

originated in the civil service. I may refer here to a quotation which was made by Mr. Williams. I am sorry he is not present, because he made a statement which I wish to challenge. He said that when wages are high, prosperity is great, and that is his reason for supporting the Bill—so that there might be an increase in wages which, according to his argument, would in turn bring about prosperity. Unfortunately for the hon. member, he is working in exactly the wrong direction, because when prosperity is great then wages naturally reach a high level. What he should have said is that wages are highest because prosperity is great. If he had recognised the truth of that axiom, he would not have put the whole of his force behind the Bill. Regarding the civil service, some members of which are to receive considerable emoluments because of the Bill, I would point out that I was myself at one time a civil servant. I recognise that there are many who are not receiving a salary commensurate with the value of their work, but, on the other hand, there are many others who are overpaid. The system of classification of positions does not allow of a civil servant being paid according to the value of the work he does. A man is placed in a position that is classified, and whether he does the work well or indifferently, he is paid the same salary. That constitutes a difficulty in securing satisfaction throughout the whole of the civil service. When we can overcome that, we shall have a more effective service, and certainly at the present time we could get rid of many drones and have as effective work done without them. I would suggest to any disgruntled civil servant who is dissatisfied with his conditions—officers should recognise that they have more “cushy” positions than anyone else, with permanency and security of tenure—that he do as I did, and get out. I was not satisfied with the service, and it is within anyone's rights to take that action. Regarding the payments to civil servants and the sacrifice they have been called upon to make in connection with the financial emergency, I cannot agree that they are doing any more than the rest of the community. Every section of the people has had to experience wage or salary cuts or decreases in respect of their investments, manufactures or produce, and naturally all had to be called upon to share in the general sacrifice. The suggestion is that £110,000 is to be set aside for

the particular purpose indicated. Others have pointed to the position and we cannot mention it too often, because it is the crux of the situation. The Government were called upon to keep their deficit within £750,000. In a statement that appeared in the “West Australian” towards the end of December, I noticed that the Government had already exceeded the stipulated deficit by about £50,000. With six months only of the current financial year elapsed, I cannot understand how the Government can turn round and ask Parliament to provide increases representing £115,000 in order to grant relief from emergency cuts to a section of the community. I do not propose to detain the House any further. In these few words, I have indicated my attitude. I would go farther than Mr. Baxter. He proposes to re-enact Part V. of the original Act and I believe that the whole of the Act should be re-enacted, because the time is not yet ripe for it to be set aside. I will support Mr. Baxter and will give further support with the object of re-enacting the original Act. I shall vote for the second reading with a view to altering the Bill in Committee.

On motion by Hon. W. J. Mann, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.28 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 17th January, 1934.

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

QUESTION—RAILWAY PASSENGER COACHES.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is it the intention of the Railway Department to continue the use of A.C.W. passenger coaches on country lines? 2, If so, will he make one of the coaches available at the Central Railway Station for inspection by country members of Parliament and Press representatives?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Railways) replied: 1, Yes. 2, If desired, and provided 24 hours' notice is given, a coach could be made available at Perth.

QUESTION—WORKERS' HOMES, INTEREST RATE.

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Premier: 1, What is the interest rate on War Service homes? 2, What is the interest charged by the Workers' Homes Board? 3, As the income of the great majority of purchasers under the Workers' Homes Act, including State Government employees, has been subject to reductions, and in view of the reduced rate at which money is now available, will he consider reducing the interest for workers' homes to a rate more in line with present-day charges?

The PREMIER replied: 1, War Service homes are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, to whom any application for information on this subject should be made. 2, On loans approved prior to 1927—leasehold section, 5 per cent.; freehold section, 5½ per cent. On loans approved after 1927—leasehold section, 6 per cent.; freehold section, 6 per cent. The rates quoted under the freehold section are conditional on regular payment of monthly instalments, otherwise an additional ½ per cent. is charged. 3, Practically the whole of the capital invested by the Workers' Homes Board was raised overseas, and on this the Government have not yet benefited by interest reductions. It is, therefore, impossible to grant a reduction to clients, beyond that already made, which has itself resulted in a substantial loss to the Board.

QUESTION—BUTTER, PRICE STABILISATION.

