson: Should be done, you mean.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes, should be done. An inspection, no matter whether it be by Government inspectors or special inspectors, or by workmen's inspectors, can only result in insisting upon the provisions of the measure being carried out. The operations of the inspectors will be confined to the four corners of the Bill. It will not be possible for the inspectors to run riot and order the managers of the mines to do all kinds of things which, in their opinion, they may consider necessary with regard to the underground workings. It will only be possible for them to take action so far as they have statu-

tory authority to do. It is also asked, why cannot the Government inspectors carry out all that is necessary, and if there are not a sufficient number of them why not appoint more. The answer is this: Our Government inspectors have large districts to cover in the discharge of their duties. Take the inspector on the Murchison. It takes that officer a period of three months to cover his district. He may start from Cue on a visit of inspection of the mines in the whole of his district, and three months will elapse before he returns. We know very well that the working conditions in the mines vary from day to day. A working face which may appear to be safe, and conditions which may appear to be all that is desired to-day, may so entirely change in the course of a week as to become dangerous or detrimental to the lives of the men employed there. That being the case, instead of having a Government official inspector whose duty it is to cover a very large area, we say it is more advantageous to have a workmen's inspector on the spot, so that when the need arises he may make an examination from day to day or from week to week. There is no need to go to the expense of appointing Government inspectors within easy call of every mine in the State when the object we have in view can be attained at much less cost and without the imposition of any hampering conditions on mine managers.

Mr. Willmott: Who will pay these inspectors?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Bill does not provide by whom they shall be paid, but the conditions of their employment and the methods under which they will act are such as will have to be dealt with by regulation. I may say, for the information of hon. members, that my view of the matter at the present time is that half the cost shall be borne by the State and that the unions shall pay the other half. Of course, the workmen's inspectors would not receive anything like the same salary as the Government inspectors. They would be paid a salary of probably £5 per week. That would be

a fair thing, and my view is that the Government should pay half.

Mr. Thomson: How many would you appoint?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That would be governed by the need for these inspectors. There would be a sufficient number appointed to permit of the inspection of mines once weekly, fortnightly or monthly. In districts such as Kalgoorlie and Boulder, where there is a large number of men employed, it would be necessary, in my opinion, to appoint two inspectors who would be engaged all the time going about the mines and seeing that things were in proper order. The inspectors would be selected from the ranks of the working miners and those men would more readily approach them with their grievances than would be the case if the miners had to seek the aid of the Government inspectors. We know very well that the miners would not approach the Government inspectors because they would not know them personally. They would, however, approach the men from their own ranks whom they knew well and whom they knew had practical experience. Because of the absence of workmen's inspectors we cannot get close and efficient inspection. We can, however, bring that about by appointing a greater number of Government inspectors than we have at the present time, but that, in my opinion, would be a waste of money, because it would be necessary to appoint such inspectors in small districts where perhaps only one or two mines might be working. It is just as well, therefore, that the Government inspector should have supervision over a large district and should travel about, and that we should allow workmen's inspectors to make examinations from time to time. I do not know that there is anything more that I can say in connection with this Bill except to ask the House to give it favourable, and perhaps I would not be going too far in saying sympathetic consideration. The men who are employed in our mines have done very much for this State, and it has been by their labour in this connection that Western Australia has, to a large extent, been brought out

of a state of obscurity in the past 20 years. They have built up the greatest industry in the State to such an extent that to-day Western Australia is producing 54 per cent. of the total gold yield of Australasia. During the same time there has been paid no less a sum than 25 million pounds sterling in dividends, practically all of which has gone out of the State. I am not one of those who wish to decry foreign capital or to say anything against the investor or the men who have put their money into our mines and thereby helped to build up the industry and brought it to the stage we find it in to-day, but all the same I do say that we owe a duty to the men who are actually producing the wealth, the men who are our own flesh and blood, who are Australian citizens, and who will have to live with us when the mines are worked out. They are a greater consideration to us than the people who live in other countries who have drawn immense dividends and who have no regard for the future of Western Australia. When the mines are worked out those men will retire on their dividends, while we in Western Australia shall have as an only asset a hole in the ground which will be without value, and we shall, in addition, be saddled with the cost of providing interest and sinking fund on the capital which has been expended on the public works to provide facilities for those who are living on the goldfields. We find that the Great Boulder mine has paid in dividends no less a sum than £4,600,000, and that being the case, it is the very least we can assume that Parliament shall see that our own citizens who are engaged in the production of that wealth shall be protected as far as it is possible for Parliament to do. The Bill which was introduced and rejected in 1913, it was alleged, would have had a serious effect on the industry in this State if it had become law, and it was also held that it would result in the closing down of many mines and, consequently, would throw out of employment a large number of men. There were clauses in that Bill which might have been regarded from that

point of view as debatable, provisions such as that which sought to abolish the system of contracting underground, and also to bring about the abolition of the night shift. That may have had some effect in the direction argued if the Bill had become law, but the provisions which I am asking the House to agree to in the Bill before members at the present time, namely, for the appointment of workmen's inspectors, cannot possibly increase working costs by a fraction of a penny. The financial side of the operations of mining will not be affected to the slightest degree by the introduction of this Bill. The costs will not be increased in any direction. It will simply mean we shall have a closer, keener and more efficient system of inspection than we have at the present time and, if by the passing of this Bill, our object can be attained in making the conditions of life underground more bearable, in minimising the risk of accident and generally improving the conditions to the vast body of citizens, and some of the best citizens we have in this State, it is the least these men might ask. Parliament, after all, is only a name to the people of the goldfields. Not more than once a year is there legislation introduced which affects them. They are only concerned with regard to administration.

Mr. Thomson: They are fairly well represented on that side.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: They are, but they have not a direct or personal interest in the passing of agricultural railway Bills, in the expenditure of large sums of money for harbour improvements, in advances from the Agricultural Bank, the purchase of State steamships or State trams, the opening of milk supplies and saw-mills and things of this kind, but while passed by their representatives the people of the goldfields have derived no direct or personal benefit, if benefit there be, from the establishment of those industries or enterprises.

Mr. Harrison: Did I understand you to say the financial side would not be affected?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes.

Mr. Harrison: Supposing an inspector stated that a mine was not sufficiently ventilated, how would that contrast with your statement?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The cost of improving the ventilation of a mine would be a very small item indeed, but if, as the result of an inspection or report by one of these men, greatly increased expenditure was entailed in ventilation, it would only go to show that previously the Act had not been administered.

Mr. Heitmann: It would also improve the output of the men.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: After all, it would not alter anything that is not already provided for. It would merely show that something had been discovered which hitherto had not been attended to. Even if the measure means an increase in the costs, Parliament has a right to accept it so long as we do not ask for more than is contained within the two covers of the Act. It is only once a year that I come here, modestly I may claim, and ask for a little provision for some improvement with regard to the conditions of the men working underground in our mines. That is all I ask; that is all the goldfields people have asked. They have not adopted any narrow sectional view of the work of the Government so far as it affects other parts of the State, but when this little improvement which they have been asking for and which affects so vitally that which is of most importance to all of us, namely, our lives and our health, is denied them year after year, is it to be wondered if they turn at the end to be cold and indifferent towards the object responsible for that denial? Without offering anything in the way of a threat as to consequences, I say unhesitatingly that if members of another place take up an attitude of prejudice and hostility with regard to measures of this kind, they will be only shortening the time before we shall be shorn largely of the powers we possess and those powers will be transferred to another Parliament in Melbourne.

Hon. Frank Wilson: We have heard that a number of times.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member cannot deny that it is becoming true.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Not from that reason at all.

The Minister for Works: It is coming fast.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: More and more we find the Federal Parliament invading the domain of taxation hitherto reserved to the States.

Hon. Frank Wilson: You will want to abolish them directly.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is the more powerful machine, and if one party must give way, it will be the weaker party, in the shape of the State Parliaments.

Mr. George: That is something like a threat.

Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): Well, it is in the nature of a threat.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is not a threat, because I am just as keen as the hon. member in my desire to avoid such an occurrence. Anything which tends to transfer the power from the hands of the people in this State to a body so many miles distant in Melbourne will be bad for the State.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Well, vote against the referendum when it comes on.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The ballot is secret.

Mr. Thomas: Get on the platform.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The inevitable result of denial is as I have mentioned. It is like trying to dam up a stream. If we place a dam across a stream, we simply turn the stream aside. It will break through somewhere else. If the people's wishes are dammed up in one direction as has been the case in regard to measures of this description, they will break out in another direction and seek to obtain the power from some other Parliament. I am sorry that our Constitution at present does not provide means for a heart-to-heart talk with our friends in another place so that we might thresh

the matter out, but if I may do so through hon. members of this House, I would appeal to hon. members in another place to give this measure fair and just treatment, uninfluenced by prejudice or hostility of any description. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. H. B. Lefroy debate adjourned.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED FROM COUNCIL.

