

in-reply has been finished and the Supply Bill finally passed within one week.

On motion by Hon. H. Millington debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 8.6 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Thursday, 26th July, 1917.*

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

### SWEARING-IN.

Mr. S. R. L. Elliott (Geraldton), who was absent at the three previous sittings, took the oath, and subscribed the Roll.

### QUESTION—RAILWAY SMOKING COMPARTMENTS.

Mr. SMITH asked the Premier: 1, Is the Railway Department overmanned when officials have so much time for prosecuting ladies for the trivial offence of travelling in smoking carriages? 2, Why is not the same energetic attention paid to men smoking in non-smokers and travelling in ladies' compartments? 3, As ladies are allowed to travel in smoking tram-cars, why does the

Commissioner object to their entering smoking railway carriages on the suburban lines? 4, Will the Commissioner cancel this absurd by-law, at any rate until he provides decent seating accommodation for lady passengers? 5, Will he refund the fine and costs, amounting to 45s. 6d., inflicted on a girl for travelling in a smoker recently? 6, Is he aware that the Commissioner issued a warrant of execution against the girl within a day or two of the infliction of the fine, thus adding a further 4s. 6d. to the costs?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, The same attention is given. Neither smokers nor non-smokers are permitted to travel in ladies' compartments, nor are smokers permitted to smoke in non-smoking compartments; if anyone is detected smoking in such compartments, he is at once stopped and advised to remove to a smoking compartment. 3, The conditions are not similar. During certain limited hours of the day, smoking cars only are run on the trams, and it would be unreasonable during these hours to absolutely prohibit ladies travelling. With railway trains, both smoking and non-smoking compartments are always provided. 4, No. 5, The department has no record of the fine and costs amounting to 45s. 6d. referred to, but a young lady was recently fined 10s. and 29s. 3d. costs, which have not yet been paid. The circumstances disclose an absolute defiance of the department; after being requested two or three times to remove to a non-smoking compartment, where there was ample room, she, on the advice of a man travelling with her, absolutely refused and defied the department, and the prosecution followed. 6, The department had nothing to do with the issuing of any warrant, but it is understood that this action is taken where a fine is not paid within a reasonable time.

### QUESTION—LAND AT FREMANTLE SOLD.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Minister for Lands: 1, For what reason did the Government sell Lot 1535, near the Customs House, Fremantle, and close to the main business part of the Fremantle harbour? 2, Who applied for the land to be sold, and

who recommended the sale? 3, Is he aware that the Government hold very little land in this portion of the town? 4, Is it not possible, in view of the rapid progress made by the State, that land will be required in this portion of the town for public use? 5, Is he of opinion that the present time is most suitable to sell by auction such valuable lots as 1535 without detriment to the State?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, Inquiries having been made for the land, it was sold as a town lot in the usual manner to encourage business and bring in revenue. 2, Messrs. J. J. & F. G. Higham and Messrs. McIlwraith, McEacharn Propy., Ltd., applied for the land, and sale of the land was recommended by the Minister for Lands after very careful inquiry. 3, No. The Government holds three other lots in the immediate locality, outside the railway reserve, in addition to the square containing 15 lots opposite the Railway Station. 4, In view of the lots held by the Government, it is not thought likely that Lot 1535 will be required for public use. 5, Inquiries having been made for the land for the purpose of immediately erecting large business premises thereon, it was considered advisable to make it available for sale.

#### QUESTION--ORCHARD INSPECTOR.

Mr. SMITH asked the Honorary Minister (Hon. F. E. S. Willmott) 1, Has he noticed that the Public Service Commission is advertising for a qualified orchard inspector with expert knowledge of insect and fungoid diseases at the salary of 11s. per day? 2, What sort of expert does he hope to get at a wage which is about equal to that of an ordinary street sweeper, and will the orchardists be protected from the fads of unskilled inspectors? 3, Will he see that a salary commensurate with the responsibilities of the position is paid?

The HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. F. E. S. Willmott) replied: 1, Yes. 2, The rates of salary paid to orchard inspectors have been fixed by the classification made by the Public Service Commissioner. 3, This question of commensurate salary will be brought under the notice of the Public Service Commissioner, who is visiting the De-

partment shortly to go into this and similar classifications.

