

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 19th September, 1928.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I should like to give notice of a question, but I shall not be in order in giving it at this stage. I should be glad if you would look at the notice, Mr. President, and see if the question can be put on the paper.

The PRESIDENT: Under the Standing Orders the hon. member may hand in a question at a later stage. He need not necessarily read it, but it is the custom of the House to give it from the floor.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I wish to ask the Hon. Mr. Franklin, Mayor of Perth, a question bearing on a Bill that is to come before us. If the Bill were before us, it is clear I could ask the question of him under Standing Order 87, but as the Bill has not yet reached us, I cannot very well conform with that Standing Order. If I could get the question placed on the notice paper, it would probably help the hon. member to get the information I desire, and it would help us to make some calculations that are necessary before the Bill is dealt with.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member can hand it in at a later stage of this sitting.

QUESTION—CHARCOAL GAS FOR MOTOR TRANSPORT.

Hon. W. T. GLASHEEN asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Are the Government aware that the Development and Migration Commission, after exhaustive inquiries and trials, state that charcoal gas has been definitely proved to be much cheaper than

petrol for motor transport? 2, Are the Government aware that recently a gas-driven motor truck with two tons of freight on board travelled from Melbourne to Bendigo at a total cost of 7s. for fuel, and that for the same journey with the same load a petrol truck cost £1 10s. for fuel? 3, As gas-driven engines can also be used on tractors, and the Development Commission estimate the cost of charcoal gas as equivalent to petrol at 5d. per gallon, will every investigation be immediately made by the Government with a view to utilising this new power for developing the 3,500 farms scheme? 4, Will investigation also be made in relation to the great economic waste incurred in the destruction on the wheat lands in Western Australia of timber that could be utilised to produce charcoal gas and at the same time cheapen clearing costs?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, The reports of the Development and Migration Commission are available to the Government. 2, The Government are aware of this statement. 3 and 4, The Government are already considering the cheapest means of transport and the resultant problems involved.

BILL—EDUCATION.

Recommittal.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, Bill recommitted for the further consideration of Clauses 16, 17, 20, 34 and 39, and the Third and Fourth Schedules.

In Committee.

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

Clause 16—Compulsory officers may accost children in public places:

The CHIEF SECRETARY: At the suggestion of an hon. member, I wish to add a paragraph. I move an amendment—

That the following paragraph be added to the clause:—"Any person who accosts a child in a street or other public place and falsely represents that he is an officer of the Education Department shall be guilty of an offence, and liable on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds."

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

Clause 17—Penalties for neglect:

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I shall leave the clause for the moment as I have not yet had time to check the amendments.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. member desire that it be postponed?

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: No; I take it the Minister will get a reprint of the Bill if necessary. It is only a consequential amendment that I had in mind.

Clause, as previously amended, put and passed.

Clause 20—Maintenance:

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move an amendment—

That in Subclause 3 "ten" be struck out, and the word "twelve" inserted in lieu.

It is largely a consequential amendment.

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

Clause 34—Proprietors of private schools to make monthly and quarterly return of attendances:

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move an amendment—

That in Subclause 1, paragraph (a), the words "not made at least four-fifths of the possible half-day attendances" be struck out, and the following inserted in lieu:—"been absent on any occasion without satisfactory excuse."

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

Clause 39—Sections of Schedule 2 of Interpretation Act incorporated:

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move an amendment—

That the letter "C," in line 1, be struck out.

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

Third Schedule:

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I do not propose to submit any amendment.

Schedule put and passed.

Fourth Schedule:

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move an amendment—

That in the marginal note the figures "14" be struck out, and "34" inserted in lieu. This is the correction of a printer's error.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Has the Chief Secretary looked at the instructions appearing at the foot of this schedule? They speak of half-day attendances again. We have altered that in the section referred to. There, "satisfactory excuse" is mentioned.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I did go through the schedule, and the Parliamentary Draftsman has also looked through it.

Hon. A. Lovekin: We now have nothing to do with half-day attendances. The matter should be made uniform.

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

Bill again reported with further amendments.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Electoral Act Amendment.

2, Kulja Eastward Railway.

Received from the Assembly.

BILL—PERMANENT RESERVE (KING'S PARK).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [4.55]: At first sight this Bill appears of little consequence, and one that perhaps every member could support; but on being looked into more closely, the measure assumes quite a different aspect. In the first place, the proposal is to lease for a period of 25 years a portion of a Class "A" reserve, commonly known as King's Park. The piece of land in question has a frontage to Mount's Bay Road, and is possibly one of the most valuable sites on the river front. I understand it is proposed to charge a rental of about £100 per annum for the block. This would, of course, mean revenue to the King's Park Board, but it would have the effect of alienating from a Class "A" reserve what I have already described as a most valuable block.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Not alienating.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Hon. members may call it what they like. If the Bill passes, the block will be alienated for a period of 25 years, the term mentioned in the measure. It is a valuable piece of land.