- 1, Enemy Contracts Annulment.
 - 2, Bread Act Amendment.
- Without amendment.

MESSAGE—SELECT COMMITTEE, CASE OF C. F. GALE.

Request for Member to give evidence.

Message from the Council received requesting the Assembly to authorise the Hon. R. H. Underwood to give evidence before the select committee on the retirement of Mr. C. F. Gale.

BILL—ROADS ACT CONTINUANCE.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 2nd September.

Mr. ROBINSON (Canning) [5.55]: During the adjournment I have had the privilege of going more carefully into the provisions of this Bill, and so far as I can see it conforms with the statement made by the Minister for Works in moving the second reading. Section 9 of the Act of 1911 has been found, in working, somewhat defective. Whilst provision was made under Section 8 for the amalgamation and alteration of districts and parts of districts, Section 9 did not give the necessary machinery to carry it out effectively. I think the Bill as presented by the Minister meets the case. I have examined those sections and they seem to fulfil that which the Minister expects of them. I am aware that in some districts roads boards want more amendments of

the Roads Act than are contemplated by this Bill. Some of those amendments, however, are probably what come under the heading of contentious business, and I am therefore contenting myself with supporting the measure as placed before the House, leaving any amendments of the character to which I have referred in abeyance at the present time. I support the Bill.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. THOMSON (Katanning) [5.57]: I am not going to oppose the Bill but, in my opinion and also in the opinion of the Roads Boards Association, it does not go far enough. Something like four years ago an amendment of the Act was promised. Two roads boards' conferences have been held in Perth, and various amendments have been suggested and, considering that they have been suggested by men who have to work under the Act, it is somewhat of a pity that the Minister did not see fit to embody most of them in this Bill.

The Minister for Works: It is only four years since the Act was passed.

Mr. THOMSON: To show that the ex-Minister for Works, Mr. Johnson, was evidently sincere in his intention to amend the Act, I may mention that he sent the departmental officer, Mr. Sanderson, to confer with the executive of the roads boards association. They went exhaustively into the amendments and we certainly understood that a Bill covering them would be introduced shortly. Unfortunately for the roads boards there has been a change in the administration. In connection with Section 139 of the Act, there is one particular in which the roads boards, more especially in the country districts, would like an amendment. That is to give them power to lease reserves. In the country districts there are a good many reserves which are nothing more or less than poison areas, and if the roads boards had power to lease them the revenue derived could be devoted to improving them. There is another matter which affects Beverley very much and it is that the Government

land used for farming purposes should pay rates. In that portion of the State the Government have gone in for farming very extensively and yet pay no rates. At the same time they tear the roads to pieces. They were also desirous of increasing the maximum rate from 3d. to 6d. on the unimproved land value. There are several other matters which they also desired should be dealt with. In all there are 39 amendments which they would like put into practice. I sincerely hope that during the next session the Minister will see fit to introduce an amended land Bill so that the people of the various roads boards, who work in a purely honorary capacity, may have their wishes carried into effect. They know the defects of the Act, and I think they are the best judges.

Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): Why did not they put these defects before Parliament?

Mr. THOMSON: They did so. The Minister has copies of them. I am in favour of the short amendment proposed by the Minister, and support the reading of the Bill.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. C. Angwin—North-East Fremantle—in reply) [6.3]: In reply to hon. members, I would like to state that the position is exactly as the hon. member for Canning (Mr. Robinson) has stated, namely, that to introduce many of the amendments proposed would be to bring forward in this Chamber, at the present time, contentious matters. Hon. members must realise that there are amendments which other people also want to see introduced.

Mr. Thomson: I know the Minister will want one man one vote.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It is not my intention at any time to bring down a Roads Bill without limiting the voting power, and I may say the same in connection with municipalities also. I am confident that immediately I introduced that in this Chamber contentious matters would follow. There is no doubt that Australia is far behind other parts of the world in regard to the power of those who have to elect men to fill positions on roads boards and municipal councils. Australia

is the only part in the world, I think I am safe in saying, where we have the plural voting, and we are lagging far behind in that respect. I do not intend to introduce a Bill into this Chamber without making such provision that at all events will not be behind other parts of the world in dealing with local government. The roads board association have approached me in regard to introducing various amendments. There are some amendments proposed which might be necessary but at this time they are not urgent. I have gone into the question very carefully with the department. They pointed out that many of the amendments asked for are not urgent. Seeing that we intend to make the session as short as possible and to try our best to—may I say—work in love and harmony together I thought it inadvisable at this stage to bring in a Bill which would provoke a good deal of discussion. I feel confident that the powers we have asked for will enable us to get over a good many of the difficulties which have been experienced in the past. On many occasions we have found difficulty in regard to dividing up the funds of roads boards and allotting the proper proportions to the various districts once an alteration has been made in the boundaries, whether they are boundaries as a result of the formation of a new roads board district, or whether it is the result of an alteration in the boundaries of wards. A good deal of difficulty has, however, occurred, and there has been much expenditure in regard to some of the roads boards as a consequence, and it has been found necessary, owing to the rapid development which has taken place during the present administration, to make provision at this stage so that the difficulty shall disappear in future. During the present year we anticipate that there will be at least three new road districts formed. The same difficulty will apply to these as applied previously, in regard to the division of the funds comprising their revenue. It is rather strange, when a new district is formed and there are some arrears of rates outstanding which have been levied on the district as being derived from the

old district, that the old district will still claim the amount of arrears represented by the rates which have been already struck. In some instances they are very loth to give up even the current rates. New districts coming into existence and paying revenue to another roads board district, and having no funds for the purpose of improving the district, after the separation are very considerably handicapped. The hon. member for Avon (Mr. Harrison) knows the difficulties which have occurred in his district, where a good deal of annoyance has been caused and a large amount of expenditure has been necessitated during the last year or two. I do not think the matter is settled even yet. As the Act is at present it shows clearly that the Minister cannot settle definitely what proportion of the unexpended revenue should be allotted to the new district when formed. I know that the hon. member for Canning (Mr. Robinson) has gone into the matter carefully, because in his road board district a similar matter has cropped up. I feel confident that as far as the finances are concerned the Bill will wipe out all the difficulties we have previously had to contend with.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. McDowall in the Chair, the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Effect of transfer, division, severance, etc., of district:

Mr. THOMSON: I would like the Minister to tell me if the word "may" in sub-clause "d" should not be "shall."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I think it may be "shall" in this case. In the separation of a roads board district a certain area may have had loan money expended on it and by being separated from the roads board, which borrowed that money, there is no power at the present time to attach a portion of that loan money to the new district which has been formed. This clause gives the Gov-

ernment power to attach a certain portion of the sum for the new road district.

Mr. Thomson: Should it not be compulsory?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It may be compulsory.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 3—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

BILL—HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister—Pilbara) [7.30] in moving the second reading said: I desire to explain, in introducing this Bill, that it was originally intended to submit a general measure to amend the Health Act. I had put before me many and varied propositions for consideration, but it was remembered that in the present session we set out to avoid controversial matters, and I thought it would be advisable to present a Bill to the House in the nature of the one now before hon. members. The Bill deals with one particular question of the health of the community. I may once again say, in submitting the measure, that, while it has absolutely no party significance, it is urgent. The Bill deals with what is known as venereal disease. The disease has existed for many centuries, but I do not think it was ever so urgent to treat it from a medical standpoint as at the present moment. The authorities are unanimous on the proposition, that after every war there is a very large increase in venereal disease in communities which have been at war, and the present being the greatest war the world has ever known, we can realise that we are in for a considerable amount of this trouble in the very near future. Some hon. members, and other people, have said that medical men have exaggerated regarding the volume of this disease, and that there is not much of it in Australia.

If there is not much of it in Australia to-day, I can promise that there will be shiploads of it here by the time our men come home again. It will be brought into this country positively by the shipload, and if ever we had an urgent matter to deal with, the question of giving attention to venereal disease is urgent at the present time. This is one of the world's problems, possibly one of the hardest questions that any man could attempt to deal with. Hitherto it has been one of those questions which somebody has decided shall not be discussed in public, or, if discussed in public, it shall be only discussed in connection with one particular sex. I am pleased to-night to notice that there are a number of ladies present in the gallery.

Mr. George: I am not.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): I am. I do not know that the hon. member has too much common-sense on this question. I am convinced of this, that we have tried for two or three centuries to eradicate the disease by considering it amongst men only and we have failed. I claim that this is most essentially a woman's question.

Mr. George: Hear, hear!

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): It is not so much a man's question as a woman's.

Mr. George: But I do not like them here while we are discussing it.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): Until this question is discussed openly, until we can come together and decide on the magnitude of the evil, until we can discuss it fairly and openly between ourselves, we will never make any headway in the direction of its eradication. Some men may think that women who come to hear discussions of this description show a lack of taste, or even a lack of modesty.