#### QUESTION--PERTH TRAMWAYS.

*New Power House, and Workers' Tickets.*

Mr. SMITH asked the Premier: 1, When will the new power house be in a position to supply current at a lesser rate than is now charged, and what additional rolling stock for the trams is required, and when will same be available? 2, What was the amount of the loss incurred through the issue of workers' tram tickets between 8 a.m. and 8.30 a.m.? 3, By what method did the Department ascertain the loss?

The PREMIER replied: I must ask the hon. member to postpone this question. The information is not yet available.

Mr. SMITH: I protest against the postponement. My previous question on this subject was answered in such a way as showed that the department must have had the information.

Question postponed.

#### QUESTION — RAILWAYS, AGRICULTURAL LINES.

*Cost of Improvements.*

Mr. MUNSIE, for Hon. W. D. Johnson, asked the Premier: 1, What amount of money was expended by the Commissioner of Railways on improving the standard of agricultural railways, such as ballasting, re-sleepering, and generally strengthening permanent way, and improving conveniences, during the period 1907-1911, and during the period 1911-1915? 2, The names of railways on which such expenditure was incurred?

The PREMIER replied: It would take a great deal of work to obtain the information desired by this question. It seems to me that such information ought to be moved for in the form of a return.

Mr. SPEAKER: The reason why the information was allowed to be asked for in the form of a question was that an assurance was given that the information was all ready in the reports of the Railway Department. That, however, is not so.

Question lapsed.

## BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, City of Perth Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Minister for Works.

2, Licensing Act Amendment Continuance.

Introduced by the Attorney General.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*Third day—Conclusion.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) [4.48]: In the first place I desire to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the high and honourable position you occupy. I wish also to congratulate new Ministers upon their elevation and to offer commiseration to those who have been relegated. I am glad to see that the combination of Nationalists arrayed opposite contains some practical administrators with a good deal of knowledge of administrative affairs. Seeing that, according to their platform, there is a desire on the part of the National party to have representative Government and free discussion and action by members, it seems very strange that there should be practically an agreement of silence amongst them.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Conspiracy of silence is the phrase. It is the term you have used in the past.

Mr. LAMBERT: I believe the hon member would not be occupying his present seat had there not been a conspiracy of work against him. It is a regrettable fact that there are not some on the other side prepared to get up and, in a sense, try to justify recent happenings, particularly in view of the by-election just held. Instead of any desire on their part to elaborate the platform of the National party, to give the country some idea of what lines they are going on, Ministers and members behind them are apparently forced into absolute silence. This is most regrettable. The member for Perth (Mr. Pilkington), when on the hustings, correctly declared that the Nationalists' platform, as he understood it, could be subscribed by anyone. A truer statement was never made. The Nationalists' platform is one that anybody could subscribe, containing as it does broad generalities with no significant meaning whatever.

Unless that platform be expounded by some of the members opposite, neither we on this side nor the people of the State can hope to know what the National party intend to do. I can say for myself and others on this side that we are quite prepared to subscribe the National platform whenever it is submitted to us. I do not wish to occupy the time of the House in a general recital of the incidents that led to the formation of the National party. It must be but slight comfort to those opposite to think that, in the results of the two by-elections which have taken place, they have little to congratulate themselves upon. In view of the coming general elections, I would like to urge upon Ministers the necessity of doing something to assist the goldfields. We hear a good deal of the general depression throughout the State, and a good deal of the depleted condition of the finances, but the mining industry is drifting into a position that requires immediate attention on the part of Ministers. We have the great goldfields water supply, which is not being utilised as it should be. It has been tapped for the benefit of the agriculturists. I do not in the slightest degree resent any of the many forms of assistance given to the farming industry, but we have in the goldfields water scheme a big national asset, and it is the duty of the Government to endeavour to utilise that water in a more practical, useful and scientific manner than is being done to-day. The Attorney General, when Minister for Mines, was apparently desirous of assisting the mining industry. Many of his recommendations stand to his credit, and it is to be hoped that his successor yet to be appointed will keep in mind some of the well-thought-out and the more or less matured suggestions put forward by the Attorney General. I should like to make passing reference to the recommendations of the Esperance Lands Commission. I hope an endeavour will be made by the Government to immediately utilise the material they have on hand for the building of the railway. On the goldfields we felt that the stoppage of the construction of that line was most regrettable. However, those responsible at the time thought it necessary to have further information on the subject. Now that that information has been fur-

nished, I hope there will not be the slightest delay in recommencing the construction of that work and in carrying it through to completion.

The Minister for Works: We cannot build railways without rails.

