

that the average timber worker would be much happier in a better class of house and was prepared to pay an increased rental for it. The Bill lays down that one-eighth of an employee's income should be charged as rent. Considering the timber is being produced on the mill, that provision should ensure a much better class of house for the workers in the industry. The member for Kalgoorlie spoke of these houses costing £400 to £450. It struck me that a much cheaper house will be provided in the mill areas than elsewhere. To build a home under the Workers' Homes Board costs about £900, and I hope the house to be built for £400 or £450 will be of a good class.

Mr. Holman: Those houses will be built on the job.

Mr. McLARTY: Yes, and I suppose the timber will be provided at a cheaper rate than elsewhere. Still, there is a big disparity between the cost of a house erected by the Workers' Homes Board and the estimated price for a mill house. While I support the second reading of the Bill and appreciate the need for improved housing on the timber mills, I consider it necessary that the whole question of housing should be considered by the housing commission to be appointed under the State Housing Bill. If a worker on a timber mill is better housed than somebody elsewhere, it would be hardly fair that the person outside should suffer. I should like to see provision made for the housing commission to include mill housing in its activities.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Rodoreda in the Chair; the Minister for Forests in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2—agreed to.

Progress reported.

BILLS (4)—RETURNED.

1, Milk.

With amendments.

2, Traffic Act Amendment (No. 2).

With an amendment.

3, Fisheries Act Amendment.

4, Land Alienation Restriction Act Continuance.

Without amendment.

BILL—CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS.

Received from the Council and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. F. J. S. Wise—Gasecoyne): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.45 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 13th November, 1946.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

BILL—VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT.

Reports of Committee adopted.

BILL—STATE HOUSING.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central) [2.35]: I join with other members in commending the Government for having introduced this comprehensive Bill; but as it seeks to do away with the Workers' Homes Board, I would like—not that it will alter the Bill

in any way—to seize the opportunity once again to say that I am dissatisfied with the way in which materials and labour have been diverted in specific instances to the converting of houses belonging to well-to-do people into flats. These flats are not let at a rental within the means of ordinary married people; they are expensive flats, the rentals of which are at least £3 3s. upwards. I am speaking now of something that has come under my notice in the neighbourhood in which I live. Within a radius of a quarter of a mile in that neighbourhood at least three such instances have occurred.

We should at least see that the men who went oversea with the Fighting Services and who have now returned and are clamouring for homes should receive first consideration. I am certain that I am not the only member of this Chamber who has been importuned by these men to use what persuasion I can to get the Workers' Homes Board to provide materials for homes for themselves, their wives and families. It is within the knowledge of all members how ex-Servicemen's wives have been living during the absence of their husbands. These women have been living with their "in-laws" and it does not require much imagination to realise those conditions, no matter how considerate the old folk might have been. Such a state of affairs is not conducive to the satisfactory rearing of a young family.

I consider that nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of providing materials for the erection of homes for ex-Servicemen, their wives and families. They should have a little place that they can call their own. I see nothing in the Bill that will help in that direction. I have in mind that a department should be created to deal solely with the purchase of building materials. I understand that an official of the Workers' Homes Board is in the Eastern States on that mission; but, if my information is correct, only one official. To me it seems to be beyond the power of any one official adequately to cope with the purchase of the many materials required for a home. I might stress what has happened in my own town, Geraldton. Five well-constructed homes were all built ready for occupation by the purchasers or the tenants, except that a bath had not been in-

stalled. When this matter was reported to me I found some difficulty in believing it, but I found on inquiry that what I had heard was true. The five homes were completed in February last and stood tenantless for some seven or eight months.

Hon. G. Fraser: That is a scandal.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: It was unbelievable to me. I had to inspect the places myself in order to verify the statement, which had been made to me by a well-known, reputable municipal councillor in Geraldton. I took the matter up and was told that no tenant would be allowed to enter one of those homes until it was absolutely completed.

Hon. G. Fraser: How far are the houses from the beach?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I understand there was a shortage of baths in the State. As I have said, an official of the Workers' Homes Board was in the Eastern States commissioned to secure building materials and I have no doubt that attempts were made to secure the baths.

Hon. G. Fraser: A dozen officers could not have procured materials that were not available in the Eastern States.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: The interjection would lead one to believe that there were not sufficient baths in the Eastern States to supply these five houses. I venture to say that the baths could have been obtained within six miles of Geraldton. As I have mentioned previously in this Chamber, a number of buildings belonging to the Air Force at Geraldton are still untenanted, except for a few men who are looking after them. I hazard the guess that the baths could have been obtained from that Air Force camp. I have taken the opportunity to ventilate this matter again so that more attention may be given to it in the future. I reiterate that the converting of private homes into expensive flats is not the way to provide homes for the people whom we are pledged to consider first.

In common with other members, I am continually receiving letters from ex-Servicemen and interviewing ex-Servicemen who have been waiting so long for homes. One returned man told me that he got a reply asking him to renew his application in six months' time. The other week he got a further reply asking him to renew

his application again in three months' time. I give way to no member in my commendation of the efforts that have been made by the officials of the Workers' Homes Board in this connection. Mr. Bond, the secretary, whom I have interviewed on many occasions, is but a small man but he is doing a full-size job. I often wonder how some of our officials have stood up to the severe strain imposed on them. I am not complaining about them; any complaint I have is against the board. I want to know how a board, composed as this one is, can adequately discharge its duties, because it has a responsibility towards the returned men, in particular, whose families have been living for several years under the conditions that I have just mentioned.

The Under Treasurer, Mr. Reid, is chairman of the board. I have heard him commended on many occasions. I suppose that we could not get a better man for the position of Under Treasurer, or to be chairman of the Workers' Homes Board, but how many boards is Mr. Reid on? Is his position of Under Treasurer a full-time job, or has he an understudy who can carry on when he is not in his office? Mr. Harler, another member of the board, is the assistant manager of the Wyndham Meat Works. Those works may not have been in full operation for the last few years, so he, perhaps, has had plenty of time to spend on the board's affairs. Another member is Mr. Clare, the Principal Architect. Well, we do not need to be in the confidence of the Government to know that his is a full-size job. What time can he spare from his many duties to devote to the work of the Workers' Homes Board?

It is proposed that the housing commission shall include the same officials, and they are men who are occupying highly important positions which, if they are to be carried out efficiently, require their full time. Mr. Brine, a master builder, who is also on the board, is unknown to me, as is also Mr. Coram, the union representative. I have nothing to say about them except that Mr. Brine, a building contractor, would also have a full-time job. If the Government desires the housing commission to do the job as it should be done, and as the Government expects, then it is hoping for the impossible with a board composed of three officials who already have full-time jobs.

