

# Legislative Council.

Thursday, 22nd November, 1928.

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

## QUESTION—ROAD CONSTRUCTION, GHOOLI.

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Have the Yilgarn Road Board been refused permission to construct a road through Ghooli Experimental Farm to the Ghooli railway siding? 2, If so, will any financial assistance be given by the Government to the Yilgarn Road Board towards the construction of the additional road necessary to give settlers access to this siding?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes. 2, If the Yilgarn Road Board makes application for assistance it will receive consideration.

## QUESTION—ELECTORAL DISTRICTS, QUOTAS.

Hon. H. STEWART asked the Chief Secretary: Has the Chief Electoral Officer submitted any reports under Section 10 (2b) of the Electoral Districts Act, 1923, notifying that the rolls made up for any triennial election had shown that the enrolment in not less than five electoral districts had fallen short of, or exceeded, by 20 per centum, the quota for such districts under that Act?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: No. The Bill for a redistribution of seats in accordance with the division of the State into electoral districts by the Commissioners pursuant to Section 3 was not passed. Therefore the quota and the proposed division lapsed and paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of Section 10 relating to a re-division of the State into electoral districts was inoperative.

## MOTION—PUBLIC SERVICES, LATE HON. J. E. DODD.

HON. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan)  
[4.33]: I move—

1, That this House requests the Government to afford Parliament an opportunity to give effect to some form of recognition of the great services rendered to this State by the late Hon. J. E. Dodd. 2, That the foregoing resolution be transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, and its concurrence desired therein.

I shall best achieve my object by asking members to carry the motion unanimously, with the fewest possible words in introduction and in support of it. Members all remember Mr. Dodd and many knew him much better than I did. Therefore I shall not stress to any extent the good qualities our late friend possessed. Having been in the State for many years, Mr. Dodd was first known to me as a secretary of one of the industrial unions on the goldfields. He was an ideal secretary, a man of great vision, who always realised the economic loss that followed in the wake of strikes or lock-outs and, therefore, always strove to prevent any cessation of work. By so doing, he not only benefited the workers themselves primarily, but the employers too, and the State materially benefited through the wheels of industry being kept revolving. Following his position as a union secretary, he came to this House and, before I became a member, Mr. Dodd was a Minister of the Crown. In those days I viewed his actions not from the floor below, but from the gallery above. So far as I could judge, he carried out his duties not only fearlessly but, in accordance with his political faith, in the best interests of the State. Unfortunately as time went on, Mr. Dodd's health failed, and his ill-health continued to such an extent that he became more or less a physical wreck. Throughout he faced his ailment with fortitude and bravery that few of us, I am afraid, could emulate. I sat next to him for many years, and I know that on numerous occasions he endeavoured to carry out his duties while suffering great physical agony. I know, too, that he was fortunate in having allied himself with a lady who for many years so acted on his behalf that we can with truth characterise her as a ministering angel. She looked after Mr. Dodd, not only in his home but in this Chamber. It was a sorry spectacle, from time to time, when we saw Mrs. Dodd wheeling our late member all the

way from North Perth on a hot, broiling day. After seeing him safely seated in his place on the floor of the House, she sat for hours in the more or less draughty corridors of the House until Mr. Dodd had finished his duties here. Then she would wheel him home again. The expenses attendant upon his illness prevented him from making that provision for his wife and family that other members have an opportunity to do. Some little time before his death Mr. Dodd was very anxious about the future of his wife and family. He spoke to me about the advisability of embarking upon a newspaper agency, and he asked me whether it was a good thing. I told him that such businesses were profitable undertakings. Unfortunately the hon. member did not confer further with me, but negotiated for the purchase of a news-agency himself. He might well have spoken to you also, Mr. President, who have had some experience in these matters. We would have advised him as to what was a reasonable price to pay for such an agency. I was sorry to find later that Mr. Dodd gave more than he should have done for that agency. The result is that the business has become much over-capitalised. Nature, as we know it, is often very unjust, and so, too, man very often follows in Nature's path and becomes a little unfair too. During last week and again this week, we have had long discussions with the object of affording some relief to groupies—migrants who have come here from the Old Land. The State finds everything for those people, and now we learn that their holdings have been over-capitalised. With one accord we have been endeavouring to afford them some relief so that the Government may reduce the capital involved in their undertaking. The object of that is to enable the groupies to make a living out of the businesses in which they are engaged. That is really the position in which Mrs. Dodd's business is to-day. Although our late member spent a comparatively long period in rendering good service to the State, nothing has been done so far to recognise those services. On the other hand, we find that the undertaking upon which he embarked just before his death is over-capitalised, and up to the present time no one has dreamt of suggesting any relief. Nothing has been done for the family of Mr. Dodd, nor have his services been re-

