

er's interests at heart. There must be some good reason for the creditor's action, because by bringing the farmer under the Act the creditor deprives himself of the protection he otherwise would have. If the amendment is carried, the farmer will find his way to the Bankruptcy Court; and then he will have no opportunity of making good under the supervision of a receiver.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND: I recognise that if the amendment is carried the only course left to the creditor will be to force an issue against the debtor under the Bankruptcy Act. I mentioned last night the case of a farmer against whom a writ was issued, and who immediately took out a stay order under the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act. To my mind the only way of dealing with the question is to introduce into the Bill the psychological factor to which I referred last night, and I regard the amendment as the best way of doing it. The general opinion among farmers is that opportunity should not be given for one creditor, who may happen to have only a slight interest in the farmer's affairs, to put him under this legislation. Secured creditors, in most cases the Agricultural Bank or the Associated Banks, and frequently the two combined, have complete control of the farmers and hold all their assets in a general way. If they are going to realise on those assets, then in the majority of cases there will not be sufficient to satisfy the unsecured creditors, who generally come in on top of the farmer and force his hand. The secured creditors are not likely to push the farmer.

Hon. G. FRASER: I cannot quite understand Mr. Yelland's attitude. He is not prepared to give a creditor the right to make application to the Director. Yet he wants the creditor to take action under the Bankruptcy Act, thus forcing the farmer into taking out a stay order. I think it would be much better to give the creditor the option of making an application to the Director rather than to the Bankruptcy Court. I hope the amendment will be defeated.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: The Act as it stands provides that any farmer, or the creditor of any farmer, may make application to the Director to call a meeting of the creditors. That starts the ball rolling. There is no limit as regards the amount owing to the creditor who makes the application. That is the weak part of the section. Perhaps the Minister will report pro-

gress and consider the matter between now and the next sitting. We should bring this clause as nearly as possible to the position under the Bankruptcy Act itself. The Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act has tried to give the benefits of the Bankruptcy Act without actually putting the farmer into bankruptcy. The right of petitioning might be limited to a creditor having a debt of not less than £50.

Progress reported.

*House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Wednesday, 21th June, 1931.*

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

### QUESTION—ROAD MAKING, IDLE PLANT.

Mr. WITHERS asked the Minister for Works: 1, Seeing that main roads already constructed in the South-West are in urgent need of maintenance, could the plant that is lying idle at East Perth be made available to local road boards so that maintenance might be carried out by such boards? 2, Will he favourably consider applications from road boards for such plant; if so, under what conditions?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, It is not admitted that the roads referred to are in urgent need of further maintenance than is being carried out on them by the Main Roads Department partly with its own forces and partly with the assistance of local road boards. 2, Answered by No. 1.

**QUESTION—ABORIGINES.**

Mr. J. I. MANN asked the Chief Secretary: With regard to questions asked as to the number of aborigines and half-castes in the Beverley and Wagin magisterial districts, do the Government intend to establish a native settlement in the Beverley magisterial district in the same way as is proposed at Carolup?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: No.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**

On motion by Mr. Wilson leave of absence for three weeks granted to the member for Forrest (Miss Holman) and the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe (Mr. Lutey) on the ground of ill health.

**BILL—DEBT CONVERSION AGREEMENT.**

Introduced by the Premier and read a first time.

**BILL—STATE MANUFACTURES DESCRIPTION.**

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

**ASSENT TO BILLS.**

Message from the Administrator received and read notifying assent to the undermentioned Bills:—

- 1, Collie Recreation and Park Lands.
- 2, Special Lease (Esperance Pine Plantation) Act Amendment.
- 3, Traffic Act Amendment (No. 2).

*House adjourned at 4.43 p.m.*

**Legislative Council,**

*Thursday, 25th June, 1931.*

Bills: Workers' Compensation, 2r. ...	3581
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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m. and read prayers.

**BILL—WORKERS' COMPENSATION.**

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 23rd June.

**HON. J. M. DREW** (Central) [4.33]: It is a pity that a bill of this description should be introduced at the present time. It is a measure of a distinctly party character and one of the most controversial that could be submitted for the consideration of Parliament. The crisis through which Australia is passing calls for the co-operation of all sections of the community and we have had evidence of the generous response to the call that has been made by many statesmen of Australia. It could have been expected, under the circumstances, that the State Government of Western Australia, while checking abuses, would not, in amending the Workers' Compensation Act, attack the rights and privileges of suffering humanity. There is reason to believe that abuses have crept in with respect to some of those who have taken advantage of the Act and also by some of those who have been connected with the administration. There is, for instance, reason to believe that a certain type of medical man has seen, in the effort of the Legislature to be just to the injured person, an opportunity to make as much blood money as possible. There is also reason to believe that some unscrupulous aliens have deliberately maimed themselves to obtain the monetary compensation provided in the schedule to the Act. Because a small percentage, or even if a larger percentage of that class has abused the Act, that fact furnishes no sound logical reason for making the honest worker suffer. The Bill we are now considering provides safeguards, and, to my mind, abundant safeguards, against any unscrupulous-minded