

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 22 November, 1916.

Printed Questions and Answers—Paper—Personal Explanation—Questions without Notice—Additional Sitting Day—Notices of Motions—Crown Lands (Further Amendment) Bill—Income-tax Bill—Day-light Saving Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER took the chair.

PRINTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

Mr. OSBORNE asked the SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS,—(1) Is it a fact that the Railway Commissioners are demanding from employees—eligible to be called up under the recent Federal proclamation—the production either of an exemption certificate or one of medical unfitness? (2) Is it a fact that, failing the production of some such certificate, the employee is dismissed? (3) Will he take the necessary steps to prevent this system of coercion now alleged to be in force?

Answer,—I am informed :

(1) Such employees as are effected by the proclamation, and for whom exemption in the interests of the railway and tramway services is not required, are released from duty in order that they may comply with the terms of the proclamation. (2) No, but before resuming duty they are required to produce a certificate to show that they have reported to the military registrar.

OVERCROWDING OF TRAINS TO MOUNTAINS.

Mr. HOLLIS asked the SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS,—(1) Is it a fact that the early morning train from the Mountains, on 20th instant, carried fully four times the number of passengers that there was accommodation for? (2) Is it a fact that the two regular trains to this one were cut out on this date? (3) Will he ask the Railway Commissioners to so instruct that they take notice of the tickets issued to the Mountains on the Friday and Saturday, and take them into consideration with the regular passengers who travel by

this train, and provide the necessary accommodation to return people to their homes, as well as the general passengers by this train who have to attend their ordinary avocations?

Answer,—I am informed :

(1) The train carried nearly twice the number of passengers that there were seats for. (2) Yes. (3) It is necessary, owing to the coal strike, to run only a minimum service.

PAPER.

Mr. D. R. HALL laid upon the table the undermentioned paper, which was ordered to be printed:—

Return to an order made on 8th August, 1916
—“Fines for selling liquor without license.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. MARK F. MORTON: By way of personal explanation, I desire to refer to some remarks made by the hon. member for Gloucester during the debate on the Legislative Assembly Continuance Bill. According to *Hansard*, the hon. member made the following statement:—

When the question of prolonging the life of Parliament was first mooted, and the round-robin was circulated by Mr. Mark Morton, Mr. McGarry, and others, I refused to sign it because I said the principle was wrong.

I do not know where the hon. member gets his information from. I doubt if he knows himself half the time. His statement was a deliberate lie. I have never, at any time, had anything to do with the round-robin referred to. As a matter of fact, I was against the proposal, and the statement made by the hon. member is entirely devoid of truth. If the hon. member were here himself, I would ask him to make a correction.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

COAL STRIKE.

Mr. DOOLEY: I desire to know whether the Premier has any information to impart to the House in regard to action on the part of the State Government in connection with the present industrial upheaval? Has the Government decided to take any action, or does it intend to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the Federal Government? In the event of the Federal authorities being unable to deal with the matter effectively,

seeing that this State is mainly concerned in the cessation of operations at the coal-mines, will the Government consider what can be done by legislative action or otherwise, to prevent an extension of the suffering that must be caused if the strike continues?

Mr. HAYNES: I desire to know whether there is any truth in the statement, apparently official, that has been published to the effect that the Government of this State has nothing whatever to do with this great disturbance, and that its power is limited to the operation of the Necessary Commodities Control Act, so far as it may relate to coal?

Mr. HOLMAN: With regard to the question asked by the hon. member for Willoughby, I may inform the House that I have not seen the statement to which he has referred. In reply to the hon. member for Hartley, I may say that the matter has been under the close and daily consideration of the Government. We were informed to day officially that it was the intention of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth to call a second compulsory conference, and we have been further advised that some of the delegates from New South Wales will be leaving either this evening or to-morrow to attend the conference in Melbourne. This being so, I would beg hon. members generally to exercise patience and relieve the Government of the necessity of making a statement of its intentions whilst the conference is sitting. Any statement of that kind could only have the effect of embarrassing the negotiations now proceeding.

Mr. DOOLEY: Have you any idea that the Federal Government will be able to do something practicable?

Mr. HOLMAN: I am not prepared to say that we have any special information, but we have every hope that the second conference will result in something practical being done.

Later,

Mr. MCGIRR: I desire to ask the Premier whether it is not a fact that this House agreed to the principle of eight hours from bank to bank, and that the bill containing such provision met with an adverse fate in another Chamber? Will the Government consider the necessity of

[*Mr. Dooley.*

reintroducing the bill and again testing the feeling of the Legislative Council?

Mr. HOLMAN: The first two questions are of a historical character, and do not call for an answer. I would ask for notice of the other question.

Later,

Mr. HAYNES: I desire to ask the Premier whether it is possible to relieve the terrific distress and loss now being experienced in the city by arranging to stop the running of the trams between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 or 6 p.m.? Is he aware that the electrical power used on one tramway represents sufficient power to run 100 factories, and that in one hour alone the running of these trams represents an expenditure of 150,000 horse-power? Will he see whether the present difficulty might not be met forthwith by stopping the running of the trams during those hours in order to allow of the diversion of this huge electrical supply to many factories and business places which are now in dire trouble?

Mr. HOLMAN: The hon. member raised this matter yesterday, and I assured him I would give due consideration to it. I am having inquiries made as to the quantities of current that could be made available by carrying out such a suggestion, and the advisability of moving in the direction proposed. It is one of several suggestions which may be of some value that I am having inquiries made into, but I am not in a position to say now what steps I am prepared to take.

DAY MEETINGS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. WRIGHT: Will the Premier consider the advisability of calling hon. members together in the day-time instead of in the evenings, so that the difficulty in regard to lighting may not present itself in connection with our proceedings here?

Mr. CUSACK: Will the Premier see that the Legislative Council, which is chiefly responsible for the strike, is compelled to use candles at its sittings?

Mr. HOLMAN: The matter referred to by the hon. member for Willyama has already had some consideration. I am not able to make a definite announcement to-day, but I anticipate that, after this week, should the present condition of

affairs continue, we may ask hon. members to meet at hours during which we shall not be confronted with difficulties in regard to lighting. I may be able to make a statement to-morrow.

OVERCROWDING OF MOUNTAIN TRAINS.

Mr. HOLLIS: Referring to printed question No. 6, I desire to direct the attention of the Minister for Railways to the fact that the reply given to question No. 3 is no. answer. Will the Minister ask the Railway Commissioners to prevent a recurrence of what took place on last Monday morning, and to carefully note the number of tickets issued on Fridays and Saturdays, with a view to providing reasonable return accommodation?