cognised. It has been suggested that if some such recognition is offered, the effect will be to create a precedent. I answer that argument by saying that it will not create any precedent, because many such precedents have already been created. I do not wish to mention any names, but if hon. members will look through the Public Accounts they will see instances of consideration having been meted out to others who have served the State in this Chamber or another place. Even if it were to establish a precedent, it seems to me it would be a good one, because it would simply mean that the State recognised its obligations in respect of services rendered to it. I am suggesting that this House shall make a request to another place. If hon. members will look through the history of the Parliaments of the British Dominions they will see that whenever one House had made a request to another House, the second House, if only as a matter of courtesy, has always assented to the request made to it. I am hopeful that that course will be adopted in this instance. I believe that in another case concerning a late member of another place, if a request came from that House to this House to recognise his services, this House would gladly join in assent to whatever proposal was made. Members will note that I have phrased the motion rather vaguely. Reading between the lines, however, they will see the reason for it. I have done so because this House cannot propose or suggest anything like a grant of money, and I have endeavoured so to frame the motion that even an indirect grant of money is not involved in it. I suggest to the Government that they recognise the late hon. member's services, and I leave it to the Government and another place to say which is the proper way to recognise them. Another place may say it is sufficient if it passes a vote of sympathy. It may resolve that that is the way it recognises such services. If that is the method of recognising the very great services of Mr. Dodd, we shall bow to the decision, but I do hope the Government will go a little further and recognise those services in some such substantial manner as they may deem best. I do not propose to say anything more on the motion, except to express the hope that no party considerations will be introduced. I should like the House to carry the motion unanimously.

**HON. A. J. H. SAW** (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.47]: I have very much pleasure in seconding the motion. If it were only necessary to address the members of this Chamber, few words from me would be required, but we have to appeal to another tribunal, to the general public, in order to justify our action. So I propose to supplement the remarks of Mr. Lovekin with a few words of my own. I think we all agree that there is no particular reason why legislators and their dependants should be treated differently from the general public, and when we ask for a measure of recognition such as this, it is necessary that we should justify it to the outside world. We should show that there are special circumstances attached to the case that render the proceedings we advocate desirable. There is no doubt the late Mr. Dodd deserved well of this State. During the early days of the goldfields he acted as secretary to a large miners' union, and I think he conducted the affairs of the union with sanity and success. There was an absence of friction on the goldfields that enabled the great machine of gold mining to function efficiently. Then Mr. Dodd became a member of Parliament and, before many years were over, he was a Minister of the Crown. Unfortunately he was then stricken with a dread disease which, in some of its forms, is incurable and involves a great deal of suffering. Such was, unfortunately, the fate of Mr. Dodd. That fate he bore with fortitude, and I think he showed exemplary patience. I suppose all the older members amongst us will associate this House with that frail figure sitting in an invalid chair on the right-hand side of the Chamber. His conduct in the House and his speeches showed a width of view and a great grasp of principle, and his views were always couched in lucid and simple language. He exhibited a tolerance of thought towards his opponents and a charity in considering the motives that underlay their actions. During the many years I had the privilege of listening to Mr. Dodd, I do not recall a single occasion on which he used any harsh word that, on later reflection, he might have desired to withdraw. He adorned and dignified the political life of this State, and he showed those characteristics which I think have made our Empire great—honesty of purpose, industry, steadfastness, courage, and above all, loyalty to the ideals of a