Hon. E. H. Harris: What is it valuable for in its present state?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I will deal with that shortly. In view of remarks already made by various hon. members as to the block, I thought it worth while to look into the history of the matter. Sir William Lathlain, while speaking on the Bill, quoted a letter which was written many years ago, and Mr. Lovekin interjected to the effect that the Government had asked the board to take over the block. Mr. Lovekin may be quite correct, but according to my reading of the file he is not. I find that so far back as 1904 a request was made by the then secretary of the board that this block should be handed over to the board.

Hon. A. Lovekin: That was at the request of the Government.

Hon. J. Nicholson: In that way it started.

The HONORARY MINISTER: There is nothing on the file to indicate such a request by the Government.

Hon. A. Lovekin: It came through Lord Forrest.

The HONORARY MINISTER: All that appears on the file with regard to that aspect is that the secretary of the board, Mr. Kelly, requested that the piece of land might be placed under the control of the King's Park Board.

Hon. A. Lovekin: That is quite right.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Following on that, we get the letter mentioned by Sir William Lathlain.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Lord Forrest initiated it.

Hon. E. H. Harris: What about the minutes of the board?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have no desire to go into the matter to that extent. The block was purchased by the Government of the day for no less than £1,600. That was in 1904, 24 years ago; and it is only natural to assume that the block has increased considerably in value since then.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: It was bought for the purpose of running a pipe through it, and the pipe has been put through.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Who the owner was at that time is not stated, but that was the price paid for it. The file further shows that the proposal of the King's Park Board at that time was to utilise the block as a nursery.

Hon. A. Lovekin: That was Lord Forrest's proposal.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I do not know who was responsible for the idea, but apparently it was adopted by the board. Still, it seems that the block has never been used for that purpose. In years gone by it was used for a considerable time as a kind of market garden, being tenanted by a Chinaman, for which he paid a small rent. The amount is neither here nor there so far as the King's Park Board are concerned.

Hon. A. Lovekin: And he would not keep it on even for nothing.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It is interesting to know that that is the early history of the block. That brings us to the consideration of the question whether any portion of a Class "A" reserve should be leased to a private person for private gain. It is admitted that this particular block of land is quite unsuitable perhaps for some purposes and might have been quite suitable for the making of a nursery which was the original intention. But that does not get us away from the fact that a Class "A" reserve should not be utilised for the purpose of private gain, unless it can be shown that it is in the interests of the people who frequent the park or reserve. In this particular case members have already said that this block does not affect the park as a park.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: There is no connection between the park and this particular block of land.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Then it cannot be argued that the establishment of tearooms on the block will be of value to the people who use the park. Consequently, it can only be argued that the land will be used by private individuals for the purpose of gain, and I say, on principle, we cannot afford to subscribe to a Class "A" reserve being used for that purpose. May I also point out that at the present time tearooms have been established very close indeed to the particular block, and the proprietress of those tearooms has already protested by letter against the proposal which, she has been given to understand, will bring about the erection of other tearooms. If the King's Park Board agree to the establishment of additional tearooms close to those already in existence, it will not be possible for either to make the tearooms payable propositions.

Hon. A. Lovekin: The welfare of the park is the consideration.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The King's Park Board are only concerned with the revenue that is likely to be received.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Oh no.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I fail to see in which other way the welfare of the park can be affected.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Have you looked at the land?

The HONORARY MINISTER: Yes.

Hon. A. Lovekin: We have to spray it with kerosene to keep down the mosquitoes.

The HONORARY MINISTER: That may be true. For some time past mosquitoes have been troublesome in many places.

Hon. A. Lovekin: They breed too well there.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: We are obliged to keep it free from mosquitoes.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I object to the leasing of any portion of a Class "A" reserve for private gain, where it cannot be shown that the particular people who desire to occupy the land are going to do so in the interests of visitors to the reserve. The visitors to King's Park come from all parts of the metropolitan area and the country as well, and it is nice for them to be able to have refreshments while they are in the park. There cannot be any argument in that direction so far as the block in question is concerned, and without hesitation I say that by no stretch of the imagination can it be claimed that the establishment of tearooms or refreshment rooms on the block in question will be of benefit to the people who use the park.

Hon. J. Nicholson: What about the improvements it is intended to carry out?

The HONORARY MINISTER: The improvements should be undertaken by the King's Park Board.

Hon. J. Nicholson: But you do not provide them with the money to carry out improvements.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I believe at the present time the board are receiving far more than they ever got before. There are certain areas in the park exclusively used by people who pay no rent. It is claimed that the finest tennis courts in Australia exist in King's Park. I admit that.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: The club has a liability of £12,000.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It does not matter whether it is £12,000 or £100,000; the fact remains that the King's Park tennis club has the exclusive right to one of the finest sites in the State.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: They have not an exclusive right.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Legally there may not be an exclusive right, but in effect, owing to the various regulations in operation, they possess an exclusive right. As a matter of fact, those tennis courts cannot be used by anyone except members of the King's Park club.

