

AYES.

Mr. Abbott
Mr. Brand
Mrs. Cardell-Oliver
Mr. Coverley
Mr. Cross
Mr. Doney
Mr. Hawke
Mr. Hoar
Mr. Keenan
Mr. Kelly
Mr. Leslie
Mr. McDonald
Mr. McLarty

Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Owen
Mr. Panton
Mr. Perkins
Mr. Read
Mr. Sheara
Mr. Styants
Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Watts
Mr. Willmott
Mr. Wise
Mr. Withers
Mr. Wilson

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Graham
Mr. J. Hegney
Mr. W. Hegney
Mr. Rodoreda

Mr. Smith
Mr. Triat
Mr. Marshall

(Teller.)

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

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

That the House at its rising adjourn till 11.0 a.m. today (Friday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 12.17 a.m. (Friday).

Legislative Council.

Friday, 13th December, 1946.

	PAGE
Question: Metropolitan water supply, as to bacteriological analyses	2863
Bills: Wheat Industry Stabilisation, 3r.	2864
Assembly's message	2864
Assembly's request for conference	2905
Conference managers' report	2906
Assembly's further message	2906
Road Districts Act Amendment (No. 1), Assembly's message	2864
Supreme Court Act Amendment, 1r., 2r., remaining stages	2864
Traffic Act Amendment (No. 1), Assembly's message	2865
Assembly's further message	2901
Economic Stability, Assembly's message	2867
Traffic Act Amendment (No. 3), 2r.	2867
Com. 3r., defeated	2867
Lotteries (Control) Act Amendment, returned	2872
Hairdressers Registration, Assembly's message	2872
State Housing, Assembly's message	2905
Conference managers' report	2905
Assembly's further message	2906
Vermia Act Amendment, Assembly's message	2875
Assembly's further message	2890
State (Western Australian) Alunite Industry, 2r., remaining stages	2877
Factories and Shops Act Amendment (No. 3), recom.	2882
Report, 3r.	2884
Assembly's message	2901
Milk, Assembly's message	2885
Assembly's request for conference, managers appointed	2906
Conference managers' report	2907
Assembly's further message	2909
Comprehensive Agricultural Areas and Goldfields Water Supply, Assembly's message	2890
Assembly's request for conference	2906
Conference managers' report	2907
Country Areas Water Supply, Assembly's message	2892
Assembly's request for conference	2906
As to conference procedure	2907
Conference managers' report	2893
Coal Mines Regulation, Assembly's message	2905
Assembly's further message	2894
Mines Regulation, Assembly's message	2895
Licensing Act Amendment, Com.	2895
Report, 3r.	2906
Assembly's message	2906
Fremantle Tramways and Electric Lighting Act Amendment, returned	2899
Appropriation, all stages	2899
Legislative Council (War Time) Electoral Act Amendment, returned	2901
Road Districts Act Amendment (No. 2)	2894
Assembly's amendments	2894
Electoral, South Province, seat declared vacant	2882
Motions: Juvenile delinquents, as to implementing Royal Commission's recommendations, defeated	2901
Road transport restrictions, to inquire by Select Committee, withdrawn	2903
Complimentary remarks	2907
Adjournment, special	2910

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 11 a.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY.

As to Bacteriological Analyses.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT asked the Chief Secretary:

1, Are periodical bacteriological analyses made of the water drawn from Mundaring,

We have been reminded by your predecessors in the presidential Chair, Sir, that the House is master of its own destinies. I admit that it is a tax on members to be kept here late at night, especially when they have the affairs of their constituents to attend to in the morning. I have not given as much study to the Auditor General's report as I would have liked. I am not a chartered accountant, but I say there are pointers in the report that deserve the attention of every member of Parliament. It is now that we should pay attention to the danger signals given to us by an officer who is the watchdog of the taxpayers' money and who is not subject to any Minister, but who reports direct to Parliament. I have received information which I cannot pass on to the House because it comes from a source I am not personally acquainted with; but the source speaks with close knowledge of what is going on at the alunite works. I shall therefore content myself by quoting from the Auditor General's report. At page 23 he has this to say—

Further loan fund expenditure by the State in connection with the establishment and working of a pilot plant for extraction of alumina from the residues at the works amounting to £37,523 7s. 11d. at the 30th June, 1946 has not been treated as a capital liability of the concern. This work has now been discontinued.

My advice is that this plant, which cost some £37,500, is lying absolutely idle and we can therefore say that the money has been wasted, although I hope that will not be the case. The fact remains, however, that a plant which cost £37,523 is now lying idle and is, to all intents and purposes, useless. That should point to the great necessity of having some experienced person to investigate fully the erection of plants such as this. Here I would remind the House that during the past few years we have had a motion on the notice paper—in fact, there is one on the notice paper now—requesting the Government to appoint a public works committee. Had we such a committee consisting of members of Parliament, it might be asked, "What experience would members of Parliament have to report on a plant like this?" But members of Parliament might have time to give sufficient consideration to such a question, with the help of expert opinion, and so save the expenditure of public money on the erection of useless plants. It may be that this money will not be wasted; I sincerely hope it will not.

However, I am dealing with the Auditor General's report, which tells us that after the expenditure of the amount of money I mentioned the plant is lying idle. On such a question, I think the Auditor General could say even more than he has. It is his business to audit the accounts and he might consider that he should not enlarge on questions of this sort. Therefore, it is for members to read his report and draw their own conclusions. The Minister, in his reply, might be able to tell us whether the management thinks it can make use of the plant in the future. I, like other members, am quite willing to applaud the Government for investigating every possible means of expanding our secondary industries; but, as with our private capital, we want to take every means not to waste public funds. If a man loses his own money, that is his lookout; but we have to be extremely careful when using other people's money. The Auditor General's report continues—

As capital moneys only were available interest due to the Treasury has not been paid. The amount outstanding comprised....

Then follow various items of interest, amounting in all to a little over £29,000. If this were a private concern, it would pay interest on that money; but, being a government concern, interest is not of very much moment. The report continues—

It is probable that had rent, administration and cartage costs been charged in the Trading Account there would have been no surplus available for amenities.

Later, the report continues—

The capital moneys expended on the buildings amount to approximately £3,500 and recoup for interest and depreciation thereon was due to the Development Expenses Account at the 30th June. Had these been charged it is probable there would have been no credit balance on either the Interest and Depreciation Reserve or the Trading Account at the 30th June. The only labour costs charged were direct wages plus a percentage for holiday pay and workers' compensation insurance. There was no charge for administration costs.

The Auditor General has this to say on the amount paid for goodwill, £14,000—

As previously reported this amount consists of £6,000 paid for the interests of certain persons in the original syndicate, and £8,000 expended in acquiring the shares of the other partners in the partnership. In effect, the £14,000 represents the cost to the State of the acquisition of the mineral leases, patents, assets and credits of the original syndicate,

but as pointed out in previous reports cannot be considered to be correctly described by the term "goodwill."

The Auditor General comments on vouchers as follows—

Many of the expenditure vouchers produced for inspection lacked the signatures of the officers who were responsible for receipt of the goods, although signed by the accountant. Chemistry and laboratory stores vouchers should bear the acknowledgment of the officer responsible in the laboratory, and those for supplies in the canteen and grocery store should be signed by the persons in charge.

I am not aware whether it is generally known that the management has during the last few weeks purchased a store that was conducted by a private person. That is all to the good, because the Government might be able to supply goods to the employees at the works at reduced rates; but such undertakings should be conducted on sound principles. The report proceeds—

The cheque endorsement in most cases is the only acknowledgment of payment, and in regard to those cheques issued prior to the 30th June, and still outstanding at the 31st August, 1946, it was not possible to vouch for payments. These have been listed for the next audit inspection.

For the past two years a rental payment of £1 per week has been paid to the accountant for the use of an adding machine and a typewriter, both his personal property. Any arrangement of such a nature is open to criticism.

The board of management has only recently been able to purchase an adding machine. Though that is a small matter, it was thought worthwhile to draw attention to it. For such a concern as that to have to be under an obligation to an employee for its office equipment is wrong. I hope the venture will prove successful, but great vigilance will be required on the part of officers such as the Auditor General. It is at the commencement of such ventures that strict business principles should be adhered to, because once established on firm foundations there is a greater chance of success. I am informed that the product is not of the best quality, and only time will tell whether we can run the venture successfully. However, the potash is urgently required and though the undertaking may not be a direct financial success it may be worthwhile indirectly. I urge the Government to insist that, as far as is humanly possible, sound business principles shall be adopted from the inception of

an undertaking that promises to cost such a great deal of public money.

HON. H. TUCKEY (South-West) [3.17]: I have been impressed by the utterances of the two previous speakers. I feel, with them, that this is a measure that should have been introduced at a time that would have allowed the House to give it proper consideration. This is an important and costly industry and I do not think it is fair that Parliament should not have an opportunity to give the Bill proper consideration. There are three things one could do; the first is to vote against the measure, the second to walk out and not vote on it, and the third to vote and take whatever risk there may be in doing so. If we reject the Bill it may hamper the Government, and I do not think any member desires to do that.

A risk must be taken in the development of certain of our industries, and I believe the Government can rest assured that this House will go a long way towards meeting it in the development of an industry such as this. As we have heard, there is no guarantee that the undertaking will be a success, and the quality of the product is subject to some doubt. Where such large sums are involved Parliament should be fully informed and should be given every opportunity to go into the pros and cons of the matter. I will vote for the second reading, but felt that I should explain my position and enter some small protest against the manner in which this and some other Bills have been introduced.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West—in reply) [3.20]: In the first place, I think every member realises the difficulties with which the management is faced in this undertaking. There is the difficulty of getting the requisite plant, among other things. Mention was made of an adding machine, but it must be remembered that such machines were not available in Australia. The claim for a subsidy is sound because, I am informed, the Government has to pay a subsidy of £6 per ton on potash that is imported. I therefore imagine this industry has a great claim for a subsidy from the Commonwealth Government. I agree with the remarks about the lateness of the hour at which the Bill has been received, but that is not altogether the fault of the Government. Recent happenings upset every-

thing, and but for that this Bill would have been before the House weeks ago.

I ask the House to pass the measure, which is absolutely necessary, and I am confident that, with the backing of Parliament, the officers concerned—I refer particularly to the director and his staff—will develop the project successfully. I think the outlook for the industry is bright. Any member who has time should visit the plant. I am sure those doing so will come away wishing the industry every success. It will be remembered that the State would have been in a bad way without potash, which was unprocureable. At that time the potash produced here was of lower quality than the imported article, but it is improving and in the course of time I think it will equal the imported product. It is imperative that statutory authority be given to continue this enterprise, which means so much to Western Australia.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

Third Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West) [3.24]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central) [3.25]: I apologise for having missed this important item until now. But I feel I must call attention to the fact that in his report the Auditor General said—

Although my signature appears on the balance sheet I have not certified it as a correct statement of the financial position of the concern as at the 30th June, 1946, in view of the comments contained in this report.

I reiterate a warning of the great necessity for seeing that this venture, which is to cost the taxpayers so many hundreds of thousands of pounds, is started off on the right lines, and I earnestly hope that the warning conveyed by the Auditor General will be heeded.

HON. A. THOMSON (South-East) [3.28]: I wish to place on record that the main reason why I have objected to the in-

troduction of a measure of this kind is that members have not had opportunity even of reading the Bill, let alone of understanding it. We have dealt with a Bill of 36 clauses, without having had time to understand what the measure contains. I am opposed to this method which has, unfortunately, been adopted by this and other Governments in bringing down legislation. I say frankly that I have not the faintest idea of what the Bill contains and neither has any other member. I enter this protest and, as I voted against the second reading, so I shall vote against the third reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

ELECTORAL—SOUTH PROVINCE.