Mr. BALL: I shall endeavour to again bring the matter under the notice of the Railway Commissioners with a view to furnishing a more complete answer.

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT.

Mr. LEVY: I wish to know from the Minister of Public Instruction whether it is intended to proceed this session with the bill in regard to which notice of motion has been given to provide for an increased endowment to the University of Sydney?

Mr. JAMES: The matter is under consideration, and I hope to be able to proceed with the bill.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

Dr. ARTHUR: I desire to ask you, sir, if you have any official information as to who is the leader of the Opposition to-day?

Mr. SPEAKER: The only information that I received is that conveyed to me by Mr. Durack. I have no other information.

BROKEN HILL-MENINDIE RAILWAY.

Mr. WRIGHT: I desire to ask the Secretary for Public Works is he aware that work on the railway from Broken Hill to Menindie is stopped, for the alleged reason that they have not got coal to supply the two engines? Will

the Minister see that wood is used on those engines, in order that the work may be continued?

Mr. BALL: The question of using wood for the purpose of getting up steam on our locomotives has been considered, but the Railway Commissioners think it is inadvisable to use wood, owing to the danger of fires being started in the surrounding country.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION.

Mr. MARK F. MORTON: I desire to ask the Premier if he is able to make a statement as to what is the intention of the Government in regard to the election of municipal and shire councillors next year, in view of a certain amendment which has been made in the Local Government Amending Bill in another Chamber?

Mr. HOLMAN: My impression is that the matter has not been finally decided in the other House. I ask the hon. member to allow the matter to stand over till to-morrow, when I shall ascertain more definitely what is the position.

EARLY CLOSING BILL.

Mr. LEVY: I desire to ask the Premier is it the intention of the Government to proceed with the Early Closing Bill this session?

Mr. HOLMAN: I do not want to ask for notice of questions on matters affecting the business of the House, but I am a little loth to give a final answer to the hon. member. My present intention is not to proceed further with that bill this session, but I ask the hon. member to repeat the question to-morrow, when I shall give him a more definite answer.

USE OF TRUST LANDS FOR WAR PURPOSES BILL.

Mr. LEVY: I desire to ask the Attorney-General is he prepared to give me an opportunity of carrying through this session the Use of Trust Lands for War Purposes Bill? The bill consists of one clause only, and is intended to meet an emergency of a very peculiar character.

Mr. D. R. HALL: I have had an opportunity of seeing the measure, and it seems to me to be entirely unobjectionable and practically non-debatable. I

hope that between this and the close of the session we shall be able to give the hon. member an opportunity of putting it through.

MILITARY EXEMPTION COURTS.

Mr. COCHRAN : I desire to ask the Attorney-General what are the terms and conditions on which the services of the police magistrates in this State and Mr. Justice Street are being utilised by the Federal authorities in connection with the military exemption courts.

Mr. D. R. HALL : The magistrates and the judge in question are loaned to the Federal authorities without any charge, but if any special expenses by way of travelling or otherwise are incurred by them in the course of their work for the Federal authorities those expenses are recouped by the Federal authorities.

ADMISSION TO PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS.

Mr. COCHRAN : I desire to ask you, sir, what is the reason for the innovation which has been introduced under which visitors to this House are compelled to seek the services of a member in order to get an admission card issued to them? Is it a fact that the parliamentary messengers have been sworn in as special constables and furnished with the distinctive badge of that branch of the police service as well as being armed with the latest appliances in scientific warfare?

Mr. SPEAKER : The information conveyed by the authorities to me as Speaker was of such a character as to justify me in taking every precaution to see that this building might not in any way be injured, or that hon. members might not meet with disaster before the proper time. In the past the custom was that members of the public were admitted here upon the order of a representative of the people. In view of certain precautions which are taken, both before and after the sitting of Parliament, in regard to searching for certain matters on the premises it has been thought by the authorities—and I thoroughly concur in their opinion—most advisable that we should be able to locate the identity of every person who visits the Assembly during any sitting, and the closest method we can adopt is by getting

[*Mr. D. R. Hall*

a member to initial the card with the name and address of the member of the public seeking admission. I am not aware that any great inconvenience has been caused, but this is a very open and inflammable establishment, and I have no hesitation in saying, from the information which has been conveyed to me, that I am acting in the interests both of members of the Assembly and of the country. With regard to the question as to whether some of the messengers have been appointed as special constables to act in case of certain emergencies, I am not aware that they are peripatetic magazines walking about with the latest weapons of warfare as described by the hon. member.

BOYS EMPLOYED IN MINES.

Mr. J. C. L. FITZPATRICK : Yesterday questions were put to me by the hon. member for Middle Harbour and the hon. member for Cessnock with reference to the employment of lads between the ages of 12 and 14 in coal-mines, underground, for nine hours a day. I promised that I would make inquiries with the view of ascertaining the extent to which the statement is true. A statement has been furnished to me by the department in the following terms:—

The law allows boys of 14 years of age to be employed in or about a coal-mine, but this is the minimum age. Extract from the Coal Mines Regulation Act, sections 41, 42, and 43, dealing with this question, is attached. As to whether boys of less than 14 years of age have been employed, in the absence of particulars as to name of boy and place of employment it is impossible to say. If such particulars are given the matter will be investigated.

The colliery inspectors, during their visits to the mines, peruse the colliery register kept as required by section 42 (3) of the Coal-mines Regulation Act, 1912, and they have not reported any breach of the law. On rare occasions requests have been made to the colliery officials and to the Minister to allow a boy under 14 years to be employed, but, as far as is known to the inspectors, this has never been allowed. It may, however, be pointed out that by furnishing incorrect information as to age, a boy less than 14 years may have been employed, but there is no record to show that any boy under age has been so employed.

Mr. KEARSLEY : If that statement is a reply to my question, I desire to say that my question was bearing on the employment of boys between the ages of 14 and 18. I am aware of the provisions in the Act forbidding boys under 14 from

being employed in a mine, and I asked the question whether boys between 14 and 18 were kept underground more than eight hours, which the law prohibits. I also asked, if that were the case, would the Minister have those persons who are guilty of the offence prosecuted?

Mr. J. C. L. FITZPATRICK: I shall be glad to make further inquiry into the matter, and refer the hon. member's question to the head of the department, so that I may be able to get the information at the earliest possible moment.

INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Mr. MCGIRR: I desire to ask the honorary Minister whether it has been brought under his notice that there is great danger to our trade and commerce and to finance generally, owing to the fact that large sums of money are being taken out of New South Wales and Australia generally, to be invested in South America and other countries. Will the Minister make diligent inquiries and ascertain whether it is a fact that some of our leading men, who boasted of their loyalty on the question of conscription, have taken large sums of money from New South Wales to invest in South America to avoid State and Federal taxation?