Hon. A. Lovekin: That is not a fact.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I venture to say that if I went there this evening and endeavoured to play a game of tennis, not being a member of the club I would have serious trouble in carrying out my desire. It is also a fact that one cannot become a member of that club unless he pays an entrance fee to begin with and a fairly high subscription, a subscription beyond the means of many people who desire to play tennis in the metropolitan area.

Hon. J. Nicholson: How would it be possible to establish a tennis club without subscriptions.

The HONORARY MINISTER: There is no reason for the establishment of private tennis courts on a Class "A" reserve. A club should be prepared to lease a suitable block of land in some other part of the metropolitan area. Why should these few people have a right that is denied to others who desire to play tennis, croquet or any other game? It may be true that any citizen desiring to exercise his rights could walk through those grounds at any time he thought fit.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: It might be unpleasant for him.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I agree. The tennis club make a charge for admission, and the charge renders it impossible for most people to attend the courts to witness contests.

Hon. A. Lovekin: The club make nothing out of it.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I understand they did not on the occasion of the visit of the champion tennis players. I believe their expenses were higher than the revenue they received. At the same time I am pleased to think that the King's Park club are so progressive that they are

desirous of inviting tennis champions to play on their courts.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: What has all that to do with the block of land in question?

The HONORARY MINISTER: Everything to do with it. There is before us a proposition to take a portion of the King's Park reserve and rent it to someone for an amount of about £100 per annum. On the other hand, there are certain people who have been granted the right to use a fairly large area for the purpose of sport, and they are permitted to use that area rent free on condition, of course, that they fully maintain it. No one can grumble at the manner in which the King's Park club have maintained their area. The courts are a credit to the people responsible for them.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: They are an ornament to the city.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I grant that. On the other hand, does it do away with the principle I have enunciated? Why should a small circle of people have a right that is denied to everyone else? If it is desired to establish sports grounds, let the people interested establish those grounds on land that is not a Class "A" reserve.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: This has been done not only in the city but in all the suburbs as far as Fremantle.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: You said you were going to tell us how the King's Park Board could increase their revenue.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The board should charge the King's Park tennis club and the bowling club a rental for the use of the ground they hold. In that way the King's Park Board would increase their revenue pretty considerably.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: You began by saying that no park or public reserve should be leased unless it was for the benefit of the whole of the people.

The HONORARY MINISTER: That principle is sound and I contend that the King's Park Board have exceeded their rights in doing what they have done. The position at the present time is that certain people have the right to utilise a portion of King's Park to the exclusion of other sections of the community, and without the payment of any rent. On the other hand, we have a proposition that the King's Park Board should lease to a certain individual another block for the purpose of private gain and for which that individual must pay a certain rental.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Suppose we did charge rent, would the clubs not have to charge fees which you say are already too high, or do less work?

The HONORARY MINISTER: They might do less work. At any rate, they should be prepared to pay.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Would they not then have an exclusive right which they have not now?

Hon. G. W. Miles: The clubs are so exclusive that one who wants to join finds it difficult to do so.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Seeing that the board have gone so far, and remembering also, as pointed out by Mr. Miles, that the tennis club is very popular and exclusive, so exclusive that a number of people who desire to become members are not able to do so, it is only a right and fair proposition that if they are to be permitted to occupy land that is part of King's Park, they should pay rent for it. I think Mr. Lovekin made a statement that everything that has been done in connection with the leasing of these blocks is quite in order, and that proper authority has been obtained to permit the King's Park Board to do what they wish. I question whether that is quite correct.

Hon. A. Lovekin: I did not say that.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I asked the question when Mr. Lovekin was speaking, and I thought he remarked that the King's Park Board had authority to do what they had done. If I am wrong, we are still in the same position.

Hon. A. Lovekin: We have no authority to lease, neither have we leased.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I should like to know what they have done. Apparently they have given these people authority to enclose a certain area of land for their own purposes. They must also have given them authority to make a charge for admission on certain occasions.

Hon. A. Lovekin: We gave no such authority.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: Remember that the authority was first given by the late Lord Forrest. Do not speak ill of the dead.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I am speaking only from the point of view of the principle. If a Class "A" reserve is to be used for providing sport or anything else for the people, it should be available

to the whole of the people and not only a section of them.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: There are more than a hundred Class "A" reserves around Perth that are used for the same purpose.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member may be right, but I do not know of any other Class "A" reserve that is used in this way, and for which a charge for admission is made. I do not know of any that a few individuals have the right to use, and the rest of the people are debarred from using.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: There is a bowling club and a tennis club on the Esplanade. There are dozens of others like them elsewhere.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It does not matter how many instances members may quote. I object to this on principle. I am satisfied that if this kind of thing is allowed to go on, the time will arrive when larger areas of King's Park will be utilised for the same purpose. That is not right. If the King's Park Board are not able to utilise the block on Mount's Bay-road, some way should be found by which other people, or some department of State, may utilise it. I am opposed to giving the board the right to lease this land to any private individual for private gain. We do not know for what purpose this land may be required by the Government in 25 years' time.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Reduce the term if you like.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The question of term has nothing to do with the matter. If the board can find a way of using this block, well and good, but I doubt if there is any power under any Act to enable them to do so other than as a park. Of course, there is as yet no power to enable the board to lease this block for the purpose suggested by the Bill. I am a great admirer of King's Park. I hope that an effort will be made to retain it in its present condition. and that it will not be cut up and its original beauty spoilt. Members may differ from me in that regard. Dr. Saw said he would not be able to keep it in its present condition for many years owing to the bush fires that pass through it, and to the consequent destruction of trees and shrubs. It would be better that the Park should, as far as possible, be kept in its natural state, and