Seat Declared Vacant.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [3.31]. I move (without notice)—

That this House resolves that, owing to the death of the Hon. James Cornell, late member for South Province, the seat be declared vacant.

This motion is necessary to comply with the Constitution, and it is with very deep regret that I move it.

Question put and passed.

BILL—FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 3).

Recommittal.

On motion by Hon. C. F. Baxter, Bill recommitted for the further consideration of Clauses 3 and 4.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clause 3—Repeal of Section 28:

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: By this clause Section 28 is to be repealed and by Clause 4 Section 29 is to be amended. This proposal will make it impossible for men to work the 44-hour week in five days. Section 28 provides for a 48-hour week and eight hours in any one day. Section 29 sets out the hours of work as 8½ per day for females and boys under 16. That will be all right, but the Bill will bring men into the same category as women and boys. This provision is merely in keeping with the rest of the Bill, which is

a shocking measure, badly conceived and badly drafted. The only thing to do will be to retain Clause 3 and delete Clause 4.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—Amendment of Section 29:

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I hope the clause will be struck out. It is of no use putting an unworkable provision in the measure. A man would have to work eight hours 48 minutes a day in order to get in his weekly total.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The hon. member is mistaken. Under his proposal men would not be covered by this legislation. Nobody is working 44 hours a week in five days apart from those under Arbitration Court awards. The clause deals with people in the country who do not come under awards. The Minister in another place refused a request similar to that made by the hon. member. It is not the policy of the Government to legislate for anything that can be done by the court. The hon. member need have no worry about the clause. With his help, a good job has been made of the Bill.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: This provision will amount to an award brought about by Act of Parliament. We are being asked to set down wages, working hours, annual leave and everything pertaining to an award.

Hon. L. Craig: But this applies only to people who do not come under awards.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Yes, but those people could come under awards by joining unions that are operating in the South-West Land Division. The Bill is really an organising measure. It would be wrong to bring men under a provision dealing with women and boys and the conditions applicable to them.

Hon. A. THOMSON: The whole of Section 9 deals entirely with women and boys. Why is it deemed necessary to bring men under that section? The Minister says that if that is not done they will be outside the Arbitration Court award.

The Honorary Minister: Not outside the award, but outside the operations of this Act.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Does not the Factories and Shops Act provide that certain wages and conditions must apply throughout? It deals with men, women and child-

ren, and not with women only. So far as I am concerned, the 44-hour week will be granted by the Arbitration Court. I have had a communication from people in my district objecting to the passage of the provision.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I cannot understand anyone from Katanning writing to the hon. member. Speaking from memory, I think that in Katanning, both shop assistants and everybody else that this amendment will affect, come under Arbitration Court awards. Most people work 44 hours, many in five days, but only when it has been declared that shall be so by the court. The only way to obtain what the hon. member wants is by means of an amendment to paragraph (b). It says that employees shall not work more than 8½ hours. Obviously, 44 hours cannot be worked in five days at 8½ hours a day, so it was proposed that 8 hours 40 minutes should be worked per day. That was suggested by a member of the Liberal Party in another place, but the Minister refused to accept the amendment on the ground that neither the Government nor Parliament wished to usurp the functions of the Arbitration Court. If Clause 4 is taken out of the Bill, the men that do not come under awards are removed from the operations of the Act. I do not think that is the wish of any member, no matter to what party he belongs. Not even Mr. Baxter would agree that we should deprive of the benefits of this measure men who are not protected by unions and Arbitration Court awards. It is proposed to insert the word "man" in Section 29, which will then provide for a 44-hour week for men and women and boys and girls.

Hon. W. J. Mann: It did not before.

The HONORARY MINISTER: No. In the Act 48 hours were provided, and the object of the amendment is to provide 44 hours, which are being worked now; the idea is to make it legal. This deals only with people who do not come under Arbitration Court awards. Surely the Committee will not agree to scrap the Bill after all the discussion that has taken place! Mr. Baxter said the Bill met with his wishes the other day. I hope he will accept my assurance that the only course open is to insert a provision prescribing a 44-hour week to be worked in five days.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: It is plain that the Minister has not grasped the situation. Clause 3 deletes Section 28 of the Act, and that section sets out the hours of work. By the repeal of Section 28 we automatically bring these people under a 44-hour week, and that cannot be done under Clause 4. How are they going to work the 44 hours? They cannot do it in five days.

The HONORARY MINISTER: The men this applies to are those working in shops in little country towns. They will have a half-day off and do their 44 hours in five days and a half. I hold the hon. member to his word. He said he was satisfied with the Bill. There were difficulties, but they were quickly overcome; the hon. member agreed, and I thought everything was fixed.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	9
Noes	..	..	..	13

Majority against .. 4

AYES.

Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. W. R. Hall
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. G. Bennetts
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. A. Thomson
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. A. L. Irlon	Hon. L. Craig
Hon. W. J. Mann.	(Teller.)

PAIR.

AVE.	No.
Hon. C. B. Williams	Hon. C. H. Simpson

Clause thus negatived.

Bill again reported with a further amendment and the reports adopted.

Third Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West) [4.0]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Sitting suspended from 4.1 to 4.15 p.m.

HON. C. F. BAXTER (East) [4.15]: I hope the House will reject the Bill on the third reading because of the precedent it seeks to set up. It will supersede the Arbitration Act and the Arbitration Court. To my mind we have the best Industrial Arbitration Act in the world and since the ap-

pointment of a permanent president in 1926 splendid work has been carried out. Applications to the court are dealt with expeditiously and full consideration is given to every matter brought before it. With the advantage of all the evidence it has before it and its opportunities to investigate, apart from the very nature of its work, the Arbitration Court is in a much better position than Parliament to reach a conclusion in matters dealt with in the Bill which concerns wages, working conditions, annual leave, sick leave and so on, all of which are usually dealt with in awards of the court. Surely we should not create a precedent and turn Parliament into an Arbitration Court. The position is wrong. I shall vote against the third reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West—in reply) [4.17]: Some 26 years ago this House passed a comprehensive Factories and Shops Act to cover matters that the Arbitration Court could not touch at all. The big problem today is to encourage people to live in the country areas. Some few hundred people are living in small towns and working in shops. Most of them are not in a position to belong to any union.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Why?

The HONORARY MINISTER: It would not be possible unless they were to send their money to the union every week or do something else.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Where does the union organiser come in?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I am surprised to hear Mr. Baxter submit such an argument. All we have heard previously is that the small country storekeeper and others do not want the union organiser trotting round their premises and causing trouble. If people in the country towns are to be contented, they must have satisfactory wages and conditions. Unless something is done to assist in that direction the Arbitration Court awards that apply in the metropolitan area will prove a magnet to draw the workers from the country areas to the city. Large numbers of young men and married men are working in country towns. The Committee passed amendments the effect of which would be to eliminate married men from the application of this legislation, leaving them powerless and at the mercy of

unscrupulous employers. The Bill deals only with people who cannot be covered by Arbitration Court awards and will have the effect of applying to them conditions and wages comparable with those enjoyed by workers in the city. By asking the House to reject the Bill, Mr. Baxter is working against the best interests of the country districts.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

BILL—MILK.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly notifying that it had agreed to amendments Nos. 3, 4 and 12 made by the Council and had disagreed to Nos. 1, 2, 5 to 11 inclusive and 13 to 20 inclusive now considered.

In Committee.

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

No. 1. Clause 9, page 6: Add a new subclause (3) as follows:—

(3) Where the area under the control of any local health authority is not itself declared a dairy area and is not included in an area which has been so declared the Governor may for such period as he thinks fit confer by notice in the "Government Gazette" upon such a local health authority such of the powers as are by this Act given to the Milk Board as the Governor deems necessary to control efficiently in the area under the control of such local health authority the production and distribution of milk. By a subsequent notice in the "Government Gazette" the Governor may extend such period and if during any such period or extended period the area under the control of the local health authority as aforesaid is declared a dairy area or becomes included in an area which is so declared the powers conferred by the Governor as aforesaid upon such local health authority shall ipso facto be withdrawn.

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly's reasons for disagreeing are—

This amendment is unnecessary. The Health Act and by-laws made thereunder already give to local authorities adequate powers to control

the production and distribution of milk from a hygienic standpoint. The Milk Bill provides for the payment of compensation in certain circumstances where cattle are tested for disease and are destroyed, and the Treasury contributes to the Compensation Fund on a £ for £ basis. Only the Milk Board, which is under the control of the Minister, can be entrusted with the expenditure of moneys from the Compensation Fund.

The Milk Board will act in conformity with certain policies, and if local authorities were acting independently under powers derived from the Milk Act, there would be a lack of uniformity in administration which is one of the things the Bill is intended to prevent.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

The reasons given by the Assembly are on all fours with the arguments I used when I dealt with this matter in Committee.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I ask the Committee to adhere to all the amendments we made to the Bill. When we had hours available to us to discuss this important measure, we came to certain conclusions embodied in these amendments, and nothing has happened since then to alter the position. The Assembly's statement that this amendment is unnecessary is, to my mind, untrue. I made it quite clear that local authorities in particular instances desired to control the milk supplies in their areas. An application by the Northam local authorities for permission to purchase local milk supplies, pasteurise them and send the commodity out to its people was refused. That is the power that the local authorities want. The Bunbury Municipal Council is considering pasteurising milk within its own boundaries for the purposes of sale. The statement that we will have lack of uniformity if local authorities act independently carries no weight because if the Milk Board's operations are restricted to the metropolitan area there will obviously be lack of uniformity throughout the State. If the Bill goes to a conference it might be possible to agree to some modifications and perhaps leave the matter of compensation in the hands of the board. Even in Sweden and Denmark there is no over-all government control, but over-all control is vested in various bodies.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: This matter was considered by the Kalgoorlie Municipal Council last week and it is the desire of that council that control should be exer-

cised by a board, for the reason that the Goldfields dairymen have been at a disadvantage for a number of years.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	..	9
Noes	..	..	..	..	16

Majority against	..	7
------------------	----	---

AYES.

Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. W. R. Hall
Hon. E. H. Gray	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. O. F. Baxter	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. A. Thomson
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. A. L. Lotton	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. W. J. Mann	Hon. L. B. Bolton
	(Teller.)

Question thus negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

No. 2. Clause 11 (a), page 7: Add a new proviso as follows:—

Provided that one of these persons appointed under this section shall be a legally qualified medical practitioner holding a diploma of public health or a person possessing the degree of bachelor of agricultural science or of bachelor of veterinary science.

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

The amendment too drastically restricts the choice of consumers' representatives. Expert opinion can readily be obtained by the board at any time.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

I do so for the reasons given by the Assembly.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: This is an amendment to which the Committee gave considerable thought. No real improvement in the standard of a commodity can be made by a board of lay members who seek expert advice; it is better to have an expert member on the board constantly advising the members.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

No. 5. Clause 27: Delete.

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

The Board is charged with very great responsibilities and given very wide powers. The control of the milk industry is a matter of major public interest. Many actions of the Board could result in heavy expenditure for the Government and it is, therefore, necessary that the Government should have power to intervene. The power of veto under the clause has been in the Act since 1933 and has never yet been exercised. It is not intended that there should be any interference with the Board in its general administration, but it is vital to retain the power to veto any act or proceeding of the Board as ultimately the Government of the day must take responsibility for the actions of the Board.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: This is a clause to which we almost unanimously took exception. This power should not be given, in view of an earlier clause in the Bill.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

No. 6. Clause 31 (1), page 19: Delete the words "the Minister" in line 2 and substitute the words "a Magistrate."