Mr. D. STORRY: I am not aware that any money is being sent away from here for investment abroad. The hon. member's question is like a statement he made about Sir Samuel McCaughey.

UTILISATION OF IDLE MINING LEASES.

Mr. MCGIRR: I wish to ask the Minister for Mines whether he is aware that in various portions of the most important part of New South Wales—Tumut, Yass, and Burrowa—large areas are held under mining lease which are not used for mining purposes? Will the Minister confer with the Minister for Lands, who is anxious to set free the lands of this State for settlement purposes, and arrange for the cancellation of these leases, so that the land may be turned to its proper use for grazing or agriculture?

Mr. J. C. L. FITZPATRICK: If the hon. member will furnish me with any definite information on the matter I shall make inquiries.

VISIT OF PREMIER TO ENGLAND.

Mr. MINAHAN: I desire to know whether the statement is true that the Premier proposes to visit England in the near future to discuss finance?

Mr. HOLMAN: I cannot say that I have any definitely-formed intention of that kind. Hon. members are aware that the financial situation is fluctuating. For some time past a suggestion has been made that it may be necessary for the Treasurer of this State, whoever he may be, to be on the spot, but at any moment circumstances may arise which may obviate that necessity. I can only say as frankly as possible, that there is no intention on my part to visit England, and no matter bearing upon the question has been discussed in the Cabinet.

SANATORIUM AT BROKEN HILL.

Mr. WRIGHT: I should like to ask the Colonial Secretary whether he has the information he promised me yesterday with regard to the work at the Sanatorium at Broken Hill not being proceeded with?

Mr. FULLER: I asked my colleague, the Minister for Public Health, to supply me with the information asked for by the hon. member. I expected it to be here this afternoon, but it has not arrived yet. As soon as it does arrive I will let the hon. member know what it is.

SOLDIERS' VOTES AT THE REFERENDUM.

Mr. HAYNES: I desire to ask the Premier if he can get into touch with the Federal authorities to ascertain why no statement has been made indicating the way the soldiers voted at the recent referendum? Will the hon. member endeavour to get that information, which would be very interesting? I also desire to ask the Premier, is it a fact that instructions have been issued to the press by the censor, prohibiting the publication of any information whatever in regard to the soldiers' votes?

Mr. HOLMAN: If the hon. member feels any curiosity upon those points, which appear to me to have nothing to do with the business before the House, I would suggest to him that he should ask the Federal member for the district in

which he resides to ask for the information in the Federal Parliament. It is no part of my business to answer questions of that kind.

HONORARIUM TO PARLIAMENTARY OFFICERS.

Mr. PAGE: I desire to ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether you will take into consideration the work of the *Hansard* staff and those connected with the office during the long sitting we had last week, and make a favourable recommendation to the authorities, with the view to compensate those officers?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will take the matter into consideration, but I shall be guided to a great extent by the practice followed by my predecessors.

ADDITIONAL SITTING DAY.

Mr. HOLMAN: I desire to give notice that to-morrow I will move:

That, unless otherwise ordered, this House shall meet for the despatch of business at 4 o'clock p.m. on Monday in each week, and Government business shall take precedence of general business.

I may inform hon. members that we hope to take two extra days in order to hasten the despatch of the estimates. We shall perhaps take Monday for two weeks.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER: In regard to the notices of motion on the business-paper standing in the name of the hon. member, Mr. Cann, and the hon. member, Mr. Griffith, I may point out that as these notices of motion were given by them in their capacity of members of the Government, it would be as well if those hon. members would withdraw them. If any member of the Government desires practically to take the place of either of those hon. members in regard to the moving of either of those motions, I cannot permit him to do so. I can only permit a colleague to take the place of a colleague, and as those hon. members are no longer colleagues of members of the Government, it will be necessary for fresh notices to be given, if any member of the Government should desire to proceed with those matters.

Mr. BALL: I desire to make a short statement and to ask the House to give

[Mr. Holman,

me leave to withdraw notice of motion No. 3 on the business-paper standing in my name and dealing with the question of proportional representation.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no need for the House to give the hon. member leave to withdraw the motion. If the hon. member intimates his desire to withdraw it, that ends the matter.

Mr. BALL: I desire to state my reasons for asking for leave to withdraw the notice of motion. The motion asked the Government to take certain action in regard to amending the electoral law. Being now a member of the Government, it seems to me that it would be somewhat out of place for me to move such a motion. But the reform referred to is one to which I attach a great deal of importance, and as a member of the Government I shall, apart from the affirmative resolution which I have on the business-paper, endeavour to get an opportunity for the proposal to be passed into law. I desire, further, to say that the hon. member for Parramatta intends to give a similar notice of motion, and the Premier will give the hon. member the opportunity which he promised me a short time ago to bring the matter before the House for discussion. Perhaps it would be as well to get an affirmative vote of the House on this important matter before the introduction of a bill to deal with it.

Notice of motion withdrawn.

CROWN LANDS (FURTHER AMENDMENT) BILL.

Bill returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

INCOME-TAX BILL.

In Committee of Ways and Means:

Mr. HOLMAN (Cootamundra), Premier and Colonial Treasurer [5.11], moved:

That towards raising the supply to be granted to His Majesty there shall be charged, levied, collected and paid an additional 3d. in the £ income-tax on income received during the year 1916.

He said: This is merely a continuation of the existing law. As hon. members know, the supertax on incomes has been levied annually, and the measure providing for

it expires each year. The present financial situation does not permit us to contemplate the abandonment of the super-tax during the current financial year, and I ask hon. members to assent to this motion so as to enable me to bring in the necessary bill to-morrow. The bill will make no change so far as income-tax is concerned. I am not going beyond the first reading stage to-day, and hon. members will have an opportunity of discussing the proposal to-morrow.

MR. LEVY: Do I understand that this bill is merely intended to renew the life of the present Act for another twelve months?

MR. HOLMAN: Yes.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill founded on resolution of Ways and Means presented and read a first time.

DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL.

MR. FULLER (Wollondilly), Colonial Secretary [5.16], moved:—

That it is a matter of urgent necessity that a bill intituled "A bill to promote the earlier use of daylight in certain months yearly; to amend the Standard Time Act, 1902; and for other purposes," be brought in and passed through all its stages in one day.