I received a circular from the Women's Service Guild wanting to know whether I favoured a woman being appointed to the board. I do. I consider that, if for no other reason, the services rendered by our womenfolk during the war period entitle them to a seat on the board. I cannot understand the Government neglecting that request, and even at this late hour I would like to see the board enlarged to seven to permit of two women representatives. There is a splendid opportunity for women to enter the architectural profession, if they can pass the examinations, which are pretty stiff. If anyone should have a knowledge of what is required to facilitate the work of the housewife, it is a woman, and it is high time we led the way in this connection. The Bill has been thoroughly gone into in another place—I have read the debates that took place there—and I am sure the Government desires to do the right thing, but I cannot see that the many hundreds of returned men, who have waited so long for homes, will be rewarded with dwellings while we have a commission or board composed of three civil servants occupying highly responsible positions. As far as my knowledge goes, no staff could be more efficient, hardworking, painstaking or conscientious than that of the Workers' Homes Board.

HON. SIR HAL COLEBATCH (Metropolitan) [256]: This is one of the most important Bills we shall have to deal with during the session, but it is essentially one for Committee consideration. I am informed that Mr. Seddon, who is prevented by the strike from attending today, desires to submit certain amendments. I therefore ask the Minister, if he can without inconvenience to himself, to defer the Committee stage until Tuesday next. I support the second reading.

HON. W. J. MANN (South-West) [257]: I am in accord with most of the provisions—one might say 98 per cent. of them—of the Bill. I am afraid the Commonwealth Government is largely to blame for a good deal of the dissatisfaction existing in the minds of the public regarding housing. If members recollect, they will recall different Federal Ministers, as far back as two years ago, frequently referring to what the Government was going to do in the matter of

housing. At the same time, to my knowledge, mills in the State were being instructed to cut sleepers rather than scantling and timber for houses. I recall one mill manager saying that it was nothing more nor less than a scandal to be receiving, almost daily, urgent requests for timber for house contracts and repairs and renovations, but he said, "I am unable to help them, and worse than that, most of my establishment is being forced to cut sleepers rather than building timber." The sleepers were cut for export.

The Chief Secretary: That was essential, too.

Hon. W. J. MANN: The question is whether export sleepers were more essential than the building of houses for our people. Had the Commonwealth Government been alive to the position, it would have concentrated on seeing that all our mills were cutting timber for building purposes at that time and since. We know that timber cannot be used for building a week after it is cut. It has to be seasoned; otherwise, houses built of it fall to pieces within a few years. One of the timber companies led the way and showed what could be done by putting in four drying kilns.

Had the Commonwealth Government assisted the timber companies to instal drying kilns on the mills, and so maintained a steady output of building timber, a great deal of today's trouble would have been avoided, although not all of it. The timber that is air-seasoned has to remain in the stack for a couple of years, whereas timber seasoned by means of a kiln stands in the stack for five or six months, is then put in the kiln for a week or two, and immediately afterwards is in a condition, as thoroughly seasoned timber, to be used for building. I think the State Saw Mills have only two drying kilns at their largest mill at Pemberton. A big effort should be made in that direction. I join with Mr. E. H. H. Hall in giving the present board all possible credit. I have had a lot to do with the Workers' Homes Board.

Some ten years ago I had quite an interesting experience, and I know that the late Mr. Jarman, who was then secretary of the board, had a difficult task, but one that he carried out wonderfully well. The present occupant of the position, Mr. Bond, is doing equally well. I have no complaint to make about the composition of the present board; I think it is a good one. Mr.

Hall has pointed out that the members of the board are busy men and have other duties, but I feel sure there can be no complaint laid at their door for the position in which we find ourselves today. The Bill contains one clause that causes me more concern than any of the others, and that is the one providing for compulsory acquisition of land. Unless that clause were carefully administered, extreme hardship could result. I know of young men holding land with the object of getting married and building a home on it. One such person who is a widower happens to own the home in which his parents live. He also has another block of land, but is unable to get a permit to build on it because he already owns the home in which, as I have said, his parents live. As a result, there is a danger of that man having the second block of land taken from him. Because of that, I made representations to the board, but I was pleased to hear from Mr. Bond that the board dealt with such cases on their merits, and would do the fair thing.

I was also pleased to hear quite recently, in the case of blocks concerning which notices had been given to the owners that they were to be taken over by the board, that appeals against the proposed compulsory acquisition had been successful. That indicates that the board is prepared to do what is right, which takes a lot of the sting out of the fears I had that in certain instances some grave injustice might be done to owners. I propose to support the second reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West—in reply) [3.1]: The housing question is perhaps one of the most important and to an extent the most involved problem with which we have to deal today. I was very pleased that members generally supported the Bill and that, with the exception of certain criticism, much of it being unfounded, they paid a tribute to the work which has been done by the Workers' Homes Board, an organisation that from now on, if the Bill be agreed to, will constitute the State Housing Commission.

I should like to deal with some remarks which have been offered on the Bill. Mr. Seddon, for instance, criticised several aspects of the measure and also the administration of building activity on the part of the Workers' Homes Board. Not many members of

this Chamber would, I think, agree with his remarks in that connection. He considered that the provisions of the Bill and of the Town Planning and Development Act were to some extent analogous, and that a duplication of function might therefore arise. He suggested that this might be remedied by appointing the Town Planning Commissioner as a member of the housing commission in place of either Mr. Reid or Mr. Harler. I point out to the hon. member and the House, that the provisions in the Bill relating to planning, subdivision, etc., refer only to properties acquired by the housing commission and do not interfere with the broader scope of the Town Planning Board; also that the Bill in Clause 21 (d) specifies that any planning or subdivision shall not be carried out without the consent of the Town Planning Board.

It is not considered that there is any necessity for the Town Planning Commissioner to be a member of the housing commission. All matters relating to the subdivision of land and planning of estates are referred by the Workers' Homes Board to the Town Planning Commissioner, and his advice is invariably accepted. This procedure will be followed also by the housing commission. The Town Planning Board is represented on the commission by the Principal Architect, who is an active member of the Town Planning Board and who is the means by which a very close liaison is maintained between the two authorities. It will therefore be seen that there is no point in having further town planning representation on the commission.

Then again, Mr. Seddon took some pains to endeavour to prove that the Workers' Homes Board had concentrated practically all its energies on building homes for rental purposes, thereby preventing the erection of homes for private ownership. He emphasised several times that no consideration at all was being given to persons desirous of having homes built for themselves, and his remarks were supported later by Mr. Tuckey. It would appear that both members are badly informed and unobservant. Two-thirds of this State's housing programme is being carried out by private builders who have constructed, or are constructing, privately owned and designed homes. No fewer than 125 private permits are being issued monthly, and it is anticipated that at the

30th June, 1947, 2,000 private permits will have been issued for the preceding 12 months.

Hon. H. Tuckey: Then the embargo is only in the case of houses being built for returned soldiers.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: There is no embargo.

Hon. H. Tuckey: I am informed that it was not permissible to grant a permit to private people to build houses for returned soldiers.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: If the hon. member will go further into the matter I think he will find that the information conveyed to him in the first place was hardly correct. Only too often in instances like this do we get only half the story.