Members: No, no.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): In my opinion it is their duty. It is an unpleasant duty but still it is their duty, and their presence here to-night shows courage and determination to do that duty.

Mr. Heitmann: They have done more in Perth than the opposite sex.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): I said just now it is a woman's question and it is absolutely so, for, after all, a woman has a soul, a man only a body. If we die of this disease it does not matter, a woman lives again in her children and in her grandchildren, and bear in mind that this disease, as I will show later, affects even little children, and any disease that affects children is essentially a question that women should consider.

Mr. George: Men, too.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): It has been the rule to discuss this question, as I have said, among the male sex only. I have here a pamphlet of a great lecture delivered in the Town Hall, Melbourne, in 1911, by the Rev. F. C. Spurr. The lecture was to men only, and the Victorian Parliament came forth subsequently and evolved a Bill which referred to women only. The dealing with men in regard to this question has only been a consideration of how it affects the women. Any restrictions made in the past by this system of discussing it not in the presence of women has resulted in legislative restrictions being placed upon women.

The Minister for Works: The women had no say in the legislation.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): Possibly that is how the Victorian Parliament evolved the particular Act to which I am referring. I have a summary of the sections of that Act, and in every section the only person referred to is woman. The Bill I am introducing refers equally to both sexes. It is time we ceased burying our heads in the sand of prudery and came out and discussed this question in the endeavour to eradicate the disease from our midst. Coming to the question of venereal disease we have some variation of opinion as to its volume. Sir H. B. Allen, professor of pathology at the Melbourne University, takes, in my opinion, a rather exaggerated view of the question. He states that the disease in Melbourne

affects an enormous number of people and he has gone so far as to say that 10 per cent. of the whole of the children of Melbourne are afflicted with syphilis. It is an exaggeration. I really hope it is. The lecture delivered by the Rev. Mr. Spurr, to which I have referred, states that in Melbourne Eye and Ear Hospital half of the cases in that institution are due to venereal disease. We have other medical men and reverend gentlemen making assertions. Another statement was to the effect that half of the blind establishments in Europe are filled with cases which were the result of this disease. In one institution in Germany there were over 1,000 inmates and 70 per cent. of them were there through gonorrhoea. These are only a few of the opinions that are expressed. I might say that we can read them by the score, almost by the hundred, if we desire to do so, but I do not intend to do that to-night but will deal with those who, I think, exaggerate. I sincerely hope they are exaggerating, but when we get medical opinion, to which after all we must attach some weight, we find that it characterises this as a most serious disease. Professor Allen made most serious statements at the congress held in Victoria in 1908. Dr. Bennie has differed from Professor Allen, and summing up his remarks, he said—

While we are thus not disposed to quite agree with the pathologist that syphilis is so prevalent, I think we must all admit that syphilis is a most terrible disease. In fact I would say this, that syphilis is the most serious disorder any individual can contract. In fact no disease ought a man who passes his sojourn here be so much in fear of. These words are by a man who was depreciating exaggerated statements. This report I have expresses the opinions of many more medical men, every one of whom states that this is a very serious disease indeed. Leaving Melbourne and Europe out of the question, we can consider it as it affects our own State. I got Mr. Huelin, of the Medical Department, to obtain information from prominent medical men in the City, and I have a summary of his inquiries—

Dr. Montgomery reports that the percentage of cases under his care due to syphilis is greater than is quoted by latest authorities as a fair average. In 1914, 17.1 per cent. of males admitted to the asylum suffered from venereal disease, and 8 per cent. of females. He goes on to say, "The general paralysis of the insane is practically in every case due to syphilis." I have inquired of other medical men, including Dr. Atkinson, who tells me that although this may not be absolutely correct, at least 99 per cent. of paralysis is due to syphilis and in almost every case it is due to syphilis acquired and not hereditary.

General paralysis of the insane is a disease which is absolutely incurable and the patient dies in from one to three years. The latest number we have in the hospital in Claremont is 65 inmates. When we have at the present moment 65 inmates who are absolutely condemned to death in a most agonising form, I think it is time we dropped the hypocrisy and prudery under which this question has been considered in the past and came out and grappled with it, and endeavoured to wipe it out. The figures given by Dr. Montgomery do not include imbeciles and idiots, and it is stated that many of those poor little kiddies who have to be sent to our asylum owe their condition to this awful disease. We have further information in this same summary. We have the opinion expressed by two or three medical men resident in our midst, that were venereal disease eliminated fully 20 per cent. of the sickness treated at the Perth hospital would disappear. I have the names, in confidence, of the medical officers who made these statements. Again, we have the opinion expressed that 25 per cent. of the deaths in the babies' ward at the Children's Hospital are due to syphilis—inherited syphilis, and I think, leaving out all questions of morality and all questions of prudery, we can appeal to all men and women in Western Australia on behalf of those poor suffering little babies. I am not picking out the most exaggerated cases I can find. Members who will speak on this question

will probably show that I have been most conservative in my statements. Syphilis attacks all parts of the system. Once affected with it, unless very great care is exercised, no part of the body is immune from its influence. It finds a place in all grades of society. According to the authorities, and I have read a few of them, it is found among university students as frequently as among bottle gatherers. It is found among the idle rich in London and New York, just as frequently as it is found in the navvies' camp. As far as New York is concerned, it is stated to be most prevalent among what is termed the upper classes. The disease has one other phase to which we should pay attention, and that is that it predisposes to almost all other diseases. That is to say, many people who to-day are suffering from tuberculosis have been thus affected because the system has been weakened by syphilis. It is computed that a man suffering from this disease has a three times greater chance of catching typhoid fever than a man not so affected, and in regard to diphtheria he has a seven to one greater chance of being affected. Another point in regard to syphilis is that it is hereditary, and I think that on the ground of heredity and the suffering of innocent children, we should do our utmost to stamp the disease out of existence entirely. There are many divergent opinions regarding the volume of the disease, but there is one point upon which all authorities agree, and that is as a factor of suffering, venereal disease stands absolutely alone. That is to be found in all the authorities one might read. I do not desire to harrow the feelings of hon. members in regard to this disease; otherwise I could go on for a long time. I ask them to accept my assurance that having studied the question, it is a disease we as legislators should endeavour to stamp out of existence entirely. To give the House an opportunity to do this, I have prepared a Bill, the provisions of which I shall explain. In the first place it is provided that only medical practitioners shall attend to and prescribe for this disease. Venereal disease, if treated properly, in

its early stages, is one of which we need have little fear. It is curable if treated in a proper manner in the early stages, but a system has grown up, whether right or wrong I do not say, whereby a person suffering from venereal disease becomes ashamed of himself and such a person has also become somewhat afraid of the charges which are levied upon him by the medical profession. Probably a friend tells him that he knows a certain chemist or other person who knows all about the treatment of this disease, whereas he does not know nearly so much as the chemist. This person professes to cure it in the first place for 5s.

Mr. George: And then bleeds him to death.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): Yes, absolutely, and although the chemist knows more than these quacks, the chemist also does not know sufficient to be allowed to treat this disease. If it is taken in the early stages and properly treated, there is very little danger, but if people are allowed to live by practically killing those who become afflicted, the disease spreads and we reach a state of affairs such as exists at present. This Bill provides that no person except a medical practitioner shall be allowed to treat or prescribe for it. Chemists may, of course, dispense doctors' prescriptions. They may also sell patent medicines which are approved by the Commissioner for Public Health. Otherwise, they are not allowed to sell anything purporting to cure this disease. I admit there are one or two of what are called standard remedies. These would, no doubt, be permitted to be sold in the back country by storekeepers and chemists as a cure for certain phases of this disease. This will be provided for. Outside of that any person, not a medical practitioner, attempting to get money, or to do it without money, to cure this disease will be severely dealt with. From my own personal observation, I am convinced he should be severely dealt with. He has caused more misery in this world than any other circumstance in it. Then we come to what might be called the controversial question, that is that all persons

suffering shall, within three days of becoming aware that they are so affected, consult a medical practitioner. We desire to eradicate this disease from our midst. That is why I have introduced this Bill. To eradicate it, it is necessary for a medical practitioner to get hold of the case early. We want to let the people of Western Australia know that this is a most dangerous disease and we want to let them know that the proper thing to do is to lay their cases before a properly qualified medical practitioner. If they do not do it we provide a fine of £20. I am not placing much value upon the coercion. I think that moral suasion will be infinitely more to the point. At the same time I think it is necessary that we should have some power and some penalty for those who absolutely refuse to undergo treatment while suffering from this disease. The next clause provides that, having reported the disease, the person affected must continue the treatment until he is cured, or until he gets a medical certificate to that effect. It also provides that he need not attend the one medical practitioner. He may change from one medical man to another, but it is provided that, in doing so, he must notify the second medical practitioner that he has been under treatment by a medical practitioner previously. These medical practitioners must report cases to the Commissioner, but without name or address. In regard to this proposal, there is one point—perhaps the only one in my Bill—about which there is any very serious difference of opinion. Many people hold that this should not be a reportable disease. I have, after earnest consideration, come to the conclusion that if we are to deal effectively with this disease we must know the amount of it. We must know the volume of it. We do not desire that any person should suffer by the publication of his condition. The Commissioner for Public Health will receive these reports and, of course, they are confidential. At the present time, in attending a medical man a person would naturally give his name and address. If he continues his treatment under that medical man or

goes to another medical man and the case is sent back to the previous medical man to be treated, there will be no one who will know who that man is, but further on we provide that if the treatment is not continued, then a medical practitioner having that case shall report the name and address to the Commissioner. In regard to the question of making this a reportable disease, it is the opinion of medical practitioners practically throughout, that there is this peculiar shame connected with this disease that people seem to be afraid of its being reported. The committee appointed in the Australian Medical Congress reported on this particular disease, and they recommend that—

In the opinion of this Congress the time will come when the compulsory notification of syphilis will be necessary and the earnest attention of Health Departments of the Australasian States shall be drawn to the matter with the object of introducing such notification, when the time is ripe.