I hope every effort will be made to prevent it from becoming artificial.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: The board would require more revenue in order to do that.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I sympathise with the board in their efforts to maintain the roads in their present condition, but would point out that their revenue now is higher than ever it was.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: And there is more expense attached to the maintenance of the park.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The expense may be higher, but the present revenue is quite sufficient to maintain the park in its natural condition.

Hon. J. Nicholson: I wish you were on the board.

The HONORARY MINISTER: If the board desired to alter King's Park from its natural condition into an artificial reserve they would not be likely to obtain sufficient revenue for many years to come. I should be sorry to think they would be in a position to do that. One of the attractions of the park is its natural beauty.

Hon. A. Lovekin: With the aid of fires we can retain it in its natural condition for a tenth of the money we get.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I object on principle to any portion of the park being leased for the purpose of private gain, when that is not for the convenience of the people. It cannot be argued that this particular block of land will be used in the interests of the people who go to the park.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Even if it is not used by the people now?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I must oppose the Bill.

HON. W. T. GLASHEEN (South-East) [5.20]: The Honorary Minister has not been as logical as usual. He said he had some suggestions to make to the board whereby they would be able to raise greater revenue. Prior to saying that, he stated that the charge made on the occasion of the recent exhibition of interstate and international tennis was so high that the general public were unable to gain admission. He suggested that further revenue could be raised by the board charging these people something for the privilege of having tennis courts in the park, but still further charges would have to be made upon the public who

would thus be in an even worse position from the point of view of patronising the tennis courts. He also referred to the high charges that were levied upon members of the tennis club. He indicated that if a further charge was to be made to the tennis club, the club would have to charge even more for members' subscriptions. The Honorary Minister seemed to be at variance with himself. He also said that unless it could be shown that the Bill made for the public benefit, there was no justification for it. I have not seen the land in question, but I gather from what has been said that it is an eyesore and a menace to public health. Apparently a Chinaman who was leasing the land found it so low-lying and marshy that he had to give it up. The slugs and snails ate his vegetables, and made a failure of his garden. Any low-lying land is a menace to public health. Sir William Lathlain remarked that it was a breeding ground for mosquitoes. If the proposal of the board means improving the present condition of things, and adding to the beauties of the park, it will be a benefit to the community. This is what the board are aiming at. I should like to get some information from Mr. Lovekin. I was led to believe from his speech that the board had been approached by an individual, who said he was prepared to spend about £3,000 on this block of land, in making tennis courts there and establishing tearooms. I have no idea what revenue is likely to accrue from such an undertaking. It occurs to me, however, that if a man is going to spend this sum of money on such enterprises, and desires to make a profit himself, he must expect to obtain at least 10 per cent. interest on his outlay. Interest at 10 per cent. on £3,000 would represent an amount of £300 a year, or £6 a week.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Then there are the rates and taxes.

Hon. W. T. GLASHEEN: The board will expect to get £100 a year for the lease of the land, and that would mean another £2 a week in the way of outgoings.

Hon. A. Lovekin: And there is the rent.

Hon. W. T. GLASHEEN: Another £1 a week might be allowed for rates and taxes, which would bring the total up to £9 a week. Tennis in such a place as this would be carried on mainly at night-time. This would mean considerable expenditure in the installation of a lighting system. The courts would have to be well lighted. I dare say the total weekly expenditure on these courts would be in the vicinity of £10.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Plus the maintenance of the ground.

Hon. W. T. GLASHEEN: Officials will have to be employed to look after the business. I do not know how many would be engaged. When all is said and done, the weekly expenditure on the undertaking will be in the region of £15 or £20 before anything is left over for profit. I do not know what charge is usually made for a game of tennis on courts of this description, but I presume that the lessee would either have to charge exceedingly high rates, or have an exceptionally large volume of business before he could make a profit. We have been told by Mr. Lovekin and Sir William Lathlain that the board will safeguard the interests of the public, and will not allow anything that is inimical to the public welfare to be carried on there. I believe the board will watch that, but it occurred to me that the individual in question must have something else in his mind than merely tennis courts.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: Apparently he will not have much in his pocket.

Hon. W. T. GLASHEEN: Having calculated the cost of everything, I cannot imagine why the individual wants this lease. It would be one of the last things I would want to do to spend £3,000 on tennis courts there.

Hon. A. Lovekin: The sale of petrol is very profitable.

Hon. W. T. GLASHEEN: Many things might be done there. This particular individual must have something else in mind besides tennis courts and tearooms. One member interjected that there are tearooms in close proximity to this block. If that is the case, not much business is likely to result from that branch of the undertaking.