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly's reasons for disagreeing to amendments Nos. 6 to 11 are—

The amendments would occasion delays with resultant increased costs for compensation but no corresponding benefit.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

I spent much time in endeavouring to persuade the Committee that this would lead to inevitable delays for which there would be no justification, but the Committee did not agree with me.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I press the amendment. It was felt that it would be wiser to have these matters made public, rather than that they should be dealt with by the Minister.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I suggest there would be infinitely more delay if the Minister were to hear the appeal. He might be away or Parliament might be sitting and he would thus be unable to give the matter attention, whereas the magistrate is always available.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I think Mr. Parker's argument is groundless.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

No. 7. Clause 31: Delete Subclause (2).

No. 8. Clause 31 (3): Delete the word "Minister" in line 8 and substitute the word "Magistrate."

No. 9. Clause 32 (2), page 19: Delete the word "Minister" in line 18 and substitute the word "Magistrate."

No. 10. Clause 32 (2), page 19: Delete the word "Minister" in line 27 and substitute the word "Magistrate."

No. 11. Clause 34 (4), page 20: Delete the word "Minister" in line 40 and substitute the word "Magistrate."

The CHAIRMAN: I have already stated the Assembly's reasons for disagreeing to these amendments.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That amendments Nos. 7 to 11 be not insisted on.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendments insisted on.

No. 13. Clause 59 (b), (ii), page 30: Delete the word "Minister" in line 24 and substitute the word "Magistrate."

No. 14. Clause 59. (i), (i), page 32: Delete the word "Minister" in line 14 and substitute the word "Magistrate."

No. 15. Clause 59 (i), page 32: Add at the end of subparagraph (i) in line 16 the words "and the decision of the magistrate shall be final and conclusive: Provided that where the claim is made in respect of the destruction of diseased dairy cattle, the appeal (if any) shall be made to the Minister, who shall appoint a competent person to act as arbitrator and hear and determine the appeal in the manner prescribed by regulations, and the decision of the arbitrator shall be final and conclusive."

No. 16. Clause 59, paragraph (i), page 32: Delete subparagraph (ii).

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly's reason for disagreeing to amendments Nos. 13 to 16 is—

Consequential on disagreement with amendments Nos. 6 to 11.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That amendments Nos. 13 to 16 be not insisted on.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendments insisted on.

No. 17, Clause 74 (1), page 35: Delete the words "Minister may with the approval of the" in line 20.

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly's reason for disagreeing to amendments Nos. 17 and 18 is—

The wording in the Bill is preferable to that contained in the amendment.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I must insist on this amendment, and I ask for the support of the Committee.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

No. 18. Clause 74, (1), page 35: Insert after the word "Governor" in line 21 the word "may."

The CHAIRMAN: I have already stated the Assembly's reason for disagreeing to the amendment.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

No. 19. New Clause: Insert a new clause after Clause 26 to stand as Clause 27 as follows:—

27. On and after 1st September, 1949, no milk shall be sold in the metropolitan area unless such milk has been pasteurised in conformity with the definition contained in the Food and Drug Regulations and bottled and capped in conformity with regulations issued by the Board.

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

The amendment is impractical and contrary to adopted policies in various countries which provide for improving the quality of milk by bringing the health of dairy animals under State supervision, encouraging the production and consumption of T.T. milk and making subject to heat treatment as high a proportion of milk other than T.T. as is practicable.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

I hope the Committee will support me in the case of this vital amendment, though it has supported Dr. Hislop on the preceding amendments.

Hon. L. CRAIG: I hope the Committee will agree with the Minister and not insist on the amendment. It is wrong for this Committee to lay down a date on which pasteurisation of milk shall be compulsory in the metropolitan area. The dairymen of the metropolitan area are bitterly opposed to this provision and fear that they are to have an added cost put on their milk supply without any addition in the price received.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I ask the Committee to continue its support, for which I have been grateful. On this question depends whether we are to have a wholesome milk supply within the next three years. In any case many firms will instal pasteurisation plant within that time. I have previously spoken at length on the need for this provision. I think Mr. Craig's fears are entirely groundless. I would be the last person to attempt to put any increased cost on to the producers, because I do not think they get sufficient now. I believe the big leak lies in the distribution. I have pointed out that milk can be pasteurised, bottled and delivered in Melbourne for the same cost as is taken up in distribution alone here. Ours is a small community and I think we should introduce this health measure, on which we will be able to look back with pride. The Minister does not like the provision because it would mean that milk bars would be inconvenienced in the matter of storage space, but surely we cannot accept that as a reason for not introducing a measure to protect the health of the people. It is possible that in conference it might be agreed that bulk pasteurisation would be practicable under certain conditions.

The Chief Secretary: I would not rely too much on that.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I do not like bulk pasteurisation, but it might be possible to come to some compromise on the matter. Surely we must take steps to protect the public against bacterial infection of food either eaten or drunk. I ask the Committee to support the amendment.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I opposed the amendment when it was inserted in the Bill principally on the ground that, from the small amount of research I have been able to do, I was not convinced that pasteurisation is a complete answer to the

situation. I admire the pertinacity with which Dr. Hislop has pursued his subject, but I think we would be unwise arbitrarily to fix a date for the commencement of compulsory pasteurisation. We do not know what circumstances may arise, making it impossible for the scheme to be put into effect.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: We could then amend the legislation.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: If pasteurisation will do all Dr. Hislop claims for it, the cost might be justified, and the sooner it is brought into operation the better, but I think that the fixing of a date at this stage is unwarranted.

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: I would like to be advised whether the wording in subparagraphs (1) to (4) of paragraph (a) of Subclause (1) empower the board at any time, and on giving such notice as is thought desirable, to introduce the compulsory pasteurisation of milk. If so, I am inclined to think that, with a good board, it would be better to leave the introduction of compulsory pasteurisation to that body, acting on the knowledge and experience it will have gained, rather than for us to say that in three years' time compulsory pasteurisation shall be brought into effect. If the words to which I have referred do not afford that power, I think such power should be given.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Those words do give the board power to bring pasteurisation into operation at any time. I have pointed out that the board is as keen as is Dr. Hislop to get a pure milk supply and to get pasteurisation when possible in a reasonable way. My objection to the amendment was that it would be compulsory on everybody, not only that those connected with the industry should provide pasteurised milk, but also that the public of the metropolitan area should accept pasteurised milk. There are methods of treatment in other places deemed to be superior to pasteurising. Three years is not a long period, and I do not think it would be practicable to arrange for the treatment of all the milk in that time, unless we put out of business a number of people who are now pasteurising milk, because the scheme would be possible only if all the milk passed through one or two depots.

Hon. W. J. MANN: I have consulted people who have had a wide experience of pasteurisation. There is a man in Perth who has spent most of his life in the milk business, and he said pasteurisation is undoubtedly desirable and that either pasteurisation or some other process was sure to come. He said there would be no great difficulty in making provision for pasteurisation, and when I suggested a period of three years, he replied that even with the difficulty of obtaining the apparatus, it could be done easily. I asked whether pasteurisation was likely to result in added cost and he said that to the average consumer it would be very small. Therefore I support Dr. Hislop.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I thank Mr. Mann for his statement, which is word for word with what I have told members. If we do not insist on the amendment, we shall be left entirely in the hands of the Government to decide whether we have a lay board or a technical board. If we could get a good board with a vision of hygiene, we would be safe in leaving the matter to the board. If this amendment is not insisted on, it may be very difficult to get pasteurisation provided for again. I must draw swords with the Chief Secretary when he claims that the Bill empowers the board to bring in pasteurisation. On the face of it, that is so, but the trouble is that the Minister will have the right of veto and the Minister has already said that he is not in favour of pasteurisation. What chance would there be of getting pasteurisation at an early date when we have a board with superficial powers to effect improvements whose Minister has the power of veto and does not believe that pasteurisation has yet been scientifically proved? If the amendment be insisted on, there will be ample room for compromise.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The sooner Dr. Hislop changes his mind about the capacity of a lay board, the better it will be. I resent his suggestion that a lay board cannot deal with matters of this sort and that; with the appointment of a professional man to the board, it would be satisfactory. I challenge him on his statements in that connection on the ground that the members of the Milk Board, as at present constituted, are just as capable of dealing with hygienic aspects as would be the professional men he suggests.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: One has only to read the report of the departmental committee to realise that the only person on it against pasteurisation is the chairman of the Milk Board.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

No. 20. New Clause: Insert a new clause after new Clause 27 to stand as Clause 28 as follows:—

28. The Board is authorised to permit persons to whom a treatment license has been granted to enter into an agreement or agreements with a producer or producers for the supply of milk of a higher butter-fat content than that laid down as the minimum in the Food and Drug Regulations, provided that any agreement or agreements to be entered into under the clause are submitted to and approved by the Board.

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly's reasons for disagreeing are—

The Board for years past has provided by agreements between dairymen and milk vendors for the supply of milk of a higher butter-fat and solids-not-fat content than is provided under the Food and Drug Regulations. Power to enable the Board to make, settle and approve contracts is contained in G of Section 26, page 14 of the Bill. A similar clause exists in the Act. The Board's powers in this regard are absolutely unqualified.

Experience has shown that the Milk Board is in a stronger position in working under a section of the Act which is unqualified than one that is qualified in any degree. The amendment, which is only permissive, does not strengthen the clause.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I gave reasons for this amendment when the Bill was in Committee. Having seen the standard of milk in other States, I suggest that we would be wise to retain this provision, even though the board may be making arrangements for the supply of milk of a higher quality because a dairyman might say to the depot people, "No, my milk is above the standard laid down in the Health Act and you must accept it." We must set out to raise the standard within proper limits.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

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

BILL—VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT.*Assembly's Further Message.*

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it no longer disagreed to amendments Nos. 2 and 3 insisted on by the Council.

BILL—COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.*Assembly's Message.*

Message from the Assembly notifying that it had disagreed to the amendment made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

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

Clause 7—Delete the words "may in his absolute discretion" in the seventh line of the clause and substitute the word "shall."

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

The amendment would have the effect of undermining the financial stability of the proposed comprehensive scheme and therefore may prevent the Government from proceeding with the scheme.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I ask the Committee to insist on its amendment. There is, in our opinion, an alternative proposal, suggested in another place and suggested here, that water could be taken to the towns that need it much more economically than in the way this scheme proposes. To bring all the farmers into the scheme willy-nilly means that the Government is regarding this rate per acre merely as a taxing measure to finance the supply of water to the towns. On the general outline of the scheme, it is not expected that the farmers who will be asked to pay 5d. an acre will use the water. Whilst there was discretionary power for the Minister in the Bill before this amendment was made, I submit that is not worth anything in view of the fact that we have the Minister insisting that he must have this provision in the Act in order to finance the scheme. I hope that, for the protection of those people who have provided all the water they need and who for a couple of hundred pounds can provide what they need in the

immediate future as against £1,400 which would be payable under the scheme, the Committee will insist on the amendment.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	..	8
Noes	..	..	..	..	15

Majority against .. 7

AYES.

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

Hon. W. R. Hall
Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. W. H. Kilson
Hon. G. Fraser
(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter
Hon. L. B. Bolton
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch
Hon. L. Craig
Hon. R. M. Forrest
Hon. E. H. H. Hall
Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. A. L. Loton

Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. A. Thomson
Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. H. Tuckey
(Teller.)

PAY.**AYE.**

Hon. C. B. Williams

NO.

Hon. C. H. Simpson

Question thus negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

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

BILL—WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILISATION.*Assembly's Message.*

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to amendments Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10, had disagreed to Nos. 7, 8 and 9, and had agreed to No. 1 subject to a further amendment.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

No. 7. Clause 9, page 5: Add after the word "Act" in line 28 the words "subject however to the provisions of Subsection 31 of Section 51 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act."