The time is ripe now. The time is red ripe, for us to take this disease in hand and endeavour to stamp it out from our midst. It is, however, required for the use of the department, for unless the department knows the volume of the disease it is impossible for it to take proper and adequate means for its extermination.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs interjected.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): I may tell the hon. member that it is infinitely worse than I have told hon. members about to-night and altogether too much for the peace of mind of those who profess to be reformers in this world. The name and address of the patient is to be reported to the Commissioner of Public Health if he discontinues treatment before he is cured. Then again, we provide that medical practitioners must warn patients of the danger of the disease and the legal consequences of affecting others, and also the great risk to their children if they marry. This, in my opinion, is absolutely necessary because an enormous

amount of suffering owing to this disease is brought about by ignorance. I should say that the medical practitioners will be supplied with a card by the Medical Department with the information on it and that these cards will be handed to any patients who are suffering with this disease. Again, we provide that patients and guardians of sufferers under the age of 16 must use their authority to compel submission to treatment or report to the Commissioner. Hon. members may think it is unnecessary. From the opinion given to me I say it is necessary. It is an awful shame. We should be absolutely ashamed that it exists, and we must provide for it. No person shall knowingly infect another person. For this we provide a penalty of, I think, £50 or a term of imprisonment. On this particular proposition, I desire to say a few words. I have a great deal of consideration for women—I will tell the House later on why. In regard to infecting others, I say unhesitatingly that the man who knowingly and deliberately infects women is not entitled to any consideration whatever.

Mr. George: Give him the lash.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): Of course the hon. member runs into an exaggeration. I heard him propose quite a different proposition at one time here.

Mr. George: I am prepared to propose it again if you are man enough to take it.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): I am too much of a man to take it. The prevailing idea is that it is women only who are at fault in the dissemination of this disease. I have here a very excellent work on the question by Corbett-Smith, in which he tells a somewhat pathetic story of this disease. He calls the article "A Lost Leader" and says—

Seldom, if ever, does a man make a big name for himself during his first year at Oxford. And yet Brentwood proved a notable exception. At Charchester, he had done everything which a boy could do in the field and classroom. He went up to Oxford with the biggest reputation of any of his year,

and won a double blue by the end of his third term.

There is a lot more about him. It appears that he was a fine type of fellow. The writer goes on—

The landlord of his "digs"—in those days they were off the Cornmarket—had a daughter of twenty-two. This young woman had already set the gossips talking—and not without cause. Naturally enough Brentwood attracted her very strongly; but there it ended, for Brentwood was a healthy young fellow with too many other things to think about: and Nellie was not a particularly pretty girl. At the end of the second year at Oxford came his 21st birthday; and it was duly celebrated in the fashion dear to Oxford. I should not say that Brentwood was actually drunk when the party finally broke up, but at any rate he was merry and muddled—and it was Nellie who helped him to find his bedroom.

He goes on to say that Brentwood went to South Africa and fought in the war. He was sick at the time and was invalided back to England. He was supposed to be cured and went out again to Ceylon, and the article ends thus—

I got to Ceylon just in time to hold him in my arms as he died. A paralysis of certain internal organs had gradually developed, and the agony during that last fortnight had been intense. Almost his last words were, "They say the woman always pays; but, by God, I think I've worked off some of the debt!"

That is all right in its way. Personally I have known three or four splendid young men who have been afflicted with this disease, and I have seen them apparently cured, yet later on they were hobbling about the streets getting an odd shilling from me and from others, and eventually I missed them. I suppose they crawled away somewhere and died. What I have read was written by Corbett-Smith to point out that the young fellow to whom he referred died through ignorance. He claimed that, had this man been taught in his youth, the dangers of

the disease, and what he should have done when the symptoms first appeared, that is, to go to a medical man, he would still be living. Smith ends the story on the man. I want to know what became of Nellie. It seems to me that in this matter we should consider the women. So far as he being tempted by the girl I will not have it. I was young and I wanted no young girl to show me to my bedroom. It is the height of hypocrisy for any man to pretend that it is a woman's fault. The man is the aggressor all the time.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs: It is often the fault of drink.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): I can assure the hon. member that I was extremely sober in my young days. I want to know what became of the girl. Since Corbett-Smith has not told us, perhaps I might have a little flight of imagination and tell hon. members. She became a prostitute; she tramped the streets and suffered all there is to suffer from prostitution; she was harried by the police and possibly harassed by examining doctors like Blanchard; she was robbed by the landlord and illtreated by the bludger, and then, ruined in body and damned in soul, she died in a London slum hospital. That is what became of Nellie, and I think it is up to us to consider what becomes of the women. Further, I want to ask what about the callous brute who gave the disease to Nellie? He is the man I am after. I am not so particular about the women but I want to get the men, and I want it to be known that all the women who are suffering from this disease in the first place contracted it from men. It reminds me of a yarn I heard about a man who was talking to a Jew. "Oh," he said, "you Jews have taken all the money from the Christians," and the Jew replied "Where did the Christians get it from in the first place?" My friend opposite has an idea that all we have to do in this matter is to clean up the women. I want hon. members to ask themselves, where did the women get it? The women got it from the men, and

when we start to clean up anybody we must clean up the men as well.

Mr. George: I agree with that, every word of it; clean them out, the lot of them.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): One of the principal reasons why men and women are afraid of this disease is that they may be run into an enormous amount of expense in connection with the cure of it. The Bill provides that all subsidised hospitals, and all salaried medical officers, must give treatment free of charge. There is absolutely no excuse for any person suffering from the disease not having it treated. It should be the duty, and it will be if this Bill is passed, of the Medical Department to provide hospitals in the metropolitan area. We will probably have to pay a higher subsidy to our resident medical officers because they would be compelled, under their agreement, to treat the disease free of charge. What has also helped to build up the disease is the attitude taken by the hospitals and others towards it. In speaking on the question of hospital treatment at the Congress previously mentioned, Dr. McMurray of Sydney expressed this opinion—

As a rule, when they have become infected, they try to conceal it as long as possible, until they are obliged to seek advice. It is looked upon as a shameful complaint. On this account many of the hospitals do not take this class of case in. The lay governors are as a rule to blame for this state of affairs. A writer has said of the hospital attitude, "We cannot receive you when your disease is acute and curable, but when your gonorrhœa has developed into stricture, salpingitis, peritonitis, or when your syphilis has affected important central organs, the brain, spinal cord, the organs of special sense, you may be received, but your disease shall be baptized under another name, which does not offend the refined susceptibilities of your patrons." I think one of the first and most important means that should be adopted to decrease syphilis is to in-

crease hospital facilities for its treatment. Patients should be admitted without fuss or formality. Their stay in hospital should be made as attractive as possible, and above all, the patients should be impressed with the enthusiasm of all those concerned for their welfare and restoration to health. The wards for the treatment of venereal diseases should not be designated by any distinctive or opprobrious name. Further efforts should be made to reach those affected by gratuitous consultations and by dispensaries controlled by Government and municipal medical officers, established in convenient centres, open all night. Venereal services should be open to all medical students, and no student should be permitted to graduate without a certificate for a six months' attendance at a venereal clinic.