Mr. LAMBERT: Nor without inclination. While you may lack material I have thought that, in some directions, there is also a lack of inclination for the building of railways in this State.

The Attorney General: The inclination is all right.

Mr. LAMBERT: I am glad to hear it. On the question of the increase in railway freights on the Eastern Goldfields line, I do not think any Minister, or any responsible member, will say that the railway freights levelled against the goldfields are fair. It is a form of sectional taxation which should not be sanctioned by Parliament, and I hope that, in the general review of railway freights, greater fairness will be shown, instead of this sectional taxation which has been and is still being levelled against the Eastern Goldfields. Again, I wish to draw attention to the proposed trans-Australian railway fares from the goldfields eastwards. I hope the Minister for Railways yet to be appointed by the National party will make a note of the fact that the proposed fares are very unfair to the goldfields, and make representations to the Federal Government to have those fares placed on a fairer and more businesslike basis.

The Minister for Works: They are businesslike enough.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes, from the point of view of the metropolitan area, and I am sorry to say that, when only the goldfields are concerned, very little interest is shown by any other section of the community. This affects the goldfields population, and an endeavour should be made to point out to the Federal railway authorities that the proposed fares constitute an injustice to the goldfields and are, therefore, unbusinesslike. If we are to have a benefit from this railway, any idea of extra taxation on the goldfields people, as suggested, is altogether unjust. I wish to say a word or two on the question of the increased cost of mining

supplies. I believe that the ex-Minister for Mines, Mr. Robinson, had a desire to lower the cost of the supplies; and if there is to be a revision of freights upon the State railways, I hope that some attention will be given to the interests of the mining industry in this regard and that we shall have supplies carried on a more equitable basis than at present. I should like to make reference also to a matter brought forward by the member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Green). He has suggested that deep boring should be undertaken by the Government. There is not the slightest doubt but that there is every justification, backed up by the finest geological knowledge and the best practical knowledge, as well as by results achieved to the present, for the Government to immediately undertake in some of the more favoured geological spots boring on a comprehensive basis. There is no need to rush all over the State; in many parts of the goldfields are to be found large areas upon which mineral wealth will be revealed by the adoption of a comprehensive policy of boring. By such a policy mines would be revealed which would be of great benefit to the commercial and industrial life of the State. I am pleased that the member for Kalgoorlie introduced this question, and I know it has been his desire for some time that efforts in this direction should be made. He urged this work on the late Administration. Although I am opposed politically to the ex-Minister for Mines, Mr. Robinson, I believe that he made an earnest endeavour during his short term to do something for the mining industry and I may say that he won a good deal of confidence from the goldfields people.

Member: Why not express the hope that he be re-appointed to the office to-night.

Mr. LAMBERT: Without desiring to prophesy, or to express a personal hope, it might be desirable if the ex-Minister were restored to the position he formerly occupied. I have no desire to lengthen the debate on the Address-in-reply. I have touched upon a few points which particularly concern the goldfields, and I hope that those points will be made the most of by those responsible. This Parliament is shortly going to the country and in my opinion the sooner the better; but I do hope that there

will not be a repetition of that dramatic display—I might almost say unscrupulous display—and parading of nationalism or patriotism. I hope that when we go to the country we will do so on the broad issue that those who have the right to elect us shall elect us as Labourites or as those who are arrayed against Labour. I hope that will be the issue, and I think that we as a party have no need for fear at the hands of the electors. However, a National Ministry has now been formed in State politics, and if it be that we (Labour) come back in a minority we will combine with those on the other side of the House in an endeavour to do our best to promote the best interests of Western Australia and the best interests of the Empire. Let me express the hope that before very long the present drain upon the manhood of our country will cease, that the necessity for the unfortunate drain upon the manhood of Australia will end, and that we will see a victorious end to this unfortunate struggle in Europe. I have given notice of a motion affirming the desirability of creating a Department for Repatriation under the direct control of a responsible Minister. I hope that the Government will give me an opportunity of moving that motion, and when it is moved I hope its terms will be acceptable to the House. I feel this to be a duty overshadowing all other duties of a member of Parliament and particularly of Ministers of the Crown, to make provision for returned soldiers. I understand from the utterance last evening of the member for Sussex (Hon. Frank Wilson) that the Federal Parliament has failed us of their promise to provide a sum of money to carry out a land settlement scheme for returned soldiers. I understand that the Commonwealth Government undertook to have a quarter of a million of money ready to be lifted at any time to carry out a land settlement scheme for soldiers as outlined by the responsible Minister; and I understand from the utterance of the member for Sussex that this promise has not been fulfilled. That hon. member should know something about the Win-the-War party, because he has by the action of that party been relegated to a private capacity. I hope Ministers will urge on the Federal Government the necessity for