Christian gentleman. It was, unfortunately, not possible for him to make provision during his life for his dependants. The great majority of us in this Chamber, I suppose, are fortunately not dependent on our Parliamentary salary, but even we realise the drain on our purses through our public activities. It must be the same in the case of those members who, like Mr. Dodd, are unable to supplement their Parliamentary income from other sources. He was, unfortunately, not able to do that, because he was handicapped by ill-health. Consequently, after his death we found that he had not been able to make any provision for those who were dependent upon him. Mr. Lovekin has alluded to the matter of precedent. I myself know that in this State there have been many precedents for action of the kind desired. I can recall precedents that occurred before the days of responsible government, and I am also sure that since the days of responsible government other like precedents have been created. Mr. Dodd was a man who earned the respect of all those with whom he was associated, and I do not know any case in which action such as is sought would be more fitting.

**HON. J. NICHOLSON** (Metropolitan) [4.54]: I have very much pleasure in joining with those who are responsible for introducing this motion. I think Mr. Lovekin and Dr. Saw are to be congratulated in having moved in this direction. I feel that the thanks of the House and of the people of the State are due to them for seeking to obtain from the Government recognition of the great services that have been rendered by Mr. Dodd, a man whom we all highly esteemed and respected. In public life, I am glad to say, he reached a very high mark indeed. In his conduct of affairs and his consideration of the various weighty matters that came before the Chamber, we always found that he brought to bear on the debates a force that I can truly say has seldom been equalled. I agree with the remarks of Dr. Saw and Mr. Lovekin that there are many precedents, but I do not think it necessary to consider this case as establishing a precedent, unless it be that of some other member who has rendered equally good service to the State, and who should find himself or those dependent upon him in the same unfortunate position in which the late hon. member has left his

dependants. There is one thing that may be said of the life of Mr. Dodd. While we can speak in the highest praise of him as a man and a member of the Legislature, he was nobly supported by Mrs. Dodd, and we are only paying a just tribute when we speak in high terms of praise of his worthy partner in life who was dependent upon him. No one could have been more devoted or shown greater care and attention than did his worthy partner in life. Her care and anxiety for him were great. Her solicitude for him was a wonderful thing, and was something well worth copying—something that gives us a nobler and higher ideal of life and of the people with whom we are associated. These are matters for consideration when we know the circumstances in which the hon. member has left those dependent upon him. I agree with Dr. Saw that when a motion such as this comes before us, it is necessary for members to know that the deceased has left dependants without adequate means, just like others to whose dependants similar consideration has been given and who have been found, since the death, to be really unprovided for. I think the people of the State will recognise that in such cases there is something due to those who have faithfully served them and who have virtually died at their posts. The last thing I would expect on a motion of this kind would be for any hon. member of this House to bring in party considerations. We can rise above party. If, however, there was an occasion when the party spirit should disappear, surely it is on an occasion when we are considering the services of an hon. member whom we all respected. I do not care what brand of politics a man may espouse, I regard the man and his services and the circumstances in which the dependants have been left, and being satisfied, as I am in this case, that the circumstances are such as to call for assistance, I hope the Government will show markedly their approval of the motion.

**HON. J. CORNELL** (South) [5.0]: Though the late Mr. Dodd never rose to full Ministerial rank, I think it can be said of him that few men in the history of the public life of Western Australia did more in the direction of preserving peace and harmony and the continuity of the welfare of this State than did the late Mr. Dodd. I speak of 30 years' acquaintance with the late gentleman and a close acquaintanceship, too.