Hon. J. Cornell: There are petrol pumps close by, as well.

Hon. W. T. GLASHEEN: I do not know how far this site is removed from any other tennis courts, but I understand there are private tennis courts which show a reasonable return on the capital outlay. It is difficult to arrive at any basis on which an expenditure of £3,000, together with all the costs of maintenance, can show a profit for the individual who wishes to lease this land. My object is to seek some information. I do not know whether the members of the King's Park Board have laid it down specifically that the block is to be used for this particular purpose.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central) [5.31]: The question of the cost to put this particular block into a condition that will enable tennis to be played should not enter into the debate. What should concern every hon. member is whether the leasing of the block by the King's Park Board will mean an improvement to that part of the park. From the speeches of those members of the House who are also members of the board, I take it for a certainty that the leasing of the block will be a decided improvement to the block in particular, and to the park as a whole. That is the point from which this matter should be viewed. Being business men, I take it that the members of the King's Park Board have seen to it that they will derive a certain amount of revenue as the result of leasing the block. Surely that is the point to which the Honorary Minister directed our attention. He said he would indicate to members of the board how they could derive more revenue. What does the Honorary Minister think would be a fair charge to be levied by the board against the King's Park Tennis Club, for instance, who have created within the park boundaries an asset of which I, as a country member, consider the State should be very proud. The King's Park Tennis Club have created an asset that was able to induce men from different parts of the world to visit Perth and play tennis there. I venture to assert that as the result, the State received no small advertisement. The Government, as well as local governing bodies, are expected to assist in the development of such activities and not to place obstacles in the way of public men, such as the members of the King's Park Board, when they desire to create that which will be of benefit to the State. I think the debate on this question has taken up too much of the valuable time of the Council. The only question to be considered is whether the proposal of the King's Park Board will be in the interests of the park and of the State. We have to consider whether the leasing of the block will not be advisable, seeing that it will transfer an eyesore and a breeding ground for mosquitoes into another attraction for the city itself.

HON. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan—in reply) [5.34]: I think I ought to say a few words in reply to the debate. The Minister has gone over the history of the pur-

chase of this land. I was connected with the park before there was any Parks and Reserves Act or any board of control. When the late Lord Forrest became Premier of Western Australia, he asked some of us, all of whom with the exception of myself have since departed this life, to form an advisory committee to help in the opening up of the park. Following upon that, the Parks and Reserves Act was passed in 1905, and the members of the temporary committee, with some additions, were appointed to act as a board of control. Of the members of that board, including those additional to the original advisory committee, two of us alone are left—Mr. G. T. Poole and myself. In those early days the policy and objective regarding the park were well discussed and laid down; the policy has been a continuous one ever since. That policy was that the park should be reserved as the heritage of the people for ever, and that no portion of it should ever be parted with; also that it should be utilised for the enjoyment and recreation of the people. To that end we have all worked. There are some people, including the Chief Secretary, who want the park to remain as a reserve for our native forest. That was the idea originally, but we have found that it is quite impracticable. It cannot be done. As the population increases, so the number of fires increases; if we had not provided fire breaks and what the Minister referred to as the "artificial park," there would be no virgin bush in the park at all. It would have disappeared before the fires long ago, and we would simply have barren sand there now. Out of the 1,026 acres, some 600 acres represent fairly good forest land. Of that smaller area, 200 acres or so have been kept entirely free all through from fires. I refer to the area around Crawley. That is fairly good bush and those people who want to walk in the secluded forest, have 600 acres in which to enjoy themselves to their heart's content. There are others who like a different form of enjoyment in the park. If hon. members desire to know the views of the vast majority of the people who go to the park, they should visit it on a Sunday and see the thousands who congregate not in the seclusion of the thickets but on the clear spaces that the Minister refers to as the "artificial portions" of the park. There are other people who go there with a desire to enjoy beautiful views that are unpar-

alled in any part of Australia. Hundreds of people go to the park merely to enjoy the beautiful views that are obtained from the park over the river and the surrounding country. All that is artificial according to the Minister! Then there are people who look forward to a nice quiet drive through the park. At one time they were able to get it, but I do not know that that desire is so easily satisfied in these days when motor cars are so numerous. In days gone by, people were able to drive through leisurely over good roads and enjoy the pleasures of the bush and the views as well. Even now many people thoroughly enjoy a drive through the park. Then again, there are children of all ages who like to go to the park to play. The members of the board have done their best to provide them with playing grounds. Other people like going to the park because they want to play bowls. A long time ago we agreed to a certain bowling club utilising portion of the park on the understanding that they kept their portion of it in decent order. The Minister would say that that is the particular part of the park he wanted to walk over, as it should be for all the people. Let the Minister be not quite so selfish, for there are hundreds of acres other than the small block upon which the bowling green stands. If the bowlers were not in possession of that small plot, the Minister would not want to walk there!

