

the Federal authorities, who have an office set up to deal with it. Will the Minister tell us exactly what are the functions of his department at present? I see there is an increase in the Vote.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS: The activities of the department are very small, but odd cases do arise that are not eligible to receive assistance from the Commonwealth social services system. Those are the cases with which the unemployment section of the Public Works Department deals. As the Commonwealth social services scheme becomes more solidly established, I think our liabilities in this direction, small as they are at the moment, will further decrease. At the moment, however, applicants for Commonwealth assistance have to undergo periods of waiting and in some cases it becomes necessary for the unemployment section of our department to render aid. There are also cases of sickness, and various others, to which the department has to render assistance on occasions.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Department of Industrial Development, £17,730—agreed to.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 9.48 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 3rd October, 1946.

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

QUESTION.

COMMONWEALTH YEAR BOOK.

As to Copies for Members.

Hon. H. SEDDON asked the Chief Secretary:

1, As the practice of issuing the Commonwealth Year Book to members of Parliament annually, ceased on the commencement of the war, will the Government endeavour to ascertain if this valuable source of statistical information will be again made available to members?

2, Will the Government endeavour to obtain for members copies of the last Year Book, which was issued in November, 1945?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

1, Inquiry will be made from the Commonwealth Government as to when this publication can again be supplied to members of Parliament.

2, Yes.

BILL—NURSES REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Third Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West) [4.35]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

On the third reading of this Bill I wish to furnish information to the House in order to clarify the position. There seemed to be some confusion, so I will give the information as to all classes of nurses. The period of training required for nurses to qualify for registration is as follows:—

General nurses: Minimum age 18 years; three years' training in a 40 or more bed hospital. Four years' training in a 20 to 40 bed hospital.

Children's nurses: Three years' training at the Children's Hospital and to qualify as general nurses, a further six months in an adults' training school.

Midwifery nurses: Nine months' further course after qualifying as a general nurse; 18 months if they have had no previous training.

Infant health nurses: Further six months' training at the King Edward Memorial Hospital after undergoing midwifery training.

Total: Five years three months' training to fully qualify for a triple certificate for girls trained in a 20 to 40 bed hospital.

Four years three months' training for girls commencing in a 40 or more bed hospital.

Women commencing at the Children's Hospital require four years nine months' training to receive the four certificates.

Under the new scheme women wishing to train as tuberculosis nurses will commence at the minimum age of 21 years and train for two years at the Sanatorium. If they have had previous nursing experience, the Nurses Registration Board may be prepared to accept some of this training as part of their qualifying period.

That matter will be straightened out by the Nurses Registration Board. The Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. Cook, has also supplied me with information to clarify the position. Dr. Hislop has asked for an explanation of the proposed new Subsection (5c). The first paragraph of this subsection broadly adheres to the usual form adopted in the principal Act to provide that an applicant for registration must be 21 years of age before she can be registered. Confusion appears to have arisen with the insertion of an amendment intended to ensure that no girl will commence training in a hospital specialising in tuberculosis until she shall have attained the age of 21 years.

In the usual course a girl commencing training as a tuberculosis nurse under the provisions of this Bill would commence the training at 21 years of age and, after at least two years' service, would qualify for registration at a minimum age of 23 years. It is not desirable, however, to substitute the words "age of 23 years" for the words "age of 21 years," because under certain circumstances the Nurses Registration Board might be prepared to permit the registration of a girl who had complied with the requirements of this Bill, but was still only 21 or 22 years of age.

The prescribed course of training will be set out by the Nurses Registration Board in regulations under the Nurses Registration Act, and those regulations will be subject to the approval of Parliament. This course of training will of necessity include much training of a general nature such as is completed by nurses at, for instance, the Royal Perth Hospital. The Nurses Registration Board may therefore be prepared to credit a girl aged 21 years, who has completed all or the major part of her general training with one year or more of her training as prescribed for tuberculosis nurses. Such a girl may in the view of the Nurses Registration Board have completed the prescribed

course of training and passed the prescribed examination after 12 months or less at Wooreloo whilst she is still only 21 or 22 years of age.

The position of girls at present serving as general trainees or assistant nurses in hospitals specialising in the treatment of tuberculosis would require to be determined by the Nurses Registration Board after due consideration and determination of the degree to which each individual's conditions of training and experience conformed to the prescribed requirements for tuberculosis nurses, when these are promulgated.