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

It would be impracticable to give this power to growers against the State Act or board as if a grower considered that he was not receiving a just price he could proceed against the State board who would be bound to pay the price determined by the Commonwealth; and if the court ruled that the price paid by the

Commonwealth was not a just one, then the State board would be liable for the difference. In other words, the State board would have to bear the brunt of any mistakes made by the Commonwealth under its stabilisation legislation.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I think the reasons given are very convincing. I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I hope the Committee will insist on this amendment. The very purpose for which I moved in this way is the reason given by the Assembly for disagreeing, that is, that the producer should have an opportunity to insist on a fair and just price, and that the confiscatory provisions in the Federal legislation may not thus be legalised through State legislation.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

No. 8. Clause 20, page 9,—Delete Sub-clause (2).

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

The inclusion of this provision is essential to the working of the scheme and is in conformity with present stabilisation regulations.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Those reasons are the same as I gave when I opposed the amendment. The mover of this amendment should bow to reasonable argument and support my motion. I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I trust the Committee will insist on this amendment. It was submitted by Mr. Parker who demonstrated the desirability of removing that part of the clause.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

No. 9. New Clause—Insert a new clause after Clause 17 to stand as Clause 18 as follows:—

18. This Act shall have no application to any wheat harvested prior to the 30th day of April, 1947.

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

The feature of this legislation is uniformity in essentials with all States and conformity with the Commonwealth Act. Western Australia could not participate in a scheme on the condition imposed by the amendment.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It must be obvious that we could not accept that amendment because the scheme would not be workable. I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: I hope the Committee will insist on this. I agree that there must be uniformity, and there is no reason why the Eastern States should not fall into line with Western Australia. The other States have not yet passed this legislation.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	..	6
Noes	..	..	..	..	14
					—
Majority against	..	..	..	..	8
					—

AYES.			
Hon. G. Bennetts		Hon. E. M. Heenan	
Hon. J. M. Drew		Hon. W. H. Kitson	
Hon. E. H. Gray		Hon. W. R. Hall	(Teller.)

NOES.			
Hon. G. F. Baxter		Hon. W. J. Mann	
Hon. L. B. Bolton		Hon. H. S. W. Parker	
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch		Hon. H. L. Roche	
Hon. R. M. Forrest		Hon. H. Tuckey	
Hon. E. H. H. Hall		Hon. F. R. Welsh	
Hon. J. G. Hislop		Hon. G. B. Wood	
Hon. A. L. Loton		Hon. L. Craig	(Teller.)

PAIRS.			
Hon. C. B. Williams		Hon. C. H. Simpson	
Hon. G. Fraser		Hon. A. Thomson	

Question thus negatived; the Council's amendment insisted on.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! It would be a great help to the Chairman, and would facilitate the Committee work if members would be more vocal. In the last two or three Committees I have given some entirely wrong decisions. I have based them on the voices, and the divisions have shown entirely different results.

No. 1. Clause 2 (1), page 1—Delete all words after the word "unless" in line 9 to end of the subclause and substitute the following words:—"and until the Government has thoroughly examined the effect—

(a) of the most recent Federal wheat legislation including the imposition of retrospective Federal taxation on the proceeds of the 1945-46 crop;

(b) of the possibility of the creation of a Western Australian pool as part of a national stabilisation scheme and has after inquiry determined that the proposal contained in the Bill is in the best interests of the wheatgrowers of Western Australia."

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly agrees to the Council's amendment subject to the Council's making a further amendment as follows:—

Delete from the amendment the words:—

"Delete all words after the word 'unless' in line 9 to the end of the subclause and substitute the following words," and insert in the amendment the following words:—"Insert after the word 'operation' in line 9 the following words:—."

Note: The initial word "and" in the words proposed to be inserted to be transposed to the end.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I move—

That the amendment, as amended, be agreed to.

Hon. G. B. WOOD: This applies to an amendment that I moved, and I agree that the Assembly's amendment is satisfactory.

Question put and passed; the Assembly's amendment to the Council's amendment agreed to.

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

BILL—COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly notifying that it disagreed to amendments Nos. 1 to 4 made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

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

No. 1. Clause 66 (2), page 26: Add after the word "rated," in line 21, the following words:—"or 3 per cent. of the unimproved value of such land, whichever is the lesser, such unimproved value to be determined by the Minister on application by the owner."

No. 2. Clause 66 (2), page 26: Delete in paragraph (b) of the proviso to Subclause (2) all the words after the word "Minister" in line 38 to the end of such paragraph and substitute the following words:—"shall stipulate an amount of water rate to be charged against and be paid in respect of such holding for a period of seven years next following the commencement of rating but so that the amount of water rate to be paid by such ratepayer shall be the same amount in each

year of such period and shall not in any one year during such period be more than a sum computed at the rate of twopence per acre of the area of the holding or the sum of two pounds whichever shall be the greater amount."

No. 3. Clause 66: Add to the proviso to Subclause (2) a new paragraph to stand as paragraph (c) as follows:—

(c) Any owner or occupier may within one month from the service on him of a notice of assessment of the amount of water rate to be charged under the provisions of the last preceding paragraph appeal against such assessment and any such appeal shall be made heard and determined in the manner provided in Division two of this part of this Act.

No. 4. Clause 66: Add to the proviso to Subclause (2) a new paragraph to stand as paragraph (d) as follows:—

(d) Where not less than fifty per cent. of the owners of ratable land in any portion of the country water area, such portion comprising not less than fifty thousand acres and not being a townsite, petition the Minister in writing asking that the holdings comprised in such area shall not be ratable under this Act, and stating that the majority of such owners do not desire to be supplied with water under this Act on the ground that they have supplies of water previously provided upon their own holdings at their own expense sufficient for all their purposes, holdings in such portion of the country water area shall not be supplied with water and shall not be ratable under this Act.

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

The amendments would have the effect of undermining the financial stability of the proposed comprehensive scheme and therefore might prevent the Government from proceeding with the scheme.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: In order to facilitate matters and in view of the decision on the previous Bill, I suggest that we deal with the message en bloc and that will save considerable time. I move—

That amendments Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 be not insisted on.

Question put and negatived; the Council's amendments insisted on.

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

BILL—COAL MINES REGULATION.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly notifying that it had agreed to amendments Nos. 1, 3 and 5 and had disagreed to Nos. 2 and 4 now considered.

In Committee.

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

No. 2. Clause 31 (9), page 19: Insert after the word "by" in line 14 the words "the owner or manager or."

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly's reasons for disagreeing are—

In this case the miners seek the removal of the weigher on the grounds that his duties are being performed improperly and it appears to be illogical to ask the owner or manager of the mine to support the miners in their case for the removal of the weigher, as the companies have the power to dismiss the checker immediately if he is guilty of any misdemeanour.

It would be equally illogical to ask that the miners support the mine manager or owner in a case for the removal of the check weigher who is the employee of the miners, as in this case the miners can bring about the dismissal of the check weigher for misdemeanour in the same way as a mine manager or employer can dismiss his own employee.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be not insisted on. The reasons given by the Assembly are perfectly logical, and are the ones I previously gave.

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

No. 4. Clause 41 (1), page 27: Insert after the word "at" at the end of line 28 the words "or about."

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

This amendment appears to be far too broad to be safe. The Bill provides for third-class certificates for deputies and also for workmen's inspectors. Both these men should have sufficient knowledge to be able to direct the boring, charging and firing of faces, and also to direct timbering, so as to make all faces and drives adjacent to faces safe for working.

It should go without argument that unless these men have at least twelve months of actual

experience in a face they would be incompetent to direct more experienced miners as to the fit and proper methods from both the economical working and from the point of view of safety. Incompetent direction by responsible officers may ultimately be costly to the mine owners as well as to those employed in the mine.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I propose to move that the amendment be not insisted on. This deals with the qualification of men who are to be held responsible underground for directing work, and it is essential that those qualifications should be adequate to protect the interests of the men under their control.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Since the Bill was amended in the Council, I have made inquiries and conferred with a man who is extremely competent in these matters. He advised me that the wording of the Bill is correct. We are at one as to the objective, and it is merely a question of words. He explained to me that "at the coal face" meant work right up at the face, and would cover the work of boring, charging, and so on, but it would not cover timbering and so forth. The Assembly, in the reasons given, include the words "in a face." The gentleman I referred to said that in England the term used was "on the face." He said those were the correct words. It is only a question of arriving at the correct expression in order to give effect to the intention.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: These expressions have a particular meaning in the industry. I hope the hon. member will not insist on the insertion of the word.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The person to whom I referred, and whose name I cannot divulge, said that the expression used in England was "on the face." The expression "at the face" in Western Australia means working at the face and not about it. The present expression will not convey the correct meaning.

Hon. W. J. MANN: I took the opportunity to question some colliers who are in town today, and they explained to me that our term has a different meaning in New South Wales. The expression "at or about" would include shift men who do all types of work. The expression "at the face" actually means hewing coal. The expression "at or about" seems to cover the position in a better way.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I can quite understand the Minister's skilled advisers telling him that the safest policy is to adhere to the term "at the face." That would refer to the actual miner, not the man who is pushing trucks or doing other work underground.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: Although I supported Mr. Parker, I have now decided that the Minister is correct.

Hon. W. J. MANN: If the words "at the face" remain, the object of the clause will be defeated. A man working at the face would not be the all-round man meant by the clause.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I can only assume that the expression used is one well understood in the industry. Would Mr. Parker consider that the words "in or at" would cover the position?

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Yes.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Mr. Chairman, will you accept an amendment to insert in the amendment the word "in" and strike out the word "about?"

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be amended by striking out the word "about" and inserting the word "in" in lieu.

Amendment on amendment put and passed: the amendment, as amended, agreed to.

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

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

BILL—MINES REGULATION.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to amendments Nos. 1 to 6 and No. 8 made by the Council, and had agreed to No. 7 subject to a further amendment.

In Committee.

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

No. 7. Clause 61, page 28: Insert a new subclause after Subclause (2) to stand as Subclause (3) as follows:—

(3) Before any regulation or by-law or amendment of any regulation or by-law

is made under or by virtue of this Act, a copy of such regulation or by-law or amendment shall first be submitted to the Chamber of Mines and the mining branch of the Australian Workers' Union.

The CHAIRMAN: The Assembly agrees to the Council's amendment subject to the Council's making a further amendment to insert after the word "shall" in line 4 of proposed new Subclause (3) the words "where practicable."

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment, as amended, be agreed to.

From time to time in outback places it might be difficult to consult either the union or the Chamber of Mines in time for the regulation to be really effective.

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: I take it we must assume that a reasonable definition will be given to the words "where practicable."

Hon. W. J. MANN: The definition is very wide. A case might arise where one side would be consulted and the other ignored, and I think we should make sure that that is not possible.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: We will be dealing with regulations that must be laid on the Table of the House, so that Parliament can deal with them.

Question put and passed; the Assembly's amendment to the Council's amendment agreed to.

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

BILL—ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Assembly's Amendments.

Returned from the Assembly with schedule of six amendments which were now considered.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 11, Subclause (2): Insert after the word "unoccupied" in line 14 the words "or out of production."

No. 2. Clause 12, page 7, line 12: Insert after the word "hook" the words "kept at the Land Titles Office."

No. 3. Clause 12, page 12, line 6: Before the word "Act" insert the word "Bank."

No. 4. Clause 12, page 13, lines 18 to 25: Delete the proviso.

On motions by the Honorary Minister, the foregoing amendments were agreed to.

No. 5. Clause 14, page 17: After the word "by" in line 40 insert the words "a resident or stipendiary magistrate sitting as."

The HONORARY MINISTER: I move—
That the amendment be agreed to.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I intended to move an amendment to this effect. At present two justices could try the case, but under the amendment proceedings must be taken before a magistrate.

Question put and passed; the Assembly's amendment agreed to.

No. 6. Clause 14, page 18: Insert a new subsection to proposed new Section 359A to stand as Subsection (4) as follows:—
(4) "The costs of the complaint and hearing thereof as between party and party shall be fixed by the clerk of the court and paid by the unsuccessful party to the successful party unless the court for good cause otherwise orders."