making this money available. I am sincere in the wish that, if after going to the electors of the country the present Government are returned as the administrators of this State's affairs, they will make a sincere and earnest attempt to promote the best interests of the State of Western Australia. If they do so I am confident that they will be backed up in that desire and in that effort by every member on this side of the House. I congratulate the hon. the Premier on his elevation and can only say that if he is able to achieve as much parliamentary greatness as he has private popularity, and if he can move upward step by step in political achievement in the same way as he has drawn private attachment to himself during his life, he will be probably the most conspicuous figure in the public life of Western Australia. I hope members supporting him will show a desire to live up to the truest ideals of Nationalism, as I am sure every man belonging to the Labour party will, and that after the elections are over and the electoral machinery is again at rest we shall all combine to do our level best for the State of Western Australia and the Empire as a whole.

Question put and passed; the Address adopted.

## BILL—UNIVERSITY ACT AMENDMENT.

### *Second Reading.*

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [5.10]: This is a very simple Bill which has been brought forward with a view to amending the University Act in the direction of giving power to the University authorities to lease land for 21 years, and with the approval of the Governor to lease land for 99 years. The University has some 4,000 acres of endowment land which was granted to the University in order that it might have a source of revenue with which to assist the University funds. Some of this land is at Subiaco and Cockburn Sound and two blocks in the country districts. The land upon which the University authorities desire to operate under this Bill is the land at Cockburn Sound, which is eminently suit-

able for poultry farming, fruit growing, and all classes of farming. It has already been surveyed into allotments of from five to ten acres. The proposal was that these allotments should be leased for 21 years. But it is found that no one will take it up on those terms as it is considered that 21 years is not a sufficient period. The authorities therefore desire the power, with the Governor's approval—and I want hon. members to mark that—to lease the land not only for building purposes but for any other purpose for any period not exceeding 99 years. The Governor's approval of course means the Governor-in-Executive-Council. Section 15 of the principal Act provides that the Senate, in the name and on behalf of the University, may grant a lease of any land vested in the University for any term not exceeding 21 years, and with the approval of the Governor may grant building leases for any term not exceeding 99 years. This Bill is introduced for the purpose of striking out the word "building," so that it will then read that the University may grant leases for any term not exceeding 21 years and with the approval of the Governor may grant leases for any term not exceeding 99 years. If they want to grant leases to extend over a period of 21 years, then they must do so by the consent of the Governor-in-Council. I think it is right to give to the University power to make some money out of these endowment lands. It will enable the University to be less of a burden upon the State of it is able to make some money out of these lands. They were granted for that purpose, I take it, in the first instance, and not merely to be looked at. I feel sure that hon. members will only be doing something which will be in the interests of the country as well as of the University if they pass the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. Munsie: Are the University endowment lands free from taxation at present?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Mr. Munsie: Will the lessee of such lands also be free?

The PREMIER: No. The Act provides that if the University disposes of any land it becomes taxable and is liable to the same rates and taxes as any other land. The State gets a double advantage. It not only gets the land settled, but the land becomes

then taxable and the State derives some revenue from it. It is well if we can get our lands settled that we should do so. There is much of the land in the neighbourhood of Cockburn Sound which I think people would readily take up if they could. I am sure the University has already had applications for this land in small blocks for intense culture, poultry raising, etcetera. No one would care to take it up on merely a lease of 21 years. It takes considerable time for anyone to establish himself on the land, and probably five or six years elapse before a man settles himself on the land. Every man likes to feel that when he has worked for some years in improving a property and making a home for himself he will be able to own these lands for a considerable time beyond. Having established the principle here that the University may grant a lease for building for 99 years, I think it is only reasonable and logical to allow that body to grant leases for other purposes, for cultivation and so forth, for a period of 99 years also, with the approval of the Governor in Council. I therefore ask hon. members to agree to the second reading of the Bill, which really means only a question of deleting one word, that is the word "building," from the clause I have read in the Act dealing with the University of Western Australia. I move—