That is the opinion of Dr. McMurray as to what should be the attitude of our hospitals, and it is my opinion also of the attitude we should take up. As I have pointed out, the great difficulty in dealing with the question is that the people endeavour to hide it as long as they can until it has such a hold of the system that it becomes incurable. Almost the last clause of the Bill prohibits what I might term quack advertisements. It has been mentioned to me that we might have gone a little further in this connection. As I have already stated, a considerable amount of the trouble, almost half, I might say, is due to the fact that sufferers are under the impression that they can be cured without attending a medical practitioner, and they are led very often to this conclusion by advertisements of people who are desirous of getting a living at the expense of the suffering of their fellow-men. There is just one other matter I would mention in regard to the Bill and it is that throughout members will find that the masculine gender only is used. There is a clause inserted so that there may be no mistake in the matter which states that the masculine also includes the feminine gender. The Bill is intended to apply to both sexes absolutely without any exception. I may say

further that the provisions of this Bill will obviate the necessity of the police acting as they have done lately, and enabling unscrupulous men like Dr. Blanchard levying enormous taxes from unfortunate women. If there is evidence that any person is suffering from this disease it will be possible for him to consult the Principal Medical Officer, who will have the person examined, and if the examining doctor reports that there are signs of the disease, the person can be detained for a fortnight for further examination. If it is found that the person is in a contagious state, he can be detained until he is either cured or rendered non-contagious. I might say that the passing of the Bill will really amount to a direction to the Medical Department. It will give the department power to act. If the Government cannot find the money, or has not the inclination to go on with the work, it can remain in abeyance, but the Bill will give the department power to deal with this very serious question, and that is what I am asking Parliament to do, namely to give the Medical Department legislative authority to thoroughly deal with the proposition.

Mr. George: Did I understand you to say that the Bill will provide that every medical practitioner shall deal with the disease?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): If we pass the Bill, all medical officers paid by the State will have to treat the cases free, and all hospitals subsidised by the State will have to treat the cases that go to them. But that may possibly be the end of what the department will do. On the other hand, the department can go on to deal with the question. The commissioner can ascertain what people are suffering, and institute proceedings to bring them before medical authorities and compel treatment. The commissioner, if he thinks fit, can issue printed matter instructing the community in regard to the danger of the disease. He can open night clinics for its treatment. Those are all matters which may or may not be dealt with; but, if this Bill passes, there will be no doubt that medical officers appointed by the

State, and also hospitals subsidised by the State, will have to treat the disease free of charge.

Mr. Taylor: Irrespective of the sufferer's financial position?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): No; I do not say, irrespective of financial position.

Mr. George: If this Bill passes, other medical practitioners, although paid for their services, will still have to take these precautions?

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): Yes. The most important clause of the measure provides that when the commissioner has reason to believe that a person is affected he may authorise examination. If it is not intended to take action, if the Minister controlling is not desirous of acting, then the commissioner will not pay much attention to that provision; but if the Minister is desirous of going on, then he will have power to do so and the commissioner will be authorised to carry out this work. On the question of the power to be vested in the commissioner, I wish to say that in my opinion it is absolutely essential that any person suffering from the disease should be rendered non-contagious. There are some men so careless and so thoughtless that they will not continue treatment if they can possibly escape it. Again, there is another point—and I am sorry the member for Subiaco (Mr. B. J. Stubbs) has left the Chamber. The point is that treatment for this disease is rendered absolutely inoperative and ineffectual if the patient takes alcoholic liquor. On being informed by a medical officer or even by the police that a sufferer from this disease is frequently in an intoxicated condition, it would be the duty of the commissioner to take action and place such person under restraint until he was cured or at least rendered non-contagious. Those are the provisions of the Bill, and, although some persons may regard the proposed steps as awful, yet I am of opinion that when the community thoroughly grasp the idea which I hold, that these provisions are brought forward with a view to eliminating a terrible disease from our midst, they will agree with me that

this measure will inflict the least possible harm on individuals while giving full power to deal with the disease. Now with regard to the matter of mock modesty, which was mentioned by the Premier. There is a section of the community holding the opinion that it would be wrong to eradicate the disease, because while it exists the fear of contagion acts as a restraint on immorality.

Mr. Willmott: Bosh!

Mr. Taylor: That is absurd.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): I almost agree with the member for Nelson that it is bosh. As a matter of fact, the fear of contagion has never banished and never will banish the sexual impulse. We have had the fear of contagion for several centuries, and we have arrived at the position we are in to-day.

Mr. George: That fear has existed for thousands of years and has done no good.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): I am not too sure about the thousands of years. But I am sure that one form was provided against in the laws of Moses; if not both forms. We have also had a couple of thousand years of preaching, and that has failed. This being so, having given those methods such a long trial, I think it is up to us to try some other method. The medical profession for some years have been devoting a great deal of attention to the problem. One or two new discoveries have been made, and the system of treatment is infinitely better now than it was a few years ago. Seeing that the medical profession have taken the matter in hand, it is certainly up to the legislators to do their part of the work, by giving the necessary statutory authority to the Health Department. One matter which has an important bearing on this question is education. In that connection a recommendation was put forward by the special committee appointed to go into the question some time ago. The committee consisted of three doctors from each of the Australian States, Western Australia being represented by Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Ramsay, and Dr. Pope Seed. The committee reported to the medical con-

gress that venereal diseases have been proved to be responsible for a vast amount of damage to mankind; that the damage is expressed by loss of life, frequently in its prime; by insanity, sterility, destruction of family life, inefficiency, and economic waste. The report states—

The monetary loss to the nation is enormous. The exact distribution of these diseases is unknown, but it is estimated by excellent authority that one-twenty-fifth of the population of Berlin, Paris, and New York are annually infected. It is fairly certain that twelve to fifteen per cent, of the population of London, Paris, and Berlin are syphilitic, and in addition a much larger number are gonorrhœic. There is good reason for thinking that the Australian cities are affected to much the same extent. There are no other diseases which cause so much loss to the community. By the adoption of suitable measures these diseases can be greatly reduced in frequency, and may be wholly suppressed. The steps which should be taken are: 1, Provision for education, after consultation with educational experts as to the lines to be followed, of adults and adolescents in the nature, causes, consequences, and modes of prevention of venereal diseases.

We are not called upon to-night to deal with the question of education, but it is one that materially affects the subject and one that should certainly be gone into by those who take an interest in the question. I have here a pamphlet containing two articles, written by Dr. Roberta Jull, which recently appeared in *The Western Woman*. I commend the pamphlet to the consideration of every person in this State. To my mind there is no doubt that youth should be educated in this most vital question, the very question of life. As a matter of fact, we teach a child everything except this one most vital thing, and that we let him learn haphazardly for himself. I repeat, however, that that is not a question arising under this particular Bill. At the same time, I commend it to the consideration of this House and of the people. The report

from which I have already quoted proceeds as follows:—

2, Provision of free scientific facilities for effecting early and accurate diagnosis of venereal diseases, and for testing the results of treatment. 3, Provision of free treatment, both in and out door, at times convenient to the patients for all those unable to make their own arrangements. 4, Passage of legislation providing for (a) detention of any person suffering from venereal disease until by treatment he or she is rendered innocuous (b) Severe punishment of anyone who wilfully or negligently communicates venereal diseases to other people; (c) severe punishment of anyone not being a qualified medical practitioner who undertakes to treat sufferers from venereal diseases.

Those provisions are contained in the Bill which I present to the House. The measure really covers all the recommendations made by the committee referred to.

The Premier: Except as regards education.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): Yes. The report concludes—

The monetary cost of effecting the eradication of venereal disease would not be very great. In fact, the expenditure would be very small by comparison with the expenditure resulting from the present wholesale infection of the populace. There is no form of public expenditure which might so truly be described as national and reproductive. If the steps indicated are taken with wisdom, the result will be diminution of mortality, diminution of insanity, diminution in the expenditure on hospitals and asylums, increased human efficiency, and better and healthier enjoyment of life.

There is another phase of the question upon which I desire to say a few words. Most people with whom one discusses the subject are under the impression that the whole spread of this disease is due to prostitution; that if prostitution is regulated, or if prostitutes are subjected to

medical examination to ensure their cleanliness, we shall have remedied the disease. In point of fact, attempts have been made by countries in the old world to meet the difficulty by that means for the last couple of centuries, and their state is as bad now as when they began. Indeed, I believe their state is even worse. Further in regard to prostitution, many people will assert that prostitutes are a necessary evil; that young men must have some outlet for their energy. To those who think thus, or pretend to think thus, or imagine they think thus, I want to put this proposition: if this is a necessary evil, should not each of us devote one of our daughters or one of our sisters to that very necessary profession? I ask, would any man ever think of assenting to such a proposition? As a matter of fact, prostitution is a system which has arisen out of bad social conditions. Women have become prostitutes mostly because they have had to get a living somehow. We can take credit, and I think should take credit, to ourselves in Western Australia for our social conditions when we reflect that the supply of prostitutes in this country has given out. Most hon. members know that prostitutes in Western Australia are supplied chiefly from France, Japan, and Italy. As a matter of fact the Australian social system has kept the Australian women out of it. In regard to prostitution, there is no possible doubt that could we, by education and better social conditions, so situate our women that there was not the necessity to look for food, or luxury, or enjoyment by that means, prostitution would die out. I contend that we should never be satisfied with our social system until prostitution is absolutely abolished from our midst. We will never abolish it by legislation, nor by preaching, but I am of opinion we can abolish it by providing a good social system, by providing homes for our growing girls which they can appreciate, and which they will not desire to leave for the life they are likely to lead on the streets. I have a lot of pity and sympathy for these prostitutes. Magill has well said—

She learnt the pitiful story
That they must suffer who live,
While selling her soul in the gutters
For all that the gutters give.

