

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: I ask the Leader of the Opposition not to press this amendment as I have given the assurance that the Government will make every effort to have the agreement back-dated as far as possible. The Commonwealth has stipulated that the agreement must have the sanction of Parliament. If the Commonwealth would not agree to the 1st January, 1949, its law officers might say the agreement was not substantially in the form sanctioned by this Parliament, and might refuse to put the arrangement into effect. With the assistance of Commonwealth Government representatives of this State, such as Senator Cook, I have no doubt the Commonwealth will give some recognition to our request.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Would you agree to tell the Commonwealth that the majority of this Parliament had asked for the agreement to be ante-dated and that you pleaded with them not to do that?

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: What a contrast between the attitude of the Minister on this Bill and the attitude of the Government regarding the wheat stabilisation legislation!

Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Is the Minister prepared to do that?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: Yes, at least to the 1st January, but I suggest that it should be when the Commonwealth legislation becomes law and not later than the 1st January.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I am quite happy about that.

Amendment put and negatived.

Schedule put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray-Wellington): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.48 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 29th June, 1949.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION.

FREMANTLE HARBOUR.

As to Copies of Tydeman Report.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) Referring to Mr. F. W. E. Tydeman's report on the Port of Fremantle, will the Minister make available to the Fremantle City Council the second and third volumes to enable the council to complete its town planning report?

(2) If the answer to Number (1) is "Yes," will this report be made available to the council immediately?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) The second and third volumes are now in course of being printed.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

CHAIRMAN (TEMPORARY) OF COMMITTEES.

The PRESIDENT: I desire to announce that I have appointed Hon. A. L. Loton to act as a temporary Chairman of Committees during the current session.

BILLS (3)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Plant Diseases Act Amendment (No. 1).
 - 2, Marketing of Eggs Act Amendment.
 - 3, Wheat Pool Act Amendment (No. 3).
- Introduced by the Honorary Minister for Agriculture.

BILLS (4)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Charitable Collections, Act Amendment.
- 2, Marketing of Barley Act Amendment (Continuance).
- 3, Plant Diseases Act Amendment (No. 2).
- 4, Marketing of Potatoes Act Amendment.

Transmitted to the Assembly.

BILL—TUBERCULOSIS (COMMONWEALTH AND STATE ARRANGEMENT).

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban) [2.27] in moving the second reading said: In August, 1948, a conference of the State Ministers for Health and the Commonwealth Minister for Health was held for the purpose of endeavouring to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis, and the State Governments agreed to co-operate with the Commonwealth Government in the matter.

The object is to provide adequate facilities for the diagnosis, treatment and control of the disease, which it is estimated affects 30,000 to 40,000 persons. This plan was based on recommendations made by the Commonwealth Director of the Division of Tuberculosis (Dr. H. W. Wunderly) following a survey in each State and was approved at a subsequent meeting of the Premiers. As the Commonwealth's power in regard to tuberculosis control is restricted, it was decided that the States should adopt uniform legislation complementary to the proposal approved at the Premiers' Conference. This was done in this State towards the end of last year by the amendment of the Health Act.

The Bill now before the House is for the purpose of ratifying the agreement made between the Commonwealth and the State. This agreement, which is set out in the schedule to the Bill, will remain in effect until the 30th June, 1953. Prior to that date, a conference will be held to determine the continuance or otherwise of the agreement. The main features of the agreement, or "arrangement," as it is termed in the Bill, are that the Commonwealth shall reimburse the State for—

(a) Capital expenditure as from the 1st July, 1948, on land and buildings for use in the diagnosis, treatment and control of tuber-

culosis, and in the erection and improvement of buildings, and the provision of furnishings, equipment and plant.

(b) The net maintenance expenditure in relation to the diagnosis, treatment and control of tuberculosis in institutions, or in services and facilities which, in the opinion of the Commonwealth Minister for Health, are conducted primarily and principally for the diagnosis and control of tuberculosis as from the 1st July, 1948, in excess of that paid by the State for these purposes in the year ended the 30th June, 1948.

The State, therefore, as from the 1st July, 1948, will be responsible during the term of the agreement for expenditure equal to that which it incurred in the financial year 1947-48. All additional expenditure, if approved, will be met by the Commonwealth. A further requirement in the agreement is that a full-time director of tuberculosis be appointed. This has already been done in the person of Dr. Linley Henzell, one of Australia's outstanding authorities in the treatment of tuberculosis. Excellent preventive work has been possible as a result of the establishment of the chest clinic in Murray-street.

Members will agree that this is a great step forward in an endeavour to stamp out this dread disease. As they can see, the State will be responsible for the expenditure of the same amount of money in the future as in the past, but any additional sum over and above what was expended in 1947-48 will be paid by the Commonwealth. That applies to all States; and any extra capital expenditure—buildings, improvements and so on—will be borne by the Commonwealth. This is a very excellent and proper agreement to be entered into, and I feel that members will have no difficulty in endorsing the measure. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. J. A. Dimmitt, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.15 p.m., on Tuesday, the 5th July.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 2.33 p.m.