It is not necessary and it is not desirable that the Bill should be concerned with the details of the course of training to be prescribed. This, as is the case with other branches of nursing, will be determined by the Nurses Registration Board from time to time and reviewed with changing circumstances. Decisions of the Nurses Registration Board will be embodied in regulations and amendments as changing conditions demand and these will be subject to the approval of Parliament.

The PRESIDENT: I point out to the House that the same procedure applies to the third reading as to the second reading of the Bill. The debate may be proceeded with or it may be adjourned, but no amendment may be moved at this stage unless the debate is adjourned and the amendment is put on the notice paper.

HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [4.41]: I have no desire to move the adjournment of the debate. I am grateful to the Minister for having supplied the information, but I still think it would have been much preferable had consideration been deferred and the Bill amended to make perfectly clear what the Government's intentions are. I have made inquiries in various quarters throughout the day and have found that there is hardly a person outside the department who understands what the clause really means. The Commissioner of Public Health was good enough to give me an explanation in much the same terms as those contained in the letter read by the Honorary Minister.

One reason for the inclusion of the proposed new Subsection (5 c) is that there may be some girls who have not completed their general nursing training and may de-

sire to accept the status of a tuberculosis nurse. They may go to Woorloo Sanatorium, and the board would grant them a certain allowance of time towards the two years' period for the work they had already done in general hospitals. The board might say, "You have done so much, but have not actually nursed tuberculous sick and must do three months at Woorloo, and then you will be registered as a tuberculosis nurse."

There is a matter that is causing a considerable amount of worry, and in saying this, I can appreciate the difficulty in which the Government finds itself. I refer to the fact that the Government intends to take into training girls whose educational standard is not up to that prescribed for general nursing training. I think it would be a pity to lower the educational standard for trainees, which is low enough now. It would be much preferable, if the intention of the department is as indicated, to give the girls who desire to do the tuberculous training such education as would bring them to the required standard so that they could then be registered under the same educational standard as that demanded of general nurses.

If we accept these girls of a lower educational standard now, we should make arrangements to raise their educational standard so that they may be classed with other nurses. A girl who is engaged in nursing has all her time cut out to grasp the needful knowledge of the occupation she has undertaken, let alone raise her educational standard at the same time. To do all three things at once is exceedingly difficult. It would be very much better to say to a girl, "You have not the educational standard, so we will arrange a class that you may reach the required standard." A letter I have setting out the intention of the department contains the following paragraph:—

It is expected that some women will undertake T.B. nursing who will not possess the educational qualifications necessary for registration by the Nurses Registration Board. Such nurses may pass the nursing examination and, when qualified by examination but not registered because of lack of general education, they will be regarded as tuberculosis nurses.

So these girls will reach the position of having qualified by examination but of being unable to obtain registration because of their lower educational standard. This will leave the door open for the entry into general nursing of girls with a lower educational standard, with a proviso that the

hospital may raise their standard of education during the period of their training. This should not be contemplated or permitted. I suggest in all sincerity that we should go about the business in the opposite way and first raise the educational standard of these girls.

The Chief Secretary: When would you want them to start their service in the hospital?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It would not take long to do what I propose. The amount of education that could be imparted to these girls while they are attending their nursing lectures would be very small. I suggest the adoption of a course of three months' intensive education, which would do a lot towards raising them to the required standard. To lower the standard of education for these girls would be a very dangerous procedure, and that is a feature I do not like at all. If this difficulty can be overcome, it will mean that a lot of the objections that will be raised by the nurses themselves will be met.

There are enough difficulties existing already. If all girls enter the nursing profession on the same educational standard, they will become a more even team working in the community. If individuals of different grades of education are accepted and if they may obtain different certificates, we shall only increase the difficulties. An instance of looseness of wording can be found in the definition of "tuberculosis assistant"—

A tuberculosis assistant is a student nurse undergoing training in a registered training school with a view to qualifying as a tuberculosis nurse, and one who has not so qualified.

That is a possible definition which the department had in mind, but it could be improved by stating that a tuberculosis assistant is a student in a hospital specially set aside for the treatment of tuberculosis. This would remove any possibility that such training could be given outside a tuberculosis hospital and in an ordinary general training school. I suggest that a good deal more thought should be given to the matter. I have no intention of opposing the third reading, but I believe that we would be doing very much better if we postponed consideration and had presented to us an amendment that would really cover all the Government intends to do.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West—in reply) [4.50]: I agree there is quite a lot in what Dr. Hislop has said about departing from the educational standard. Nowadays, it is insisted that a girl shall have the junior certificate before she starts training as a nurse, but I suppose that three-fifths of the matrons and nurses in Western Australia—the older nurses—have never secured the junior certificate. The point to be remembered with regard to this question is that nurses are urgently required, but there is no possible chance of the door being left open for uneducated and untrained girls to enter the profession.