Hon. H. Tuckey: I am not making any mistake.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I think the hon. member is making a mistake. I point out that in addition, 100 war service homes and 500 Commonwealth-State rental homes are under construction and are being added to at the rate of 50 each month. This is not a bad record and it proves that persons desirous of having their homes built privately, far from being neglected, are, as I have said, responsible for two-thirds of the houses under construction and are obtaining, contrary to the hon. members' opinions, a very large proportion of the materials that are available. So far as the Commonwealth-State rental homes are concerned, these cannot be regarded as purely rental homes as the occupiers may purchase them at a later date and all payments of rent will then be credited against the purchase price.

That is one feature of the housing scheme which deserves a lot of notice. I do not know of any other housing scheme where a person rents a house with the right to purchase and where, when he decides to purchase, the amount he has paid in rent during the period shall be set off against the purchase price of the house. In addition there is the great advantage these people have of paying only 3¼ per cent. for the money involved. Such a proposal represents a unique opportunity to the occupier to acquire a home at a minimum price as group construction will keep the cost down and interest charged will be only 3¼ per

cent.—factors which are not available to the average homebuilder today.

Some concern was expressed by Mr. Seddon as to whether the passing of the Bill might in some manner continue the control of materials for a longer period than that laid down in the Building Operations and Materials Control Act, 1945, which expires on the 31st December next. The hon. member need have no fears in this regard. The Bill possesses no powers whatsoever of this nature. The clause which he considered may contain a hidden threat, that is, conferring on the commission all the powers, rights, privileges and remedies of the Crown, is quite innocuous and merely defines the rights, privileges, etc., of the commission, which is responsible for carrying out the Government's policy in regard to housing. It is generally maintained that building today is a problem that Governments are expected to deal with.

Another suggestion made by Mr. Seddon was that as women are more concerned than men in the planning of their homes the appointment of a woman to the commission would be an advantage. Might I point out that this aspect has never been lost sight of? Women are engaged on special work by the Workers' Homes Board in connection with the designing of the homes and the welfare of their occupants, and it has been suggested to women's organisations that they appoint a liaison officer to consult with the commission whenever necessary.

Hon. G. Fraser: There is a woman architect on the board.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: That is so. Mr. Seddon criticised an owner's right of appeal against acquisition of this land as being very circumscribed. If he will refer to the amendments I have placed on the notice paper he will see that, on the contrary, they are generous. An owner who wishes to retain his land for business purposes or to build a home for himself or a member of his family may appeal to the Minister against the proposed acquisition, and if dissatisfied with the Minister's decision may appeal further to a judge of the Supreme Court. These conditions have been laid down as the result of the long experience of the Workers' Homes Board, which in over 90 cases has released blocks to owners or

has provided them with suitable property in lieu.

I point out, further, that Mr. Seddon is again at fault when he states that once re-subdivision of acquired land has been commenced the owner, if he has not already appealed, forfeits any right to do so. It would appear that the hon. member, contrary to his usual custom, has not studied carefully either the Bill or the amendments I have placed on the notice paper. If he had done so he would have noticed that after plans for subdivision had been commenced an owner, on application, may obtain a block from the commission in lieu of that acquired by it. There must be for obvious reasons a time limit on appeals, but this will not prevent an owner from obtaining, if he wishes, a similar block in the same vicinity as the one resumed.

In his speech Mr. Tuckey was mainly concerned with the powers given to the commission for the resumption of private property. He stated that it should not be necessary in this State compulsorily to acquire private land. The experience gained by the Workers' Homes Board, however, has proved that this opinion cannot be substantiated. The board has found that the owners of a great deal of land cannot be traced, and that, in addition, large amounts of rates are owing by these absentee owners to the road boards or municipal authorities. There have also been cases where owners will not collaborate with the board, and although obviously preserving large areas for speculative purposes, have refused to deal with the board. In cases such as these, the board has had no option but to commence action compulsorily to acquire land that is essential for the carrying out of its building programme.

The objections of Mr. Tuckey regarding acquisition are answered by the amendments I have placed on the notice paper, which apparently he had not perused prior to making his remarks. If he will take the trouble to read them, he will see that owners' right of appeal is adequately protected. One statement by Mr. Tuckey which was completely inaccurate was his assertion that no returned soldier could have his house built privately, and he quoted a specific case where a soldier who owned a block of land could not obtain permission to have his house built privately. If the hon. member will

provide more information regarding this case, it can be investigated for him. I say without any qualification that the very strong statement made by the hon. member has really no foundation.

Hon. H. Tuckey: There is a case at Pingelly. I will get the information for you.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I shall have it investigated and then we shall have all the facts. I can assure the hon. member that a very large proportion of the houses built privately are being erected for returned soldiers. In reply to Mr. Seddon, I stated that two-thirds of the building programme in this State were being carried out by private enterprise who were building privately-owned and designed houses. Mr. Tuckey and other members will be interested to know that during September, 76 per cent, of the permits issued for private homes was given to returned soldiers, and that the proportion during other months is substantially the same. Members will therefore see that returned soldiers are not debarred from building homes privately, and, in fact, are encouraged to do so. They are at liberty to build privately and secure their finance wherever they may choose.

In regard to acquisitions, Mr. Tuckey and others have asserted that if a person wished to acquire somebody else's block, he could request the Workers' Homes Board to resume it and build a house thereon for him. I am informed by the Workers' Homes Board that no such action has ever been taken and that it would not even contemplate acceding to such a request. In any case the amendments regarding appeals against acquisitions that I am proposing will give the owner of the land every protection should such unlikely action be ever taken. Mr. Tuckey objected to the Bill providing for the manufacture of building materials by the commission. Might I point out to the hon. member that this provision was deleted from the Bill during its passage through another place.

Apparently Mr. Tuckey is dissatisfied with the proposition in respect of vacant subdivided land acquired by the commission, to pay rates to the local authority concerned after the commission has been in possession of the land for two years. Mr. Tuckey is aware that Crown lands are not ratable under the Road Districts Act, and that therefore the Government is not compelled to pay

anything to the local authorities. As a consequence of the Government's concession the local authorities in some instances will be better off, because a considerable quantity of the land acquired by the commission previously belonged to absentee owners and large sums were owing for rates. The commission on acquiring the land pays all outstanding rates, and after two years will commence paying current rates. This will probably result in revenue accruing to the local authorities that they would not obtain had the land not been resumed by the commission.

I might state that recently the commission acquired land in the Bayswater district and paid £800 outstanding rates to the Bayswater Road Board. So the local authorities are receiving a concession under this measure which legally they are not entitled to. The commission must have a long range policy and must secure land where and when it can, and it cannot be expected to utilise all the land for house-building at the one time. Therefore the Government has agreed to grant the concession that where land is secured by the commission and it is not possible to build houses within a period of two years, the commission, after the expiration of that period, will pay the rates.

The arguments by Mr. Tuckey concerning slum areas and army huts which are being utilised by the commission for temporary homes should not, in my opinion, carry much weight. He must be aware, as is everyone else, that these huts are merely serving a purpose. They are providing a temporary shelter for the homeless. When their purpose is served they will no longer be used for homes, and to compare them with slum areas is an argument to which I cannot subscribe. But for the conversion of a number of army huts, a large number of people would today be living under much worse conditions than they are enjoying in the converted army huts.

