

they had been helped in some other direction. Enormous sums of money were spent putting these men on the land and inducing them to take up an occupation for which they were not adapted. I am prepared to vote for the second reading of this bill because I think it can be amended in a way that will make it useful. I have no sympathy with the large land-owner who is holding up closer settlement or land-locking country towns. The estates along railway lines which have been open for traffic for any time which have not been voluntarily cut up for closer settlement are very few in number. The few people who are holding up closer settlement and land-locking country towns can be dealt with under the law as it now stands. There is nothing to prevent the Government from serving a notice on them and saying to them, "If you do not sell your land, we will take it from you." The object of this bill is to promote wholesale agricultural settlement on areas which are subject to drought and flood and on which improvements cannot be carried out under present conditions. It seems to me that the Government has been misinformed as to actual conditions in this State. I have every sympathy with the objective of the bill, but I advise the Government to be very careful not to interfere in a wholesale fashion with people who know the best use to make of their land. The commissioner who is to be appointed under this bill is to come along and tell me how I shall work my property. There are no two farms in New South Wales—even adjoining farms—which can be worked under any rule of thumb. You have to study the season behind you, and estimate what the season ahead of you is going to be. If you have a wet season behind you you can put in wheat with a reasonable prospect of getting a crop, but if you have a dry season behind you and there is a prospect of another dry season ahead of you, and you put in wheat, you will be courting disaster. That is the sort of thing with which men working their own land are familiar. What is suitable for a holding one year may not be at all suitable for it the following year. That being so, if

we are to be dictated to by someone unacquainted with the peculiar characteristics of differing land disaster must follow. In that direction the bill should be reasonably modified. As I have said, no one could desire more than I do to encourage closer settlement in this country, but I see very great danger in some provisions of this bill. I hope the Minister will welcome proposals to improve the measure.

Debate (on motion by the Hon. Major-General Onslow) adjourned.

[The President left the chair at 6.3 p.m. until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 15th March.]

## Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 15 March, 1927.

[Continuation of Friday's sitting.]

Industrial Arbitration (Living Wage Declaration) Bill  
(Free Conference).

The House resumed at 11 o'clock.

## INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION (LIVING WAGE DECLARATION) BILL. FREE CONFERENCE.

Message received from Legislative Assembly intimating the Assembly's agreement to the time and place fixed by the Legislative Council for the meeting of the free conference of managers.

The PRESIDENT: The time being now come for the managers to leave the House to attend the Free Conference, I shall leave the chair until half-past 4 o'clock. If the conference be not then completed, I shall again leave the chair.

[The President left the chair at 11.12 a.m.]

## Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 15 March, 1927.

Printed Questions and Answers—Questions Without Notice—Marketing of Primary Products Bill—Local Government Superannuation Bill—The Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home Bill—Industrial Arbitration (Living Wage Declaration) Bill—Metropolitan Milk Bill (Second Reading).

Mr. SPEAKER took the chair.

## PRINTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### WILD DOG DESTRUCTION ACT.

Mr. DOE asked the MINISTER FOR LANDS,—(1) What reduction, if any, has been made in the tax levied under the Wild Dog Destruction Act? (2) If a reduction has been decided upon, from what date does it take effect? (3) Is an annual balance-sheet, showing the accounts of the Wild Dog Destruction Act, issued to the Pastures Protection Boards or other bodies of taxpayers under the Act; if not, why not? (4) If no balance-sheet is issued to the payers of the tax, will he arrange that the Pastures Protection Boards in the Western Division be supplied with copies as soon after the close of each financial year as practicable?

*Answer*,—(1) The rate for the current year has been determined at 1/100d. per acre. (2) From 1st January, 1927. (3) and (4) There are over 3,300 leases affected, and the cost of preparation and issue of balance-sheets to each of the holders of these leases is not justified. A statement of the receipts and expenditure for each year is included in the Western Lands Commissioners' annual report.

### RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS, BALRANALD.

Mr. DAVIDSON asked the MINISTER FOR LANDS,—Will he urge the Western Lands Commissioners to make certain sections of land available for residential purposes in the town of Balranald, as these blocks were subdivided for this purpose some considerable time ago, and there is a shortage of houses and residential blocks in the town?

*Answer*,—The allotments referred to were surveyed for auction sale in 1926, but the Municipal Council at Balranald asked for an amendment in the design in view of a proposed extension of one of the streets in the town. On 22nd October an amended design was sent to the municipal council, but it was not until the 12th ultimo that a reply was received signifying the council's approval. Amendment of survey will shortly

be carried out, as it is expected that the surveyor will be at Balranald this month, and the land will then be offered for sale.

### SCHOOL TEACHERS IN FAR WEST.

Mr. DAVIDSON asked the MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,—(1) Will he explain why it is that there are so many places in the far-western portion of the State that have been left without teachers since the Christmas vacation? (2) Does he not consider that special educational facilities should be provided for people who are living in the back portions of the State, where they have to put up with all sorts of other inconveniences?