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: At any rate, he is not old enough yet to be a bowler.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Of the total acreage of the park, six acres only have been allocated for use by the tennis club, the bowling club and the croquet club. I am sure my fellow members of the board agree with me that if we could get more of those sports grounds distributed through portions of the park where a useless poor type of bush exists now, it would be of benefit to the whole community. It would provide our youths of to-day with further means of indulging in healthful recreation and exercise and that would be to the advantage of the people generally. Surely it would be better to provide additional means of recreation for the young people in such parts of the park that are really useless from the standpoint of retaining virgin bush, than to retain those areas and thus encourage the youths to congregate at pubs, clubs or jazz halls! Surely such would be better for the community as a whole! Why people

should be so keen on having the total area under bush I cannot see, because they do not use it. Very few people can be seen roaming about in the seclusion of the native bush. On the other hand, the vast majority are to be seen wherever there is something doing. The Honorary Minister spoke about these clubs being exclusive ones. That is not quite true. Let hon. members consider the position of the bowling club first. That club would welcome a large number of additional members if they could get them, because the club requires more revenue. Apparently not very many people wish to play bowls. It cannot be said that the bowling club is exclusive. Then the ladies' croquet club is almost going out of existence because of the paucity of members. The club want more members and any lady by paying practically nothing, can become a member. The tennis club is quite a different proposition. There are hundreds of young people who wish to play tennis there, but comparatively few courts are available, upon which they can play. For the time being, tennis happens to be a popular form of recreation. The small allocation of ground occupied by the King's Park Tennis Club to-day was made available to the club many years ago when men like the late Lord Forrest, Mr. Septimus Burt and others were members of the board. I am sure the people I have mentioned had nothing but the welfare of the public at heart, just as have the present members of the board. Yet in those days the board permitted tennis enthusiasts to form a club. Those enthusiasts were public-spirited enough to raise money by means of debentures. They committed themselves to an indebtedness amounting to thousands of pounds, and they pay 8 per cent. for their money. At the present time I think the courts have cost the club between £10,000 and £12,000. The club have thus improved a public asset without a tittle of security being held by the debenture holders because the club are liable to be swept out of existence at 24 hours' notice. They have absolutely no security of tenure. If the Minister has any doubt on that point, I can produce copies of letters that passed at the time. The letters show that the club accepted conditions on which they can be removed at a moment's notice. Then again the club are not allowed to close the gates at all. Anybody visiting the courts will find an open,

public track through the tennis courts, leading from one part of the park to another, and confronting them they will see the notice, "Public thoroughfare." In view of the fact that a number of ladies and gentlemen have provided the money to construct the tennis courts there, I do not think any decent person would exercise his undoubted rights and invade the courts when some function, which was bringing in a little revenue to the club, was in full swing. Should anyone so desire, he would be entitled to do that. As a matter of fact, when the French tennis champions were here, two people did exercise their rights and no objection was taken to their presence. In the circumstances it could not be taken. In addition to all this, the tennis club, to my knowledge, have to-day an overdraft at the bank of £1,332, which is secured by the guarantee of two members of the club, Messrs. R. O. Law and Sinclair McGibbon, who are past the playing stage, but who have sufficient public spirit to provide for the healthful recreation of the youths in that neighbourhood and in other parts from which the players come.

The Honorary Minister: Is it not a fact that a person has to pass a test in tennis playing before he can become a member of the club?

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Not at all. I am sure of that. There are some 300 members, who now pay an entrance fee, because the club are in want of funds. Those 300 members each pay three guineas subscription per annum, or 900 guineas. The club need, on an average, four men to look after the courts. Those men are paid £4 5s. per week each, or a total of £855 per annum. That has to come out of the 900 guineas the club get in subscription fees; and by the time the club have paid for a little fertiliser and that sort of thing, all those subscriptions are absorbed in the labour on the courts. If you want cheap courts, you cannot have them cheaper than the cost of maintaining these courts without any capital expenditure on improvements. A club like that ought to be encouraged. All this criticism without knowledge is doing nothing but crushing the public spirit out of generous people. They say that if they are to be subjected to all this wrongful criticism, based on no foundation whatever, why should they trouble to put forth their efforts and their

money into improving that area for the public benefit.

The Honorary Minister: Is not that public spirit exercised in the interests of only a few people?

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: There are 300 members in that club, although there is playing accommodation for only about 90. Any body of persons taking subscriptions from 300 members when there is only playing accommodation for 90, would scarcely be justified in adding to their membership list. The only consideration that enables the club to get through with so little accommodation is that a number of those who pay three guineas per annum do not go near the courts at all. My own daughter is in that category. She has never played tennis, and cannot play. Out of the 300 members, fully one-half never play at all. Would the Honorary Minister suggest that the club's membership should be increased to 500, although unable to provide court accommodation?