Hon. H. Tuckey: We have some of them in the road board towns.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: They are providing a temporary shelter for the homeless.

Hon. H. Tuckey: The Bill provides for the local authority directing that they be demolished.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I cannot see anything wrong with that.

Hon. H. Tuckey: We do not want to demolish them, not yet anyhow.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: These converted huts are far better than quite a large number of the so-called homes in more settled areas. More particularly do I refer to those in the Fremantle district, where a particularly fine job has been done in converting these huts. The people occupying them are living under what one might almost term ideal surroundings and are enjoying a type of home that apparently meets all their reasonable requirements. While it is hoped that they will not be considered to be permanent homes for an indefinite period, they nevertheless are greatly improving the position of the people who are occupying them.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: I wish we had some of them in Geraldton.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Apparently army huts were not available there.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: There are some at the Air Force camp.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: But that has nothing to do with the Workers' Homes Board. If the Services require the huts for some other purpose or are not prepared to allow them to be used for housing, neither the Workers' Homes Board nor the Government can be condemned for the fact that they are not used for housing purposes.

Hon. H. Tuckey: I think you have the whole matter wrong. There is no objection to the houses used at the present time, but it is proposed to direct the local authorities to demolish those houses.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The hon. member would have to produce more evidence than he has done so far to show that that would occur. The housing position is so acute that any type of hut that reasonably complies with the health regulations is today required for habitation, and I cannot imagine that any local authority, housing commission, town planning board, the Workers' Homes Board, or any other representative authority would take steps to cause the demolition of houses which are the equivalent of the converted army huts. The commission must have the power to collaborate with local authorities and the Public Health Commissioner so far as slum clearance is concerned, a responsibility that has been laid upon it under the terms of the Commonwealth-State

Housing Agreement. Before any houses were condemned, every consideration would be given to the aspect referred to by Mr. Tuckey. As I have said, it is necessary to provide for long-range planning. This is essential in order that housing shortage may be overtaken as expeditiously as possible and the living conditions of the people generally improved. Therefore I cannot agree with the hon. member's suggestion that the measure should be effective for a limited period only.

The proposals in the Bill are such that I think members should be unanimous in supporting them. I should like to refer to two points raised this afternoon. One was by Mr. Mann, who referred to information given to him regarding the activities of a certain timber mill. He suggested that the housing position could have been much improved had this particular mill been engaged in producing scantling instead of sleepers.

Hon. W. J. Mann: I said sleepers for export, and referred to all mills, not one mill only.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: We have to keep our timber industry going and it is necessary that we retain as far as possible the export market for certain classes of timber. I think the hon. member also knows that there have been certain shipments—I believe they were described as token shipments—with a view to retaining those markets. He does know that all timber is not suitable for scantling or housing timber. As a result, it is essential that we provide for purposes other than housing a certain proportion of the timber that is available in this State, and I am inclined to think that a particularly good job has been done by the authorities in handling both those rather important questions; that is, the question of the export timber trade of this State and the very awkward situation in regard to timber for housing.

The Forests Department is very closely associated with this problem and has gone out of its way to make it possible for timber mills—not only the older established concerns but smaller mills—more satisfactorily to meet present requirements of housing timber. Again I would remark that our timber industry, particularly the export section, is very valuable in the economy of this State. We cannot have

one-way traffic. It is essential that we shall have an export market; and if we desire that, we must take pains to see that we retain the markets we have today. We must import large quantities of other materials; and just as in England today manufacturing is being undertaken in order to build up overseas credits, so it is necessary for us to do a little of that, although we are not doing anything like as much as we would if the housing situation were better than it is.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Does that include the 70 homes built on the Commonwealth line at the Kalgoorlie end?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I cannot tell the hon. member what it includes. I have no doubt that when we reach the Committee stage, I will have an opportunity to deal with some other matters to which reference has been made by members; but in view of the suggestion of Sir Hal Colebatch, I do not propose to take the Bill into Committee until next week. I hope that when we do meet again, we will be able to get through this Bill and other measures without any great delay. Unfortunately, the session is coming to an end very quickly. A number of other important Bills have to be dealt with and I would ask members to be prepared to go right ahead not only with this legislation but with any other Bill that may be before us.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILL—WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TROTTING ASSOCIATION.

In Committee.

Hon. G. Fraser in the Chair; the Chief Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Interpretation:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That the definition of "by-laws" be struck out.

This definition is automatic under the Interpretation Act and is not required in this Bill.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: If that is so, there is no harm in retaining the definition. The parliamentary draftsman has inserted it, and I do not think he would do so without having some reason.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The only reply to that is that we are elected because of our various qualifications and it is a reflection on anyone who knows anything about the matter to leave these words in. The Interpretation Act was passed to simplify Bills, and when we find the Government appointing a parliamentary draftsman who apparently is not aware of the Interpretation Act, it is our duty to point out any unnecessary words that have been included. Why have in this Bill a special meaning of words which the Interpretation Act has already explained?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: In view of the hon. member's remarks, I think it is preferable to retain the definition instead of having to refer to the Interpretation Act to ascertain the meaning of the word.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Why not be logical?

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I move an amendment—

That in the definition of "metropolitan area" the word "fifteen" be struck out and the word "thirty" inserted in lieu.

I regret that I missed the opportunity to put this amendment on the notice paper, but I had as many copies as possible run off and circulated amongst members. It seems to me that we are limiting the metropolitan area to a degree that might have some harmful repercussions on country clubs when it comes to distributions under the country clubs' benefit fund. As the Racing Restriction Act of 1917 provides for a 30-mile radius, we could very well amend this Bill to bring it into conformity.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I have no feeling in this matter, but I would suggest that the hon. member is doing an injustice to one or more organisations which would prefer to be termed country clubs rather than metropolitan clubs. It is a fact that the Racing Restriction Act provides that the metropolitan area shall cover a radius of 30 miles from the Perth Town Hall, and that therefore the dates which are allowed

to the Trotting Association in any one year are limited to that particular area. But it is provided that any club outside a radius of 15 miles shall, for the purposes of this Bill, be a country club and therefore entitled to assistance, if necessary, from the parent body. There is, of course, one other aspect of which Mr. Roche is probably aware.

While the Racing Restriction Act continues to exist as at present there would hardly be any possibility of a country club within 30 miles having the right to a meeting in the metropolitan area. I should imagine that the Trotting Association would very jealously guard the number of meetings to be held at Gloucester Park. Mr. Wood, who spoke to this measure a few days ago, referred to a club at, I think, Armadale. I do not know whether a club has actually been established there; but if it has, it would have very little opportunity to secure a date while the present restriction obtains. On the other hand, being outside a radius of 15 miles, it would be entitled to be considered a country club from the point of view of the association, and when the time comes for it to be allowed to race and carry on the activities of a country club, it will be entitled to be considered with all other country clubs.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: Under the Bill, the Trotting Association has the allocation of dates for country clubs. A club that is within 30 miles of Perth is to all intents and purposes within the metropolitan area. I submit that a club at Armadale would be in the metropolitan area. Place that under the Bill among the country clubs under the guise of allocating dates for country centres, and we would find that within the metropolitan area proper there would be many more race meetings than there otherwise would be. In addition, it seems to me that by including these outer metropolitan districts in the country area, we must of necessity reduce the benefits that would accrue under the measure to the country clubs proper.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Is there any reason why this measure is to be administered by the Chief Secretary alone, and not any Minister who may be acting for him, because that is what is provided here?