*Answer*,—(1) The undermentioned schools (3) were without teachers after this Christmas vacation. Two have since been filled. Netley.—The teacher was married during the Christmas vacation and no accommodation for a married teacher was available. He was accordingly withdrawn. Further, the number of children enrolled (11) is small, and other schools with a larger attendance had first claim on the teachers available. Another teacher has now been appointed. Miandetta.—The teacher became ill, and after examination by the medical officer at this office, was removed. A successor has been appointed. Stackpoole (new school).—Question of provision of teacher is under consideration. It is hoped that one will be available towards the end of this month. (2) Educational facilities are provided in the case of every out-back community. If there are not sufficient pupils to maintain an ordinary provisional school, the department is prepared to subsidise private tuition, or correspondence tuition is available. This latter form of education has proved very satisfactory in the sparsely-settled areas of the State. If a school can maintain an average minimum attendance of ten pupils, a departmental teacher will be provided.

### ATTENDANCE OF CHILDREN AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Sir THOMAS HENLEY asked the MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,—(1) How many public schools are there in New South Wales in which children under the age

of 14-years-are taught? (2) What is the total number of children of all ages under 14 years of age attending the public schools of the State? (3) How do the children attending the public schools of the State compare with the children attending the public schools of other States in the Commonwealth or other countries, as to weight, height, and general health? (4) What steps are taken by the officers of the Education and Child Welfare Departments to ensure good health and normal conditions of the children attending public schools? (5) Are there any children attending any of the public schools throughout the State, or are there any children that come under the notice of truant inspectors, or the medical branch of the department, that could be classed as starving or underfed children as the result of poverty; if so, how many, and what are the chief reasons for it? (6) Has the Department of Education any knowledge of any starving or underfed children as the result of parental neglect; if so, to what extent? (7) Is there any existing legislation such as the Child Welfare Act, or other provisions that can be used to meet any such emergencies?

*Answer*,—(1) 2,624. (2) On 1st August, 1926, the effective enrolment of all pupils was 326,534, and of these, 301,801 were under the age of 14 years, disposed as follows:—Under 6 years, 16,164; between 6 and 7, 29,156; between 7 and 8, 34,228; between 8 and 9, 36,156; between 9 and 10, 38,653; between 10 and 11, 37,846; between 11 and 12, 38,803; between 12 and 13, 37,764; between 13 and 14, 33,031; total, 301,801. (3) The comparison between public school children in New South Wales and those attending State schools in other States in the Commonwealth as to weight and height was made in the report of the Education Department, 1918-1919. It was shown that the Australian-born child of Australian-born parents was a better specimen according to height and weight than the child born in Australia of overseas parents, and that the child born in Australia of overseas parents was similarly better than the child from overseas. The British child from overseas is a better specimen usually than the

average child of the community remaining in Great Britain. In comparing the weights of American and Australian children the average weight of the American boy at each year of age is greater than that of the Australian boy, but the position reverses when girls are compared. In height both the boy and girl in this State are regarded as taller than American children. Pre-war figures, comparing New South Wales and Victoria, seem to be practically identical, and it was then shown that the boy in the industrial suburb in Australia was a better specimen in height and weight than any other type of boy in England, except those attending the Greater Public Schools—a specially favoured section of the community. Recent figures collected in New Zealand (1926) show the New Zealand child slightly taller and heavier than the New South Wales child of 1917. However, another investigation is contemplated into our records for 1926. In general health the children of New South Wales compare favourably with the several States, but it is difficult to fix satisfactory standards for such a comparison. The experience, however, of school medical officers, who have worked in more than one State, points in this direction. Taking the records of the exemptions from service at the medical examination of senior cadets, New South Wales compares more than favourably with the other States. (4) New South Wales and Tasmania are the only States which had a State-wide system of school medical inspection and health supervision during the pre-war period, and South Australia is the only other State which, since 1926, can claim such intensive work. Over 100,000 children are medically examined every year in this State, and any remediable defect likely to affect the educational progress or the health development of the child is notified to its parent. A very considerable proportion of these defects are adequately attended to. Eleven travelling dental clinics and two travelling oculists treat defects in children outside the metropolis. School nurses in the metropolis visit the homes and organise treatment. By contracts with leading optician firms

