

# Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 16th November, 1915.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 3 p.m., and read prayers.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Copy of the information re the financial operations of the State Implement Works handed to the commissioner during the recent inquiry into the conduct of the works, but refused to the representatives of the Press (ordered on motion by Hon. J. J. Holmes). 2, Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department—Regulations governing the issue of ordinary licenses to owners or occupiers of land to take, use, or dispose of water from water-courses, lakes, lagoons, swamps, or marshes. 3, Roads Act, 1911, and the Cattle Trespass, Fencing, and Impounding Act, 1882—(a) By-law for the establishment of a public pound and by-law for preparation of roll for loan vote adopted by the Gosnells road board; (b) By-law for the establishment of a public pound, adopted by the Perth road board; (c) By-law for the establishment of a public pound, adopted by the Albany road board. 4, Municipal Corporations Act, 1906—(a) By-law for the regulation of general traffic, adopted by the Fremantle Council; (b) Amendment to By-law 16 in connection with stalls and hawkers' licenses, adopted by the Geraldton Municipal Council. 5, Stock Diseases Regulations 1914—Amending regulations. 6, Chief Harbour Master—Report for year ended 30th June, 1915. 7, Government Savings Bank—Annual balance sheet, etc., for year ended 30th June, 1915. 8, Commissioner of Police—Report for year ended 30th June, 1915. 9, State Hotels—Balance sheet and profit and loss account for year ended 30th

June, 1915. 10, Government Labour Bureau—Return (ordered on motion by Hon. W. Kingsmill). 11, Government Trading Concerns Act, 1912, Aborigines Department—Moola Bulla station, balance sheet and profit and loss account, with Auditor General's report for the eleven months ended 31st May, 1915. 12, Government Railways Act, 1904—Reports in accordance with Clauses 54 and 83. 13, Government Tramways—Return of receipts and expenditure for quarter ended 30th September, 1915. 14, Health Act, 1911-12—Regulation, form of annual statement of accounts.

## QUESTION—FRUIT FLY.

Hon. R. J. LYNN asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, How long has the fruit fly pest been known in Western Australia? 2, Upon the appointment of Mr. Moody as Commissioner, what districts in this State were affected with fruit fly? 3, What is the cost per year of the Commissioner and his office staff? 4, What districts in the State are now free from fruit fly? 5, Under present regulations to what districts and what varieties of fruit is it forbidden to forward from Fremantle and Perth? 6, How long have these districts been debarred from receiving fruit from Perth and Fremantle? 7, Do the Department of Agriculture take any steps to see that passengers on trains travelling to the prohibited districts only carry fruit free from fruit fly pest? 8, Is fruit sold in the markets passed by inspectors before delivery? 9, If fruit is inspected at Perth and Fremantle and declared clean, why is it not allowed to be distributed anywhere throughout the State? 10, Have other States of the Commonwealth quarantine districts similar to this State? 11, Does the Agricultural Department of the other States of the Commonwealth prohibit the distribution of fruit as this State does?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, About 19 years. 2, Practically the whole of the area north of the 33°

South latitude, from south of Pinjarra to north of Geraldton, and as far east as Toodyay and the Goldfields. 3, The Commissioner's salary, railway fares, and travelling allowance amounted last year to £866. He has no office staff, but his papers are dealt with by the record and correspondence room common to the whole department. His inspectorial staff, including field, port and market inspection, cost £4,661. 4, The area south of the 33° South latitude. 5, Fruit from Perth and Fremantle cannot enter the southern area, that is south of Yarloop and Narrogin, with the exception of lemons, Italian oranges, bananas, pine-apples, passion fruit, grapes, and tomatoes. 6, Since March this year; but fruit was absolutely prohibited entry into both the Mt. Barker and the Bridgetown districts for three years previously, with the exception of bananas and pine-apples. The southern area is self-contained as far as fruit supplies are concerned. 7, Yes; inspectors are constantly on the alert in this regard. 8, Yes; but it is not possible to closely inspect all fruit passing through the various markets. Fruit for the southern area is given a more thorough inspection at the goods shed at Perth and Fremantle stations. 9, It would be very unwise to permit fruit from infested orchards and districts to go into the southern areas even after inspection. The southern area can be kept free from fruit fly, provided fruit from the infested warmer districts is prohibited entry. Other States recognise the grave danger from fruit fly and the difficulty of detecting infested fruits. California and other fruit-growing States of America prohibit Western Australian fruit from entering the country even on a certificate of guarantee. South Australia last season held up our apples from clean orchards and clean districts carrying our certificate and guarantee for 10 days so as to be thoroughly satisfied that the fruits were free from fruit fly. 10, Very stringent quarantine regulations are enforced in connection with phylloxera, but their fruit industry is not threatened with extinction as ours is by fruit fly.