Girls who are assistant nurses will be given an opportunity to go to the Sanatorium for training. They will be 21 years of age and over. If they desire to qualify as general nurses, they will have to study. They will have to attend lectures in the ordinary course of events, but they will be working a 44-hour week. Those who are enthusiastic will be only too glad of the opportunity, if they want to become general nurses, to qualify to do so, but they will not be able to qualify as general nurses until they have passed the educational qualifications or their equivalent. That is very definite. It is set out very clearly by Dr. Cook.

Although Dr. Hislop's objections would be good and sound in ordinary circumstances, the point is that we must have nurses for the Sanatorium and this is the way to obtain them as quickly as possible. If there were no scarcity of nurses and we could rely upon trained nurses coming forward, there would be no need for the Bill; but girls are urgently wanted now. They will be given an opportunity to qualify as general nurses and educational training will be arranged. The Nurses Registration Board will have to do that. Those girls who want to continue their training and get four or five certificates will have an opportunity to do so, but it would be dangerous to wait even for a day or two in such an emergency.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: What is your objection to having the clause re-worded?

The **HONORARY MINISTER**: It is a matter of opinion. The authorities say the clause is all right. Dr. Cook thinks it is all right. Two or three lawyers have had a go at it. I can quite appreciate the con-

fusion, though I understand the position perfectly. Of course, it may be misjudged, and lawyers will argue for a fortnight about it. Personally I think it is quite all right, and the departmental explanation can be accepted and relied upon.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: It should not be left open to legal argument.

The **HONORARY MINISTER**: There is no possibility of the door being left open for untrained nurses to come in. Any assistant nurse who has been working for two or three years and who wants to enter the Sanatorium will be admitted if she is 21 years of age. Her progress will depend on the standard she has reached in the hospital in which she worked in the country or elsewhere, and she will be given every chance, if she so desires, to qualify as a general nurse. She cannot be admitted as a general nurse until she passes the examinations prescribed for all nurses in the various stages.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: Why should the matter not be held over during the week-end and the clause re-worded by the Commissioner if he so desires?

The **HONORARY MINISTER**: My official information is that the wording is all right. The amendment to make it clearer was moved in another place by a lawyer, and it has been argued by two lawyers in this House, yet there seems to be no unanimity.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Do you not think it desirable that there should be unanimity?

The **HONORARY MINISTER**: I will guarantee that the proposals set out in the scheme will be strictly adhered to and there will be no possible chance of the door being left open for girls who are untrained to enter the nursing profession to the danger of themselves, the patients and the people with whom they work.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time, and *passed*.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Traffic Act Amendment.

2, Road Districts Act Amendment (Hon. A. L. Loton in charge).

Received from the Assembly.

BILL—MARKETING OF BARLEY

(No. 2).

Report of Committee adopted.

BILL—STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE ACT AMENDMENT.*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [4.58]: I have no objection to this measure. The State Insurance Office deserves every consideration in this respect when its performances over the last 20 years are remembered. In view of the fact that the State office is half-way along the road to undertaking full insurance, I can see no objection to our giving it the right to go the whole way and to participate in all forms of insurance. Quite a number of members have suggested during the debate that there is no need for any extension on these lines, particularly with reference to life assurance. With that view I disagree. I consider there is opportunity for the State office to undertake life assurance.

There are quite a lot of people who are well satisfied with their policies—both endowment and full life—but I am not so convinced that in another field of insurance—that is, industrial life insurance—members of the public are fully satisfied with the conditions operating. I will admit at the outset that industrial insurance is a very poor type of insurance. We must realise that many people are compelled to adopt industrial insurance because they cannot afford either endowment or whole life policies. They can, however, by taking out policies under the industrial insurance section have their premiums collected weekly. The benefits derived from policies of that kind make very poor reading.