The Interpretation Act provides that "the Minister" can be the Minister administering the Act, or any person acting for him.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I do not think there is any particular reason for it. It is just to make it clear that the usual procedure will be followed. If it is felt that we should add to the definition, I have no objection.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: For some reason, it is definitely set out here that the measure shall be administered by the Chief Secretary alone.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The Bill provides that the Minister in this case shall be the Chief Secretary, and the Interpretation Act makes it clear that if the Chief Secretary is out of the State and somebody else is acting for him, that person shall be the Minister who shall be in control of the Act.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: It does not do that. In this case it is provided that "the Minister" means the Chief Secretary only. If that is desired, we can leave the wording as it stands.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Yesterday I suggested that some place other than the Town Hall should be the datum peg. I went to Cathedral-avenue and saw, on the corner of a building, a steel plate, measuring about one foot square, with the letters "OM," meaning nought miles, on it. I think it is desirable that all measurements from the centre of the city should be taken from that point.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: The definition of "district council" means those councils mentioned in the Second Schedule. One of them is the Eastern Goldfields District Council, but apparently no such body exists at present. It obviously means the Eastern Goldfields, but where is that to start or finish?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I cannot elucidate that. It is a matter entirely for the Trotting Association which will create—and I believe has created—these councils. It may have no statutory authority at present, but under the Bill it will have authority, and it will be necessary for the association to declare the areas to be covered by the councils. I understand that will be done by regulations which, if the

Bill is passed, will come before the House. In future, it may be necessary for more than three district councils to be established and one or more clubs may be formed and actively engaged in the sport in the southern part of the State. In order to administer the sport, the association might create more district councils, in which case the boundaries would be defined.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4—agreed to.

Clause 5—Members:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in line 3, after the word "become," the words "and may remain" be inserted.

In order to understand my amendment, one would have to turn to By-law 16, which provides that no employee or servant of the association and no bookmaker shall be eligible for election as a member of the association, and that any member who at any time shall be or become an employee or servant of the association or who shall at any time carry on or be engaged or interested in the employment or employed in the business of a bookmaker shall thereupon forfeit his right. If the clause were passed as printed, present members of the association who are employed by it would automatically become members of the new association, but as soon as they continued their employment with the new association, they would automatically cease to be members. The intention of the amendment is to preserve their rights, and allow them to remain members. I understand that there are two life members and 13 ordinary members concerned.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I must oppose the amendment, which cuts right across one of the recommendations of the Royal Commissioner, who proposed that the legislation should exclude from membership all employees and officers of the Trotting Association.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: The amendment would apply only to the present members, and not to future members.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: We would be saying that we did not agree with the recommendation. I would advise the Committee to stand by the Royal Commissioner and the representations he has made in this

regard, and more particularly this recommendation.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I think too much is being made of the point about shutting out those people who have been employees and members of the association in the past. When we were debating the Bill in connection with trotting last year, the bogey was paraded that there were about 150 such people, but from the figures I have it appears that there are only 15. Some of them have been loyal servants of the association, and members of it, for a number of years. I thought it was part of Labour's policy to encourage employees to take an interest in the management of any undertaking in which they were engaged, but apparently that is not so in this case.

Of the 15 employees at present members of the association, one has been employed for 33 years and has been a member for 11 years. One has been an employee for 31 years and a member for 31 years. One has been employed for 30 years and a member for 12 years. One has been an employee for 26 years and a member for 12 years. Two have been employees for 18 years and members for 12 years. One has been an employee for 15 years and a member for 12 years. Two have been employed for 12 years, one being a member for 12 years and the other for only one year. One has been employed for seven years and a member for 12 years. One has been an employee for five years and a member for one year. The four remaining persons have been members for one year and have only recently become employees of the organisation. Notwithstanding the recommendation of the Royal Commissioner, which I can understand as applied to all future membership of employees, I think that in fairness to those people who have been employed there all these years, while being members of the association, we should accept the amendment.

Hon. L. CRAIG: A principle is involved in the amendment. We must go back over the history of the Trotting Association and, without casting any reflection upon these employees, ask ourselves: For what purpose did they become members? It is peculiar that most of those employed for more than 12 years have been members for practically that period.

Hon. F. E. Gibson: One man was a member for over 30 years.

Hon. L. CRAIG: Is it of any benefit to the employees to be members of the association?

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Two are life members.

Hon. L. CRAIG: I know that. Are there any advantages that they can enjoy through their membership? The important point is this: Is it desirable that employees of the association should be members of the organisation? They must be loyal to their employers in all circumstances, for their jobs depend upon that.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: They might take a personal pride in their membership.

Hon. L. CRAIG: That is so.

Sitting suspended from 4.3 to 4.20 p.m.

Hon. L. CRAIG: This is a question of principle and we must examine the reasons why these persons were made members. It is believed that the employees who were members did not all pay subscriptions.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Believe? Is that fair?

Hon. L. CRAIG: I said, "It is believed."

Hon. C. B. Williams: And handed over their ballots, it is believed.

Hon. L. CRAIG: If the Committee agrees that it is undesirable for future employees to be made members of the association, surely it is undesirable that present employees should be members. There may be some argument in favour of the two life members; but they were made life members as a reward for services and were not required to pay a subscription. I would not oppose the retention of those two members, unless I could be convinced by argument to the contrary.

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: Without expressing any opinion at all on the merits of the amendment, I suggest that this is not the right place for it. If the amendment were passed, the clause would contradict the by-law. Let the clause stand, and when we come to the by-law to which Mr. Parker has referred we can insert a proviso exempting from its operation any person whom we think ought to be exempted.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I agree with Sir Hal Colebatch. There is much in what Mr. Craig has said. Among the employees are one or two who were made life mem-

bers, it can be assumed, for services rendered to the association. We should not take away from them the privilege which they have apparently well deserved. The better plan would be to defeat the amendment and when we come to the by-laws we can deal with the question as a matter of principle.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: What then would be the position? Would an amendment of the by-law achieve the same result? I would rather see the amendment go to the vote. This is a matter of elementary justice to those persons who were accepted as members of the association. I believe there are only 15 of them, and I suggest that 15 votes out of 350—which I understand is the membership of the association—will not have a vital influence on any decision of the association.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You cannot say that; two or three votes might make a difference.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: Possibly, but I cannot conceive of any circumstances where 15 votes in 350 would have a vital effect. The Committee might very well agree to the amendment.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I oppose the amendment. The State has wasted both time and money on this business. I am prepared to agree with Mr. Craig and Sir Hal Colebatch to consider the position of the two life members of the association. One of them was made a life member many years ago as a reward for work that he did for the association on the Goldfields. We should carry out the commissioner's recommendations.

