

**PENSIONER'S RATES (RATES EXEMPTION) BILL
(SECOND READING)
28 September 1922**

Edith Cowan spoke in favour of a Bill to permit pensioner's to have their local council rates remitted in certain circumstances.

Mrs COWAN (West Perth) [9.28]: I intend to support the second reading. I am glad the Bill has been brought down. I have known some very unfortunate cases. There is certainly something wrong with the system that permits of such things. It is all very well to say the Minister can remit, but I should like to know how often the Minister does remit. But before it gets to that stage, those unfortunate people have to undergo the humiliation of taking steps for relief, which brings home to them the fact that they are in dependence on the community. Very often, too, they are quite nice people, overtaken by misfortune. It is a perfectly right and just Bill, and we should support its principles as we would also support the amendment indicated by the member for North-East Fremantle. I am glad this debate has taken place, because it will show those unfortunate people—nobody has ever put it to them before; I myself did not know of it—that if they go to the Minister they can, after much trouble, have their rates remitted. I should like to know how many cases have been remitted, and why it is not made easier for those people to reach the department with the requests for remission and be quickly replied to, instead of having the humiliation of awaiting the decision and feeling anxious and miserable while they are so waiting. I strongly commend the member for Leederville for bringing in the Bill, and I shall certainly support it.