I know that many people are compelled, particularly those with small incomes, to indulge in that form of insurance. There is considerable room for improvement there notwithstanding that some advancement was made a few years ago by the passing of the Act which compelled insurance companies to issue paid-up policies when people could not keep up the payments. Up to that stage quite a harvest, I understand, was reaped by insurance companies. I think the figures of exhausted policies amounted to something

like £80,000,000. Although I admit that improvements were made as a result of the Act passed some years ago in that direction, I still think considerable improvement could be made along these lines.

There is a big field for the State office in industrial insurance. I think that office could do much in that direction. It could also do a great deal of good in connection with ordinary life insurance, but particularly do I consider it has a vast field in industrial insurance. In that particular type of insurance we shall be looking after those who can pay only small weekly premiums. If members were to investigate the policies taken out by those people they would see that many of them are worthless. I have checked up on some of them. I know of cases in which persons have had policies for 20 years and paid premiums for 10 years, but I told them that for all the benefit they would get out of those policies they might as well have surrendered them at once. I consider the State Insurance Office ought to be given the opportunity to effect an improvement in the position in that particular field.

State insurance has had a chequered career in this State particularly when legislation has been brought down to this Chamber. The office was brought into being, because of necessity, in 1926. Notwithstanding that it was established and filled a necessary role in Western Australia, this House would not even legalise it until 1938 or 1939, some 12 or 13 years after it had come into being. Since that date certain extensions have been agreed to so that the State Insurance Office could undertake other business. Now the attempt is being made to open the door so that it can participate in other forms of insurance. The time is long overdue when we should give this office the opportunity to extend the scope of its activities.

I heard Mr. Parker say that his principal opposition to the measure was that he was thinking of the taxpayer. If he examined the history of State insurance I feel sure he would reverse his views. During the 20 years that office has been in operation it has paid into reserve, into general revenue and into war loans no less than £600,000. That is not a bad performance. If given the opportunity the State Insurance Office would do just as well in life insurance, fire

insurance and other forms of insurance and would meet the same success it has experienced in workers' compensation insurance and the third party risk business. I see no danger in extending the scope of the office. Possibly there is a danger that it will react to the detriment of other companies and that those companies will lose a lot of business by reason of the activities of the State Insurance Office. Apart from that aspect I see no danger in extending the scope of the Act, and I have pleasure in supporting the second reading of the Bill.

On motion by the Honorary Minister, debate adjourned.

BILL—TOTALISATOR DUTY ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [5.5] in moving the second reading said: This small Bill proposes to amend the Totalisator Duty Act, 1905-1930, which as its Title implies, relates to the imposition of duties with respect to the takings of totalisators. The main object of the measure is to give successful bettors on totalisators a greater and more accurate return for the money they have speculated than they receive at present.

Hon. G. Fraser: You mean, giving them back the money of which they have been robbed for so many years.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: It is not a question of robbing people. In order to make the matter perfectly clear I propose to explain briefly how the amount of dividends to be paid to the holders of winning tickets is arrived at. There is the straight-out totalisator from which patrons are paid only on the winning tickets. Then there is the place tote which pays dividends on each of the placed horses, the first and second or the first, second and third as the case may be according to the number of runners in the race. The unit in this State is generally 5s., but there are times, such as on the Goldfields, where the unit is 10s., but that is only a multiple of five.

So far as the straight-out totalisator is concerned, the total amount of money speculated on each race is subject to a deduction of 13½ per cent., of which 7½ per cent. is

paid to the State Government and 6 per cent. is retained by the club. The balance of 86½ per cent. is then divided amongst those persons holding winning tickets. These people, however, do not as a rule receive the whole of this 86½ per cent. If, for example's sake, the dividend was 10s., then that sum would be paid, but if it happened to be from 10s. 1d. to 10s. 11d., then the amount paid would still be 10s. That is what is referred to as payment to the complete shilling.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: That is perfectly legal?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Quite.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Then it was wrong for Mr. Fraser to say that people were being robbed.

Hon. G. Fraser: Then I will withdraw that statement and say it was legalised robbery.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Chief Secretary has the floor.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Of the total fractional parts of a shilling that remain, the club receives 92½ per cent. and the Government 7½ per cent. The same system of payment applies to dividends received from the place totalisators, except that the balance of 86½ per cent. is divided into two or three equal sums for distribution among the backers of the two or three placed horses. It is proposed by the Bill that as from the 1st January, 1947, dividends shall be paid to the complete sixpence instead of to the complete shilling. If the Bill is passed it will give to the investors a more accurate return for their money and will bring the legislation in this State more into conformity with that of the other States.