Mr. J. H. SMITH asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Has he read and studied the scheme outlined by Mr. Locks, owner and manager of a butter factory, at a meeting

of dairy farmers recently held at Pemberton? 2, Does he propose to give effect by legislation to some of the proposals to stabilise the industry in Western Australia? 3, On account of legislation recently passed in the Eastern States, does he propose to introduce similar legislation to stabilise the price of butter and prevent increased imports at a price below that fixed in other parts of the Commonwealth? 4, Does he think it advisable to appoint a board of control separate from the Department of Agriculture to control the dairying industry both on the manufacturing and selling sides?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, The published statement has been read. 2, For some time past means for stabilising the butter industry in Western Australia have received consideration, and the interests of the producers are still being carefully watched. 3, No. The control legislation so beneficial to exporting States would be disadvantageous to Western Australian interests. 4, No.

SITTING DAYS AND HOURS.

On motion by the Premier, ordered: That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 4.30 p.m., and shall sit until 6.15 p.m. if necessary, and, if requisite, from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, PRECEDENCE.

On motion by the Premier, ordered: That Government business shall take precedence of all motions and orders of the day on all sitting days.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

On motion by the Premier, Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:—

Library Committee—Mr. Speaker, Miss Holman, and Mr. Patrick.

Standing Orders Committee—Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Griffiths, Hon. W. D. Johnson, and Mr. J. H. Smith.

House Committee—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lambert, Mr. McLarty, Mr. Stubbs, and Mr. Wilson.

Printing Committee—Mr. Speaker, Mr. J. MacCallum Smith, and Mr. Withers.

House adjourned at 4.38 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 18th January, 1934.

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Presentation.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I desire to announce that to-day I waited on His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor and presented to him the Address-in-reply, to which His Excellency has been pleased to make the following answer:—

Mr. President and hon. members of the Legislative Council, I thank you for your expressions of loyalty to His Most Gracious Majesty the King, and for your Address-in-reply to the Speech with which I opened Parliament. (Sgd.) James Mitchell, Lieut.-Governor.

QUESTION—WHEAT BONUS, DISTRIBUTION.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Is there any agreement between the Federal and State Governments regarding the distribution of the wheat bonus? 2, If so, on what terms will the bonus be distributed? 3, When will the distribution take place?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, There is no agreement, but the manner of the distribution of the bonus is prescribed in the Wheat Growers' Relief Act, 1933. 2, Answered by No. 1. 3, The Federal Government have notified that regulations are being framed and necessary forms printed, but these have not yet come to hand.

QUESTION—FINANCIAL EMERGENCY BILL.

Government Employees Benefited.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS asked the Chief Secretary: 1, How is the figure of £429, quoted as the highest rate of pay of any police official who will gain relief under the Financial Emergency Bill, arrived at? 2, (a) Is the rate of £324 per annum on the goldfields and £303 per annum elsewhere, quoted as the highest rate of pay of wages men in the Railway Department, the full remuneration of an employee known as a "first-class driver in charge"? (b) If not, what is the full remuneration paid to a "first-class driver in charge"? 3, Will a "first-class driver in charge" gain any relief under the Financial Emergency Bill?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Rate per annum as per award No. 1 of 1927 (see *W.A. Industrial Gazette* of 27-3-1929, Vol. VIII., No. 4, page 345), £531; plus increase in basic wage, £5; rate as on 30-6-1930, £536; less 20 per cent. under Financial Emergency Act, £107; £429. 2, (a) The rate of £324, or £303 for a driver in charge, is supplemented by a district allowance of £6 where such applies; but the district allowance is specifically excluded from "salary" for the purposes of the Financial Emergency Act. If Sunday-time or overtime is worked, the remuneration would be increased accordingly. (b) See (a). 3, Yes.

BILL—FINANCIAL EMERGENCY.

Personal Explanation.

HON. J. M. MACFARLANE (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.35]: On a point of personal explanation, I wish to state that yesterday the Honorary Minister challenged a statement I made in speaking on the second reading of the Financial Emergency Bill. I desire now to quote an extract from the "West Australian" of the 3rd March, 1933, reporting Mr. Collier's speech at the Perth Town Hall—

We would change the system of sustenance work, giving each man a period, say two or three months, at work on the basic wage; and the moment that period of work was over, the men would go back on sustenance.