He said: I am sure that at this crisis hon. members will realise the necessity of utilising daylight as much as possible with a view to saving fuel and conserving power in connection with the various operations of our industrial life. A Daylight Saving Act has been in operation in England since it was recently passed as a war measure, and it has commended itself to all sections of the community. It has been endorsed by manufacturers, commercial men, representatives of the big labour unions, and others throughout the Kingdom. The principle has been in operation for some years on the continent, and has proved of great advantage so far as the health and pleasure of the community are concerned. The question of daylight saving was brought forward at the last Premiers' Conference, at which the Premier and the Attorney-General represented this State and undertook to introduce into this Parliament a measure embodying

the principle. The Victorian Government undertook to draft a bill, and succeeded in getting it passed through Parliament, and all that is now necessary to permit of the principle being brought into operation in Victoria is the passing of a similar measure in this State. The principle has also been adopted in Tasmania and New Zealand, and has been found of great advantage. The same thing applies to several of the States of America. A select committee of this House, under the chairmanship of the hon. member for Middle Harbour, who has taken a great interest in the subject, has inquired into the desirability of adopting the daylight saving principle. Although the select committee did not present a report it collected a large amount of valuable evidence. Among those who testified in favour of adopting the principle was the late Chief Commissioner for Railways, Mr. Johnson. He pointed out that in connection with the lighting of the stations, particularly those which were supplied with gas by the Australian Gaslight Company, the earlier use of daylight would enable the Commissioners to make a considerable saving. Before I came to the House to-day I was in communication with the Chief Commissioner for Railways, who told me that he endorsed what had been said by Mr. Johnson. He pointed out that at this time of crisis the saving of an additional hour of daylight would very materially assist the Commissioners in running the railways in view of the necessity of conserving fuel and saving light in connection with railway stations in the metropolitan area which are served by the Australian Gaslight Company. I hope I have submitted sufficient reasons at this stage to induce hon. members to agree to the suspension of the standing orders so that the bill may be passed without delay.

MR. MARK F. MORTON: If we pass the bill will the principle be brought into operation in Victoria and this State?

MR. FULLER: Yes. I was in communication with the Premier of Victoria to-day, and although it was understood that their Act was not to come into operation until both New South Wales and South Australia had passed similar legislation, the Victorian Government has agreed to give effect to the principle as

soon as we join in the movement. Queensland has not yet taken any action, and the South Australian Parliament has gone into recess without dealing with the matter. Whilst it is desirable that all the States which are connected up by railway should come into line in this matter, distinct advantage will be derived by this State and Victoria if the principle is adopted irrespective of other States, and the Railway Commissioners of New South Wales and Victoria are prepared to take the matter in hand at once.

Mr. J. STOREY: Did the Chief Commissioner indicate in what way fuel could be saved?

Mr. FULLER: No. He merely pointed out in general terms that a distinct advantage would be gained in the saving of light, particularly under the special conditions in which we now find ourselves placed.

Question put. The House divided:

Ayes, 41; noes, 11; majority, 30.

AYES.

Abbott, M.	Hoyle, H. C.
Arthur, Dr. R.	Hunt, J. C.
Ashford, W. G.	James, A. G. F.
Bagnall, W. R. C.	Lane, H. W.
Ball, R. T.	Latimer, W. F.
Brown, W.	Levy, D.
Bruntzell, A.	McDonald, G. R. W.
Burgess, G. A.	Mercer, J. B.
Colquhoun, P. B.	Millard, W.
Crane, J. T.	Morton, Harry
Crawford, T. S.	Morton, Mark F.
Cusack, J. J.	Page, F. J.
Fitzpatrick, J. C. L.	Perry, J.
Fuller, G. W.	Robson, W. E. V.
Gardiner, A. R.	Storey, D.
Graff, A.	Thomas, F. J.
Hall, Brinsley	Thompson, W.
Hickey, Simon	Waddell, T.
Hollis, R.	<i>Tellers.</i>
Holman, W. A.	Morrish, J. J.
Hoskins, T. J.	Osborne, J. P.

NOES.

Boston, W. J.	Storey, J.
Cochran, J. P.	Thrower, T. H.
Fingleton, J.	Wright, J.
Lang, J. T.	<i>Tellers.</i>
McGirr, J. J. G.	Brown, T.
Minahan, P. J.	Kearsley, W.

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

Motion (by Mr. FULLER) proposed:

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would preclude a bill intituled "A bill to promote the earlier use of daylight in certain months yearly, to amend the Standard

[Mr. Fuller.

Time Act, 1902, and for other purposes," being brought in and passed through all its stages in one day.

Mr. MCGIRR (Yass) [5.30]: This side of the House objects to this hasty and insincere legislation. It is a serious thing to see a Minister who is a member of a Government that stated it was going to adopt a sane, steady and slow policy, as against the policy of its predecessors, who, it said, moved too rapidly and dealt too quickly with legislation, bring in this measure which makes such a radical change in the law without the proposal having been discussed by the public. The Minister has stated that the scheme has been adopted in other countries, but I desire to point out that this question has never been before probably the greatest Labour organisation in the world, the P.L.L. of New South Wales. This is one of the tricks to delude the workers, and is typical of old Tory methods. It is not a genuine attempt to benefit the workers of the country. They say that in order to benefit the workers they will put the hands of the clock back one hour, while they distinctly refuse to give the poor struggling coal-miners of New South Wales eight hours from bank to bank. They further say to the workers, "By putting back the hands of the clock you will have a good thing on." But the fact is that the workers will have to work as long as they have worked hitherto. There is no shortening of their hours. There is no amelioration of their conditions. The measure is aimed at upsetting the whole equilibrium of commerce and business. Last night we dealt with legislation which closed the hotels at 6 o'clock, whereas by this proposal the hotels will be closed at 5 o'clock. The hours during which hotelkeepers do most of their business will be shortened. The Colonial Secretary has stated that the system has been adopted in England, but in England there is no sympathetic legislation for the workers. A Labour Government has never ruled in that country, and the conditions there are different from those which exist in Australia. The daylight conditions in Great Britain are in no way comparable with those in Australia. There they have sunrise much earlier and sunset much later.

Mr. HOLLIS: Do you object to the worker leaving work at 5 o'clock now?

Mr. MCGIRR: Yes; I think he ought to leave at 4 o'clock. This bill is not intended to shorten the hours of the worker. The workers are being misled. They have not agreed to it and will not abide by it. If the Colonial Secretary is sincere in his statement that he desires to shorten the hours of the workers and give them better terms and conditions there was never a better time than the present for him to show his sincerity by passing a short bill giving eight hours from bank to bank to those toiling miners who daily endanger their lives in their work. The proposal is unfair to the hotelkeepers and other business people. It will disorganise every industry that is now being carried on during certain fixed hours.