cheap spectacles are available for children with vision defects, and arrangements are made at the Health Department for the supply of spectacles and other surgical equipment which may be necessary for children whose parents are in destitute circumstances. Eight part-time dental officers carry out dental treatment in the metropolis, while the facilities at the Children's Hospital and general hospitals for treatment are considerable, and, on the whole, satisfactory. Excellent work is being done in the infants' departments, both in the city and in Newcastle, to instruct children in good habits conducive to health, and in connection with many of them arrangements are made for the supply of milk at wholesale rates. This is paid for by the parents, and the arrangement as to price is such that a certain amount is available to those children whose parents cannot afford to pay. These are, however, few in number. The whole idea of the milk feeding is not to supply the nourishment unobtainable at home; but to demonstrate to parents the unrivalled importance of milk as a food for growing children. (5) A great deal of attention has been paid to the subject of malnutrition; that is to say, a condition in which a child is not growing satisfactorily as compared with other children of the same age, and which is shown by flabbiness, listlessness, pallor, and a weight below standard in comparison with height, together with other signs and symptoms. A certain degree of malnutrition is found in about 10 per cent. of city children, but less than about 1 per cent. only are notified to parents because of malnutrition of marked degree. In these cases the school nurse often visits the home and discusses the matter with one of the parents, usually the mother. The majority of such cases are undoubtedly due not to insufficient, but to improper feeding, and is not the result of poverty, but of ignorance as to the real requirements of growing children. This is also intensified by conditions of overcrowding, which result in ill-ventilated bedrooms, and by the lack of facilities to play which is commonly found in our industrial suburbs. Occasionally a child is met with

who is underfed and receives extra supplies of food by the kindness of the teacher, or even of other children. These cases in our experience, however, are rare. I am not in a position to give actual figures, but could obtain these within about a month. Where such cases are met with by the school nurse or the doctor, we report them to the Child Welfare Department, who will no doubt be able to give further information. (6) The few cases that are met with are referred to the Child Welfare Department (see Question 5). (7) The Child Welfare Act copes with a large amount of family poverty by making grants under section 14. Assistance is also rendered to poor families by the Chief Secretary's Department and the Benevolent Society, and also by many other outside and religious organisations.

#### AMBULANCE MANAGEMENT.

MR. GOSLING asked the MINISTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH,—In view of the unsatisfactory manner in which all ambulance matters are being carried out, such as state of ambulances, lack of control, too highly-paid officials, art union and other collections not being put to right use, unqualified appointments, and various other complaints which have been made to him from time to time, will he take steps to call for an inquiry into all questions pertaining to the management and control of ambulance work, with a view to the amelioration of the wrongs (if any) said to be existing?

*Answer.*—The Acting Chairman of the New South Wales Ambulance Transport Service Board has furnished me with the following report:—

My Board is of the opinion that all ambulance matters are not being dealt with in an unsatisfactory manner.

*State of Ambulances.*—The state of many of the ambulance waggons unfortunately leaves much to be desired, but this is owing to lack of funds, and not to any omission on the part of the New South Wales Ambulance Transport Service Board.

*Lack of Control.*—With regard to districts, so long as they carry on within the requirements of the Act and regulations, the district committee is in charge (see Act, section 18).

**Too Highly Paid Officials.**—Regulation 76 gives a district committee power to appoint or employ officers and servants, and to fix their remuneration subject to the provisions of the Ambulance Employees (State) Award.

Re Art Union and other Collections not being put to right use.—See Regulation 69, which places responsibility for all money subscribed or collected on district committees. I may state, however, that my board has no information which would lead it to infer that any money collected is being improperly used.

**Unqualified Appointments.**—Regulations appeared in the *Government Gazette* on the 8th instant which give the Board control of the senior appointments made by a district committee, which will doubtless remove this ground for complaint.

**Various Other Complaints.**—At the present time a number of regulations are being framed by the Board, which will tighten up discipline, and when in operation should have a salutary effect on the service generally.

#### TUCK-SHOPS IN SCHOOLS.

Mr. ALLDIS asked the MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,—(1) Is it a fact that tuck-shops are conducted in schools, and that the time of scholars and of highly-paid teachers is wasted in vending ice-creams in summer and hot pies or succulent savoyes in winter to pupils who can afford to purchase these delicacies, and that the children of the poor, many of whom are perforce supplied with inadequate luncheons or none at all, are thus placed in an invidious position and their susceptible natures injured by the comparison of their lot with that of those children whose parents are more fortunately placed? (2) Further, is it not a fact that the school routine and discipline is often seriously interfered with by the conduct of tuck-shops in schools? (3) Will he consider the advisability of forbidding teachers to conduct tuck-shops in our schools?

*Answer*,—(1) Tuck-shops, where established, are conducted for the benefit and convenience of pupils. Their existence obviates the necessity for children leaving school precincts during school hours, who, by so doing, would pass temporarily from the supervision, control and protection of the teaching staff. (2) and (3) School routine and discipline are not seriously interfered with, as suggested.

Were it otherwise, I would see that steps were taken to remedy such a state of things.