As I said on the motion of condolence shortly after he passed away, I lost my best friend, and I think you, Sir, know also the value that Mr. Dodd was to Western Australia and particularly in the critical days of the eastern goldfields. I venture to say also that no Minister ever laid down the seal of his office, commanding greater respect from those men who served under him, than the late Mr. Dodd. Generally speaking it can be said that all who knew him loved and respected him for his self-sacrifice in the interests of the State. It is known that for many years he rendered those services under great difficulties, and that 995 men out of a thousand would have given in. I knew no man who was more frugal and even more charitable than the late Mr. Dodd. I am aware also that his unfortunate ailment from which he suffered for a period of many years took the great part of his Parliamentary salary, all that he had to live on, in the endeavour to find a remedy. I am not going to speak as to the merits or demerits of the measure of financial assistance that might be given to the widow. I know the widow as well as I knew the late Mr. Dodd, and I can say that any measure of financial help that is given will be acceptable. Even should it not be forthcoming, I know that the widow will face the future with fortitude.

Question put and passed.

#### **BILLS (2)—RETURNED.**

- 1, Road Closure (Queen-street).  
Without amendment.
- 2, Education.  
With amendments.

#### **BILL—GROUP SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT.**

Report of Committee adopted.

#### **BILL—QUARRY RAILWAY EXTENSION.**

*Second Reading.*

**THE HONORARY MINISTER** (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [5.8] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is to authorise an extension of the existing railway known as the Fre-

mantle Harbour Works quarry railway. Originally this railway was built from Rocky Bay to Rous Head for the purpose of transporting stone which was used in the construction of the North and South moles at Fremantle in 1899. Since then small extensions have been made, and the line now serves the State Implement and Engineering Works; the Mt. Lyell Superphosphate Works, in addition to the quarry, the stone from which is utilised for harbour works purposes. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company have purchased an area of land further east, known as Location 79, in the North Fremantle municipality, and they have also purchased other privately owned land required for the railway, while the Cottesloe Beach Road Board have agreed to the line being carried over three roads. It is the intention of the Company to establish refinery works on this location, and at the request of the Company, the construction work of the railway is being carried out by the Public Works Department on an undertaking that the Company will pay actual cost, including overhead charges. On completion, the Company will be granted a lease of a strip of land which belongs to the Crown, and through which a section of the line passes. The establishment of these works by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company will no doubt be very welcome, particularly in view of the inconvenience we have experienced in this State from time to time owing to the shortage of sugar. It will naturally be of great advantage to have daily supplies available from a local refinery instead of our being dependent upon periodical shipments from refineries in other States.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: How many people will they employ?

**THE HONORARY MINISTER:** The number of men that will be regularly employed in the refinery will be in the vicinity of 40, but at special times, and particularly during the raw sugar season, while shipments are being received, the number will be increased to approximately 90. The quantity of refined sugar to be produced annually will be approximately 18,000 tons. A commencement has been made in the preparation of the site for the works; tenders have been let for the building of two cottages at a cost of £1,600, while it is also intended to build a residence for the refinery manager, and to construct several other cottages for

employees. The area owned by the Company is approximately 28 acres and probably seven acres will be required or reserved for the refinery proper. The Company are making every effort to obtain all material and equipment required in the construction of the refinery within the State, and it is anticipated that 6,000 tons of local coal will be used per annum. The yearly consumption of Government water in the refinery is estimated to be about 10 million gallons; while the goods and material to be carried over the line will be well over 40,000 tons annually. The Bill gives power of resumption of the lease granted to the Company subject to compensation to the lessee, and also provides that the lessee shall, if required by the Minister, grant to any Government department the right to construct sidings, or to use the railway by locomotives and rolling stock, on terms and conditions to be mutually agreed upon or determined by arbitration. The establishment of this industry will be of great value to Western Australia, and as the State progresses its value must necessarily increase. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. J. H. Saw, debate adjourned.

## BILL—ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT.

### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 20th November.

**HON. V. HAMERSLEY** (East) [5.14]: I have heard it expressed by some members that this measure does not concern the Legislative Council as much as it does the Legislative Assembly, and that therefore we need not give it a great amount of attention. I do not fall in with that view because I feel that whatever vitally affects the electoral boundaries of one Chamber also vitally affects the boundaries of the provinces of the other, and also the interests of the whole of the people concerned. So when a question of redistribution of seats comes up, it is well for us to look carefully into the representation to be provided. Because, after all, we are just as vitally concerned in the welfare of the country and the method of representation as is another Chamber.