Hon. W. J. MANN: I support the amendment. Too much has been made of this handful of men who apparently down the years have been good members of the association. I think we are paying a very poor compliment to them. I would remind the Committee that on other occasions, in connection with earlier measures for the registration of architects, midwives and so on, people have been accepted under certain conditions.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Where is the analogy?

Hon. W. J. MANN: There is no exact analogy, but the principle is the same. The important fact is that time will resolve the difficulty, because all these members are elderly.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I support the amendment. I cannot see that it will do any great harm. Those people who have been members for many years are entitled to retain their membership. Members of the association get ladies' tickets and invitations to different functions.

Hon. C. B. Williams: How many employees of the W.A. Cricket Association are also members?

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I have not a list of them, but I know of other clubs and associations where the paid secretary is a member. The difference in voting power of a mere 12 or 15 would have very little, if any, effect.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: What justification is there for the amendment? The place for it is in the by-laws. Why tinker with the clause which is clear and definite?

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: If members will read By-law 16 they will agree that this debate should take place on that by-law. If the amendment is passed it will be at variance with that by-law.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: When we come to that by-law we can amend it.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: When we come to that we can insert the words "no future employee or servant."

Hon. G. B. Wood: Why not make certain now?

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: This clause is the wrong place for the amendment.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: If we agree to the amendment it will still be necessary to amend the by-law. It is not necessary to deal with the amendment on the clause unless the Committee so desires. But there is a principle involved and it is one to which the Royal Commissioner gave a great deal of attention, and he was appointed at the instigation of this Chamber. We, therefore, should be prepared to take notice of what he had to say. If members read his report they will get the significance of his recommendations. Mr. Roche talks of there being only 15 of these members out of 300. The Royal Commissioner pointed out that when 150 new members were admitted, at a time when there was a good deal of dissension existing in the ranks of the association, 20 of them were either temporary or permanent

employees. The last thing I want to do at this juncture is to open up a debate on a question which caused so much trouble and on which so much evidence was given to the Royal Commissioner.

The essential paragraph dealing with the point, is the first one in the first column on page five of his report. The Royal Commissioner recommended that an employee should not be entitled to membership, and he must have had sufficiently strong evidence before him to make that recommendation. I must stand by what he has recommended, and I request the Committee to agree with his point of view. At the same time I would have no objection to some qualification being added to By-law 16 to provide that people granted the privilege of life membership shall not lose it simply on account of this particular matter. I trust that we will stand by the commissioner's recommendation.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: Some 20 employees were admitted on the occasion quoted by the Royal Commissioner, and some have since disappeared. Out of the 15 people involved, nine have been there for 12 years or more. It would seem, therefore, that only six could be affected. These people have been members of the association for years. It is not fair that we should turn round and say that after 12 years a person is no longer eligible. Mr. Maun pointed out that the problem will eventually solve itself. These people are not likely to live for ever and it is probable that not more than 15 will be involved.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	12
Noes	..	..	..	..	10
Majority for					2

AYES.	
Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. F. E. Gilson	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. A. L. Loton	Hon. W. J. Maun (Teller.)
NOES.	
Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. J. G. Hildop
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. G. Bennetts (Teller.)

PAIR.	
AYE.	No.
Hon. G. B. Wood	Hon. G. W. Miles

Amendment thus passed.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I move an amendment—

That the following words be added to the clause:—"provided such person is not a bookmaker."

The amendment is self-explanatory.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I would like to know the hon. member's reason for the amendment. Apparently he is keen upon certain persons retaining their membership but would exclude a bookmaker who may have no association whatever with trotting.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I regard a bookmaker and an employee in a different light and perhaps to that extent the Chief Secretary will agree with me.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6—agreed to.

Clause 7—By-laws:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in line 1 of Subclause (2) the word "or" be struck out and the word "by" inserted in lieu.

This appears to be merely a typographical error.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That the proviso to Subclause (2) be struck out.

The proviso reads—

Provided that no such amendment or repeal of a by-law and no such new by-law be repugnant to the laws for the time being in force in Western Australia.

That is copied from the Western Australian Turf Club Act but the effect would be that a bookmaker would not be allowed on the course. Under the Turf Club by-laws, provision is made for part of the ground to be set apart for bookmakers, but it has been held by the court that it is illegal for bookmakers to operate on the course. Without the proviso, the committee could make by-laws that would be subject to the approval of Parliament and this would be a protection against the inclusion of anything repugnant to the laws of the country. The object of deleting the proviso is to permit the licensing of bookmakers on the trotting ground.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: This involves a legal point and I feel disposed to

accept Mr. Parker's explanation.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That Subclause (5) be struck out.

The subclause is redundant in that the Interpretation Act obviously applies to all Acts.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: If the subclause be retained, there will be no need to refer to the Interpretation Act. Even if it is redundant, its presence will not do any harm.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause, as previously amended, agreed to.

Clause 8—Public notification of by-laws:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The clause should be negatived. It provides for copies of all by-laws to be displayed in conspicuous places. There are a hundred regulations covering 19 pages of close print, and I see no reason why these should be posted in grounds and stands. This is an old provision from other Acts. At one time, by-laws were posted on jetties.

Hon. C. B. Williams: What would you suggest in its place?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: No-one would read them and they would soon become an eyesore. I believe that railway by-laws are still posted on railway stations.

Hon. C. B. Williams: The by-laws under the Mines Regulation Act are posted.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: To insist upon this provision will impose an unnecessary task on the association without serving any good purpose.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The provision should be retained. Surely it is desirable that patrons in doubt about any by-law should be able to refer to a printed list. The most recent legislation dealing with racing is the Sydney Turf Club Act, and that contains a similar provision. It also appears in the Western Australian Turf Club Act.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: That was passed before I was born.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Other instances could be given.

Hon. W. J. MANN: The clause in its present form is not required, but a copy of

the by-laws should be posted in the office and shown to anybody who desired to see it. To post the by-laws as proposed in the clause would involve the use of large and unsightly boards.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: It is only right and proper that the public should have easy and quick access to these by-laws. Not only on the trotting ground in Perth, but on every other trotting ground that I have seen there is no shortage of room, and the little space that would be required for one or two notices would not amount to anything. These notices will not be a disfigurement, and from the point of view of the clubs this means of publishing the by-laws would be far easier and less troublesome than having a lot of busybodies asking at awkward times for copies of the regulations.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: This clause is essential. On the Commonwealth railways by-laws are exhibited; also the by-laws regarding imports into the State.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: By-laws or excerpts?

Hon. G. BENNETTS: By-laws.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The whole lot?

