

financial year had gone by when we came into office. If hon. members are prepared to treat the Government fairly and give us an opportunity of investigating the affairs of the department the Government are quite prepared, if they have that opportunity, to effect economies and to be then judged by the public on the question as to whether they have carried out their promise to effect economies or not. Hon. Mr. Lynn has referred to the fish shops. Let me assure him now that the fish shops will be closed, and let me invite the hon. member's assistance, if he can give it to me, in securing a decent price for the steamer "Una," which has been largely responsible for the losses incurred in the fish supply business. As to the "Kangaroo," I am pleased to be able to tell members that that vessel is "doing very well, thank you" and will prove a profitable proposition. Hon. members will have an opportunity of discussing the Government's taxation proposals when the Bills are before the House. I cannot say anything on the general subject of the finances now, because the proposals of the Government must be dictated to a large extent by the conference to attend which the hon. the Premier is leaving to-morrow for Melbourne.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and *passed*.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [6.18]: I move—

That the House at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday, January 23rd, 1917.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.19 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 23rd January, 1917.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Return showing the premises rented by the Government. 2, Annual Reports (a) Fremantle Harbour Trust, (b) Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department, (c) Registrar of Friendly Societies, (d) Department of Agriculture, (e) Department of Public Works and Trading Concerns, (f) Perth Observatory. 3, Government Savings Bank, annual balance sheet, report, and returns for the year ending 30th June, 1916. 4, By-laws of the municipalities of (a) Fremantle, (b) Perth, (c) Kalgoorlie, (d) South Perth. 5, Roads Act, 1911. (a) Amendment of Schedule "N" of the Uniform By-laws, (b) By-law of the Road Boards of Collie, Cottesloe Beach, Kalgoorlie, Merredin, Mullewa. 6, Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Department, amendment of by-laws. 7, Health Act, 1911, (a) Amendments to the Food and Drug Regulations, (b) By-laws of the Road Boards of Bayswater, Kookynie, Westonia, (c) by-laws of the Municipal Councils of Perth, Collie. 8, State Sawmills, Auditors' report, balance sheet and profit and loss account to June 30th, 1916. 9, Plant Diseases Act, 1914. Regulations. 10, Abattoirs Act, 1909, Regulations.

SELECT COMMITTEE — KINGIA GRASS TREE CONCESSION BILL.

Report presented.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the Kingia Grass Tree Concession Bill.

Report received and read, and ordered to be printed.

MOTION—ENEMY SUBJECTS IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE EMPLOY.

Debate resumed from the 7th November on motion of Hon. J. Cornell as follows:—“That, as the Government have decided that all persons who are, or have at any time been, subjects of an enemy country shall be retired under ‘The Public Servants Act, 1915,’ and as it is the intention of the Government to similarly deal with all other Government workers, this House is of the opinion that the Government should frame and pass a Bill making it unlawful for any employer within Western Australia to employ any person who is, or has at any time been, a subject of an enemy country, during the currency of the war and for one year thereafter.”

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.48]: I have only a few words to say in regard to this motion, which I hope the House will not agree to. Having listened to the remarks of the hon. member who submitted the motion, I was at a loss to understand whether his purpose was to attack the attitude of the Government in dispensing with the services of persons born in enemy countries, or whether it was his desire that the Government should introduce legislation to prevent anyone else employing enemy subjects. It is obvious that these two questions have been raised in this motion. The present Government have decided that men who have been enemy subjects are no longer to be employed in the service of the State. Personally, I think that is the proper attitude to take. I do not think that enemy subjects should be privileged to enter or to remain in the service of the State. I know that many cases have arisen which cannot but excite our sympathy. There have been instances of men who have been for a considerable time engaged in the different State departments, who have always rendered loyal and faithful services, and whose sons have volunteered for active service. In some cases the latter have paid the extreme penalty of death. The Government are not unmindful of these cases and are giving them due consideration, but altogether apart from that, I think as a matter of principle, the Government have acted

rightly in saying that those who have been enemy subjects shall not remain in the service of the State. I am not going to question the loyalty of any of those persons, but I personally find myself unable to understand the attitude of any man who desires to see the overthrow of his native country. I have lived in Australia for nearly 40 years, but I cannot help thinking that I am just as much attached to the land of my birth as are those who have lived in it all their lives. With regard to the latter portion of the motion, I do not think it would be advisable for the Government to frame, or Parliament to pass, legislation to prevent private people giving employment to those having been enemy subjects but who are now naturalised subjects of the British Empire. I hope the House will not agree to the motion.

On motion by Hon. A. Sanderson debate adjourned.

MOTION—LAND AND INCOME TAX.

State returns to synchronise with Federal.

Debate resumed from the 28th November, 1916, on the motion of Hon. J. Duffell, as amended on motion by the Hon. J. W. Kirwan, “1, That the Federal and State Land and Income tax be administered by one set of officers instead of two. 2, That one set of returns only for Federal and State Land and Income tax be necessary. 3, That the returns fall due on the same date. 4, That all payments over a specified amount be made in half-yearly instalments.

Hon. J. DUFFELL (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.51]: Owing to the fact that at the recent Premiers’ conference held in Melbourne a resolution was carried which practically embodied the clauses of my motion, I do not consider it necessary to proceed further with it. The object I had in view has been attained. Therefore I desire with the leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.52]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 6th February.

My reason for taking this course is that there will be practically no business for hon. members to deal with before that time. Many hon. members have a long way to come and at the present time they are busy in the country, and I think their convenience can be met without interfering with the business of Parliament by adjourning for a fortnight. It is not the desire of the Government to unduly prolong the session at this season of the year, and when we meet again it may be necessary for us to sit longer hours in order to bring the labours of the session to a close.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 4.53 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 23rd January, 1917.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Minister for Water Supply: 1, Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department, report for year ended 30th June, 1916. 2, By-laws, Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department.

By the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Department of Agriculture and Industries, re-

port for year ended 30th June, 1916. 2, Plant Diseases Act, regulations. 3, Abattoirs Act, regulations.

By the Premier: 1, Registrar of Friendly Societies, report for year ended 30th June, 1916. 2, Government Savings Bank, report for year ended 30th June, 1916.

By the Minister for Works: 1, Report of the Department of Public Works and Trading Concerns for the year ended 30th June, 1916. 2, Return of premises rented by the Government. 3, By-laws, Municipalities of (a) Perth, (b) South Perth, (c) Fremantle, (d) Kalgoorlie, roads boards of (e) Merredin, (f) Cottesloe Beach, (g) Mullewa, (h) Collie, (j) Kalgoorlie.

STATE SAWMILLS, AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [4.41]: I wish to present the Auditor General's report, together with balance sheet and statement of profit and loss, for the year ended 30th June, 1916, and I move—

That this paper do lie upon the Table.

Hon. J. SCADDAN (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.42]: I wish to ask the Minister whether the report of the Auditor-General can be guaranteed as correct. or whether, in accordance with the recent practice, the report is marked "E. & O.E." Such a report, when laid upon the Table, represents public information; and the Minister should take the necessary precautions to ensure that such a report is correct before it is laid on the Table. I have found that one report of this kind already laid on the Table is marked "E. & O.E., W.J.G." I take the strongest exception to a Minister's indulging in such a practice, which in itself is evidence that the Minister is not satisfied of the correctness of a report or a return he nevertheless issues for public information.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington in reply) [4.43]: I believe every one of the returns which I present to be correct. The matter referred to by the leader of the Opposition I will deal with in a moment.

Question put and passed.