#### BASIC WAGE INCREASES.

Mr. HILL asked the PREMIER,—(1) Has he considered the far-reaching effects of an unscientific increase of the basic wage? (2) Does he realise that an increased wage that is not based on increased production, and does not result in increased wealth, must, of necessity, be passed on by the employers to the consumers? (3) Does he realise that wages passed on in this manner must result in an increase in the cost of living? (4) Does he realise that to try and prevent this increased cost of living by price-fixing, as is proposed in a bill now before the House, will result in industries being closed down, and an increase in the number of unemployed? (5) Does he realise that to increase wages as now proposed will have little or no effect on the economic position of the employee or employer? (6) Is he aware that such increases in wages as that proposed must eventually be paid by the great middle class, who are neither employers nor employees? (7) Is he aware that owing to the middle class being unorganised they are unable to express their grievances? (8) Is he aware that these continual increases of wages are squeezing the middle class out of existence? (9) What does he propose to do for the great middle class so as to protect them from this increased cost of living? (10) Is he aware that all history testifies that the first sign of the decay of a nation is the disappearance of the middle class?

*Answer*,—(1) to (10) I am not aware that the statements made by the hon. member are correct.

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

##### STRIKE OF SHOP AND OFFICE FITTERS.

Mr. BAVIN: Has the Premier yet been able to make inquiries into the strike of shop and office fitters which I mentioned on the adjournment motion a few days ago? The matter is a very serious one, and I would like to know

whether the Premier is prepared to make a statement as to the action the Government proposes to take?

Mr. LANG: I brought the matter under the notice of my hon. colleague Mr. Cann, who has called for a report on the whole subject from the officers of his department. The matter is under consideration, and if anything happens I will let the hon. member know.

#### TINSMITHS' CONCILIATION COMMITTEE.

Mr. LEVY: Is the Acting Minister for Labour and Industry in a position to reply to the question I asked last week in reference to the resignation of two employers' representatives from the Tinsmiths' Conciliation Committee in consequence, as they allege, of their having no confidence in the chairman? The Minister promised to look into the matter.

Mr. CANN: The whole matter is under the consideration of the Industrial Commissioner, and as soon as any definite information is available I will let the hon. member know.

#### LAY-BY SYSTEM.

Mr. T. KEEGAN: In connection with what is known as the lay-by system, is the Attorney-General aware that the practice is for persons to pay a small sum of money as a deposit on the purchase of a particular article, and that one of the prescribed regulations in connection with this system is that the full amount of the purchase money must be paid within a given time? In view of the fact that the firms selling goods on this system have the use of the money which is paid by way of deposit and instalment for a considerable time, will the Attorney-General consider the desirability of introducing remedial legislation at the earliest possible date to provide that the money which is paid on any particular article under the lay-by system will be paid into a trust fund, and refunded in the event of the purchaser not being able to pay for the article within a given time?

Mr. KILPATRICK: I would ask the Minister whether this is not really a time-payment arrangement, to which both parties agree?

Mr. McTIERNAN: I am not aware that there is any legislation in force dealing with the matter referred to by Mr. Keegan. The hon. member refers to prescribed regulations. I wish to make it clear that there are no official regulations dealing with the question at all. It is a matter of free contract between the purchaser and the vendor. I shall make inquiries with a view to seeing that any hardship or injustice which is capable of being remedied is remedied.

#### "CUT-OUTS" ON MOTOR VEHICLES.

Mr. LAZZARINI: On the 8th instant Mr. Sanders asked me a question as to whether riders of motor-cycles and drivers of motor-cars used "cut-outs" while travelling along the roads at North Sydney, thereby creating objectionable noises. I have now received a report from the Commissioner of Police, in which he states that the utmost attention has been given by the police to this nuisance, and that special endeavours are being made to apprehend and deal with offenders. Numerous cases have already been suitably dealt with by the police, and in addition the public are invited to bring under police notice every instance in which evidence of these abuses can be afforded. To this end a traffic bulletin has been issued in the following terms:—

Complaints regarding the annoyance caused to the public by the use of noisy motor vehicles, particularly motor-cycles, without effective silencers, are continually being made by citizens, but, notwithstanding the fact that proceedings are taken by the police authorities against offending motorists, the nuisance continues to increase. The Commissioner of Police has arranged for special attention to be given by the Public Safety Bureau to this class of offence, and motorists are warned that action will be taken by the police in every instance where a breach of the regulations is disclosed. As a means of assisting the police authorities in their endeavours to stamp out the evil, the Commissioner of Police invites citizens to furnish to police headquarters particulars as to the time at which they are

subjected to annoyance and inconvenience by the use of motor vehicles with cut-outs in operation. The motor traffic regulations make it an offence for any person to drive any motor vehicle unless an efficient silencer is affixed to the exhaust pipe in such a manner as to effectually prevent the creation of undue noise. It is also an offence to have a cut-out or any mechanism or device for cutting out the silencer affixed to a motor vehicle. Further, the regulations state that no person shall drive a motor vehicle which causes any undue noise by (1) being in a state of disrepair; (2) the manner in which such vehicle is loaded; (3) the construction or condition or adjustment of the machinery of such vehicle; (4) the construction or adjustment or condition of the silencer. In addition, any person who makes or causes or permits to be made any unnecessary noise with the horn or alarm attached to the vehicle, or uses or causes or permits to be used a horn or alarm for any other purpose than as a warning of danger commits an offence.