The HONORARY MINISTER: I move—
That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Assembly's amendment agreed to.

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

BILL—LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT.

In Committee.

Hon. G. Fraser in the Chair; the Honorary Minister in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of Section 46 (3):

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I move an amendment—

That in paragraph (b) after the word "time" where it appears for the second time in line 5, the words "subject to the approval of the Licensing Court" be inserted.

This Bill will create another licensing authority. Surely that is not right! If we wish to maintain control of the liquor trade, the issuing of these licenses should be in the hands of the Licensing Court. I cannot see why this power should be given to the Commissioner of Railways. The name of the person to manage a railway refreshment room should be submitted to and be approved by the court.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I regret that Mr. Baxter was not present when I moved the second reading. I stated that an expert had been brought from Queensland and he strongly recommends that the Commissioner be granted this power. There is no State in Australia where the licenses for railway refreshment rooms are subject to the Licensing Court. Surely the Commissioner of Railways can be entrusted to ensure that the employees are fit and proper persons to hold licenses!

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I care not what is done in the Eastern States. The question is whether it would be right or wrong to give the Commissioner this power. How could the Commissioner say whether a man was fit to hold a license? The license should be obtained from the court, not from a layman.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I support the amendment. To take control of the railway refreshment rooms from the court would be wrong. Would the police have the same control over these refreshment rooms if the measure were passed. Apparently we are being asked to develop another State trading concern.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: If we approve of the Commissioner conducting the railway refreshment rooms, he should be the one to decide who shall control them. The Commissioner to all intents and purposes would be the licensee and would be responsible for the proper conduct of the rooms. We trust him to run the railways and surely we can trust him to run the refreshment rooms. The effect of the amendment would be that every time a manager was appointed to a particular place all the formalities of advertising, posting notices and giving particulars of the transfer would have to be observed. The court would have the certificates and the police report about the new man, and the application would go through automatically. If we trust the police to do their job, we should be able to trust the Railway Depart-

ment. It would be extraordinary if the Commissioner appointed a man to whom the court was not likely to grant a license. The amendment would entail a lot of red tape without benefiting the public.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: It would be the same as with a hotel.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Fancy anyone likening a railway refreshment room to a hotel! Hotels have to provide bedrooms and other conveniences, but at a railway refreshment room, bar and dining room facilities only are required. Surely the Commissioner, every time he changes a manager, should not have to submit to all the formalities!

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: I cannot agree with Mr. Parker. This is a matter of very great importance to the travelling public, and I think people would feel much happier if they knew the Licensing Court had authority in this respect. It is not merely a question of the personal holder of the license but of the suitability of the premises and the way they are conducted. A body specially charged to deal with matters like the sale of liquor should have some authority in the case of railway refreshment rooms.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: All this part of the Bill provides is that the officer who is to hold the license is to be appointed by the Commissioner of Railways. He does not have to get the usual approval granted by the Licensing Court. If the Commissioner of Railways is to run these refreshment rooms, he will have different managers and will be shifting them from time to time; and it would obviously be absurd if, every time a change was made, he was called upon to comply with the ordinary requirements of the Licensing Act. His only purpose, after all, will be to see that the new officer is a suitable person. We are not taking authority away from the law. If anyone serves bad liquor, he will be liable to a penalty, as he will be if he trades outside the hours specified in the Bill. A refreshment room is very different from a hotel. The only function of a railway refreshment room is to supply liquor of a proper quality. It does not provide rooms for the travelling public or lounges and meals. For Mr. Bolton to suggest that this is setting up another State trading concern is too

childish altogether. The officer appointed by the Commissioner will have to comply with every requirement of the law, just as much as an ordinary hotel-keeper, except that the trading hours will be different.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: You do not seriously think that the police would proceed against the Commissioner for a breach!

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: They would proceed against the licensee, the officer in charge.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Not on your life!

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: If we want things properly involved, let us bring legal minds to bear! We have had two expressions of opinion from legal men, and where have we got to?

The Honorary Minister: They were very helpful.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Just the opposite!

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Do you think you could put forward an argument without being personal?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Mr. Parker referred to all the things that would have to be done by the Licensing Court suggesting that the Commissioner would not make an inquiry in that direction.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I never said anything of the sort!

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Pardon me! The hon. member spent a lot of time explaining what had to be gone through before the court. Does he deny that?

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: No. I said the Commissioner would appoint the right person.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The hon. member went to a lot of trouble to explain the rigmorole that had to be gone through.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: I am afraid it was over your head.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: When that time comes, I shall be surprised. The Commissioner selects these men, and it is for the Licensing Court to approve. I have yet to learn that liquor sold on a railway station is unimportant compared with that sold in hotels. The man handling liquor on a railway station should be approved by the proper authority—the Licensing Court.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: Years ago, this business was under the Commissioner. Suppose we had a bar on a train and, prior to its leaving Perth, the manager pulled out, and we had to go to the court to get another man to take charge? There would be no bar on the train. Then again, take the refreshment room at Chidlow. The man might leave the job suddenly, and the Commissioner ought to have the right to appoint another man immediately.

Hon. G. B. Wood: Do you call that a refreshment room?

Hon. G. BENNETTS: Under the Commissioner, it might be improved.

Hon. H. TUCKEY: We have not been told why the court does not meet requirements. I do not know what the court has done to cause the Bill to be brought down. Some reason should be advanced; otherwise I am inclined to oppose the Bill.

Hon. W. R. HALL: I support Mr. Baxter's amendment. For us to pass this Bill as it stands would be to usurp the duties of the Licensing Court. In the present circumstances, the Commissioner has enough to do to look after his own department, without worrying about hotels and refreshment rooms to the extent provided in the Bill. The court is the proper authority to deal with licenses. It is true there is room for a lot of improvement; and I wonder what would happen if the time came when the present court did not have some jurisdiction over the railway refreshment rooms.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Would it make any difference if we provided that the Commissioner might from time to time grant a license to an officer employed by him and approved by the Licensing Court? That would mean that the court would have some control over the persons appointed to these bars. If the court knew anything against an officer it was proposed to appoint, of which the Commissioner was unaware, it could advise him accordingly. Thus the court would have control, though not as much as is provided in the amendment. I would like an expression of opinion on the matter from Mr. Parker.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I am afraid it would be quite useless for me to give any explanation. I think Mr. Baxter knows infinitely more about this, and it would be far better if he gave the explanation.

Amendment put and a division called for.

The CHAIRMAN: Before the tellers tell, I give my vote with the ayes.

Division resulted as follows:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	10
Noes	..	..	..	..	10

A tie	0
-------	----	----	----	---

AYES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. A. L. Loton
Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. W. R. Hall

(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. E. M. Heenan

(Teller.)

The CHAIRMAN: The voting being equal the question passes in the negative.

Amendment thus negatived.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I move an amendment—

That in line 19 of paragraph (b) after the word "privileges" the words "and subject to this Act in respect of the sale of liquor be subject in all respects to all obligations and conditions" be inserted.

I cannot see why these people should be under different conditions than those affecting a person who holds a publican's general

The HONORARY MINISTER: This amendment is connected with a previous one which was defeated. It is practically consequential.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: It has nothing to do with the other amendment.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It is wrapped up with it. I think it is unnecessary and I ask the Committee to reject it.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I ask for a ruling as to whether this amendment is consequential. I voted on the previous one as I did because I did not think the appointee of the Commissioner should be subject to all the conditions imposed by the Licensing Act, but if, after having appointed a licensee, the Commissioner is subject to the Act in all respects in regard to the sale of liquor, I shall certainly vote for this amendment, because the licensee should be under all the obligations which are imposed upon others who sell liquor.

The CHAIRMAN: I rule that the amendment is not consequential.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: This amendment must be defeated because it is repugnant to the Bill. The obligations imposed on the holder of a publican's general license are manifold. He has to serve meals, provide a certain amount of accommodation, etc. This is too ridiculous.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I have never heard anything so absurd in my life. Who would suggest that bedrooms should be provided in the refreshment rooms of the railways?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: You are suggesting it by your amendment.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Nothing of the sort!

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The railway refreshment room license which exists at present is issued to an individual who keeps all the profits, but he leases a particular portion of the premises from the Commissioner. He then applies to the court for a license and, if granted, this is what he is subject to—

A railway refreshment room license shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, authorise the licensee being the lessee or occupier of a refreshment room or stand at a railway station, to sell and dispose of any liquor at such refreshment room or stand on the arrival, and within half an hour before and after the arrival and departure of any passenger train at or from the railway station where such refreshment room or stand is situated, to bona fide travellers on the railway, but not to any other person.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I wish to move that the amendment be amended by adding the following words:—"and subject to the obligations and conditions which the Licensing Act imposes on the holder of a railway refreshment room license." This would mean that some control would be exercised under the Licensing Act.

The CHAIRMAN: Whilst the amendment on the amendment would fit in with the amendment before the Chair, the addition of these words would not make the latter portion of the clause read sensibly. If Mr. Baxter's amendment is carried then Dr. Hislop should move for the deletion of certain words in the Bill with the idea of inserting the words he proposes at the end of Mr. Baxter's amendment.

The HONORARY MINISTER: After listening to Mr. Parker's illuminating explanation, the Committee can do nothing but reject the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move an amendment—

That in lines 19 and 20 of paragraph (b) the words "as the holder of a publican's general license under this Act" be struck out and the words "and be subject to the obligations and conditions which the Licensing Act imposes on the holder of a railway refreshment room license" inserted in lieu.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: I move an amendment—

That in line 2 of paragraph (a) of the proviso to paragraph (b) the words "a reasonable time" be struck out and the words "at least half-an-hour" inserted in lieu.

Who will define what is a reasonable time? The Licensing Act provides for a period of half-an-hour, and that should be ample. I have seen the privileges of refreshment rooms abused from time to time, which has been unfair to the holders of ordinary liquor licenses.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: We have already agreed that the holder of the railway refreshment room license must comply with the requirements of the Licensing Act and, in the circumstances, the proviso is unnecessary. At the Perth railway station trains are coming and going day and night and I have been told the refreshment room is almost continuously open.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: That will still go on; you need not worry about that!

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: It was suggested that the proviso would limit the trading there, but in view of the amendment I do not think it is necessary.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Having decided that the railway refreshment rooms shall be dealt with in the manner we have determined, I think that automatically precludes the necessity for the proviso.

Amendment put and negatived.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I move an amendment—

That all the words after the word "passengers" in line 5 of paragraph (b) of the proviso to paragraph (b) be struck out and the following words inserted in lieu:—"who

have travelled on the railway or are about to travel on the railway a distance of not less than 20 miles to and from the station at which the railway refreshment room is situated.”

It is possible that a man may have travelled by train over a considerable distance yet, having given up his ticket to the collector, he cannot get a drink at a railway refreshment room. To overcome that difficulty the amendment has been drafted.

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

Clause 3, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments and the report adopted.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

BILL—FREMANTLE TRAMWAYS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACT AMENDMENT.

Returned from the Assembly without amendment.

BILL—APPROPRIATION.

First Reading.

Received from the Assembly and read a first time.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [8.48] in moving the second reading said: This is the usual Bill introduced each year after the passing of the Estimates. Supply has been granted during this session towards the services of the year up to a total of £4,000,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, £600,000 from the General Loan Fund and £300,000 from the Public Account for Advance to Treasurer; and the Bill grants further supply up to the total requiring appropriation. Clause 3 of the Bill appropriates the supplies to the respective services as summarised in Schedules B and C.