The Colonial Secretary states that the Railway Commissioners have informed him that it will result in a saving of fuel in running the railways. But if a train has to go 300 miles it does not matter whether it starts at 4, 5 or 6 o'clock the same quantity of coal will be consumed in making the journey. The Railway Commissioners may belong to the same association as the hon. member for Middle Harbour and others who are the greatest enemies of the workers in this country. We have had the Chief Railway Commissioner putting the "third degree" on his employees in order to find out what political organisation they belong to and his opinion as to what is going to benefit the workers does not cut ice with members on this side who really represent the workers of this country. This is a tricky move on the part of the capitalists who will give the worker steak and eggs for his breakfast in order to strengthen him so that they can get more work out of him. The source from which this bill emanates makes me suspicious of it. Those men who have become accustomed to going to bed and getting up at a certain hour will not alter their habits as the result of the passing of this legislation. They will go to bed at their accustomed hour and their wives and children will be kept up till that hour. In the morning the poor wives of these men, who have been trodden by the capitalists, will have to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning in

order to get breakfast for their husbands. This bill is going to upset the whole of the domestic and business conditions that exist in New South Wales to-day. It is going to disorganise Australian conditions generally, because, as the Colonial Secretary has stated, Queensland and South Australia, which have Labour Governments, have refused to fall into line on this matter.

Mr. FULLER: They have not refused!

Mr. MCGIRR: At any rate, they have not fallen into line, and will not do so. The condition of affairs existing to-day shows that we, on this side of the House, are doing the right thing in saying that there is no urgency for this measure. It is a matter into which inquiry should be made. Every business man should be consulted, and a vote of the workers should be taken on the question. It will damage the whole of our commercial industry, and affect both employers and employees. If this national conscription Government is of opinion that the reason for regarding this as an urgent measure is that it will help in bringing about a solution of the problem of the coal strike, God help the country.

Mr. BURGESS: Is there not a Labour Government in South Australia?

Mr. MCGIRR: It is a conscription Government, judging by the Premier of that State who was sent here. And if he is going to help to form a National Government you cannot expect him to be much in sympathy with the masses. The Colonial Secretary has stated that the people of this State generally are in favour of this principle. That is untrue. The people have not been consulted. The conditions of the country which have adopted the daylight-saving principle cannot be compared with the conditions of New South Wales. If the Colonial Secretary wants to save the light which is being lost to-day, let him introduce an eight hours bank to bank bill, and then there will be plenty of light. If he brought in such a bill, there would be no necessity for a pettifogging measure of this kind. Putting the clock back an hour or two will not give the people the light they require. Such a bill as this is what I would expect from a coalition, national, conscriptionist Government. There is no urgency for the

measure. It should be referred to some committee, and also submitted to a vote of the unions composed of the men whom the Colonial Secretary says the bill is going to benefit. We on this side of the House, as representatives of those people, say that the bill is not going to benefit them. It is going to affect harshly their womanhood, and others in their homes who have to rise early to enable the men to leave home at daylight.

We implore the Government to grapple with the conditions existing to-day, but not by bringing in a bill to regulate how much gas or electricity may be used, the effect of which bill is that while the small men must close their shops, Greeks and Germans, who have other means for doing their cooking, can keep their businesses going. I ask the Colonial Secretary to hand over the reins of office to the men on this side of the House. Let us form a Ministry, and in twenty-four hours we will end the coal strike.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed the hon. member to drag in the coal strike about half-a-dozen times. His remarks have now reached the stage of tedious repetition, and I ask him to desist.

MR. MCGIRR: This principle is the work of the capitalist. In all the countries in which the principle has been introduced, on the plea that it would benefit the workers, it has proved to be a subterfuge. It has been brought in at the dictation of the great employers. They think that men, if they can be got to work earlier in the morning, will be fresher, and more work will be got out of them. The object is to delude the worker and make him believe that he is getting better conditions. It is to prevent him from asking for shorter hours. Hon. gentlemen who are introducing this measure should do something that would really benefit the downtrodden workers, but that is just what they refuse to do.

MR. ARTHUR GRIFFITH (Annan-dale) [5.46]: This appears to me to be one of those few measures as to which there is really no other side. It is one of those measures which confer a large benefit on a very large number of people without injuring anybody. For a long time, in common with the hon. member for Middle Harbour, I have regarded this as

[*Mr. McGirr.*

a valuable and necessary measure. It is not a question of whether it is a capitalistic proposal, or whether it would have any effect on the coal strike. Those are matters altogether apart. It is simply a rearrangement of our social industrial forces in conformity with the dictates of nature. The sun rises at a certain hour, but that hour differs in winter and summer. Our industrial social conditions remain the same, although the conditions of nature differ. That men should go to work at the same hour and knock off at the same hour in June as in December is a practice which is contrary to all reason.

MR. WADDELL: Will this bill alter that?

MR. ARTHUR GRIFFITH: This bill means that during the summer months everything will be an hour earlier. I would prefer an hour and a half. The principle of daylight-saving has been adopted in other countries.

MR. MCGIRR: Are there any workers who go to work in the dark in this country as is done in Great Britain?

MR. ARTHUR GRIFFITH: Very few, but the bill will not affect them. It will not affect men who go early to work, but it will benefit the great mass. For instance, all shop assistants, men and women engaged in offices, and in various other forms of industry, will get away at 5 o'clock instead of at 6, so they will have another hour of sunshine and daylight. The fact that they will rise an hour earlier in the morning will not interfere with their existing habits. We have to bear in mind that the whole machinery will change. People who went to work at 8 o'clock will go at 7; but instead of knocking off at 6, they will knock off at 5.

MR. BURGESS: If people went to work earlier than they do now, in connection with harvesting, it would not be possible to harvest at all!

MR. ARTHUR GRIFFITH: In harvesting, people go to work when it is light, and it may not be necessary for them to go earlier. The effect of the bill will be that all our chronological machinery will be moved an hour during the summer months. The train which starts at 9.30 will still start at 9.30 by the clock, but it will really be 8.30. The man who leaves his office, or the children who leave

school at 4 o'clock will leave at 3. The children will have another hour for cricket or other sports.

Whichever way you take it, this is one of the few measures—and there are very few—that injure nobody. It will benefit the great masses in a very material way. The man who gets up at 6 o'clock now will still get up at 6 by the clock, but it will actually be 5 o'clock by the sun; but that will not affect him. I admit that if the principle were followed all through the year it would inflict hardship in the winter months. We are bringing our social and industrial conditions into conformity with the conditions laid down by the Almighty in making the sun rise earlier in summer. The bill will give a larger amount of leisure to the working-classes. That is my point. They will have more leisure when the sun is shining. They will be able to play cricket, or go surfing, or indulge in other wholesome recreation, which is the basis of national life.