*That the Bill be now read a second time.*

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

## BILL—WAR COUNCIL ACT AMENDMENT.

*Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. J. Gardiner—Irwin) [5.20] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is to ratify the distribution of certain funds of the W.A. Central Sandbag Committee.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The clause does not say that.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: This Committee was inaugurated for the raising

of collections in money or in kind in order to provide bags which would be used as sandbags by the battalions at the front from Western Australia, and which at the time were considered to be badly needed. Hon. members will recollect the occasion upon which this money was raised. Donations from all sources totalled £6,498 17s. 5d., and the expenditure amounted to £2,010 13s. 11d., leaving a balance in hand of £4,488 3s. 6d., including some goods which were earmarked and afterwards sold, leaving roughly an amount of nearly £5,000 to be distributed. This the Central Sandbag Committee agreed to distribute in equal amounts to the War Patriotic Fund, the Victoria League Trench Comforts fund of Western Australian battalions and the Red Cross Society Amelioration fund, and this Bill is merely to ratify the guarantee under the indemnity given by the late Premier on 29th May. The whole of these funds has been distributed. In regard to the war patriotic fund, which I have taken a good deal of interest in, I think we got something like £1,688 from this fund.

Hon. P. Collier: This is really to ratify that distribution.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: This is to ratify the indemnity given to the Sandbag fund by the late Premier. When the time came when these funds were not wanted for the purpose for which they were raised, I contend that they could not have been devoted to three better objects than these three funds which are designated here. I do not think they could have been devoted to a better purpose so far as the war patriotic fund is concerned than in helping the wives and children of the men who are fighting our battles at the front. I move--

*That the Bill be now read a second time.*

Mr. MUNSIE (Hannans) [5.23]: I would like to have a little more information from the Colonial Treasurer. I take it that the Act provides for the distribution of the funds collected, and the Bill now introduced provides for exactly the same. I want to know what arrangement has been made, or if any agreement has been arrived at. At present there is practically a separate fund with regard to the repatriation moneys, which is administered locally in Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and particularly Kalgoorlie.

[8]

From the records of the administration of that fund up to date, I believe it compares more than favourably with any other fund in the Commonwealth. Is this Bill going to interfere in any way with this fund, or empower the War Council to interfere with its administration, or enable them to take control of the funds in either Kalgoorlie or Boulder?

The Colonial Treasurer: This was a separate committee and apart from the War Council. They are only distributing their own funds, which were collected for the purpose of sand-bags.

Mr. MUNSIE: Though I am quite prepared to take the assurance of the Colonial Treasurer, I should like him to read carefully Section 3 of the Act, which he is amending. The first paragraph states "to regulate all funds." I do not see that this Bill confines itself in any shape or form to any one particular fund. We have only the statement of the Treasurer that it is confined to any one particular fund. If this Bill is made law, will it not give them, according to the Act, power to interfere in the administration of any other fund?

The COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. J. Gardiner—Irwin—in reply) [5.27]: I do not think for a moment that this Bill will give any other power than that of distributing this particular fund. The fund was raised for bags and we do not want bags, so the money has been distributed. In connection with most of the funds on the fields, there is local control.

Hon. P. Collier: The point is that this Bill will give the Council power. I do not say that they will take it, but if they desire to step in and interfere with the control of these funds they will have power to do so. You are giving pretty wide powers.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: They had a certain sum of money totalling, roughly, £5,000. They have now distributed the whole of that, and that ends the sandbag fund.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

Mr. Holman in the Chair; the Colonial Treasurer in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 3 of Act No. 59 of 1915:

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: In reply to the member for Hannans, the War Council Act to which he referred, Section 3, deals with the regulation and control of collections. The Bill before the Committee deals with the distribution.

Mr. MUNSIE: While I agree with the Attorney General, I realised that when I read the Act first, but I still say that if this Clause is agreed to without any amendment it will give the War Council power to interfere with the funds in Kalgoorlie. The clause gives the power of distribution, which I do not want. I want Kalgoorlie to have the right to distribute these funds. The concluding portion of paragraph (e) of Section 3 of the Act of 1915 is absolutely definite. It reads, "to deal with such other matters as may be committed or delegated to the said Council by the State Government or the Federal War Committee," and the proviso reads "Provided that this Act shall not extend to contributions in aid of any object or undertaking which the Governor may declare to be exempt from the operations of the Act." None of the funds collected or contributed in Kalgoorlie has been exempted to my knowledge up to date. They are all still liable to come under this Act, but there has been some special consideration given them, or they were allowed to keep a certain percentage of the total collected for local distribution. I want to be certain that the Bill will not interfere with this distribution.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: To my mind the clause is very clear. As the member for Hannans has stated, the War Council can refuse permission to any person to make collections, but if they did consent to the taking up of collections for certain funds, and in their opinion a little later on some other fund preferred a claim, and it was considered inadvisable that the funds collected should be used for that object without the consent of those who raised the funds, the War Council could say, "You cannot use the funds for that purpose." There is not the least doubt that there is a possibility that the War Council sitting in Perth would not be able