The Honorary Minister: I do not see why it should not.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: It would be wrong to induce more people to pay subscriptions to a club that could not provide playing accommodation for them. The only solution would be to invite everybody to join, and then ask for an extension of their playing area in order to put down more courts. If that were arranged, the club could have an unlimited membership. This club has been subjected to a great deal of unjust criticism, which is likely to kill public spirit and generosity. The men running this club have nothing whatever to gain for themselves, any more than I have. The Minister made a point of the charge levied when the French team were here. He said it was prohibitive to a number of people. Certainly it was a high charge, but what are the facts? There would have been no French team here, no high class tennis, unless a high price were paid for it. The King's Park Club did not bring over the French players. It was the Tennis Association that brought them here.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: People came from all parts of the State to watch the game.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: And the tennis authorities, public spirited men, in order to get the Frenchmen here to show our people some really good tennis, went behind the enterprise to the extent of £1,600 before a

single ball was struck. Of course that £1,600 had to be recouped. The association asked the King's Park Club to allow the matches to be played on their ground, because undoubtedly it is the best tennis ground in the State, and is even held to be the best in the Commonwealth. The club allowed it, but got nothing out of it. Indeed, I believe the club lost some £90 over it, because they went to a little expense, which was not recouped. All that the club got was a brass plate furnished by the association to show that the matches were played on the club's grounds.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: And there was provided one of the finest afternoon's entertainments I have ever seen in Western Australia.

The Honorary Minister: You were very fortunate to be able to see it.

Hon. J. Nicholson: You, too, could have seen it.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: There was in that area around the court only a limited accommodation for the public, and the authorities had to make up that £1,600. Consequently the charges had to be high. But for the high prices they could never have got the French team over here. This same Tennis Association are now trying to get Tilden, the famous player, to come out here. Mr. Tilden, if he comes, will have to leave his business, and so he requires £500 for his expenses, in addition to his boat and hotel tariffs. The Tennis Association must stand behind that. Then also, in order to get a match worth looking at, it will be necessary to bring over some other Australian players, which will further add to the expense. That cost must be recouped. It is all very well for the man in the street to say, "I cannot afford to pay £1 to see the tennis; I can afford only a shilling." The tennis people have to get the cost recouped, even though it means charging £1 a seat for the very best seats. The tennis people are generous, public spirited men, and for the next matches, Mr. McGibbon tells me, they want to borrow a stand which belongs to the park and put it up outside the hedge, where it can be occupied by people at about the cost of 1s. or 2s. each. That will allow many more to see the next matches, which is a very good thing. Now as to the expenses: all these extra expenses, the interest on the money, and the upkeep of the ground, have to be provided out of entertainments and tournaments. An Easter tournament is held

every year. Sometimes money is made out of it, and sometimes money is lost. Very good work is being done by the club, and if we, the Park Board, were to attempt—had we that right—to charge the club rent, we would force the club to raise the already high subscription fees—the Honorary Minister says they are high. Alternatively the club would have less money to spend on the ground. After all, the ground is public estate, and it is for the benefit of the State that it should be kept in exemplary order. For over 30 years the Park has been a hobby of mine. I have tried to do the best I could in every possible way to make it a credit to the State. The members of the board have never had any discord. The other members all work with the same objective as I have, namely to make the Park a credit to the State, which I claim it is.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Did you not want a memorial gate, to which some other members of the board objected?

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Yes, but that did not create any discord; it was only a question of which was the better proposition. If the Government of the day are not satisfied with what the board are doing, it is quite in their power to act. As this board was appointed by the Government of the day 30 years ago, so the present Government can wipe it out and appoint another board which will do better. If the Government see fit to do that, I for one shall not squeal about it. I wish to stress this, because I do not want to see public generosity and public spirit crushed. Some members of that tennis club, with some others, are furnishing to the Park at a cost of £1,500—and it will be over £2,000 before the task is completed—a work of art for the benefit of the children, and one morning about next Christmas time, or perhaps a little later, the statue of Peter Pan will have grown out of the sand of the Park. This statue is a replica of the original in the Kensington Palace gardens. When it is in place, the children will want to play with the mice and rabbits cast on the base of the statue. It is a very interesting piece of work. It is signed by J. M. Barry, the whole thing being, as I say, a replica of the original. These people have put their hands in their pockets without saying anything about it and have found the money. I believe the statue is now on its way. The Park Board are doing their little bit to help introduce a piece of the Old Country taken from the Kensington Palace gardens, with trees and

shrubs and the crazy pavement and everything that is around the original statue. That is the sort of thing we wish to encourage for the Park. It is true that we shall have to get rid of a little bit of the existing bush in order to make room to plant the imported shrubs and trees.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: The Honorary Minister says you should not interfere with any of the scrub to put Peter Pan there.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Well, this is for the whole of the people.

The Honorary Minister: There will not be a charge of four guineas to see it, will there?