I hope my hon. friends on the Opposition bench will not get the idea into their heads that there is class distinction shown here. The man of leisure can get up when he likes and go to bed when he likes, but this measure will benefit the man who is not able to do that. It is impossible for members of the Opposition to import a party aspect into this question. If there is any party aspect in the bill, it is that it confers benefits on men, women, and children who are tied down to certain hours. The man of leisure and wealth can please himself as to when he gets up and when he goes to bed; but under this bill the man who has to earn his living will get an additional hour of sunshine and daylight during the summer months.

Mr. WRIGHT (Willyama) [5.51]: I understand the question is whether we shall suspend the standing orders. I shall therefore confine myself to that phase of the question. I object to their being suspended, because I do not think this is a matter of great importance. I have not made up my mind whether I shall vote for the bill or not. When the bill comes before the House I shall make up my mind in the course of the debate as to which side I shall vote on. I

have, however, a very lively experience since the National Government has been in power, of the great danger of allowing the Government to bring in bills in this way as matters of urgency. This, I think, is the third of the kind. When the Government passes that stage it applies the "gag" at every other stage. I want to hear this matter debated. I have not made up my mind. I am afraid that, if we allow this bill to be introduced as an urgent matter, the Government will pursue its usual tactics and "gag" debate upon it. That has been done on two separate occasions. In Parliament we are supposed to debate these questions. We are here for the purpose of enlightening one another on the various questions that come before us. There are certain matters which can be considered as urgent. There is one urgent measure which the Government could bring in, and which would stop the fearful condition of things now existing, that is an eight hours bank to bank bill. Let hon. members compare such a bill with this one now before the House. If the bill were for the purpose of preventing a state of chaos—factories being shut up, and people being injured—it could be called an emergency measure, and I would be the last man to prevent the Government from suspending the standing orders for the purpose of passing a measure of that description. I cannot, however, understand why this Daylight Saving Bill should be regarded as an emergency measure, especially seeing that some hon. members who are supporting this bill were until recently members of the Government, but did not bring it forward then. Work in this country has gone on very well so far without our having such a measure as this. If the owners of a factory want work to start there at 5 o'clock in the morning they can make arrangements for it to do so. I have worked in three continents. This is the only continent where I have not had to work by candlelight. In Australia there is no necessity to work by candlelight. The work can be done during daylight if the eight hours principle is carried out. Of course, if shops are open until 9 o'clock on Fridays as they are now, some kind of artificial light will have to be used there whether this bill be passed or not. I

enter a protest against the Government dealing with such a tiddlywinking measure as this is, as though it were an emergency measure, when, no doubt, the intention is to follow the practice which has been followed by hon. members opposite since the formation of the present Ministry and gag the bill through the House without allowing an opportunity for proper discussion.

[*Mr. Speaker left the chair at 5.58 p.m. The House resumed at 7.30 p.m.*]

Mr. FULLER (Wollondilly), Colonial Secretary [7.30]: I desire to make a short statement. I should like hon. members to know that I do not propose to-night doing anything further than moving the second reading. After that I am perfectly willing to consent to an adjournment of the debate. Hon. members will then have the bill in their hands, and will be able to see exactly what it is. I will put the resumption of the debate down for a date which will afford hon. members an opportunity of giving the matter full consideration. I have not the slightest desire in any way to rush the bill through in the face of the objections of hon. members.

Mr. OSBORNE (Paddington) [7.32]: In view of the statement made by the Chief Secretary I do not propose to say more than a few words at this juncture. I do not say, however, that I entirely disagree with the sentiments which were given expression to by the hon. member for Yass. Whilst no doubt he felt himself justified in using the pronoun "we," I want to make it quite plain that in my opinion his views do not represent the attitude of certain hon. members on this side of the House. I do not view with any degree of alarm the introduction of the bill, and I have no objection to the suspension of the standing orders—not because I believe it is a matter of paramount urgency, but because I am of opinion that it is a reform which should have been given effect to many years ago. I desire to take the earliest opportunity of recording a vote in favour of a proposal which I have supported for a good many years; one which I believe will be of considerable benefit to the community, and one which will certainly not have the detrimental effect outlined by the hon. member for Yass. Under the circumstances I do not propose to go into the merits or demerits of the question

[*Mr. Wright.*

at all, but am quite prepared to accept the statement made by the Minister in charge of the bill. I am glad to learn that he has decided upon that course of action, because I believe it will expedite the passage of the measure, and will wipe away any doubt which might exist in the minds of hon. members who are not yet fully acquainted with the provisions of the measure, and under those circumstances I believe he will have done the best thing possible, and that his action will have the effect of gaining additional support from hon. members on all sides of the House.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

In Committee (Mr. G. R. W. McDONALD in the chair):

Motion (by Mr. FULLER) agreed to:

That it is expedient to bring in a bill to promote the earlier use of daylight in certain months yearly; to amend the Standard Time Act, 1902, and for other purposes.

Resolution reported and agreed to.

Bill presented and read a first time.

SECOND READING.

Mr. FULLER (Wollondilly), Colonial Secretary [7.41], moved:

That this bill be now read a second time.

He said: I desire at once to disabuse the minds of hon. members of the idea that I have the slightest desire to force the bill on hon. members before they are fully acquainted with its provisions. I have already said that I shall agree to a postponement of the debate so that hon. members may have the fullest opportunity of considering the measure and be prepared to deal with it. I do hope that no feeling will be imported into the matter. The hon. member for Yass has accused us of insincerity and hypocrisy. I can say that as far as the Government is concerned it is serious in this matter, believing that by passing the bill it will confer a great boon on the people, and particularly on the working-classes of the community. If hon. members will give me their attention for a few minutes I shall be able to disabuse their minds of the suspicion that this is a measure framed in the interests of capitalists. It has been introduced in other countries where it has been proved that the workers, particularly in factories and other such places, who were not previously

allowed that fair measure of God's sunshine to which they are entitled, have greatly benefited by it. It gives them an opportunity to get as much sunshine and health and happiness as possible.