The total expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund is estimated to be £14,093,201, but of this amount £4,637,892 is appropriated under Special Acts, leaving a balance requiring appropriation of £9,455,309, which is the amount set out in

the Bill. Loan expenditure for the year is estimated at £5,085,162, and authority is sought to appropriate this amount from the General Loan Fund. Clause 3 also provides for £1,000,000 for Advance to Treasurer for the purposes set forth in Schedule D, and further confirms the expenditure from Advance to Treasurer in 1945-46, full details of which are set out in Schedules E and F.

Revenue last year amounted to £13,494,998 and expenditure to £14,407,557, resulting in a deficit of £912,559. As members are aware, the uniform taxation legislation passed by the Commonwealth in 1942 made provision whereby a State which experienced a deficit could claim on the Commonwealth through the Grants Commission for payment of the amount of the deficit. Such a claim was made in respect of the year just passed and, it is satisfactory to note, was met in full.

The actual revenue for 1945-46 was only £3,906 short of the estimate, and while there were individual variations, in most instances the actual collections differed only slightly from the estimates. Taxation receipts were £138,000 greater than was anticipated, mainly due to the increased collections of totalisator duty and stamp duty. The earnings of the Public Utilities were £78,000 below the estimate, largely due to a decline in the receipts from the railways of £106,000, which was offset by small increases in the other utilities.

On the expenditure side most of the departments found that their estimates were insufficient, this being mainly caused through the re-employment of permanent officers returning from the Services and the recent reclassification of the Civil Service, which was retrospective to the 1st January. In the Treasury the excess amounted to £173,000, of which £88,000 represented a loss in the operations of the State Shipping Service. In addition, a special grant of £15,000 was made to the Reforestation Fund and a sum of £10,000 was donated to the Lord Mayor's Appeal for Food for Britain. Public Utilities expenditure exceeded the estimate by £313,000, of which the railways were responsible for £141,000 and electricity supply for £79,000.

The Estimates for 1946-47 anticipate a deficit of approximately £187,000. Revenue collections are expected to be £13,906,000 and expenditure £14,093,000. Receipts from

taxation are estimated to be £4,353,000 as compared with £3,612,000 in 1945-46. This increase of £741,000 is almost the same as the increased amount to be received from the Commonwealth under the amended scale of income tax reimbursements, namely, £740,000, but there are other variations which might be mentioned. Land tax, stamp duty and liquor licenses are expected to show increases totalling £18,800, while it is anticipated that totalisator receipts will decrease by £15,000 and probate duty by £2,000. Territorial revenue is expected to increase by £29,000, of which mining will represent £8,000 and timber £20,000.

Excluding the special grant under Section 6 of the States Grants (Income Tax Reimbursement) Act, the Estimates provide for an increased amount to be received from the Commonwealth, under Section 96 of the Constitution, of £150,000, but it has recently been announced that the Grants Commission has recommended a payment to Western Australia of £1,245,000 for the current year. This is £145,000 more than the amount placed on the Estimates and £295,000 more than was received last year. Revenue from the State Trading Concerns is estimated at £97,000 as against £71,000 received last year. Additional revenue is expected from the State Saw Mills and from the Wyndham Meatworks, which, after having been closed during the war, were re-opened last year and this year have operated under practically normal conditions.

The earnings from Public Utilities are estimated at £6,097,000, compared with the actual collections last year of £6,651,000. The decline in this year's figures is due to the fact that the receipts from the Electricity Supply Department, which last year amounted to £580,000, are no longer included, as that utility has been taken over by the Electricity Commission. Railway earnings also have further declined from the peak reached during the war years, and it is estimated that this year's collections will fall £43,000 below those for 1945-46. As a consequence of the greater activity in the mining industry, returns from the Goldfields water supply and the State batteries are expected to be £23,000 and £65,000 respectively more than was received in 1945-46.

The estimated expenditure for 1946-47 is £14,093,000, as compared with actual ex-

penditure last year of £14,407,000. Expenditure under Special Acts is expected to be £4,638,000, or £17,000 less than was spent last year. By far the greater part of expenditure under this head is for interest and sinking fund charges, which for the present year are estimated to be £3,984,354—a decrease on last year's figures of £99,460. The cause of this reduction is that the full effect of the conversion of the whole of the 5 per cent. debt in London to 3½ per cent. is now being felt, and after allowing for normal increases there is a net saving, as I have stated, of £99,000. Against this saving it is expected that there will be an increase of £22,000 in the amount to be transferred from revenue to the Reforestation Fund, and an additional liability of £55,000 under the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act.

Departmental expenditure is estimated at £4,477,000, being £137,000 greater than that of the previous year. The principal increases are: Lands £35,000; Police £24,000; Crown Law £22,000; Education £141,000; Agriculture £47,000; and Mines £27,000. In the Lands Department provision is made for the additional cost of the land settlement scheme which the State is administering on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. The increased cost of the Police Department is due to the recent expansion of the Force when a number of additional police were appointed. Provision for the cost of the forthcoming parliamentary elections is the reason for the estimated increase in the Crown Law Department expenditure.

The reclassification of the teaching staff accounts for £58,000 of the increase in the Education Department, and the rehabilitation and re-establishment of teachers after war service is responsible for a further £20,000. In addition, the payment of a living-away-from-home allowance in respect of children in outlying areas to enable them to attend better class schools will involve considerable sums. Under Agriculture there will be an increase of £18,000 on research stations and an additional £6,000 on grade herd testing, which is being resumed after having been suspended during the war. There will be a decrease of £137,000 in the expenditure of the Treasury, due principally to a saving of £32,000 on exchange because of the reduced amount that is required to be remitted overseas for payment

of interest and a reduced estimate of £108,000 on war-caused expenditure. A decrease is also expected in the Forests Department consequent on the reduced quantities of firewood being produced.

The main differences in the Public Utilities are an increase of £48,000 in the railways and £58,000 in the State batteries. Other concerns also show increases of varying amounts due to rising costs of wages and materials. The elimination of the electricity supply figures gives a net decrease for Public Utilities of £434,000. The Bill also provides for expenditure for the improvement and reforestation of State forests, as set out in the scheme of expenditure which has been laid on the Table of the House and which requires the approval of Parliament. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central) [9.2]: I cannot let this opportunity pass without referring to a matter of great concern in my district. We are only too pleased to see the Government endeavouring to make the State more self-contained, but the fact remains that it is proposed to spend large sums of money in conveying water, mostly to the southern portion of the State. I agree with that, but am sorry that it is not to be extended farther north than Dalwallinu. Many thousands of pounds have already been spent on the alunite works at Chandler, and the Government is also committed to considerable expenditure at Wundowie.

I would remind the Minister that not many miles from Mullewa there is what those in a position to judge consider to be a large outcrop of iron-ore. That is not a great distance from Eradu, where the Government has made money available to test the coal seams. I hope the coal deposits will be thoroughly tested so that we shall know once and for all whether they are of value. If they are proved to be valuable, and if the process now being tried for the gasification of coal is successful, the iron-ore deposit should be investigated. I think all members of Parliament should have been invited to the demonstration that is to take place of the gasification of coal. If the Eradu deposits are proved worth while, it is not beyond possibility that there could be erected at Geraldton a steelworks, which would be fitting, seeing that the Government

has spent at least £1,000,000 on the Geraldton harbour. I hope that suggestion will be remembered, and I support the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Bill read a third time and passed.

BILL—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (WAR TIME) ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT.

Returned from the Assembly without amendment.

BILL—TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT.

(No. 1).

Assembly's Further Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it no longer disagreed to the amendments upon which the Council had insisted.

BILL—FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 3).

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Council's amendments.

MOTION—JUVENILE DELINQUENTS.

As to Implementing Royal Commission's Recommendations.

Debate resumed from the 10th December on the following motion by Hon. E. H. H. Hall—

That this House protests against the failure of the Government to implement the main recommendations of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the care and reform of youthful delinquents as contained in its report presented to Parliament on the 10th August, 1943, and desires to urge the importance of immediate consideration and adoption thereof.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [9.12]: In introducing the motion, Mr. E. H. H. Hall claimed that the Government had taken no notice whatever of the Select Committee that inquired into this subject. That Select Committee was converted into an honorary Royal Commission. As I have said before, the Government appreciated the way in which the Royal Commission carried out its work, and it is not true that no notice has been taken of the recommendations. The report of that commission was presented to the Government towards the end of 1943, and what I take to be the main recommendation, as referred to by Mr. Hall, had regard to providing an institution, which would require building materials and so on. I submit that any fair-minded persons would agree that since 1943, if we take into consideration the Government's other commitments of a like nature, there has been little opportunity to provide a new institution of the type envisaged by that commission.

The Government gave instructions a considerable time ago that a suitable site should be found for this purpose, and there are some members of this House who know the difficulty confronting the Government in finding suitable sites for institutions of various kinds. Thus while the recommendation has not actually been implemented, the preliminary steps have certainly been taken. Mr. Hall suggested that a psychiatrist and a psychologist should be attached to such an institution. I think the hon. member is aware that a psychiatrist and a psychologist are available to the authorities at any time their services may be desired. In addition, the department has appointed two more probation officers, one male, one female, to the permanent staff. This is a big advance on the conditions that prevailed when the Royal Commission made its inquiry. Certainly it has had a very beneficial effect. I am pleased to say that Mr. Hall is under some misapprehension in referring to this problem of juvenile delinquency and suggesting that the position is getting worse.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: I did not say that.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY: I understood the hon. member to complain that the Government had taken no notice of the Commission's recommendations, that juvenile delinquency was increasing, and that

unless something were done in the near future, there would be serious repercussions. Be that as it may, I am pleased to say that the position is nothing like as bad as it was in 1943 when the Royal Commission conducted its inquiry. At the present time at the Roman Catholic Industrial School there are four boys, of whom only one is there on a charge of being a delinquent. In the industrial school for protestant boys, there are only 18 inmates, and some of these will be released in the near future. In the reformatory home for girls, there are 22 inmates, but only five of them were committed to the home on charges coming within the category of indictable. Nearly all the girls are there for disciplinary training. Six of them are in receipt of invalid pensions, proving that they are not employable, and some others are of rather weak mentality.

According to the acting secretary of the department, at no previous stage in the history of Western Australia, from his knowledge of 12 years in the department, had the number in the two reformatory schools for boys and the girls' reformatory home ever been so low. There again, whatever the reason may be, the position has improved considerably since 1943. I have a fairly lengthy report from the acting secretary of the department but I think there is no necessity for me to quote further from it.

I repeat that but for the war the possibility is that the institution recommended by the Royal Commission would now have been well in hand. In saying this, I have no desire to mislead members, because our programme of public buildings including hospital and educational buildings, as well as the housing problem, is still presenting a very serious position as regards new projects, but I think members can rest assured that full notice has been taken of the recommendations of the commission and that sooner or later members of the commission will probably have the pleasure of seeing most of their recommendations implemented.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central—in reply) [9.20]: I was pleased to hear the reply of the Chief Secretary. I remind him of the statement made the other day by Sir Hal Colebatch, who was chairman of the Royal Commission. We both took great care to

point out that the principal recommendation of the commission was the appointment of a child council. True, we did recommend the erection of some place where these boys could be kept, not with the idea of punishment, but for remedial treatment, which cannot be carried out in the space of a few months. The object was to bring an end to their repeated appearances before the court. We considered that a child council would lead to some co-ordination between the departments dealing with juveniles. Each department should have an eye on what the other is doing. But I am afraid that is not the case. I am pleased that the Government intends to erect some place where boys can be subject to reformatory treatment and, as Mr. Bulley suggested, given a chance eventually to take their rightful place in the community.