All the other States pay either to the complete sixpence or to the complete threepence. New South Wales pays to threepence, and South Australia does so on the 2s. totalisator. Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania pay to the complete sixpence, and I believe that New Zealand, too, adopts such payment. It will therefore be seen that the Western Australian racegoers obtain a smaller return from their successful betting speculations on the totalisator than do their fellow enthusiasts in the other States. The percentage of the fractions retained by the racing and trotting clubs has amounted to a considerable figure. So far as the West Aus-

Italian Trotting Association is concerned, these during recent years have totalled—

	£
1939	8,900
1940	9,100
1941	7,400
1942	6,700
1943	10,000
1944	16,900
1945	12,800

The Western Australian Turf Club's receipts from this source over the some period were—

	£
1939	2,800
1940	2,700
1941	2,600
1942	2,400
1943	5,500
1944	13,900
1945	25,400

Hon. A. Thomson: The figures are astounding!

The CHIEF SECRETARY: These figures refer only to racing at headquarters and not to those races conducted by the Turf Club at what may be called minor courses. The club's approval of this amendment will approximately halve that body's revenue from this source but it will benefit the racing public who, after all, are responsible for keeping racing going, as well as those who pay their entrance fees and provide revenue in various other ways.

Hon. A. Thomson: By what will it reduce the club's income?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: By a little more than half. The fractions vary from 1d. to 11d. If the amending Bill be passed the fractions can vary only from 1d. to 5d. It is remarkable that the shorter the price of the winner the bigger the return to the club. There have been a number of cases where the investors have received only their money back. If there had been an accurate division of the money involved probably they would have received 5s. 10d. or 5s. 11d. Where that has happened there has naturally been a large number of investors on that horse, so that we have the spectacle of the club reaping the benefit of sometimes 10,000 tenpences or pennies or some other unit as the case may be, whereas if an outsider should win the race and only a small number of tickets were on the horse, then the club would receive the 20, 30 or 40 amounts ranging from one penny to 11d.

It will be seen that it is in the best interests of the clubs if the place-getters are heavily backed horses that pay only small dividends. The Bill will not affect the revenue which the clubs obtain as the result of the six per cent. tax on the gross totalisator investment. This resulted last year in the W.A.T.C. receiving £55,600 and the Trotting Association £29,000. It is apparent, of course, from these figures that these organisations are in a very flourishing condition.

Hon. A. Thomson: Those figures are absolutely amazing and astounding.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The Turf Club has been able to purchase several of the proprietary metropolitan courses and the Trotting Association to pay off a large liability. I am very pleased to know that the Turf Club has been able to accomplish so much in that way. We are now in the position of being able to say that racing activities in this State do not benefit private enterprise and that the money made as the result of the operations of these clubs goes back into the sport in one form or another. In my opinion, the clubs are in such a solid financial position that they are not likely to be adversely affected should the Bill be passed.

Hon. W. R. Hall: Some of the country clubs will be.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: No, because the amount involved is so small that the loss will be neither here nor there. There is another amendment included in the Bill, which is designed to simplify the method under which Government totalisator duty is collected. The Act at present provides for payment to be made to the Taxation Department. This was a satisfactory arrangement when State taxation was handled by that department, but as there is now no State taxation, and as totalisator duty is State revenue, it is considered that the duty should be paid to the Commissioner of Stamps who collects the fees on betting tickets and who is responsible for all matters concerning the Totalisator Act. The proposed amendment will also obviate the necessity of the State Government paying commission to the Commonwealth for collecting totalisator duty.

Hon. A. Thomson: Hear, hear! That is a very good point.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY: That is a brief explanation of the Bill. Its object, as I have said, is to give patrons of the totalisator the opportunity to obtain a greater return from their speculations, and I am informed that neither the Turf Club nor the Trotting Association desires to raise any objection. In order that the racing bodies may have time to adjust their arrangements to meet the alteration in dividend payments it is proposed that the Bill shall not come into operation prior to the 1st January, 1947. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. G. BENNETTS (South) [5.20]: While the Bill will favour racing bodies in the metropolitan area, the clubs on the Goldfields are not in such a strong position. On account of the hot dry climate the large areas of lawn that have to be maintained involve such expenditure that the operations of the clubs are not paying. It is felt that with the passage of this legislation they will be placed in a difficult position. In a communication received from the Kalgoorlie Racing Club, the secretary states—

I wish to point out that no objection would be made to the payment of dividends to 6d., provided the Government would be prepared to reduce the 7½ per cent. now taken on the totalisator investments in order to compensate the clubs for what they would lose. The result of the amendment would have a very serious effect on the finances of Goldfields clubs.