Hon. G. BENNETTS: Yes. Also the regulations concerning the importation of apples and pears infested with codlin moth are displayed. As a result of this, the State has been saved a good deal of trouble by the non-importation of fruit that would have been introduced by people ignorant of the regulations. Again, regulations have been posted in detail at the Kalgoorlie Olympic Swimming Pool. The exhibiting of these by-laws will indicate to the public generally that they can take action with regard to reporting certain matters that they know to have occurred. People are not as a rule aware that they are at liberty to apply for a copy of such by-laws.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: It would be utterly ridiculous to eliminate this clause. Members who know anything about the mining industry are aware that mining regulations are posted in front of the changing rooms and also underground. I know nothing about printing, but I contend that these by-laws could be printed the same as are the mining regulations. I am surprised that Mr. Mann, who knows something about printing, should say that that is impossible.

Hon. W. J. Mann: I did not say it was impossible.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Of course, if from 1,000 to 5,000 people applied for a copy of the book containing the by-laws that would be good for the printing trade!

Hon. W. J. Mann: I would support that.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I know! However, I must not charge the hon. member with ulterior motives. Is it not better to have a notice pasted at a certain place for perusal? Such notices could be protected from the weather. There is no worse weather than is to be found underground in a mine; yet 2,000, 3,000 and 4,000 feet from the surface the mines regulations are displayed. What would happen if, at the Lake View and Star mine, the employees went to the office and asked for copies of the regulations every year? The company would not be able to provide the 47 per cent. dividend it is paying this year!

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I am afraid Mr. Williams has misunderstood me. I agree that regulations or by-laws affecting the general public should be exhibited in the interests of the association, but I cannot understand why the association should be compelled to exhibit all the rules and regulations, including such as deal with, for instance, the election of committee men.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Eliminate that, and I would support you.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Of what interest to the public are many of these matters concerning elections? The regulations to which Mr. Bennetts and Mr. Williams referred are those which it is quite right people concerned should be able readily to see. But they are not the whole of the regulations, but only those dealing with a particular subject. But here we are asking for the display of all sorts of by-laws, including those dealing with the expulsion of members and all kinds of machinery matters that do not interest the public one iota. Matters such as the rules of racing and the Totalisator Act are not to be included in the notices posted, but only a lot of things that are entirely useless.

Clause put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	11
Noes	..	..	..	12
Majority against				1

AYES.

Hon. G. Bennetts
Hon. L. Craig
Hon. J. M. Drew
Hon. F. E. Gibson
Hon. E. H. Gray
Hon. E. M. Heenan

Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. W. R. Hall
(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton
Hon. Sir Hsi Colebatch
Hon. J. A. Dismitt
Hon. R. M. Forrest
Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. A. L. Loton

Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. O. H. Simpson
Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. E. H. H. Hall
(Teller.)

Clause thus negatived.

Clause 9—By-laws to be binding on all parties:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That Subclause (1) be struck out.

This is a consequential amendment.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I am inclined to agree that this is probably consequential, but if members will read the clause they may find it to be justification for the retention of Clause 8.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I would like to ask the Chief Secretary the meaning of Subclause (2). There is nothing in the by-laws that I can see that would warrant a club laying a charge under the Justices Act. Generally speaking, the by-laws of the association would only refer to internal matters say, a member being fined or something of that sort. Surely it is not intended that such penalties should be recoverable only on summary conviction. If the Chief Secretary would inquire into it, perhaps the amendment could be made in another place.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I feel sure that provision is made in the by-laws for the association to take action against individuals under certain circumstances. If the provision is found to be redundant, the Bill can be recommitted in order to have it struck out, or it can be done in another place.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 10—Obstructing of officers:

The CHIEF SECRETARY: This is the clause I was thinking of when I said there was provision in the by-laws for taking proceedings against people in certain circumstances.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I take it the association will be making new by-laws.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 11—Exclusion of undesirable persons:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in lines 4 and 5 of Subclause (1) the words "if he is a person for the time being under any disqualification by the association" be struck out.

I thought the association would have liked the opportunity of prohibiting a person going there under any circumstances. Surely there are persons whom the racecourse detectives will not permit on racecourses, but who have not been disqualified. I think the association should be given carte blanche to refuse admission to anyone, without giving any reason, as it is dangerous to give reasons.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Subclause (3) provides that "the preceding provisions of this section shall be construed as supplemental to and not in derogation of or limited by the provisions of this Act relating to by-laws." By-law 47 provides the power to which Mr. Parker has referred.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: No, that is not the power to which I referred. Perhaps the clause could be deferred.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: We could leave it as it is for the time being. This wording is taken almost entirely from the Sydney Turf Club Act, of 1943. I will have it looked into.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 12—agreed to.

Clause 13—Appointment of auditors:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: This clause sets out that the Minister may from time to time appoint an auditor for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the association and "such auditor may from time to time remove at pleasure." That should read, "and such auditor may from time to time be removed at pleasure."

The CHIEF SECRETARY: That will be dealt with as a typographical error.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 14—agreed to.

Clause 15—Copy of annual account to be transmitted to Minister:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 the word "first" be struck out and the word "fifteenth" inserted in lieu.

I am informed that otherwise there would not be sufficient time.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 16—Minister may establish country clubs' benefit fund:

Hon. L. CRAIG: I move an amendment—

That in line 1 the word "Minister" be struck out and the word "committee" inserted in lieu.

The next clause gives the association and committee powers regarding the spending of the money. I think it is the function of the association to determine whether trotting should be encouraged in the country. Surely a Minister of the Crown should not determine it.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: A good deal of discussion took place on the question of assistance to country clubs. If members read the report of the Royal Commissioner, they will see that he gave the reasons, at the bottom of page 25 of his report, why he desired that this provision should be contained in the Bill. The Trotting Association is doing a lot in providing assistance to country clubs. It may be that for the time being country clubs are satisfied with the amount of money provided, but in time to come they may be dissatisfied with the assistance given. The association may then be able to say: Your finances are such that we cannot do more than we are doing. Therefore unless we can find some other means whereby money can be raised you cannot have more assistance than we are giving you." There may be a suggestion about holding another meeting in order provide the necessary funds. There is only one authority that can give permission for an additional meeting to be held in the metropolitan area and that is the Minister. The association has no say in it. The Bill provides that the Minister may at his discretion do two things. He can direct that the proceeds of a particular meeting held in the metropolitan

area shall be devoted to assisting country clubs and, secondly, if necessary he can authorise the holding of an additional race meeting in the metropolitan area for the same purpose. Once the money has been raised it passes beyond the control of the Minister.

Hon. L. CRAIG: I do not find the Minister's explanation convincing nor do I regard it as in accordance with the provision in the Bill. Clause 16 says that the Minister may establish a country clubs' benefit fund and does not refer to the fixing of a racing date.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: It says that the Minister may authorise an additional meeting in a year.

Hon. L. CRAIG: That is one function. I would be prepared to provide that the Minister may do this on the recommendation of the committee. I want to avoid the possibility of a country club going to the Minister over the head of the association. The Minister will have power to direct the association in many instances, and I do not want the control to be taken away from the association itself.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: When I perused the Bill first I was in doubt as to the meaning of the clause. In view of the wording of Clauses 16 and 17, I fail to see how the committee will be able to distribute the funds that will be raised.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: On my first reading of the clause I thought it would be beneficial to make the establishment of the benefit fund mandatory. As the Minister has pointed out, the association is already making large benefactions to the country clubs and one of the objects of the association, as set out in the Bill, is to provide subsidies or donations for those clubs.