What is worrying me—and the Chief Secretary did not deal with this phase—is the number of probation officers. This is a very important matter. On the 7th November, 1944, 12 months after the commission had presented its report, I asked the Chief Secretary a series of questions dealing with prosecutions etc. in the Children's Court. At that time there were 307 boys out on probation. I think we were told then that the question of appointing a second probation officer was under consideration. I wish to take this opportunity of saying that the officer appointed is a very fine man and I believe will prove a worthy successor to Mr. Bulley. This work is most important and it must be continuous work. There can be no eight-hour day or 44-hour week about the job. Two male probation officers are totally inadequate to look after the number of boys which, I feel sure, is much the same today as it was then. I am supported in this opinion by the witnesses capable of expressing a considered opinion who appeared before the commission. I wonder why it is that there are two male probation officers for 307 boys and three female probation officers for only 52 girls. Are girls so much more difficult to control than boys? There must be some reason.

The Chief Secretary: You can draw on your own imagination for that.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I suppose so.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Or your experience.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: The secretary of the department has retired. A bad fault on

the part of the Government is that the position has remained vacant for some time. The officer who supplied the Chief Secretary with his reply tonight spent the best years of his life in the Lands Department; and, in order to secure the promotion to which he was entitled, he transferred some few years ago to the Child Welfare Department. I am not saying anything about him; he is efficient, but he is doing the work in an acting capacity. I contend that it is high time a new appointment was made to this most important position. I am glad to have had the reply from the Chief Secretary. If I may say so, it was only what we had a right to expect. The information should have been made available to us before. I do not like to go snooping around departments, because one's motives are liable to be misunderstood. I waited for some announcement to be made by the Government as to what it had done, or intended to do, about the recommendations of the Royal Commission. I have got the reply, and now we can only wait and see and hope for the best.

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

Ayes	..	..	..	..	7
Noes	..	..	..	..	11

Majority against .. 4

AYES.

Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. H. L. Roache
Hon. R. M. Forrest	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. E. H. Hall	Hon. A. L. Leton
Hon. W. J. Mann	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. W. R. Hall
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. L. B. Bolton
Hon. E. H. Gray	(Teller.)

PAIRS.

AYES	NOES.
Hon. C. H. Simpson	Hon. C. B. Williams
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. A. Thomson

Question thus negatived; the motion defeated.

MOTION—ROAD TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS.

To Inquire by Select Committee.

Debate resumed from the 3rd December on the following motion by Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch—

That a Select Committee of five members be appointed to inquire into the question of transport facilities with special reference to—

1. The advisableness of modifying present restrictions on road traffic, and if so to what extent and in what directions;

2. The extent to which private competition with State-owned undertakings should be permitted in—

- (a) the metropolitan area,
- (b) country districts,

3. Matters related thereto.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [9.32] The State Transport Board has been in existence for nearly thirteen years, and during that period it has made a very substantial contribution to the organisation of transport in this State. It is entitled to commendation and I was surprised to hear the remarks made by some members about it. Members speaking in support of the motion phrased their remarks so ambiguously as to convey the impression that restrictions on road transport were enforced immediately following the settlement of the recent railway dispute. This is quite contrary to fact, and in any case local authorities are enabled at all times to grant approval for the road transport of all urgent loading. This will continue as long as the railways are unable to handle expeditiously all urgent traffic.

So far as livestock transport is concerned, this is one type of loading which has been treated more sympathetically than any other. No request for road transport of livestock has been refused and there are absolutely no grounds for complaint on this score, unless cost be a consideration. This aspect may have been conveniently overlooked by those making the present complaints, but I venture to say that it is an aspect which would assume some proportions were rail facilities withdrawn and the entire field of livestock transportation left to road hauliers.

During the recent strike producers in a Great Southern town were paying 4s. a head to transport sheep to Midland Junction. For the first week or so this rate was paid without demur, but when it appeared that the strike would last indefinitely, it was borne in upon these farmers that the expedition and convenience of the road service were being bought at rates double than those charged by the railways, and eventually attempts were made to secure a carting subsidy from the Transport Board. A statement was made, I think by Mr. Wood, in reference to superphosphate, but to say that

superphosphate was back-loaded into the country during the strike is hardly true.

Road hauliers know perfectly well that they cannot approach rail freights for the transport of super, even allowing for high forward charges for stock. For every truck which took super into the country, fifty took drums of fuel. Naturally, road operators do not want low freight loading. They want the type of loading on which they can charge the highest rates, and are quite content to let the railways haul the wheat and super, and this is exactly the position in which we would find ourselves without control.

Hon. G. B. Wood: A very big tonnage of super has been taken back to the country by road transport.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I am telling the hon. member that for every truck that took super, there were 50 trucks that took fuel.

Hon. G. B. Wood: During the strike?

The CHIEF SECRETARY: It was the strike period with which the hon. member was dealing. It is difficult enough now to avoid an operating deficit on the railways. How much more difficult would it be with road operators taking all the high freight loading? At this late hour I do not want to go into a lot of detail; but I wish to advise the House that, in view of the announcement made a few days ago, there is really no need for the motion. The hon. member is asking that a Select Committee be appointed; and if this House appoints such a committee, it will mean that there will be duplication of effort, because the Government has announced its intention to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the whole question of transport, and members of Parliament will be on that commission. I do not know if that will meet with the approval of Sir Hal, but I suggest that a Royal Commission appointed by the Government would be far more satisfactory than a Select Committee appointed by this House. That being so, and in view of all the circumstances as we know them, I trust Sir Hal will be good enough to withdraw the motion.

HON. SIR HAL COLEBATCH (Metropolitan—in reply) [9.40]: Since I tabled this motion, the Premier has announced his determination to appoint a Royal Commis-

sion. Had his announcement been made before, I would never have dreamed of tabling the motion. I agree with the Chief Secretary that for a Royal Commission and a Select Committee to be inquiring into the same matter at the same time would get us nowhere; it would not be helpful. I would like to read a short letter from the town clerk of the Municipality of Kalgoorlie. It is as follows:—

My council is of the opinion that the recent railway strike has demonstrated the possibilities of road transport, and requests that the Transport Co-ordination Act be amended so as to permit the free transport by road or air of passengers and goods throughout the State, particularly to country centres.

As it is not my intention to press this motion to a division, I see little purpose in labouring the subject; but I wish to repeat something I said in introducing the motion. Transport is the very lifeblood of the nation. I pointed out that in England the railway companies, having no protection against competition by road transport, had tremendously improved their services, and I asked this question: Is it likely that if they had been Government concerns and protected against any competition, there would have been anything like the development that has taken place in both road and rail transport?

I think we may well ask ourselves: If it had not been that our railways are Government railways and protected against competition by road transport, would we not have had a far better rail service and road service than we have at present? I have no doubt the Premier will appoint a competent Royal Commission, and that the Royal Commission will be a fact-finding body. I do not intend to press the motion, but I would ask the Minister to bring under the notice of the Premier the matters suggested therein with a view to his giving them some consideration when framing the instructions that will be given to the Royal Commission. I desire to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

BILL—STATE HOUSING.

Assembly's Request for Conference.

Message from the Assembly received and read requesting a conference on the amendments insisted on by the Council, and noti-

fying that at such conference the Assembly would be represented by three managers.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the Assembly's request for a conference be agreed to, that the managers for the Council be Hon. L. Craig, Hon. G. B. Wood and the mover, and that the conference be held in the Premier's room forthwith.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

BILL—COAL MINES REGULATION.

Assembly's Further Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the alternative amendment to amendment No. 4 made by the Council.

BILL—WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILISATION.

Assembly's Request for Conference.

Message from the Assembly received and read requesting a conference on the amendments insisted on by the Council, and notifying that at such conference the Assembly would be represented by three managers.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I move—

That the Assembly's request for a conference be agreed to, that the managers for the Council be Hon. L. Craig, Hon. G. B. Wood and the mover, and that the conference be held in the Premier's room forthwith.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

*Sitting suspended from 9.50 p.m. to
12.33 a.m.*

BILL—STATE HOUSING.

Conference Managers' Report.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I have to report that the conference managers met in conference on the Bill and that after a thorough examination of the legal position regarding amendments Nos. 1 and 2, it was found that they could not be made on constitutional grounds and the conference therefore agreed not to insist on amendments Nos. 1 and 2 and agreed to amendment No. 12. I move—

That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

Assembly's Further Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the conference managers' report.

BILL—WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILISATION.*Conference Managers' Report.*

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have to report that the conference managers met in conference on the Bill and reached the following agreement:—

A new clause is to be inserted in the Bill to stand as Clause 19 as follows:—

19. Nothing in this Act contained shall deprive a wheatgrower of any of his rights, title, interest or remedies in respect of any of his wheat which the Commonwealth, or any agency or instrumentality of the Commonwealth shall have acquired or purported to have acquired, or had power to acquire, prior to the passing of this Act.

Subclause (2) of Clause 20 was re-inserted into the Bill with the addition of the words "in excess of ten acres."

I move—

That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

Assembly's Further Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the conference managers' report.

BILL—MILK.*Assembly's Request for Conference.*

Message from the Assembly received and read requesting a conference on the amendments insisted on by the Council, and notifying that at such conference the Assembly would be represented by three managers.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the Assembly's request for a conference be agreed to, that the managers for the Council be Hon. J. G. Hislop, Hon. F. E. Gibson and the mover, and that the conference be held in the President's room forthwith.

Question put.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: Mr. President, I demand a ballot.

The PRESIDENT: As Mr. Bolton has demanded a ballot, it will proceed.

Ballot taken.

Conference Managers Appointed.

The PRESIDENT: The report of the ballot shows that the managers appointed are Hon. W. H. Kitson, Hon. J. G. Hislop and Hon. H. S. W. Parker.

Question, as amended passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

BILL—LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT.*Assembly's Message.*

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council.

BILL—COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.*Assembly's Request for Conference.*

Message from the Assembly received and read requesting a conference on the amendment insisted on by the Council, and notifying that at such conference the Assembly would be represented by three managers.

BILL—COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY.*Assembly's Request for Conference.*

Message from the Assembly received and read requesting a conference on the amendments insisted on by the Council, and notifying that at such conference the Assembly would be represented by three managers.

As to Conference Procedure.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I suggest that the messages dealing with the Comprehensive Agricultural Areas and Goldfields Water Supply Bill and the Country Areas Water Supply Bill be considered together. The measures are complementary and I think one conference should deal with the two Bills. I move—

That messages Nos. 99 and 100 from the Assembly be taken together.

Question put and passed.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I move—

That the Assembly's request for a conference on the amendments insisted on by the Council to the Comprehensive Agricultural

Areas and Goldfields Water Supply Bill and the Country Areas Water Supply Bill be agreed to, that the managers for the Council be Hon. H. L. Roche, Hon. W. J. Mann and the mover, and that the conference be held in the Premier's room forthwith.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

Sitting suspended from 1.57 to 3.20 a.m.

BILL—MILK.

Conference Managers' Report.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I have to report that the conference managers met in conference on the Bill and reached the following agreement:—

No. 1. This amendment was not insisted upon.

No. 2. After the word "health" add the words "or similar degree."

No. 5. Re-insert Clause 27 and delete Sub-clause (2) of Clause 60.

Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. These amendments were not insisted on.

A new clause to be inserted after Clause 34 to stand as Clause 35 as follows:—

35. Papers relating to any and all appeals to the Minister shall be laid upon the Table of both Houses of Parliament.

Nos. 17 and 18. Not insisted upon.

No. 19. In lieu of the clause proposed in the amendment the conference agreed to the following clause:—

27. The board may at any time after the 1st September, 1948, on giving twelve months' notice prescribe that after the expiration of such notice all milk delivered to householders other than that which is supplied from T.T. accredited herds and complies with other conditions which the board may prescribe shall be pasteurised in conformity with the definition contained in the Food and Drug Regulations and bottled and capped in conformity with regulations issued by the board.

No. 20. Not insisted on.

I move—

That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

BILL—COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

Conference Managers' Report.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have to report that the conference managers met in conference on the Bill and failed to arrive at an agreement. I move—

That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

BILL—COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY.