#### ROAD RACING.

Mr. LAZZARINI: Questions have been asked in this House about motorists using different roads in the State as speedways, and thus causing danger. That matter is being dealt with as effectively as it can be by the police in the areas under their control. In quite a number of areas the Metropolitan Traffic Act does not apply, and there, of course, it is the duty of local governing bodies to attend to the matter. Hundreds of letters, in regard to this matter, are reaching my department from municipal and shire councils, but I do not propose to answer them, because I do not think there is any justification for them. The matter is already being attended to by the officers of my department, and whatever can be done under the law is being done.

#### THE I.W.W.

Mr. HILL: Is the Colonial Secretary aware that the I.W.W. organisation is particularly active in New South Wales at the present time, and that it is openly enrolling young men in what it terms its "Red Army"? Will the Minister make inquiries as to whether this "army" is intended to uphold law and order, or whether it is intended for some other purpose? In view of the former history

of this organisation, will the Minister obtain a report from the Police Department as to the frequent mysterious fires that are taking place now in Sydney?

Mr. LAZZARINI: I am not aware. A few cranky individuals of that character make no impression upon me, nor do I think they make an impression on any sensible citizen of the community.

#### "THE SATYR" SCULPTURE.

Mr. MUTCH: Mr. Jaques asked me a question the other day with respect to the condition of a piece of sculpture in the National Art Gallery, known as "The Satyr." I informed the hon. member that I would make inquiries into the matter. I am now advised by the Director of the National Art Gallery, Mr. Mann, as follows:—

"The Satyr" is a plaster cast by Frank Lynch, coloured to represent bronze. No damage whatever has been done to the surface of the cast; the white plaster, however, is showing in a few places where the figure has been handled. The trustees would consider the question of reproducing this work in bronze if sufficient funds are provided.

#### MOTOR DRIVERS: TWEED HEADS.

Mr. GILLIES: With further reference to the matter of the Interstate motor registrations, is the Colonial Secretary aware that two motor-lorry proprietors of Tweed Heads were recently prosecuted and fined at Coolangatta for delivering goods across the border from the New South Wales side without first having registered their vehicles in Queensland? Is the Minister aware that the Tweed Heads proprietors are contemplating taking out registration in Queensland only, so that they can operate on both sides of the border while residing in this State, thus depriving New South Wales of its legitimate revenue. Will the Minister take immediate action to protect New South Wales motor proprietors from this injustice, by making some arrangement whereby motorists on both sides of the border can operate on an equal basis?

Mr. LAZZARINI: This question has already been gone into very carefully, and the traffic authorities have taken the

matter up with the Queensland authorities. On the New South Wales side we allow certain motor vehicles, such as lorries, a certain number of days' latitude when they come over the border, before we insist on them registering. On the other hand, unfortunately, they will not do this in Queensland; they insist on registration immediately a New South Wales lorry goes over the border, and compel the owner to pay the ordinary registration fee. Up to the present we have unsuccessfully negotiated with the Queensland authorities. It appears to me that the only thing we can do is to institute a system of retaliation, and apply the same conditions to the Queensland motor vehicles as the Queensland authorities are applying to those from New South Wales.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Captain CHAFFEY: In view of the action taken on the last sitting day in respect to the appointment of a free conference between managers appointed by the Legislative Council and this House, I desire to ask the Premier what is the intention of the Government with respect to the business to be taken after question time to-day?

Mr. LANG: In accordance with the usual procedure, the leader of the Opposition has been fully advised as to what will take place. Whilst the managers representing both Houses are engaged in the free conference proceedings in both Houses are suspended.

#### GRAVE OF SIR HENRY PARKES.

Mr. LANG: On 1st March, Mr. Scott Fell drew my attention to a press paragraph which referred to the neglected condition of the grave of the late Sir Henry Parkes at Faulconbridge, and he asked that steps be taken to place the upkeep of the grave on a permanent and satisfactory basis. I have made inquiries into the matter, and have ascertained that the Lands Department makes an annual grant of £5 to the trustees of the Faulconbridge cemetery towards the maintenance of the grave. The last grant was paid in January, 1927. It will

be seen that the Government recognises its responsibilities in the matter of the upkeep of this grave, and that any neglect to keep the grave in order is not due to the action of the Government in refusing to make a contribution. I understand that Mr. Jackson, one of the members of this House, who is a trustee of the cemetery, informed the Department of Lands, on 2nd instant, that the grave was not neglected by the trustees, that they periodically tended it, and proposed shortly to have any necessary renovation work carried out, including painting the fence and stone work and renewing the lettering.