That is about all that prostitutes have got. He says further, speaking of a time, "This was the hour when these, our little sisters, carry on the trade which means life to their bodies and death to their souls." I said just now that a woman has a soul, and I say again that when any one of them takes up the occupation or profession of prostitution a woman's soul is murdered. I want to say a word or two to those men who think that prostitutes are a necessary evil, or necessary at all. I want to point to the physique and to the intelligence of men reared in country towns where there are no prostitutes. They are easily equal to the men of the cities. I desire to point also to the celibacy of the Roman Catholic priests, among whom we have some of the finest types of manhood. If these can get on all right, surely it is not necessary to have this evil. Again, I would ask if it is necessary to provide a little fleeting pleasure for young men at such awful expense to women. I would like members to consider just for a few moments the life of a prostitute. I have seen them when they were only young things, and I have seen them again bedraggled, battered, and worn, and I can say there is no more disgusting and degrading sight in our civilisation than a worn-out prostitute.

Mr. George: Pitiful, too.

Hon. R. H. UNDERWOOD (Honorary Minister): It is absolutely the most pitiful sight a man can look upon, and I trust men will have, at least, less degrading thoughts than they have had, and that when they think of prostitutes, they will think that each one of them was and is somebody's daughter, somebody's sister. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. George debate adjourned.

BILL—SALE OF LIQUOR REGULATION.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 2nd September; Mr. Holman in the Chair, the Attorney General in charge of the Bill.

Clause 13—Licensed premises not to be opened after the closing hour. (Hon. J. D. Connolly had moved an amendment, that in paragraph (b) all words after "liquor" at its first appearance down to and including "consumption" be struck out.)

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I cannot accept the amendment. It would leave the door open for liquor to be sold and, when the consumption is discovered, for the excuse to be offered that the liquor belonged to the consumer. We must have strict measures to enforce a law of this kind. The amendment would take the vitality out of the clause. The object of the measure is to obtain a certain amount of sobriety during this time of stress, to secure a smaller amount of consumption of liquor in a period like this. To accept the amendment and eliminate the words proposed to be struck out would be to render extremely difficult the detection of the offence.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I cannot support the amendment, but I think the Attorney General should make some concession. I would suggest that the word "knowingly" be added at the end of paragraph (a). Sometimes liquor is consumed by a boarder who is in ill health, and it may happen that at such a time the police appear on the scene and at once have a charge against the licensee. However, I clearly see that the amendment would defeat the whole purpose of the measure.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I sympathise with the view taken by the last speaker, and if I thought his suggestion for the insertion of the word "knowingly" would in any way protect an innocent man I would be willing to accept it. But the clause reads, "sell any liquor or permit." One can only permit by knowing that it is done, because if one does not know it is done one cannot per-

mit. The licensee has only to prove that he was unaware of it, that he gave no permission.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Suppose a lodger takes a nobbler of whisky in his room?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: If instead of whisky the lodger took arsenic, the licensee would not be held guilty of murder.

Mr. Heitmann: If he took whisky in a private house would it still be a crime?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: No, for it would not be a licensed house.

Mr. Heitmann: Yet the same offence is committed.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The clause treats of premises licensed for the sale of liquor. The word "knowingly" would not add any force to the word "permit."

Mr. TAYLOR: According to the Attorney General, if a boarder or a person travelling had whisky in his possession and wished to drink it during prohibited hours, it would be wise for him to go to unlicensed premises. He would not be permitted to drink it even in his own room on licensed premises.

Mr. Thomas: He could stuff up the keyhole.

Mr. TAYLOR: The liquor evil, if evil it be, can be minimised without taking such drastic steps.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: It would be absurd to pass a provision which it is obviously impossible to carry out. If the closing hour is 7 o'clock hotel boarders might be having whisky at dinner, and if the publican permitted them to finish their drink after the clock struck seven, he would be liable to a penalty of £100. It is possible that the goldfields may favour 11 o'clock and the agricultural districts 6 o'clock closing.

The Minister for Mines: Why these long hours to the goldfields?

Mr. Munsie: What difference would that make seeing the train is in the goldfields district until 11 o'clock?

The Premier: Now we understand why you trade representatives wanted the State to vote as a whole.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: If rumour is correct that is the reason why the Pre-

mier wants separate voting on the gold-fields.

The Premier: No, I want local option.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: If the gold-fields favour 11 o'clock and the agricultural districts 6 o'clock, immediately the train passes Westonia the conductor of a refreshment car would have to see that no person had liquor because otherwise he would be knowingly permitting him to consume it.

The Premier: Does not the same apply to the present closing hour?

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: No, because there is the *bona fide* traveller and lodger section. No doubt it is abused but it is the law.

The Attorney General: Your amendment would allow the abuse to continue.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: Perhaps so, but the clause is unworkable.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr MALE: I move an amendment—

That before "penalty" the following words be inserted:—"But this section shall not prohibit the sale or consumption of liquor to or by any bona fide traveller within the meaning of the Licensing Act, lodger or inmate, if the liquor is not drunk at the public bar of the licensed premises."

If such an amendment were inserted—

The Minister for Mines: We should all go travelling.

Mr. MALE: It would overcome the difficulty.

The Premier: It would be in the interests of the taxi drivers.

Mr. MALE: This is an emergency measure, but people lodging at hotels are entitled to complete their meals with decency. If the clause were passed as printed, a lodger might be half way through his meal when the closing hour struck and he would have to put the balance of his liquor aside.

The Attorney General: He would swallow it in one gulp.

Mr. MALE: Then that would be encouraging him to commit a breach of the Act.

The Premier: It would cause them to have meals earlier.

Mr. MALE: It would be ridiculous to pass an unworkable clause. The closing of the hotel at the stipulated hour would achieve the desired end, namely, the closing of the hotel to the public generally.

The Attorney General: No.

Mr. MALE: Then why are we asked to pass the measure?

The Attorney General: It will stop drinking; that is all.

Mr. MALE: It will stop drinking by the public.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The member for Perth admitted that the *bona fide* traveller clause is abused and its abuse will be intensified if the amendment is accepted. Therefore, to prevent abuse, I oppose the amendment.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: What about the lodger?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It should apply to all. The object of the Bill is to decrease drinking.

Mr. Heitmann: What about making it an offence to drink liquor after 6 o'clock?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: It would not be a bad idea.

Mr. Heitmann: That is what you are doing to the hotel lodger.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The penalty stipulated for this offence is absurd.

Mr. Thomas: Is it the minimum or maximum?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: In either case, it is absurd. If the police are diligent in the exercise of their duty, they will get many convictions under this provision. People will drink in spite of all Acts. I move an amendment—

That "one hundred pounds" be struck out and the words "for the first offence twenty pounds, and the second offence fifty pounds" inserted in lieu.

Mr. Taylor: And for the third offence, hanging.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: If a third offence were committed the Licensing Bench would no doubt take action.

Mr. CARPENTER: The amendment would make the penalty worse for the licensee. The amount prescribed would be the maximum. A case might arise in which the publican was not guilty of wil-

fully offending and the magistrate might consider a penalty of £5 ample. I suggest that we leave the clause as it stands and allow the penalty to be fixed by the magistrate, in accordance with its relation to the importance of the case.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The maximum penalty only is stated in the clause, and discretion, under the Interpretation Act, is given to the magistrate.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: My proposal is that the maximum penalty shall be reduced from £100 to £50, thus giving to the magistrate the power to impose fines ranging from £2 10s. to whatever amount up to the maximum which in his opinion would meet the case. I will alter my amendment to read—

That "one hundred" be struck out and "fifty" inserted in lieu.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: A £100 penalty is little enough for a glaring defiance of the law. To defy an Act, and set the Legislature at naught, is a most serious offence. We are obliged to fix heavy penalties for glaring defiance of the law.

Amendment put and negatived.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I move an amendment—

That a new subclause be added as follows:—(2) If any liquor is sold or supplied in any registered club at any time after the closing time fixed by proclamation under the last preceding section, for the district in which the premises of the club are situated, every person supplying or selling such liquor, and every person who obtains such liquor, and every person authorising the sale or supply of such liquor, commits an offence against this Act.

Penalty: One hundred pounds.

The Committee have already decided to include clubs as premises coming under the Bill.