Looking through the Bill, I was struck with the idea that the change of representation is to be all in one direction, namely to transfer a greater representation to the metropolitan area and overlook entirely the agricultural areas.

Hon. E. H. Harris: They have not overlooked them, they have ignored them.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: The change in the population is so nearly equal as between the metropolitan and the agricultural areas that it is remarkable the Bill does not make better provision for increased representation for the agricultural areas where so much attention has been given by the Government, where such a large amount of capital is being invested, and where such an amount of good, useful work is being done. When we consider the difficulties those people in the outback areas experience in giving expression to their requirements, it does seem strange that they should have been overlooked in the Bill. If we take up the returns issued by the Commissioner of Taxation, we notice that the valuations in the country areas hold their own remarkably well with the increased valuations in the metropolitan area. We find also that the production of the agricultural areas has progressed by leaps and bounds. The agricultural production has almost doubled in value within the last few years. Yet no more representation is to be given to those areas than they have had for many years past. When we consider the disabilities under which those people suffer in giving expression to their views, it seems to me an unfairness is being done to them by the alterations proposed in the Bill. The people of the agricultural areas are scattered far and wide. At election time many of them, in order to record their votes, have to travel many miles. Yet of course it is too expensive for the Government to put in a larger number of electoral booths than is the custom at election time. So it means that many of those people in outback districts are practically debarred from voting. Nevertheless in the Bill it is proposed that the person who has travelled 20 miles in order to vote is to have a vote of only the same value as  $1\frac{1}{2}$  votes in the metropolitan area. I think the discrepancy is altogether too narrow.

Hon. J. Cornell: That line of reasoning does not affect the hon. member himself.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: No, I am not referring to my own case; I am referring to people throughout the more remote areas. In the metropolitan area there are so many facilities close at hand that almost any person can go and record his vote with the loss of half an hour, whereas in country areas it would cost a man practically the whole of the day. That applies virtually throughout the State beyond the metropolitan area. For the remote settler to cast his vote, he must be prepared to give up a great deal of time and undertake quite a journey. It is very much more difficult for those men to attend at a booth and vote than it is for the electors in the metropolitan area. So I say the respective quotas should be very different from what they are. I cannot claim to know a very great deal about the working out of these schemes, but I really think the existing Act would be very much fairer than is the Bill to the agricultural districts. Personally, I almost feel it would be better were we to continue under that Act. I know that many people will claim it is due that there should be an amendment of the electoral boundaries, but I certainly think the existing Act is very much fairer than the Bill. It is not a matter of party. It is a question of the people in the outback country, whether miners, sandalwood getters, timber hewers, or farmers. All should be given opportunity to say that they have a representative at headquarters to speak to the Government on their behalf. All those people have their troubles and difficulties, notwithstanding which they are all law-abiding citizens costing the country very little in point of police, protection, and in many instances very little in point of education or hospitals. I see the Chief Secretary smiling at that, but we know it is very expensive to provide these facilities in outback areas. I am referring to large areas where there are practically no children to be schooled; for in many of those districts the men do not take to themselves wives, because of the hardships and difficulties to be confronted. Those people are out there extracting wealth for the country and developing the country. If there are only a few hundred of them, they at least want the knowledge that they have someone at headquarters to speak on their behalf. In the metropolitan area, if the people have any difficulties and trials and troubles they can give expression to them,

because they are practically knocking at the door of the Government the whole time.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: They have to knock a long time.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: So if the quota were 10,000 in the metropolitan area and only 2,000 in the outer areas, it would be about a fair equivalent, for the reasons I have given.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Do you think it equitable that 100 people in the country should have double the voting power in the House of 100 in the town?

Hon. G. W. Miles: Of course he does, and you do, too.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: It is perfectly equitable. If you take the production for which the man in the country is responsible, and the number of people who rely on his work, you must see that it is perfectly equitable.