#### MOTOR-BUSES: SCHOOL CHILDREN'S FARES.

Mr. O'HALLORAN: Is the Colonial Secretary aware that since a Mr. Stewart was given a license to run motor-buses along the Old South Head road to North Bondi and Rose Bay children on their way to and from school have been charged adult fares? Does the Minister think that it is right that parents should be penalised in this way, and will he give a definite instruction that no further licenses be granted to persons to run motor-buses unless they are prepared to charge children the same fares as they are charged on the Government tramways?

Mr. LAZZARINI: The time-tables and fares of motor-buses operating in the metropolitan district are regulated by the traffic authorities. I have had a great number of these matters before me, and, from memory, I understand that in every case there is some reduction in children's fares, not only whilst they are travelling to and from school, but whilst they are travelling to and from the city. I understand that motor-bus proprietors conform pretty well to the rules of the Tramway Department in this respect. The case the hon. member has mentioned is news to me, and I will look into it to see if I cannot rectify the position.

#### WILD DOG DESTRUCTION ACT.

Mr. DOE: In regard to the Wild Dog Destruction Act, I asked the Assistant



Minister for Lands, on notice, whether a balance-sheet could not be made available to the Pastures Protection Boards and other bodies of taxpayers under the Act, and I expected something better than the reply with which I have been furnished in to-day's *Questions and Answers* paper—that as there are over 3,300 leases affected the cost of the preparation and issue of balance-sheets to each of the holders of these leases is not justified. What I asked the Minister was if an annual balance-sheet showing the accounts of the Wild Dog Destruction Act could not be sent to the Pastures Protection Boards or other bodies of taxpayers under the Act, and if not, why not? Will the Minister see that an annual balance-sheet is made available to the Pastures Protection Boards or other organisations which represent the people who contribute nearly the whole of the tax?

Captain DUNN: The Pastures Protection Boards will have no difficulty in getting a copy of the annual report of the Western Lands Commissioners, which contains a statement of receipts and expenditure.

#### CENTENNIAL PARK: PALM TREE AVENUE.

Mr. ALLDIS: Has the Minister for Agriculture yet arrived at a determination with regard to the proposal to remove certain palm trees from Centennial Park?

Captain DUNN: Following on a previous question on the same subject by the hon. member, when I intimated that I would investigate the position and see whether I thought the removal of the central row of palm trees at Centennial Park was justified, I inspected the avenue and have decided that the row of palm trees in question must not be removed, and the avenue must remain as it is.

#### POLL OF DRIED FRUIT GROWERS.

Captain DUNN: A few days ago Mr. Horsington asked me whether the roll of growers eligible to vote under the Dried Fruits Act had yet been compiled, also whether copies of the roll would be made

available to the various fruit-growers' associations. The position is that regulations have been drafted for the conduct of the poll of growers on the question as to whether the Act should be brought into full operation. In anticipation of the regulations being approved by the Attorney-General and the Governor-in-Council, preliminary steps have been taken with a view to the compilation of a roll of growers. Lists of growers who are eligible to vote are being obtained from the various centres, and several have already come to hand. These are being utilised for the compilation of the roll. In the meantime, the growers whose names have been furnished are being communicated with, to confirm that they are eligible as growers to vote. The fruit-growers' associations are also being communicated with to see what steps they suggest should be taken in order to get a complete roll.

#### ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION.

Major JARVIE: I desire to ask the Colonial Secretary when he proposes to appoint the new Electoral Boundaries Commission? Further, can he give any indication as to when the new boundaries are likely to be fixed?

Mr. LAZZARINI: I hope that within a few days the new Electoral Boundaries Commission will be appointed. I am not in a position to inform the House how long it will take the commission to do the work. That will be a matter for the commission itself, except for the provision in the Act which states that the work must be done within six months.

Mr. J. R. LEE: Will it be the same commission?

Mr. LAZZARINI: I cannot say.

#### BELLBIRD SCHOOL.

Mr. BOOTH: Has the attention of the Minister for Education been drawn to the very congested state of the public school at Bellbird? Is he aware that during last week, in one very small class room, ninety-one pupils were being taught? In view of the state of this school, and until tenders are called for additions to the

present building, will the Minister make temporary provision for the proper accommodation of these pupils?

Mr. MUTCH: I am aware of the congested state of the accommodation at Bellbird, and am doing my best to remedy it, together with hundreds of other similar cases. I will make inquiries and ascertain whether temporary accommodation can be secured at Bellbird.

#### MAITLAND COAL-MINES: CLOSING DOWN.

Mr. J. C. L. FITZPATRICK: I desire to ask the Acting Minister for Labour and Industry and Mines, in connection with the crisis which has thrown so many mines idle on the Maitland coalfield, what steps are being taken to bring about some arrangement so that these mines can resume operations? Is the Minister aware that many hundreds of men are out of employment, and can he say whether there is any likelihood of work being recommenced at a comparatively early date?