Mr. Robinson: But in the case of clubs you propose to penalise the man who drinks the liquor. Why not put a similar provision in Clause 13?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Clubs and hotels are on a different footing. Under the 1911 Licensing Act every mem-

ber of a club owns the liquor which he consumes; but the man who goes into a public-house is not a shareholder.

Mr. Male: He is in the case of State public-houses.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There is that difference created by the 1911 Act, that clubs have a special constitution, and they are, therefore, to be treated, as it were, on that footing in this clause. We have decided clubs are to come under the provisions of the Bill, and, consequently, have to fix a penalty for them in the same way as a penalty is fixed for hotels.

Mr. MUNSIE: Until I saw the Notice Paper, I was in some doubt whether the Attorney General was making provision for clubs. We have been told that the object of this class of legislation has been defeated in other States as club members have their own private lockers where they stock what liquor they choose. I desire to know from the Attorney General whether this clause will provide against that evasion of the law. I want to be sure for the reason that from my reading it is not provided against.

Mr. Robinson: The shortest way would be to have a Bill of one clause that no one shall drink any liquor after six o'clock.

Mr. CARPENTER: I move an amendment on the amendment—

That after the word "club" in line 2 the following words be added:—"or to Parliament House."

I would ask any member of the Committee if he can show any logical reason why members of this club in Harvest-terrace should be placed on a different footing from the members of, say, the Workers' Club at Fremantle, or any other club in the State.

Member: Will you take a referendum on that?

Mr. CARPENTER: I am asking merely that the referendum shall affect the supply of liquor at this House in the same way as at every other house in the district. When I intimated my intention of proposing such an amendment, the hon. the Premier interjected that he would not suggest such a thing because we can close up the bar here at any time.

I ask him if he has any intention of taking action in that direction. The members of any other club might raise the same objection and say "We can close up the club at any time we like; therefore it is not necessary to bring us under the Bill." We have no right to claim any exemption for ourselves, or to make any law which puts us on a different plane from the rest of the community. We are claiming some special privilege for ourselves which we are not prepared to extend to other people. I take it the public have the same right to put the law in action against us as against anybody else; if not, we will give them the right. I am asking the Committee to affirm whether or not they will be consistent and apply to themselves the same law they propose to apply to other people.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I appreciate the extreme humility of the hon. member who would place us on the same level as those outside. Do those people outside pay tram fares and railway fares? This House is the highest court in the land. Even the Supreme Court may not try any man in this House for any offence committed within this Chamber. We have our own rights; we make our own laws.

Mr. Hudson: That is a privilege we have had for years.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I submit that we shall come under the Bill without the hon. member's amendment, which I regard as so much clap-trap. What is the district we come under? We come under the Parliamentary district—this district. The hon. member can tomorrow get a resolution passed instructing the House Committee to close the bar at six or altogether. Personally I have no desire to have the bar open, and if he is in earnest and wants that I will help him. If he puts this amendment in, the other House would not pass the clause. A resolution of this Committee is quite sufficient for our purpose. If the hon. member will move a resolution of the kind I have indicated I will second it.

Mr. Carpenter: Will you give other clubs the same privileges?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Does not the hon. member recognise the difference between the Legislature and ordinary clubs, or does he drag this institution down to their level? The amendment implies that unless we pass the clause as a law we are incapable of preserving our local rights or attending to our own sobriety. The amendment is absolutely absurd and ridiculous as applied to this institution. There can be no application in it, no penalty, no trials before any court, and it will be an absolute farce. I wonder that the hon. member could have moved such an amendment.

Mr. ROBINSON: I agree with the Attorney General. This House knows how to be temperate and will be temperate. To have even discussed in this House or received in this House an amendment of the character moved by the hon. member for Fremantle, is derogatory to the dignity of the House. I hope the matter will not be further discussed.

Mr. CARPENTER: I have heard the Attorney General endeavour to get round corners on more than one occasion, but I do not think I have ever heard him labour a question so pitifully as he has done to-night with this one, without actually touching it. He claims that we are a lofty, superior body which ought not demean itself by making itself subject to the ordinary laws of the land.

The Attorney General: It is not subject to them.

Mr. CARPENTER: He claims that because I am asking the Committee to apply to itself the same law as we are applying to other people—

The Attorney General: You can do that by resolution.

Mr. CARPENTER: That we are going to bring ourselves down to the level of the common people. I am astonished to hear a member who calls himself a democrat talk such rubbish. I wonder what his admirers will think when they hear him on the platform with his thoughts in the clouds—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member must discuss the amendment and not the Attorney General.

Mr. CARPENTER: The Minister has not touched the logical point that I placed before the Committee, namely that he has no right to pass one law for himself and another for someone else.

Mr. Hudson: What would be the effect of the inclusion of that amendment in the measure?

Mr. CARPENTER: I put it there because it was the only place I could find for it. If the Attorney General is so sure it can have no effect what is all this fuss about? I ask that this amendment should be voted upon in order to see whether or not we are going to be consistent. There has been no attempt to combat the arguments I have put forward.

Mr. TAYLOR: There is no necessity for the amendment. If clubs are closed the Committee appointed by this House and the Committee appointed by another place to control that portion of the Legislature dealt with by the hon. member, will I am sure, close the refreshment rooms so far as alcoholic liquors are concerned, at the same time as other clubs are closing.

Mr. Carpenter: Will you give that guarantee?

Mr. TAYLOR: I cannot do that, but I believe the Committee would do as I have just suggested. If the Committee closed the bar would there be one hon. member in this Chamber who would dare to pass a vote of censure upon it for doing so?

Mr. Hudson: Which district would you attach us to?

Mr. TAYLOR: We do not belong to any district. It is a privilege that Parliament has, and which belongs to no other institution. I am confident, if the Bill is passed closing other clubs at a certain hour, that the Committee will close the bar in the Assembly at the same time.

Mr. MULLANY: I agree that there is no necessity for such an amendment, although, as a member of this Chamber,

I should be quite prepared to support a resolution limiting the sale of liquor within the precincts of Parliament House to the hours which may be decided upon in the metropolitan area. There are penalty clauses in this Bill. I would ask the hon. member for Fremantle, under what provisions of the Bill would he penalise Parliament House? Upon whom would the penalty be inflicted? Would it be inflicted upon the Premier as leader of the Government, or upon His Honor the Speaker? Who would initiate any prosecution? The hon. member should see the absurdity of his amendment and withdraw it.

Mr. NAIRN: If the Attorney General had introduced a Bill designed for the purpose of creating sly grog shops in the city of Perth he could not have done it more effectively than by the proposals he has laid before the House. I do not think that many people will deny that while by law we are going to force all licensed houses in the city to close their doors, we are simultaneously going to leave every unlicensed house in the city to sell as much liquor as they desire after other places have been closed.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The amendment before the Chair is that certain words be inserted in the clause, namely, "or Parliament House."

Mr. NAIRN: I may discuss it later.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, I will dispose of the amendment first.

Amendment (Mr. Carpenter's) put and negatived.

Mr. NAIRN: I want also to point out with regard to clubs and also to a limited extent, to hotels, that to many men these institutions are to a great extent their homes. If it can be proved that in the general interests of the community, by closing the hotels or clubs, we are preventing the consumption of liquor on those premises, or that we are lessening it, we would be justified in passing the clause. But I think that if it fulfils any purpose it will be to create an innumerable number of sly grog shops throughout the State. No one realises more fully than I do the evils of drink, and if we

want to minimise those evils we can do it better by having properly governed licensed premises than we can by allowing the indiscriminate consumption of drink. The time has come when we should limit the amount of consumption of liquor by the people, but this clause will remove the consumption of liquor from properly licensed and regulated houses, and allow its indiscriminate consumption in shanties.

Mr. MUNSIE: Will the Attorney General inform the Committee as to whether the amendment covers the consumption of liquor in a club?

The Attorney General: No, but I am willing to add what the hon. member desires.

Mr. CARPENTER: How will the clause affect a gathering, at which liquor may be consumed, held by the Chamber of Manufactures or Chamber of Commerce.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Permission can be obtained for the holding of a special banquet on an extraordinary occasion.

Mr. Robinson: What would be the position if the banquet were held on unlicensed premises?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: A special license could be obtained.

Mr. MUNSIE: I move an amendment on the amendment—

That the following be added to the subclause:—"or (b) any person consuming liquor on any club premises commits an offence against this Act."

Amendment on amendment put and negatived.

Mr. CARPENTER: Could not the Attorney General take into consideration the possibility of making some provision for the holding of such annual gatherings as have been referred to? To me this is not a Bill to exasperate people, or to do more than is necessary to cut off the excessive supply of liquor. We should not antagonise a great number of people who do not drink to excess but merely meet once in a year for a social gathering. Those people should not be

put to the expense and trouble of getting a special license.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: If the banquet is held on licensed premises a special license will get over the difficulty, just as is done now. If the entertainment is not held on licensed premises, then this measure does not apply to it.