Hon. E. H. Harris: The Bill does not provide for production being the basis of voting power.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: Still it is a grave and important consideration. Frequently we hear talk about the one vote one value principle. I hold no brief for that principle. For instance, we find that the aged people all have a vote, although they have got beyond the stage of producing wealth for the country. Then we have a great many people who come into the towns. They are really non-producers.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Many of them are retired farmers.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: Probably, but I am referring more to those who delve into the bowels of the earth for gold, or those actually at work in country districts. They are creating something that has to compete in the markets of the world and keep this country financial.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: You hold that work is only of value when done in the country.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: No, but I say the work done in the country is of the utmost value to the State in keeping it financial in the markets of the world.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: What about the man making agricultural implements in the city?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: He, too, is a big burden on the man who has to use those implements. He is one of those whom the man in the country has to carry on his back.

He should not be permitted to have a vote. He is creating these implements under very high Customs duties, which in themselves are another burden on the man in the country who has to use those implements. Because of the tariff the very machinery that man is using is costing three times as much as it did a few years ago. If we continue to give the bulk of the voting strength to the larger centres, those burdens will be still further increased.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: What effect can the metropolitan electors have on the tariff?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: They have a big say in it, and their voice is listened to because they are on the doorstep of the Government; whereas the people in the country are not listened to, because they are so scattered that it is difficult for them to get together to give full expression to their views.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Do not the people in the towns pay rates or taxes, or anything like that?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: I believe they do. On looking up the figures, I find they do not pay anything like the same amount in taxes as the country people do, and that their unimproved valuations are not so great as those in country areas.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Can you give us the figures?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: Yes. The unimproved value in the metropolitan area is £13,799,447.

Hon. J. Nicholson: A tidy sum, is it not?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: In the case of goldfields towns it is £108,306, and for other town and country lands £17,513,557, excluding Crown leases, which are allowed four seats. The valuation on which the country districts are being taxed is £4,000,000 greater than the valuation in the metropolitan area. The country areas, being so large and their population so scattered, really want better representation to defend their rights from the onslaughts made upon them periodically.

Hon. A. Lovekin: They are getting 50 per cent. more representation now.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: I have stated my views. The existing Act seems to me preferable to the Bill. Certainly the farmer is not being allowed a fair margin in the proposed redistribution. I do not want one vote one value, because the earnings are

not the same, and earnings are a most important factor to the State.

Hon. J. Nicholson: I thought the farmers were making nothing just now.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: They do not make much after paying taxes. I shall not oppose the second reading, but hope that in Committee some amendments will be accepted.

HON. C. F. BAXTER (East) [5.33]: I certainly think the Bill offers some advantages over the Act. Like the previous speaker, I am surprised to note that the representation of the agricultural areas is not to be altered, whilst other portions of the State are to be granted increased representation. It matters not what argument may be advanced: Western Australia is going to have increased population every year, and that increase must be in the agricultural districts. Yet not the slightest provision is made for increased representation of those districts.

Hon. A. Lovekin: We will take that fence when we come to it.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: That is all very well, but we have the Bill before us now. The measure is many years overdue. Before another measure of the same kind is presented to Parliament, it will also be long overdue. In the meantime the agricultural districts are to suffer from the inadequate representation. Of our cities and their representation I do not take quite Mr. Hamersley's view. Still, were the cities represented by half their present number of members, they would be well represented. Members generally are in touch with the capital day by day, and become connected with it in certain respects. The city is taxed, but eventually all taxation falls back on the producing interests. Really, what revenue is the city producing? A city is a necessary evil, a kind of parasitical growth.

Hon. J. Nicholson: What about secondary industries?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: They are a burden on the primary industries, and are bolstered up by bonuses and so forth. We have only to look at the Federal position. What has caused the enormous expenditure of money at Canberra?

Hon. E. H. Harris: The will of the people.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: No. The most important factor towards the establishment

of Canberra was that Federal members had become "Melbournised." It is the same as regards the city of Perth. Even country members come under town influences.

Hon. E. H. Harris: You yourself have been in the city a good while.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: That remark applies also to the hon. member interjecting. It is not necessary for the city to have so much representation.