Mr. BOOTH: Will the Minister ascertain whether it is a fact that at the conference on Saturday the miners' deputies said they were quite prepared to resume work and make examinations strictly in accordance with the Coal Mines Regulation Act, as recommended by the Royal Commission which recently inquired into the safe working of mines? Will he also ascertain whether any attempt is being made by the Mines Department to work in collusion with the employers to evade the full provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act?

Mr. LAZZARINI: A conference was held last Saturday morning, which, unfortunately, proved abortive, but I am going into the matter to-day with the parties to the dispute, and I hope that matters will be settled in a day or two. With regard to the question asked by Mr. Booth as to the position of the Mines Department, the hon. member may rest assured that there will be no weakening of the Act so far as the safety provisions are concerned. Nevertheless, I am hopeful that the matter will be settled to-day or to-morrow.

#### MARYVILLE AND SMEDMORE FLOODS.

Mr. D. MURRAY: Is the Minister for Public Works aware that during the last two or three days the flood waters in Tudor-street Extended, Maryville, and at Smedmore, have been over the verandahs of the houses? Will the Minister take up the matter with the Treasurer with a view to granting relief to the sufferers by flood and also relieving the unemployed?

Mr. FLANNERY: I am not aware of what has happened during the last few days, but I do know that during the recent rains in that part of the country a good deal of inconvenience has been caused by floods. At present we are carrying out a scheme at Cottage Creek which may not relieve the position at Tudor-street to the same extent as the work at Throsby Creek. With regard to Throsby Creek we are unable to carry out the work there owing to shortage of funds. The whole system of granting flood relief for that district will run into a considerable amount. The work to be carried out at Throsby Creek, into which an investigation is being made at present, will run into some hundreds of thousands of pounds, and it will be necessary after the report of the expert has been received to refer the matter to the Public Works Committee. It was proposed that some work should be carried out at Throsby Creek, but shortage of funds stood in the way. The matter of providing funds for the purpose of affording temporary relief is being inquired into.

#### CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THE AUDITOR-GENERAL.

Mr. BAVIN: Can the Premier state whether the terms of the reference to the royal commission which is to be appointed to inquire into the dispute between the Auditor-General and the Child Welfare Department have yet been settled? If they have not been settled, does the Premier propose to allow any hon. members on this side of the House to make suggestions as to what the terms should be? Further, has the judge who is to act as royal commissioner yet been selected?

Mr. J. R. LEE: Is it the intention of the Government to confine the inquiry to the actual material that is contained in the various reports presented to this House, or to make the terms of reference sufficiently wide to enable the royal commissioner to enter upon a general "fishing" expedition into the administration of the departments concerned?

Mr. LANG: The matter was considered at a short Cabinet meeting yesterday morning and was referred to the Attorney-General, who was requested to draw up the terms of reference. I presume that the Attorney-General will go into the matters that have been referred to in the reports presented to this House, and the terms of reference will be submitted to Cabinet. Suggestions as to the scope of the commission may then be considered.

#### GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTAL SALES.

Mr. LANG: On the 1st February last Mr. Keegan asked for information with respect to the number of auction sales which had been carried out during the year 1926 in Government departments, and the amount of commission which had been paid in connection with such sales. In reply I stated that particulars were being sought from the various departments, and that the information would be made available as soon as it came to hand. Reports have now been received from all departments. They disclose that, during the calendar year 1926, 232 auction sales were held by all the Government departments including the railways, and that commission amounting to £1,678 16s. 9d. was paid in connection with the conduct of these sales.

#### CENTRAL RAILWAY REFRESHMENT- ROOM.

Mr. TULLY: In connection with that section of the railway refreshment-room at Central Station used by country people arriving here about 5 a.m., will the Minister for Railways direct the manager to have additional staff appointed, particularly at week-ends in order to meet the demand, and also to have additional

seating accommodation provided for the benefit of women and children who have been travelling by train all night?

Mr. FLANNERY: I have not power to direct the manager of the railway refreshment-rooms as to what he shall do, but I will get in touch with the Railway Commissioners, under whose control the manager directly comes, and take the matter up with them.

#### MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS BILL.

Bill returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SUPER- ANNUATION) BILL.

Bill returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

#### THE SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE JEWISH HOME BILL.

Bill received from the Legislative Council, and on motion (by Mr. Levy) read a first time.

#### INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION (LIVING WAGE DECLARATION) BILL.

Message received from the Legislative Council, agreeing to a free conference (*vide* page 2204).

Motion (by Mr. Lang) agreed to:

That the following message be carried to the Legislative Council:—

Mr. PRESIDENT,—

The Legislative Assembly agrees to the time and place appointed by the Legislative Council in its message dated 10th March, 1927, for a free conference with the Legislative Council on the subject of its disagreement from the Council's amendment in the Industrial Arbitration (Living Wage Declaration) Bill, and the question of family endowment in relation thereto.