Conference Managers' Report.

The HONORARY MINISTER: I have to report that the conference managers met in conference on the Bill and failed to arrive at an agreement. I move—

That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson) [3.22]: This marks the end of the session and it now remains for me—and I think it is a privilege—to extend to you, Mr. President, on behalf of members of this Chamber our very best wishes and the compliments of the season. I desire also to express our appreciation of the very capable manner in which at such short notice you assumed office as President and for the impartiality with which you have conducted our deliberations. Particularly do I desire to express my appreciation of the courtesy which you have extended to me during the short time you have occupied your present position. A considerable volume of very important business has been transacted during the session and, although there have been differences of opinion, I think I can say the cordial atmosphere of this Chamber has been such that while there may have been those divergences of opinion they have made no difference with regard to our appreciation of each other.

Members: Hear, hear!

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I also extend to the Chairman of Committees and his deputies the same good wishes for the festive season. They have had much important work to perform and it has been a pleasing experience for me, as Leader of the House, to have had their co-operation in what on some occasions was extremely intricate work. I appreciate the task that is involved in the Committee stages in connection with the measures which come before the House; and in Mr. Dimmitt, as Chairman of Committees, we have a worthy successor to

the late Mr. Cornell. The Deputy Chairmen have also shown that they are efficient and capable in the discharge of their duties. I hope they, too, will have an enjoyable time during the festive season.

I must not forget the officers of this Chamber, Mr. Leake, the Clerk of Parliaments, and Mr. Sparks, the Usher of the Black Rod, who at all times have given us of their best. I occasionally wonder what we would do were it not for the right direction of those two officers. Certainly the work of the Chamber would have been more difficult had it not been for the capable manner in which they have assisted not only myself but every member of the House. I must not forget the "Hansard" staff. They are most important. To Mr. Reid and his staff I desire to extend the compliments of the season and our best thanks for the efficient way in which they have discharged their duties. The other officers of the House have at all times extended both to me and other members every courtesy and made it a pleasure for us to carry on our work.

This marks the end of the session. So far as I personally am concerned, unless something extraordinary happens this is the last occasion upon which I will have the privilege of addressing the Chamber. I take the opportunity to say that this is my 23rd session of Parliament and I feel that my labours during that period have not been in vain. I have seen many changes take place. I have seen what I consider to be progress in legislation for the masses of the people and I have a genuine regret that I shall not be present at the next session. Although I will not be here, I assure members that wherever I may be I will always have very kindly thoughts for them. It has been my privilege during the 23 years I have been a member to be associated with some very fine men, of whom quite a number have passed on. Today the membership of this Council consists of men who I think will be worthy successors of those who have gone before. I shall always have a feeling of pride and satisfaction as a result of my membership of the Legislative Council.

I express to all members the best of good wishes for the festive season, and I trust that in the years to come the same atmosphere that prevails here today will continue. If it does, even though there be differences of opinion, each member will be

well satisfied. I thank you, Mr. President, and members for the courtesy that has been extended to me over the years and the assistance that has been rendered to me in many ways, and also for the many kindnesses that I have experienced. I regret that circumstances are such that I shall be leaving. I hope that at some future time I shall be privileged to return and, perhaps, witness the way that the duties in this Chamber will then be carried out. I give my assurance that no matter what the circumstances might be I will always feel deep appreciation for the way I have been treated by members during the 23 years that I have sat in the Legislative Council.

HON. J. A. DIMMITT (Metropolitan-Suburban) [3.32]: I join with the Chief Secretary in extending good wishes to you, Sir, and complimenting you on the excellent manner in which you have carried out your high office during the short period you have occupied it. We trust that this House will have the privilege of your presidency for many years to come. My thanks are also due to the temporary Chairmen of Committees for the help they have given, and to the officers of the House for their co-operation, help and unfailing courtesy at all times. To the Chief "Hansard" reporter and the members of his staff I offer thanks, and I know that all members of this Chamber will join with me in that. To the pressmen in the gallery and to Mr. Ford and his staff go our good wishes and season's greetings.

I thank the Chief Secretary for his complimentary remarks to me, and assure him that I shall always do the best I possibly can in the carrying out of my duties. Not only is this the end of the session; it is the end of the Parliament and, unfortunately, the end of the parliamentary career of the Chief Secretary, because I am quite sure that when he has completed his task in London, some higher office awaits him than that of Leader of this House. So we say goodbye to the Hon. W. H. Kitson with feelings of great regret because, whatever our political opinions may be, I am sure we are all completely conscious of his outstanding ability as Leader of this House, and we shall truly miss him. I extend greetings to all members of the Council, and trust that they may enjoy good health during the coming year.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West) [3.34]: This is the first time I have risen to express thanks at the close of a session, but I am doing so tonight because this is a special occasion. I want to express my thanks to you, Sir, for your courtesy, and to congratulate you on the way you have conducted the business of the Chamber. I also express my sincere thanks to Mr. Leake, Mr. Sparks, Mr. Roberts, the members of the "Hansard" staff, the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of Committees and all others connected with the successful running of this Chamber. Everyone connected with the functioning of Parliament is to be congratulated.

I rise particularly because I want to express my keen appreciation of the Chief Secretary, and at the same time, my regret that this will be the last time he will appear here as Leader of this House. It will be very difficult for his place to be filled. I agree with what Mr. Dimmitt has said, for I admire the efficient manner in which the Chief Secretary has led the Chamber, and the way that he has helped me in my work. I know I am expressing the feelings of all members when I say that I feel deep regret at his going. At the same time, I am proud that he has been appointed to the high position that he is going to fill in London. I am sure that he will be a great success there. I am not of the opinion that he has finished his parliamentary career. There may be bigger jobs than he holds at present awaiting him when he returns from London. I express to you, Mr. President, and everyone in the Chamber, sincere wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

THE PRESIDENT [3.37]: I wish to express my thanks to the Chief Secretary, Mr. Dimmitt and the Honorary Minister for the kindly remarks they have made about me in my position of President. Whatever success I have achieved has been largely due to the whole-hearted co-operation, and good feeling that exists in the Chamber on the part of members themselves and particularly those who have taken a prominent part in our deliberations. I am sure that our thanks are extended to the officers of the House who, this year, have had an unusually onerous task because their work has been hampered by the difficulties under which we are today

labouring. The way they have risen to the occasion and carried out their work is a credit to them and we can all appreciate the work they have done. I extend my thanks to Mr. Dimmitt and to the Deputy Chairmen of Committees, Mr. Fraser and Mr. E. H. H. Hall, for the way they have carried out their work. They have had a heavy task during this last week, but they too have risen to the occasion. I join in the expression of thanks to "Hansard," because Mr. Reid and his staff have rendered valuable work in recording the deliberations in which we have been engaged.

I associate myself with the expression of appreciation of Mr. Kitson, and of regret at losing him. He has won the appreciation and respect of the House for his high sense of responsibility to Parliament. He has shown a readiness, never sparing himself trouble in that regard, to supply desired information and place the Government's legislation before us in as complete a form as possible. Throughout the years he has been associated with the House, he has always shown patience and courtesy in debate. He will be a loss to the House and to the Government. In taking up his new appointment in London, he will carry with him the best wishes of every member. I feel that he is destined for higher things and have no doubt that whatever office he may be called upon to fill, he will do it with credit to himself and benefit to the State.

This year has been marked by the loss of two members who had been associated with the House for a lifetime—the late President, Hon. J. Cornell, and Hon. V. Hamersley—men who had rendered worthy service to their country, whose passing has left gaps in our ranks that mark the passing years and whom we shall remember as personal friends. I trust that the new year will dawn with brighter prospects for this great State and that we shall be able to look forward to a bright and happy future.

BILL—MILK.

Assembly's Further Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the conference managers' report.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

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

That the House at its rising adjourn to a date to be fixed.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.13 a.m. (Saturday).

Legislative Assembly.

Friday, 13th December, 1946.

	PAGE
Questions: Railways (a), as to "P" and "U" class engines	2910
(b) as to amenities at East Perth running yards	2911
Education, as to South Perth and Como Schools	2911
Motion: Railways, as to inquiry into efficiency and administration, defeated	2959
Bills: Economic Stability, Council's amendments	2911
Mines Regulation, Council's amendments	2912
Council's message	2953
Lotteries (Control) Act Amendment, 2R., remaining stages	2914
Loan, £5,050,000, returned	2915
Supreme Court Act Amendment, returned	2915
Road Districts Act Amendment (No. 1), Council's message	2915
Hairdressers' Registration, Council's amendments	2934
Traffic Act Amendment (No. 1), Council's message	2937
State Housing, Council's message	2959
Council's further message	2957
Assembly's request for conference	2960
Conference managers' report	2961
Council's message	2937
Vernin Act Amendment, Council's message	2915
Wheat Industry Stabilisation, returned, Council's amendments	2958
Council's message	2959
Council's further message	2959
Assembly's request for conference	2960
Conference managers' report	2958
Council's message	2945
State (Western Australian) Alunite Industry, returned	2945
Factories and Shops Act Amendment (No. 3), returned	2954
Council's amendments	2945
Road Districts Act Amendment (No. 2), 2R., remaining stages	2953
Council's message	2940
Fremantle Tramways and Electric and Lighting Act Amendment, 2R., remaining stages	2953
Appropriation, Message, all stages	2960
Returned	2957
Milk, Council's message	2961
Council's further message	2958
Assembly's request for conference	2961
Conference managers' report	2962
Council's message	2958
Comprehensive Agricultural Areas and Goldfields Water Supply, Council's message	2961
Council's further message	2958
Assembly's request for conference	2961
Conference managers' report	2958
Country Areas Water Supply, Council's message	2961
Council's further message	2958
Assembly's request for conference	2961
Conference managers' report	2956
Coal Mines Regulation, Council's message	2953
Legislative Council (War Time) Electoral Act Amendment, 2R., remaining stages	2959
Licensing Act Amendment, returned	2960
Council's amendments	2918
Annual Estimates: Votes and Items discussed	2950
Committee of Ways and Means	2950
State Trading Concerns Estimates	2962
Complimentary remarks, close of session	2964
Adjournment, special	

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 11 a.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.

RAILWAYS.

(a) *As to "P" and "U" Class Engines.*

Mr. STYANTS asked the Minister for Railways:

1, Is it true that the "U" class locomotives recently imported are constructed to use oil as a fuel?

2, Because of the prohibitive cost of oil as a locomotive fuel in this State, is it intended to convert these engines to allow coal to be used as a fuel?

3, What is the area of the fire grate and heating surfaces of the firebox compared with that of a "P" class engine?

4, Is this considered to be sufficient to permit of the use of Collic coal?

5, Is it a fact that the tubeplate and tubes consist of different metals, with an uneven contraction and expansion?

6, What was the result of tests made with certain locomotives in this State having the tubeplate and tubes of different type metals?

7, What are the principal specifications of the "U" class engine?

The MINISTER replied:

1, Yes.

2, The engines are already fitted for conversion to coal burning, but owing to the desperate shortage of engines, and despite the higher cost of running on oil, it is intended that they shall continue as oil burners until at least the end of the current super. season.

3, Grate area: Class "U," 26 sq. ft.; Class "P," 35 sq. ft. Heating surface (firebox only): Class "U," 142 sq. ft.; Class "P," 126 sq. ft. Total heating surface: Class "U," 1,385 sq. ft.; Class "P," 1,848 sq. ft.

4, Yes.

5, The Class "U" boilers are fitted with steel tubes and copper firebox tubeplates with provision for unequal expansion and contraction. When renewed, brass tubes will be fitted in accordance with standard practice.

6, Steel tubes fitted in copper firebox tubeplates have been tried in this State, but the character of our water caused excessive corrosion.