to get complete knowledge of every case and might consider that the funds could be used to better advantage. The whole power of saying how the money shall be used is entirely in the hands of the War Council. I would suggest that progress be reported and that we deal with the clause next Tuesday.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I hope the Treasurer will accept the suggestion to report progress. It would be much better if the Treasurer amended the clause and achieved the object he had in view. There is a particular object in view and that is to permit of the distribution of certain funds that they may be utilised for other than the purposes for which they were collected. It would be better if the clause were drafted to cover specific cases rather than to give a wide and general power as at present. While the War Council may not use this power there is a possibility of them doing so.

Progress reported.

## BILL—MELVILLE TRAMWAYS ACT AMENDMENT.

### *Second Reading.*

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) ([5.37] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is one that I think will not receive any opposition in the House. The facts are that money was borrowed some time ago for the construction of the Melville tramways and provision was made in the original measure for the payment of a sinking fund. Owing to the conditions which have arisen on account of the existence of war, the lenders of the money and the borrowers have met and agreed upon a course which the Bill before the House will put into operation. That is that the payment of a sinking fund shall be postponed until a period after the war. There is really very little more to be said. It is one of those circumstances brought into existence by the abnormal condition of things. I move—

*That the Bill be now read a second time*

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.39]: I only wish to add in support of this measure that money was borrowed to carry on the construction of the



Melville tramways just before the outbreak of war. There was a delay of some considerable time owing to the inability to secure rails for the work. Eventually the rails were obtained from the Government and the work was completed. Since then, as we are all aware, a large number of residents have gone to the Front, and the Melville Roads Board are not enforcing the payment of rates so far as those persons are concerned. The tramway, of course, is not paying at the present time, principally on account of the war and the fact that Point Walter is not being used as a pleasure resort to the same extent as was the case formerly. The Melville authorities, before approaching the House to ask for the postponement of the payment of the sinking fund, thought it advisable to interview the society which advanced to the board the money on debentures. The society sent an inspector to the district, and they were satisfied on that inspector's report to permit the payment of the sinking fund to stand over. I will read a copy of the letter which was sent by the society in question to the board. It reads—

The Australasian T. & G. Mutual Life Assurance Society, Ltd., Melbourne, 18th May, 1917. The Secretary, Melville Road Board, Bicton. Dear Sir,—*Re* debentures No. 1/130 for the sum of £13,000. Your letter of the 8th inst. was laid before my Board of Directors to-day, and I have to inform you that the society is prepared to fall in with your request and waive the provision of a sinking fund in connection with the above loan for a further term of five years. Yours faithfully. Signed, J. McKenzie Henry, General Manager.

I think, therefore, that we are justified in asking the House to pass the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

*House adjourned at 5.43 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Tuesday, 31st July, 1917.*

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

### QUESTION—RAILWAY REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Hon. H. STEWART asked the Colonial Secretary: Whether he can supply the House with the following details relating to the revenue and expenditure of the Railways for the year ending 30th June, 1916, viz.:— 1, The revenue and expenditure for "passenger and coaching" traffic—(a) on the metropolitan-suburban area; (b) on traffic from the last-mentioned area to the country; (c) on traffic from the country to stations and sidings wherever situated? 2, The same particulars as regards the "goods and live stock" and "miscellaneous" traffic?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: To obtain the information asked for would necessitate the employment of three extra clerks for one month, at a cost of between £40 and £50. If the hon. member still desires the information, will he move for a return?

### QUESTION—KIMBERLEY CATTLE, GOVERNMENT PURCHASE.

Hon. J. A. GREIG (for Hon. H. Carson) asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is it a fact that a Mr. Fleming passes the cattle bought by the Government from Emanuel Bros. on behalf of that firm, and his son passes them on behalf of the Government at the port of shipment; if not, who does this work? 2, Is it a fact that a Mr. Watson averages these cattle at Fre-