Members will appreciate from that information that the clubs on the Goldfields are just managing to pay their way, mainly owing to the revenue derived from the big racing carnivals. At Boulder the difficulty is accentuated because of the use of the course as an aerodrome. The grass there is in a very bad condition and what will really be required is the re-laying of the lawns.

Hon. A. Thomson: The club will receive compensation from the Commonwealth Government.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: I do not know that that will apply to the lawns because the Commonwealth for the most part uses other portions of the course. Owing to the severe summer heat the lawns at both Boulder and Kalgoorlie require much watering. I shall support the second reading of the Bill but I think consideration should be extended to the country clubs.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central) [5.24]: Mr. Bennetts has raised a point that should receive the consideration of this Chamber. It may be all very well for the wealthy metropolitan racing clubs to forego the extra percentages but the country clubs may be adversely affected. The Bill, generally speaking, has my hearty approval, but when it comes to the position of the clubs in the outer areas where they are providing sport for the local people, the matter becomes somewhat different. During the Chief Secretary's remarks someone said that the amount involved was small. I am aware that some racing clubs are hard put to it to balance their ledgers. The amount may be small, but to such clubs it may represent the difference between squaring the ledger and showing a loss. I hope the debate will be adjourned with a view to considering an amendment, the effect of which will be to exempt the country clubs from the application of this legislation.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [5.26]: I support the Bill, the introduction of which is long overdue. The figures read out to the House by the Minister disclosed the amount of money taken from the investing public. I know it has been legally done, but that does not ease the position from the investors' point of view. As the Chief Secretary indicated 86½ per cent. of the totalisator revenue has to be divided among the successful investors and to the extent that the dividends exceeds the even shilling, the amount is taken from the public. That money belongs to the public; it is not the property of the racing bodies. It should be paid to the people who take tickets on the placed horses. Merely because the return does not work out to an exact shilling, the clubs take the excess amount.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: They make good use of it.

Hon. G. FRASER: That may be so, but let them get their revenue in a thoroughly proper manner.

Hon. L. Craig: Everyone knows about it.

Hon. G. FRASER: That is so.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Then you should not make use of the word "dishonest."

Hon. G. FRASER: The excess amount is the property of those who take tickets on the successful horses. Because the clubs in

this State are permitted by law to take all above the even shilling does not make it any more palatable to the racing fraternity. It is admitted that the clubs have the right under the Act to do so.

Hon. L. Craig: Then it is honest.

Hon. A. L. Loton: And it will still be honest.

Hon. G. FRASER: The fact that it is done legally does not make the idea any more acceptable to the racing public. Under the law of the land the clubs are allowed to keep the extra money. That is admitted, but irrespective of the law that extra money really belongs to the successful investors. When people take money that really belongs to someone else it is, in fact, dishonest. I am prepared to assist the clubs to secure revenue in a different manner. There has been growling down the years about the dividend question and anyone who attends the races is aware of that fact. If the clubs require additional finance, why do they not increase the admission fees or the price of services they render in various directions?

The Chief Secretary: The admission price is too expensive now.

Hon. G. FRASER: I admit that, but there are other means of raising revenue. The clubs could increase their catering prices or the charge for race books and so on. They could get the extra revenue all right.

The Chief Secretary: If the clubs reduced the admission charge there would be more people in attendance at the races.

Mr. G. FRASER: Yes; that was proved by Mr. P. A. Connolly.

Hon. G. Bennetts: We have to pay 13s. to attend the Kalgoorlie races.

Hon. G. FRASER: The admission charge is altogether too high. Because of that many people will not go to the races. Mr. P. A. Connolly proved what could be done at Helena Vale. The charge he made enabled people to go to that course for less than they had to pay to cross the bridge at Belmont. In some instances he allowed people to attend free and by that means made greater profits than were achieved by the clubs that charged high entrance fees.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: It was a sprat to catch a mackerel.

Hon. G. FRASER: As I indicated before, the Bill is long overdue. While I shall vote

for it I think that we could very well adopt the New South Wales and South Australian basis of 3d. However, 6d. is half way along the road, I shall support the Bill.