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: No, but the people who have subscribed the cost of that statue will have to charge themselves four guineas a year for the pleasure of putting the statue there free of cost to the public. We want to get something that will interest everybody. To-day there is to be seen in the new nursery at the Park three little vines, up against three stakes which are the beginning of a trellis. Those three little vines are the progeny of the grape vine at Hampton Court, planted hundreds of years ago by Cardinal Wolsey. We have brought out those little cuttings, and have grown them into vines sufficiently large to be planted out. Possibly they are not much as vines, but historically they are a great novelty. We have tried to get bird life for the Park. Lately I liberated some thrushes—I saw a couple to-day—and we hope that in time they will be breeding, like the doves. The Director of the Zoological Gardens, Mr. LeSoeuf, says we cannot handle deer here because they get wild and become a menace to children. When I was in Kyoto, Japan, I saw some little sleek fawn deer and my daughter snapped me while they were nosing all about me. I have a print of the photograph which might interest members. I have sent for six of those deer with the intention of placing them in the Peter Pan enclosure to make it absolutely complete. Members will see from the picture that they are quite tame; they put their noses into one's pocket and climb all over one. These are things we are trying to do for King's Park in order to make it a place where people, whatever their tastes might be, may enjoy themselves.

The Honorary Minister: There is no objection to that.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Then surely there can be no objection to the tennis courts.

I ask the Minister to consider the question from this viewpoint: Suppose those people had left the area under bush there would have been no tennis and there would have been no ground for complaint, but because public-spirited men have put their hands in their pockets and improved the bush, would the Minister be mean enough to take advantage of their work and expenditure by saying, "I am going on to those tennis courts to play and get everything for nothing"? That is not the proper spirit to display.

Hon. J. Nicholson: The Honorary Minister would prefer to destroy the advertisement given to the State by the tennis matches. That is what he suggests.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: The bush around the frontage from Malcolm-street to the end of Ferdinand-street, opposite the University, was the most scrubby bush, I think, that could be found in the State. Before we cut down a tree, I went over that area with the superintendent of the park to ascertain how many of the trees we could save with any credit to the park. We found only two such trees and they still remain. The rest were rotten, dying at the tops or otherwise useless and hideous, and so we had them taken down. In common with other members, it often falls to my lot to extend some little hospitality to visitors to the State. I take them for a drive over the roads of King's Park and I have had it said to me, "You have big jarrah trees in this country; I should like to see one." After driving along King's Park road one shows them a jarrah tree and the usual reply is, "Oh, I thought the jarrah was a big tree. I am surprised that it is such a stunted thing." The visitors are informed that the tree in question is not typical of the species, but one feels a sense of disgrace at having to show a stunted tree as a representative of one of our giant trees. The sooner such trees are got rid of the better. Mr. Glasheen asked a question regarding the lessee of the land in question. This is what happened: The health authorities from time to time have called upon the King's Park Board to abate the mosquito nuisance. A Mr. Bradley sent a note to the secretary of the board saying he was prepared to give £100 a year if he could get a lease of the land for a term of 25 years. Our secretary asked him what he proposed to do with the land and he replied that he proposed to lay down a tennis court, have a tea room, and establish

a petrol bowser. It was said that £30 or £40 a week could be made out of the bowser. Whether that is so, I do not know. It occurred to the board that it would be a good thing if, instead of having to pay out money for the purchase of kerosene to appease the health authorities, we could turn the land to profit. The block is of no use for garden purposes. The Chinaman who had it would not stay there for nothing, though we begged him to do so. However, we thought we could do something with the land and in order that we might have the power, we agreed to put up a Bill authorising us to lease the land. I assure members that we are not bound to lease the land to Mr. Bradley or to anyone else. When the board get this power, tenders will probably be called for the lease of the block and purposes to which it may be applied will be mentioned. If we can get a satisfactory offer, a lease will be drawn up and no one will be able to object to anything that is carried on in that portion of the park. The Chief Secretary suggested that it might be used for a jazz hall site or a tin hare course.

The Honorary Minister: A cabaret.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Whatever it may be called, can anyone imagine Mr. Nicholson, Sir William Lathlain, Dr. Saw, Mr. Poole, myself and others consenting for a moment to a cabaret, a jazz hall, or anything of the kind? So that we cannot go astray, it is provided in the Bill that the board may make a lease only after it has been approved by the Government, thus providing two strings to the bow, so that it would then be necessary to get rid of the present board and secure one agreeable to a cabaret, and also get rid of the present Government and secure a new one that would let things run riot in such a direction.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: A Government that can swallow the White City would not strain at a cabaret.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: Perhaps not. I have been rather long in my reply, but I considered it only right to explain the matter fully. I hope members will agree to the Bill.

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

Ayes	19
Noes	3
				—
Majority for				16
				—

AYES.

Hon. J. R. Brown	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. J. Nicholson
Hon. J. T. Franklin	Hon. E. Rose
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. A. J. H. Saw
Hon. W. T. Glasheen	Hon. H. Seddon
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. H. A. Stephenson
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. Sir E. Wittenoom
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. C. H. Wittenoom
Hon. Sir W. Lathlain	Hon. E. H. Harris
Hon. A. Lovekin	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. W. H. Kitson	(Teller.)

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 19th September, 1928.

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

QUESTION—FRUIT EXPORT.

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Premier: In view of the good work done in Europe by the London representative of the Fruit Export Board of New Zealand in assisting growers and shippers of fruit to organise and expand their markets by essential in-