

ing pursuits. Farming is so profitable that he has already retired from active life. There is the position. Let members representing farming districts leave the farmer alone. Let them not go around stirring up strife in the heart of the farmer. He is all right if members will tell him the facts and not use so much misrepresentation as they have used upon him in the past.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*House adjourned at 10.28 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Thursday, 31st October, 1929.*

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

### ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Deputy Governor received and read, notifying assent to the following Bills:—

- 1, Water Boards Act Amendment.
- 2, Pearling Act Amendment.
- 3, Transfer of Land Act Amendment (No. 1).

### BILL—RESERVES.

#### *Select Committee's Report.*

Hon. A. Lovekin brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the Bill.

Resolved: That the report, together with the evidence, be printed and taken into consideration when the Bill is dealt with in Committee.

## PAPERS—STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

*Hold-up of M.V. "Kangaroo."*

HON A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan)  
[4.34]: I move—

That all papers relating to the latest voyage of the "Kangaroo," particularly with regard to the events in connection with her crew at Derby, the subsequent hold-up of the ship at Fremantle, and the negotiations that resulted therefrom, be laid on the Table of the House.

I placed this motion on the Notice Paper for two reasons. I asked a question of the Chief Secretary on Tuesday last and received a reply with which I am not altogether satisfied. There are two items in it with which I am dissatisfied, but I shall refer to only one of them. I asked the Chief Secretary what was the cost of conveying the men from the Wyndham Meat Works per M.S. "Centaur" to Fremantle in consequence of the hold-up of the "Kangaroo." The answer I received was—

The extra cost of conveying men on "Centaur" as against passages on the "Kangaroo," was £611.

From information I have received, that answer is entirely misleading. The facts are that the "Centaur" was paid not £611 but £2,100 in respect of passage money and some £770 in respect of freight from Wyndham.

The Chief Secretary: The extra cost was £611.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: As against carrying the men by the "Kangaroo"?

The Chief Secretary: Yes.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: The State has paid to the owners of the "Centaur" £2,870, and the "Kangaroo" which has been lying idle at the wharf all the time and earning nothing, is credited with £2,159, and this House has been told that the cost of transport in connection with the hold-up of the "Kangaroo" was £611, whereas in fact it was £2,870. I wish to see the file to ascertain how that came about, because it is wrong to credit the "Kangaroo" with £2,159 for being on strike at the wharf, while another ship was doing the work and getting the money. That answer was certainly misleading to the House. These ships belonging to the State and forming part of the State Shipping Service are not running too profitably. According to the Auditor-General's report in July, 1927, £595,674 was written off the capital of the State Shipping Ser-

vice. The working expenses of the State ships, therefore, are not charged with the interest on over half a million of money, but the country is paying interest and sinking fund on the half million all the same. The working expenses of the "Kangaroo" set down for this year are £204,000 and the earnings are estimated at £170,000, so that there is an apparent loss of £34,000 plus the interest that the taxpayers have to provide on more than half a million of money which has been written off. In addition there is the £1,000 interest, sinking fund and demurrage on the ship, so that the figures should be not the £4,000 given us on Tuesday, but over £6,000 representing the loss due to the hold-up of this boat, and the public know practically nothing of the why and wherefor of it. In view of the loss made by the service and the burden it has become to the State, it is only right that the public should know how it came about that the "Kangaroo," on some fooling matter, was held up at the wharf for four solid weeks doing nothing. If we have the file we shall learn something more about it, and the public, who are also entitled to know, will be apprised of the real facts. For those reasons, I move the motion.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, debate adjourned.

### **BILLS (3)—THIRD READING.**

#### **1, Agricultural Products.**

Returned to the Assembly with amendments.

#### **2, Dried Fruits Act Continuance.**

Returned to the Assembly with an amendment.

#### **3, High School Act Amendment.**

*Passed.*

### **BILL—VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT.**

Report of Committee adopted.

### **BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE.**

*Second Reading.*

**THE HONORARY MINISTER** (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [4.48] in moving the second reading said: This small Bill is designed to assist settlers who are clients of

the Industries Assistance Board. In cases where the board have converted assisted settlers' securities into first mortgages, bills of sale are taken over the crops. It happens in some cases that the particular client has had a poor season, and that owing to the fact of his crop proceeds having been paid over in accordance with the bill of sale he has not enough money left to carry on for the next season. Then it has been necessary for the board to make a refund in order to enable him to carry on. Under the existing Act, in such circumstances a second mortgage has to be prepared; and this costs a certain amount of money, which the settler has to pay. The present measure is designed to obviate that expense, by providing that the original mortgage shall be sufficient. It is a Bill which will facilitate the board's business and assist the board's clients where the board are satisfied to make refunds in the circumstances I have indicated. Accordingly I have pleasure in moving—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee, etc.*

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

*House adjourned at 4.53 p.m.*