Each State has to meet its own conditions. 11, Yes; their restrictions on the distribution of fruit infested with disease are as drastic as our own.

#### ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Governor's deputy received and read notifying assent to the Industries Assistance Act Amendment.

#### CONDOLENCE—THE LATE MRS. C. SOMMERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3.8]: On behalf of myself and every other member of the House, I desire to offer my condolences to the Hon. C. Sommers on the sad bereavement he has sustained. The hon. gentleman has my deepest sympathy, as he has the deepest sympathy of every member, in the affliction which has befallen him and the members of his family in the death of his esteemed wife.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan) [3.9]: As senior member for the province of which I have the honour to be co-representative with Mr. Sommers, I would like to add a few words to those which have fallen from the Colonial Secretary. I think all of us were inexpressibly shocked by the sad news which came to us the other day. When death claims any of our loved ones it is very hard indeed, even when the preparation of a long illness has been undergone previously, but when the end comes with the appalling suddenness with which the late lamented Mrs. Sommers met her death, the effect on those left behind must be a numbing one. I feel sure that everyone in the House sympathises to the uttermost extent with Mr. Sommers in the loss of one who has been wife, comrade, and helpmate to him for many years, one from whom it has always been a grief to him to be separated for other than a brief period of time. I beg to endorse the remarks of the Colonial Secretary.

## ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew) [3.11]: It is my intention to move that the House adjourn until to-morrow. Before doing so I wish to explain my reasons. Last Friday, realising that there would be very little business to do to-day, and in consequence of an arrangement made with some country members, I decided to notify members generally through the Press that no business would be taken to-day, that we would sit to-morrow. I did this purely for the purpose of meeting the convenience of those in the country who would have had to come down in order to do business extending, perhaps, over a quarter of an hour. I beg to move—

*That the House at its rising adjourn until to-morrow.*

Question passed.

*House adjourned at 3.13 p.m.*

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## Legislative Assembly.

*Tuesday, 16th November, 1915.*

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3.0 p.m., and read prayers.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Minister for Water Supply: Regulations under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act, 1914.

By the Attorney General: Balance-sheet and profit and loss account of the State hotels for the year ended 30th June, 1915.

## QUESTION—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE, DISPOSAL OF CROPS.

Mr. FOLEY (for Mr. Heitmann) asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Are the farmers, having accounts with the Industries Assistance Board, to be forced to dispose of their harvest before 31st December, as per circular sent out? 2, What will be the position of those who desire to sell only sufficient to meet their accounts? 3, What is to be the general line of action by the board as to the disposal of the wheat of the farmers owing accounts to the board?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, No. They will have a free hand to sell up to 31st December, 1915. After that date if they have not sold, the Industries Assistance Board may exercise its right to sell if it wishes. 2, Assuming the word "Accounts" means advances made by the Industries Assistance Board, the farmer will be permitted to redeem his securities on payment of his indebtedness to the board supported by consent of his creditors. 3, Farmers will be allowed to deliver their wheat in accordance with the terms of the arrangement laid down by the Federal Government, the details of which are not yet available.

## LOAN ESTIMATES, 1915-16.

*In Committee.*

Resumed from the 2nd November; Mr. Holman in the Chair.

Vote—Other Undertakings, £168,044:

Item—Agricultural Implement Works—Foundry, Meter and General Workshops, £6,555.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Will the Minister for Works inform us on what he proposes to expend the £2,000. There is a liability of £4,555 which has to be recouped to Loan Suspense Account. I have a rooted objection to spending an-