On motion by Hon. W. R. Hall, debate adjourned.

BILL—MILK.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 18th September.

HON. G. BENNETTS (South) [5.29]: I desire to speak to this measure as it affects the Goldfields. For the past five years we in that part of the State have been considering the question of pasteurising milk. No compensation is provided for dairymen in the back areas whose cattle are destroyed on account of disease. Some two years ago we had an inspector sent to the Goldfields to examine the dairy herds, because complaints had been made by the authorities at the abattoirs about the butchering of cattle suffering from tuberculosis. This was told to me by a butcher at the abattoirs.

Hon. W. R. Hall: But cows are not butchered.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: Yes, the ones affected with tuberculosis. They were dairy cattle sold to the abattoirs. The inspector made an examination of the herds. We were led to believe—whether it is true or not, I do not know—that some cattle were driven into the bush. The dairymen came to us as a deputation to ascertain whether they could not receive some compensation. Their desire was that the stock should be tested in the same way as herds are tested in the metropolitan area. I consider it but right that these dairymen should be compensated if their cattle are destroyed on account of disease. Members are aware that the climate of the Goldfields is very dry and that the standard of food is low. Our milk production, both in quality and quantity, is poor. I have a statement showing the quantities of milk that arrived in Kalgoorlie from the metropolitan area last week. They are as follows:—

Tuesday	620 gallons
Wednesday	790 gallons
Thursday	750 gallons

The PRESIDENT: Order! Will the hon. member please mention the dates?

Hon. G. BENNETTS: I have not the dates available, but will say that over 700 gallons of milk per day come to the Goldfields from the metropolitan area. The cattle on the fields are hand-fed and the dairy-men are having a bad spin. The milk is taken out on the rounds in carts which I suppose are not up to the required standard. Damp bags are placed around the cans. The wind blowing on the water in the bags brings the temperature of the milk down. In my opinion, only one class of milk should be sold on the Goldfields, and that is pasteurised milk. It is advertised in Kalgoorlie as pasteurised, and last week the inspectors tested the milk which came from Perth. The milk is sent in goods brake-vans. It is placed on the floor of the van and covered with mail, vegetables and luggage. It is milked in the metropolitan area in the morning and is supposed to be pasteurised. The pasteurising takes about half-an-hour. It is then loaded in the train and arrives in Kalgoorlie the following day at 10.10 a.m. It is then stored until the following morning, when it is delivered.

The other day when I was on the Kalgoorlie station as the milk arrived, I saw the milkman get a beater and beat the ice on the milk. He then took the milk from the can and put it with the pasteurised milk. The whole procedure is a farce. That is the class of milk that we on the Goldfields are getting. We have elected a board in Kalgoorlie consisting of a member of each of the councils, a member of the road board and the medical officer on the Goldfields, to go into this matter. We also have a businessman in Kalgoorlie who is prepared to erect the requisite plant to pasteurise the milk. In my opinion, the only thing to do is to support this Bill and hand the control of the milk over to the board, which will be able to ensure that the Goldfields people get wholesome milk. I would point out to members that the milk cans, when they are returned to Perth, are filled with the bags that are put round the cans when they are sent to Kalgoorlie. The board's inspectors will, of course, see that in future the cans are properly steamed.

As I said, the Goldfields climate is very dry and dusty. I have been on a dairy on the fields and the method of getting a cow into the dairy to be milked is as follows:—

A person comes along and gets the animal by the ear and brings it in. He pats it on the tail or gets hold of the tail and pushes the animal into the pen. He then starts milking without sterilising his hands. I have also seen him put his hand into the pail of milk to wet the teat before milking. I therefore cannot be convinced that our Goldfields people today are getting clean, wholesome milk. Certainly, the milking conditions should be improved. We cannot at present get the necessary plant. Again, the dairymen on the fields are labouring under difficulties because they cannot secure cement to repair their floors. To put their dairies into a reasonable condition, the dairymen will have to expend some hundreds of pounds. In my opinion, Whyalla in South Australia is the best place in the Commonwealth for milk. Before the cow is put in the milking pen, it passes through a tunnel in which there is a terrific draught which blows away the flies and loose hairs from the cow. The dairy is sterilised and everything possible is done to ensure the cleanliness of the milk right from the time it leaves the cow until it is placed in containers to be delivered to the people.

On motion by Hon. J. A. Dimmitt, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 3rd October, 1916.

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