This principle has had the force of law on the Continent for a considerable number of years and has been found to work very effectively. It is the law in New Zealand and in Tasmania, and has recently been made law in the old country in order to facilitate war work. At the Premiers' Conference, at which the Premier, Mr. Holman, and the Attorney-General, Mr. D. R. Hall, were present, it was arranged that a bill should be drafted by the Victorian Government and sent to the Governments of the other States, and that as soon as the three States of New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria adopted it it should become the law. It is highly desirable that all the States which are linked up by railway communication should fall into line, but it has been arranged between the Premier of Victoria and the Premier of New South Wales that as soon as those two great eastern States of the Commonwealth adopt the measure it would become law. The question has been inquired into in our own State by a select committee under the presidency of the hon. member, Dr. Arthur. A large amount of valuable evidence was tendered by witnesses. One of the great public utilities which will be affected by the passage of the measure is the railway service. Mr. Johnson, who was then Chief Commissioner, spoke cordially in support of the proposal. If hon. members will look at the evidence taken before that committee they will find that Mr. Johnson's evidence was strongly in support of the measure because of its assistance in railway working. The hon. member for Yass slightly misunderstood my reference to the present Chief Commissioner's statement regarding the saving of fuel. That saving will occur in connection with the supply of gas by the Australian Gaslight Company for the lighting of metropolitan and suburban railway stations now served by the company. In the present industrial crisis it would mean a very considerable saving in lighting, and the Chief Commissioner assures me that he and the Assistant Commissioners are strongly in

favour of the bill on that ground, and on other grounds stated by Mr. Johnson. The matter was inquired into in the neighbouring State of Victoria by a committee, which examined sixty witnesses. That committee brought up a report strongly in favour of the bill. On the strength of that report the bill was submitted to the Victorian Parliament, and, as I have already stated, it passed, but is now awaiting the passage of a similar measure by this State.

MR. OSBORNE: Was it received very favourably in the Victorian Parliament?

MR. FULLER: Very favourably.

MR. OSBORNE: What was the voting on it?

MR. FULLER: There was no division. It went through on the voices.

MR. STUART-ROBERTSON: What would be the actual effect on shops now closing at 9 o'clock?

MR. FULLER: They would still close nominally at 9 o'clock, but 9 o'clock would actually be an hour earlier. They will start an hour earlier and close an hour earlier.

MR. STUART-ROBERTSON: And the shops now closing at 6 would really close at 5!

MR. FULLER: Yes, although the time would be 6 by the clock.

MR. MINAHAN: What provision is to be made to prevent confusion in working the timetables between the two States of New South Wales and Victoria?

MR. FULLER: I shall refer to that matter. The principal clause of the bill is:

(1) Notwithstanding anything in section three of the Standard Time Act, 1902, from the hour of 2 in the morning of the first Sunday in October in each year until the hour of 2 in the morning of the first Sunday in March in the next following year New South Wales clock time shall throughout New South Wales be one hour in advance of standard time.

(2) In this section the expression "the hour of 2 in the morning" means that hour as determined by standard time.

That is to say, that during the summer months, from October to March, in New South Wales the clocks shall be set one hour in advance of standard time. In connection with the various industrial activities, those engaged in the work will

really start during the summer one hour earlier than they do at present and cease an hour earlier in the evening. By reason of stopping work at 5 instead of 6 a large number of employees will be given the opportunity of enjoying a little sunshine in the evening which at present they are unable to enjoy. They will have the opportunity of indulging in sport or if they wish to go home they may spend that hour in looking after their gardens or in other occupations. They will be able to get that hour of extra sunshine in the evening which they cannot get now. I propose to put before hon. members a few quotations from the report of the Victorian select committee to show the nature of the evidence tendered and the conclusions arrived at on the evidence of some sixty witnesses. Reporting upon the advantages to be gained from the proposal the committee said:

Simply put, the principle of the proposal has for its object the better accommodation of working hours to the hours of daylight; in other words, to promote the better use of daylight by causing people to commence their daily routines earlier during the summer months, by the expedient of advancing the clocks an agreed-upon time, so as to insure an appreciable period between the end of the day's work and darkness. There are certain hours during which people spend their time in various activities, and certain hours in which rest is taken; the object is to change these hours, so as to give to the greater part of the community an opportunity of recreation in the daylight now denied to very many of them.

Necessarily there are sections of the community whose avocations, now commencing early, would cause them, for the sake of the general population, to make some sacrifice by rising in darkness at the commencement and end of the period. But beyond this, the advocates of the movement assert their interests can never be injuriously affected.

Some of our industries will be similarly affected. Take, for example, the dairying industry. On the South Coast, at Camden and other places, where the farmers have to rise very early to catch the milk trains in order to send their produce to the Sydney market, it would mean that these people would have to get up an hour earlier than they do at present unless a special arrangement was made.

Mr. DOOLEY: That would be 2 o'clock!

Mr. FULLER: As a native of the district I may say that it would be pretty early. I understand that the same disadvantages would operate in the case of

fruit-growers. So far as those two classes are concerned, as I say there may be some disadvantage from the adoption of this proposal; but provision could be made to overcome it. Taking the community as a whole, I think I shall be able to satisfy hon. members that the vast majority will be materially and beneficially affected by the suggested alteration.

Mr. STUART-ROBERTSON: The hotels will close at 5 o'clock as we know it now?

Mr. FULLER: Yes, probably that would be the case. The report goes on to say:

On the contrary, while the bread-winner—the unit of the family—may suffer somewhat, it would be with the knowledge that his children, both sons and daughters, who may be employed in buildings, will reap the benefit:

The clock arbitrarily regulates the affairs of the people of the cities; whereas in the heat and glare of our summer this function, it is urged with much reason, should be governed by the sun. Hours of early sunlight are wasted in the bright months, and consequently more hours are used in the afternoon than in the morning, with the result that human activities, however viewed, are unnecessarily carried beyond the hours of daylight into darkness, necessitating the use of artificial light. On the whole, it is only the lot of few people to have opportunities for leisure or pleasure when they reach their homes after the day's work is done.

Hon. members will appreciate, from that quotation, the distinct advantage which would accrue to the great mass of the working-classes who are employed in factories and similar places. They would be able to leave off work at what would be the equivalent of 5 o'clock instead of 6, and the extra hour of daylight thus gained they would be able to employ for recreation and other purposes. I approach the question now from an industrial point of view. The secretary of the Shopkeepers' Saturday Half-holiday Association gave evidence before the Victorian select committee, and, by way of comment upon that evidence, the committee say in their report:

If the bill is carried it will do very much to justify the boast that Victoria is the paradise of the worker. These words apply, with equal force to all persons who are employed in buildings, whether as workers in factories or shops, in offices, or in any sedentary occupation. They form a very large proportion of the metropolitan community, and include both sexes, which fact in itself is of vital consideration. On account of the hours of finishing work being so near to the commencement of

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darkness, few of these people, whether employers or employees, have an opportunity during the week of enjoying the benefits which daylight at the end of the day gives. Consequently, the principle of the change, in its relation to them, demands very careful consideration.