Hon. J. Cornell: Why not shift Parliament to Southern Cross?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Ministers and ex-Ministers like myself, who have visited Melbourne frequently, are well aware that Federal members generally were to a great extent under the influence of Melbourne. The case is similar as regards Perth. Yet this Bill proposes to increase metropolitan representation by another five members.

Hon. J. Nicholson: What about seeking to prevent the "Perthisation" of members? Why not insert something in the Bill to say that Parliament should sit first in Perth and then in various country towns?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Reform of human nature is the only remedy. To leave country districts on the same basis of Parliamentary representation as the city is absolutely unfair. Apart from that aspect the Bill is reasonable, and worthy of support. Country districts and scattered areas have many wants. A city member can get all over his province or electorate in 24 hours.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Do not city members show consideration for the country?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Sometimes they show scant consideration for the country, as regards the vermin tax for instance. If city members were reasonable they would say, "This Bill proposes too much representation for the metropolitan area." The country districts need adequate representation in this Chamber, and that is not obtainable on the quotas proposed by the Bill. The section that produces revenue will not receive justice under this measure.

Hon. A. Lovekin: The basis of representation is people.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Were it not for the revenue produced by the country districts, where would the city of Perth be?

Hon. A. Lovekin: It would not have the same number of people.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Industries should have reasonable representation. The agric-



cultural areas are certainly not receiving fair consideration under the Bill, and in the future that position will be accentuated by increase of settlement in outside districts. When I was first elected, it was not necessary to go near large areas of the province, because there was no settlement in them; but now not one part of that tremendous expanse of country remains unsettled. This great development has taken place in 14 years. And yet the province is to remain dormant in respect of Parliamentary representation until another Bill of this kind is brought forward.

Hon. A. Lovekin: We give you man for man, and 50 per cent. thrown in for wheat and sheep.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The congested areas of the city could do very well with their present number of members.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: Do you suggest that a metropolitan resident has more intelligence than a country resident?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Not for a moment. That has certainly not been shown in this Chamber. I repeat, the Bill does not give the agricultural districts fair representation; and as time goes on, that position will become worse.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Metropolitan members represent the agricultural areas, as well as country members.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: Yes, until important questions come up, and then the agricultural areas are very quickly dropped. Take the vermin tax as an example.

Hon. J. Nicholson: What was wrong with that?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The agricultural areas have to find two-thirds of the taxation, and the pastoral areas expend two-thirds. That arrangement is quite in accord with the present Bill.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. C. F. BAXTER: The Government are going to make their position secure, for which one cannot blame them. The Bill is a more reasonable one than I expected from the Government. Since it is an improvement on the existing Act, I support the measure.

On motion by Hon. G. W. Miles, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 5.14 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Thursday, 22nd November, 1928.*

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

### PETITION—LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

#### *Earlier Closing of Hotels.*

Mr. MANN: I have a petition to present to the House from the Western Australian Prohibition League. With your permission, Sir, I will read the prayer, as follows:—

To the Honourable the Speaker and hon. members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia in Parliament assembled—The humble petition of the undersigned residents of Western Australia over the age of 21 sheweth that whereas from time to time the public sale of intoxicating liquor has been restricted by the Parliament of Western Australia with beneficial results, and as the expenditure on intoxicating liquor in this State is abnormally high, and as this expenditure results in a high percentage of crime, much economic waste and human unhappiness, your petitioners pray that amending legislation may be introduced at an early date providing for the closing of all liquor bars at 6 p.m., or that amending legislation may be introduced to provide for an immediate referendum of the electors on the question of the hour of closing. And your petitioners as in duty bound will for ever pray.

The petition is signed by 14,000 electors and I move—

That the petition be received.

Question put and passed.

### URGENCY MOTION DISALLOWED.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received from the member for York the following letter:—

The Hon. the Speaker: I desire to inform you that it is my intention, on the House meeting this afternoon at 4.30 p.m., to move under Standing Order 47 the adjournment of the House for the purpose of ventilating the hasty