Hon. L. Craig: Why not leave it to the association?

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: One of the objects of the association is to assist country clubs, and it is conceivable that it may not be necessary to establish the fund. If the association fulfils its objective it will make a distribution of funds as needed to the various country clubs. I think the clause is all right.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: Mr. Craig seems to fear that a country club may approach the Minister in regard to the disbursement

of money that would be received into the fund.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: But that is not so.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: Under Clause 17 the Minister will have no say in the distribution of the money.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: He only initiates the move.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: The committee will have all the say as to the distribution. I do not think Mr. Craig's objection can be sustained.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That the following proviso be added:—
“Provided that the meeting referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) shall not be a meeting held at Christmas time or at Easter.”

The object of the amendment is to preclude any possibility of the Minister directing that one of the carnival meetings shall be held for this purpose. Ministers come and Ministers go—

The CHIEF SECRETARY: This one is going! I raise no objection to the amendment. Obviously the purpose is to make sure that the Trotting Association shall have the benefit of meetings at a period when peak attendances are attracted.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17—agreed to.

First Schedule:

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The First Schedule deals with the by-laws for the W.A. Trotting Association and I take it we can deal with them *seriatim*.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, that will be the procedure.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in By-law 1 the definition of “person” be struck out.

The by-law reads that “person” means a person of male sex. This might mean that a woman will not be able to race horses or have anything to do with them. The female sex is entirely ignored.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: As a matter of interest would Mr. Parker say whether there is any necessity to include a definition of “person.”

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: No. Under the Interpretation Act the word “person” includes either sex and embraces the singular and plural.

The Chief Secretary: This merely restates the original by-law of the Association.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Then the original error is being perpetuated.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: As far as I can make out the word “person” is only referred to in connection with candidates for election.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: But the Bill says that the association shall provide all conveniences for persons. Does Mr. Heenan suggest that the conveniences shall be provided only for male persons?

The CHAIRMAN: I would draw the Committee's attention to the fact that the definition of “person” has been struck out.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in By-law 3 the words “provided further that no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be given by the association to any member of the committee, except repayment of out-of-pocket expenses” be struck out.

The amendment will give power to the committee to grant an honorarium or pay expenses to any member of the association, including a member of the committee, but such payment would have to be clearly shown in the annual profit and loss account.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I wonder whether Mr. Parker has read the Royal Commissioner's report.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I have.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Then I am surprised at his moving this amendment. One of the features of the inquiry was this very subject of payments to officers, and more particularly to the president, call the payments allowances or what one may. If the hon. member desires details I do not mind supplying them, although I would rather not. This is a most important provision and the Committee would be ill-

advised to go against the strong recommendation of the Royal Commissioner in this regard.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I support the amendment. One must have regard to the large operations of the association and what is involved in them. There seems to be a disposition to make a mountain out of a molehill. Farmers' organisations in this State permit allowances to be made to their presidents, who do not receive a salary, in order to reimburse them for their expenses and loss involved in attending to the affairs of others. This remark applies also to some of the trade unions, the officials of which are given a certain allowance to recompense them for the expense to which they are put in attending to union matters. To my mind, the amount is fair and there are sufficient safeguards both for the public and the association.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	12
Noes	10

Majority for	2
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AYES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. R. M. Forrest.	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. A. L. Loton	Hon. C. H. Simpson (Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. E. M. Heenan (Teller.)

Amendment thus passed.

On motions by Hon. H. S. W. Parker, the proviso further amended by inserting in line 3 after the word "any" the word "such"; by striking out in line 4 the words "to a member of the Committee"; and by adding at the end of the proviso the words "and be approved by the association at a general meeting."

Progress reported.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1, Road Districts Act, 1919-1942, Amendment.

- 2, Increase of Rent (War Restrictions) Act Amendment.
- 3, Business Names Act Amendment.
- 4, Municipal Corporations Act Amendment.
- 5, Friendly Societies Act Amendment.
- 6, Nurses Registration Act Amendment.
- 7, Supply (No. 2), £2,200,000.
- 8, Transfer of Land Act Amendment (No. 1).
- 9, Railway (Hopetoun - Ravensthorpe) Discontinuance.
- 10, Medical Act Amendment.

BILL—MARKETING OF BARLEY (No. 2).

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly notifying that it had agreed to amendments Nos. 3, 6 and 7 made by the Council and had disagreed to Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 now considered.

In Committee.

Hon. J. Cornell in the Chair; the Chief Secretary in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 6, Subclause (3)—in paragraph (a), delete the word "two" in line 28 and substitute the word "three."

No. 2. Clause 6. Subclause (3)—Delete paragraph (b).

No. 4. Clause 11, Subclause (2)—Delete the word "two" in line 29, and substitute the word "three."

No. 5. Clause 11—Delete the proviso and substitute the following:—"Provided that of the first three elective members first elected after the passing of this Act one of them shall hold office for one year only; one for two years and the other for three years. The elective member to retire first shall be that one who received the lowest number of votes at the election. The elective member to retire second shall be the member who received the second lowest number of votes. If there were no ballot or in the event of a tie in the election they shall determine by lot which one of them shall retire first and second."

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly's reason for disagreeing to amendments Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 5 is—

The board has been constituted to give growers an equality of numbers to all other interests on the board, and, therefore, their interests are reasonably provided for.

On motions by the Chief Secretary, the foregoing amendments were not insisted on.

No. 8. Clause 20, Subclause (2)—Delete the words "any directions" in lines 8 and 9, and substitute the words "the approval."

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly's reason for disagreeing is—

Clause 20, Subclause (2) applies only to applications for a license to produce barley. It is considered that the Minister should have power to direct the board on this matter to prevent a possible injustice to an applicant.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: We should insist on these words being inserted in the Bill. If we give way on this we can imagine where we will finish up directly with the Wheat Stabilisation Bill.

Hon. C. B. Williams: There is a big difference between barley and wheat.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! No reference must be made to contemplated legislation.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: My objection is to the deletion of the word "directions" and the substitution of the word "approval."

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The Legislative Assembly has given its reason and I thought it would have met with the approval of Mr. Loton. I must continue to ask that we do not insist on the amendment.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not insisted on.

No. 9. Clause 20—Add to Subclause (6) a proviso, as follows:—"Provided that this subsection shall not apply to the sale of barley for stock feed or seed purposes as between one farmer and another within a radius of fifteen miles."

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly's reason for disagreeing is—

The amendment as drawn virtually cancels out the licensing provisions of the Bill.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not insisted on.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 19th November, 1946.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.7 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 13th November, 1946.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.

Electricity Supplies—as to Provision for Alternative Fuel.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Works: Referring to the answer given to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition on the 27th September, 1945, to the effect that provision was to be made for the installation of power alternative to coal at the South Fremantle Power Station—

1, Has such alternative power plant been obtained or ordered yet?

2, If not, why not?

3, Is he aware that owing to this second stoppage of power and light the owners of