In other testimonies surprising unanimity prevails as to the advantages which would follow a change of working hours in the summer season, both in respect to light and happiness, and the saving of artificial light.

Mr. John Barnett, a clothing manufacturer, with a big staff of employees, looked upon the proposal as a progressive one which would benefit a very large section of the community, from the fact that there are 76,000 persons working in factories in Victoria, of which number 32,700, about half, are females, and amongst these are many thousands of very young girls who have just left school.

What applies to Victoria in that respect applies equally to New South Wales:

If it were made possible during the summer months for these young girls, just at the time when they were becoming fagged, and the factories were becoming overheated, to leave off work and get out into the fresh air and sunlight, it would greatly benefit their health, it would cultivate a taste among working people to beautify their homes and surroundings, and relatively the outcome would be that employers would be benefited. The health of the people would be better, and they, especially the young people, would commence their day's work fresher. He agreed that the adoption of the movement would emphasise the position Victoria occupies as a manufacturing State, because it would be beneficial to the employers and the employees.

There is one other important piece of evidence given by Mr. Harrison Ord, the Victorian Government Statistician, in connection with this bill:

In accordance with the request made to me by the committee of the Legislative Assembly appointed to report on the above bill, inquiries were made by officers of this department of leading manufacturers and shopkeepers as to whether they were in favour or not of the bill. The result of such inquiries was as follows: 271 employers employing 25,115 employees are in favour of the bill. They desire that only one alteration of one hour be made in the clock. Seven employers employing 958 employees are in favour of the bill. They desire the saving to be effected by four alterations of twenty minutes.

Thirteen employers employing 1,037 employees are neutral. Twenty-eight employers employing 3,104 employees are against the bill.

Hon. members will see that a large number of employers, employing 26,073 employees, expressed themselves as absolutely in favour of the bill.

Mr. DOOLEY: Were the employees consulted?

Mr. FULLER: I have just given to the House a long quotation based on evidence on behalf of the employees given by the secretary of the Shopkeepers' Saturday Half-holiday Association, and hon. members who listened to what I read will agree that the testimony was of a very strong character.

Mr. DOOLEY: There was no vote of the employees!

Mr. FULLER: It is the expression of opinion before the committee on behalf of the employees. Hon. members will recognise, from the quotations I have given, that the evidence in favour of the measure, both on the part of the employers and of the employees, was of a most favourable character. It was recognised that the proposed alteration would be favourable to the employees and beneficial to the employers. As the outcome of the report of the select committee appointed in the neighbouring State, the Victorian Parliament saw fit to adopt a similar piece of legislation to that which I am now introducing. This change has also been adopted in the old country. I have here a pamphlet which I believe was circulated among hon. members some time ago. At any rate, I received a copy, which I looked through carefully, and I was struck with the very strong evidence given by those who have had experience of the change in the old country. First of all, the question was referred to a select committee, which examined no less than forty-one witnesses, and they reported that the effect of the bill would be, *inter alia* (1) to facilitate the training of the territorial forces; (2) to benefit the physique, general health and welfare of all classes of the community; (3) to reduce the industrial, commercial, and domestic expenditure on artificial light; (4) that the object of the bill is desirable, and would benefit the community if it can be generally attained,

and that the weight of the evidence submitted to the committee agrees with and supports this view; and (5) that the objects proposed cannot be attained without legislation. A bill was introduced into the House of Commons and passed into law. The following manifesto was issued and appeared in the newspapers on 11th February, 1910:—

We have read the report of the select committee of the House of Commons, 1909, and regret that though they express approval of the proposal they recommend that the bill be not further proceeded with for the following reasons only:

(1) great diversity of opinion;

(2) grave doubts which have been expressed as to whether the objects of the measure can be attained by legislation without giving rise to serious inconvenience in cases involving important interests.

These were the only reasons given for not proceeding with the bill. A large number of representative men of all classes—representatives of big unions and big manufacturing interests joined in pointing out in the manifesto which I have partially quoted, that:

These reasons seem to us inadequate, having regard to the fact that the select committee who sat to consider the bill in 1908 reported that the effect of the proposals of the bill would be *inter alia*—

To facilitate the training of the territorial forces;

To benefit the physique, general health and welfare of all classes of the community;

To reduce the industrial, commercial, and domestic expenditure on artificial light;

That the object of the bill is desirable and would benefit the community if it can be generally attained and that the weight of the evidence submitted to the committee agrees with and supports this view.

This manifesto was signed by a number of Lord Mayors throughout the kingdom, by the representatives of the Bedstead Workmen's Association, by Mr. F. S. Belsey, now Sir F. S. Belsey, Chairman of the Council of the Sunday School Union; Mr. John E. Bingham, now Sir John E. Bingham; the Birmingham Britannia Metal Workers' Association; Mr. John Hodge, M.P., secretary of the British Steel Smelters, Mill Iron, &c., Workers' Association; Mr. David Burnett, now Sir David Burnett, Lord Mayor of London; the Dundee Union of Jute and

[*Mr. Fuller.*

Flax Workers; Sir Alexander Henderson, Chairman of the Great Central Railway; the Associated Iron and Steel Workers of Great Britain; and many others, including the Chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce, the Railway Clerks' Association, and representatives of the workers and employers. I submit that the reports I have read show conclusively that it is desirable that we should introduce this principle here with a view to making the most advantageous use of the glorious daylight and sunlight we enjoy in this country. I think hon. members will agree that the proposed change is desirable in the interests of the health of the community, and in order to give people who are engaged in factories and other similar establishments the fullest possible opportunities for recreation and recuperation. This change will not interfere with anyone and cannot do any harm. It will not affect the number of working hours but will confer distinct benefits upon a large section of the community who have no opportunity at present of obtaining that recreation, leisure, and pleasure to which they are justly and honestly entitled. I admit that in some cases perhaps a little hardship may be inflicted, but speaking generally we have the strongest testimony that the measure will prove beneficial. The bill is not a capitalistic measure, as the hon. member for Yass has suggested. It is entirely beyond party considerations, and I hope hon. members will realise that the Government has not been influenced by party motives in bringing it forward. It is submitted in the interests of the great body of the workers. The evidence to which I have referred should be sufficient to convince hon. members that the bill will prove a blessing to the community. The measure will be circulated and I will fix the date for the resumption of the second-reading debate so as to meet the convenience of hon. members, who I hope will give the bill the consideration which it deserves. I have much pleasure in submitting it to the House, and I desire to say that I am prepared to agree to an adjournment of the debate.

Question proposed.

Debate (on motion by Mr. DOOLEY) adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.8 p.m.