Mr. HUDSON: In view of the fact that the amendment of the member for Fremantle (Mr. Carpenter) has not been taken seriously, we should at least consider those whom we keep in this House to a late hour at night. I move as a further amendment on the amendment—

That the following proviso be added to the new subclause: "Provided that this subsection shall not apply to the Press Club."

Pressmen are entitled to refreshment after the hours at which this House adjourns.

Further amendment on amendment negatived.

Amendment (new subclause) put and passed; the clause as amended agreed to.

Clause 14—agreed to.

Clause 15—Apportionment of rent and premium:

Mr. ROBINSON: I have placed an amendment to this clause on the Notice Paper. The clause is conceived in an arithmetical fashion, and provides that reduction in rent shall be in the same ratio as the hours are reduced. Hon. members may remember that on the second reading I referred at some length to this particular clause and instanced the differences that would obtain between various towns. In a country town there might be no business doing in two given hours, whereas in the City those two hours might represent a very busy time; and each case should stand on its own merits. The amendment which I framed is based on the Act of 1914. Shortly, it means that the landlord and lessee meet and try to agree: if they agree, well and good; if they do not agree, the difference is referred to the chairman of the licensing bench, who fixes the amount, taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case. I discussed the mat-

ter with the Attorney General, who at first agreed with my amendment, but afterwards suggested to me that it is open to objection; and I rather agree with the hon. gentleman's contention. He says that the burden is on the lessee to apply to the court to reduce his rent; that the lessee may be indebted to his landlord in respect of a large sum for arrears, which the landlord may have given him time to pay; that if the lessee applies to the court to have his rent reduced and so forces the landlord to the court, the latter may immediately put his debt into operation and close up the tenant; and that so hardship may be worked. The Attorney General therefore suggests that Clause 15 should be allowed to stand as printed, but with a proviso to this effect: "Provided that if any party considers himself unduly penalised by the incidence of this section, then he may refer the question of adjustment of rent to the chairman of the licensing bench." The effect of the amendment suggested by the Attorney General would be that the rent would be automatically reduced under the measure according to the number of hours closed, and that if it were reduced too much the landlord, the sub-landlord, or the sub-lessee, or any party to the proceedings could himself apply to the court.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: But it is possible that the rent may not be reduced sufficiently under this measure.

Mr. ROBINSON: True, and then the tenant may apply.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: Would not the objection which you mentioned a little while ago come in then?

Mr. ROBINSON: It might, but the Attorney General's suggestion would do away with most of the objection. The effect of the suggestion made by the Attorney General is that the machinery clause of the Bill stands and that the rent is automatically reduced, and that if any party is aggrieved he may apply to the court to have the matter rectified, and that in such case, but in such case only, the magistrate shall take into con-

sideration all the circumstances of the case. The Attorney General thinks that the automatic clause will fit a number of cases, and that where it does not fit, the party aggrieved may apply to the court. I am satisfied with that.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: How is the lessor to prove his case? How will he obtain the information from the lessee?

Mr. ROBINSON: He can have all the information brought before the court. He could get that in any court. Having received that suggested amendment from the Attorney General, I will not move the amendment standing in my name on the Notice Paper but will substitute the later one emanating from the Attorney General. I move an amendment—

That after the word "lessor" the following proviso be added:—"Provided that if any party considers himself unduly penalised by the incidence of this section, then he may refer the question of adjustment direct to the chairman of the licensing court in the district in which the licensed premises are situated, as sole arbitrator under the Arbitration Act of 1895, and the arbitrator may, in his discretion, award that the rent to be payable by the lessee, or sub-lessee during such period shall be at such reduced rate as the arbitrator shall, in the circumstances of the case, deem reasonable, and his award shall be binding upon the parties and final."

Mr. HUDSON: Am I to understand that only the question of rent will be referred to the arbitrator to determine? It seems to me a somewhat clumsy procedure to first of all determine what it is and then ask the arbitrator to adjust it. I was inclined to favour the original proposal of the hon. member. It is an interesting point, and I have gone to the trouble to obtain a copy of the proposals now before the Victorian House. The subject requires further consideration, and in view of the member for Canning not having moved his amendment. I am not prepared with an alternative. It is a

matter of serious concern and ought not to be hastily dealt with.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: It is certainly a matter of vital importance. I do not agree with the clause as it stands, and the proposed amendment is but a rough way of overcoming the difficulty. I suggest that the Attorney General allow the clause to be postponed, in order to give the last speaker an opportunity of framing his suggested amendment.

Mr. HUDSON: I would like an expression of opinion from the Attorney General as to whether the powers of the arbitrator will be confined to the adjustment of rent, or whether it will be open to him to go into other questions, such as that of the premium.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Certainly he will be free to consider the premiums paid by the lessor. However, to make it clear, I move an amendment on the amendment—

That after "rent" the words "and premium" be inserted.

Amendment on amendment passed.

Amendment (Mr. Robinson's) put and passed.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 16, 17—agreed to.

Clause 18—Duration of Act:

Mr. ROBINSON: The Act is to continue in force until the 31st December, 1916. It is a war emergency measure, and though peace should be declared early next year, it will continue in operation for nine or 10 months afterwards. If peace were declared, the House should deal with the subject on quite a different footing. At present it is on a war footing. That is recognised by such an ardent temperance reformer as Mr. Mather, who speaking at Bunbury the other day, said that the Bill was not one which would operate permanently, that it would be operative only until the close of the war. If the clause remains as printed, the Bill may continue in force for a long time after the declaration of peace.

Mr. Hudson: People would vote for it assuming it was for the duration of the war only.

Mr. ROBINSON: During the second reading I indicated that I would move an

amendment to the effect that the measure should continue in operation till the 31st December, 1916, unless peace were first declared between Great Britain and Germany, and the Attorney General reminded me that the Standing Orders in another place would be a bar to an indefinite clause of that description. The only way out of the difficulty therefore would be to shorten the date from December. I move an amendment—

That in line 2 "December" be struck out and the word "August" inserted in lieu.

Parliament would then have an opportunity to deal with it. If the war were still raging, I for one would support the continuance of the measure.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I hope the amendment will not be insisted on. As it is, we shall have very little time in which to put the measure into operation. If the war ended in August, we should not return to normal conditions in a month or three months. The troops would be returning and there would probably be a reaction of such a character that the measure would be more needed after the declaration of peace than during the continuation of hostilities. The term already specified is, if anything, too short.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

New clause—Opening hour:

Mr. ROBINSON: I move—

That the following be inserted to stand as Clause 16:—"No licensed premises shall open for sale of liquor before eight a.m. each day."

In the questions to be submitted, the electors will be asked to decide only the hour at which licensed houses shall close. The statutory time for opening—6 a.m.—will therefore stand. The Minister pointed out that the inclusion of the morning hours would make the question complicated, and I would overcome that difficulty by inserting a specific hour for opening. Only in case of sickness, if then, should liquor be required before breakfast. A man who requires liquor before breakfast—

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Is a dipso-maniac almost.

Mr. ROBINSON: Yes, and requires special treatment for the disease.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I cannot accept the proposed new clause. The measure will take us a long way in the right direction, and on the principle of local option I should have to object unless we could insert all the hours for opening. If we fix an hour for opening in the morning, it might be argued that we could just as well fix the hour for closing at night.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: So you should.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: This is an appeal to the people. We should either take the whole responsibility or submit the whole of the question to the poll.

Mr. Thomas: The publicans would be very pleased if you could make the opening hour 8 a.m.

Mr. Robinson: I believe they would.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: We cannot assume that. It would cease to be a local option vote if we fixed the opening hour. People would rightly say that if we fixed one hour we could fix the other.

Hon. J. Mitchell: The opening hour is fixed now.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Then to take the poll properly the whole of the 24 hours should be submitted to the electors.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: We ought not to agree to the proposal on principle if we intend to make the poll a local option poll. I still think it would have been better if Parliament had fixed the closing hour, and saved the country the expense of taking the poll. An anomaly will exist if 6 o'clock is decided upon as the closing hour, because, while the trading hours will be so greatly reduced, it will be absurd to have licensed houses open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The fixing of the morning hour for opening should be done by another ballot paper.

New clause put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	9
Noes	16

Majority against .. 7

AYES.	
Mr. Allen	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. George	Mr. Piesse
Mr. Gilchrist	Mr. Thomson
Mr. Hardwick	Mr. Robinson
Mr. Lefroy	(Teller).

NOES.	
Mr. Angwin	Mr. Munzie
Mr. Carpenter	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Chesson	Mr. B. J. Stubbs
Mr. Collier	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Green	Mr. Thomas
Mr. Heilmann	Mr. Walker
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. Bolton
Mr. McDowall	(Teller).
Mr. Mulhany	

New clause thus negatived.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

House adjourned at 10.45 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 8th September, 1915.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1, Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912.—Award