Mr. LANG (Parramatta), Premier and Colonial Treasurer [11.6 a.m.]: I move, *with consent*:

That so much of the sessional orders be suspended as would preclude the continuation of the present sitting after 6 p.m.

The House cannot, of course, sit while the free conference is on, and this will

enable the Speaker to leave the chair until such time as the conference reaches a decision.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. ARKINS: Mr. Speaker!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member cannot speak at this stage.

Mr. ARKINS: I want to say that my protest is essential. I have a right to protest.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion has been carried. The hon. member cannot speak now unless he wishes to move dissent from my ruling.

Mr. ARKINS: I wish to take a point of order. The motion which you have declared carried had no right to go through this House if any protest was made. A motion proposed to be moved by consent can only be moved by unanimous consent. If any dissentient voice is raised the motion has no right to go through. With all due respect to you, Mr. Speaker, I ask if the same thing did not occur on Thursday, when Sir George Fuller was on his feet protesting and no notice was taken of his protest. I merely say here that, apparently and unfortunately, with due respect to the Speaker, there has been an abrogation of the rules of this House, because a motion of this sort must be by unanimous consent of members.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I put the motion with consent, and without notice. After I had declared it carried the hon. member rose and called the Chair.

## METROPOLITAN MILK BILL.

### SECOND READING.

Debate resumed (from 10th March, *vide* page 2258), on motion by Captain Dunn:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Mr. BENNETT (Maitland) [11.10 a.m.]: This is a very important measure. It seems to me that the Minister is attempting to accomplish something which has not been attempted before in this State with respect to the control of a primary industry. We have had examples of the success of co-operative control in the regulation of the price, sale, and export of butter. Co-operation has

[*Mr. Lang.*

been tried in connection with other industries, but it has not proved a success. One of the weak links in the chain of voluntary co-operative effort is the fact that it seems to be impossible to get the whole of the producers of a particular commodity to think alike, to agree to put their product into a pool, and to appoint directors to control the marketing and distribution of that commodity. This measure remedies that defect most effectually, inasmuch as it practically provides for the co-operative control of the milk supply of the metropolitan area and its distribution. It contains compulsory and penal clauses which will enable the board representing the suppliers and consumers to compel everybody to come into the pool. In other words, the board will take control of the supply and distribution of milk. We have had pools controlled by the Government, and they have not been a success. The wheat pool, notably, was a lamentable failure, and I am afraid that any pool which is managed by Government officials is not likely to give satisfaction to the people who produce the article which is brought under control. However, this measure provides that the board will be composed of men elected by the suppliers and the consumers. The suppliers will have majority representation on the board, and will thus be enabled to practically control their particular industry. That is co-operative effort, and I trust that it will be successful. This is a very important measure, because it affects not only the producer, but it also materially affects the consumer. Whilst we are safeguarding the interests of the producer we must also see that the consumer gets a fair deal.

I would ask the Minister whether he has considered the question of giving the producers the same right under this measure as he has given under the Marketing Bill—the right to take a vote as to whether or not they approve of the measure. When the Fuller Government brought in the Meat Bill it gave the men engaged in the industry the right to say whether or not they would take advantage of the provisions of that bill. I do not know whether it is proposed

to give producers the right to vote to decide whether they shall come under this measure.

Captain DUNN: They want to come under it!

Mr. BENNETT: Some individuals are opposed to it!

Mr. DAVIES: They are all anxious to come under this measure!

Mr. BENNETT: A very large number of them are anxious, I know. I do not know whether their anticipations will be realised, but I hope they will. Another matter I would like to mention is in regard to the dual control that exists at the present time in the dairying industry. We have inspectors under the Dairies Supervision Act, inspectors under the Public Health Act, instructors under the Dairy Industries Act, and I presume there will be inspectors under the Milk Act. Then there are Pure Food Act inspectors, and inspectors under the Stock Diseases Act. I do not know whether the Minister realises the overlapping of work that is going on. These inspectors are a perfect pest to some of the dairymen. One inspector will come along and order something to be done, then another inspector will come along and say there is no need to do it. I would ask the Minister to look into the matter, and see whether he can make arrangements for one body to administer in that respect the whole of those Acts, so that we may have one authority instead of half a dozen dealing with the unfortunate dairymen.

Under the provisions of the bill the remuneration of the president of the board is fixed at £1,200 per annum, and each member of the board will receive fees. I suggest that, in addition to the fees, the Minister might make provision for the payment of travelling expenses to the members of the board, otherwise it will be hardly practicable for men in outlying areas to attend the board meetings. It will mean that only those living within easy distance of the metropolis will be inclined to sit as members. The area affected is a large one, extending from Nowra to Taree, and out to Singleton and Muswellbrook. It is possible some of the members of the board may be living in those places.

Captain DUNN: Obviously, the board will fix the fees to be paid to the members and travelling expenses will be allowed.

Mr. BENNETT: If travelling expenses are provided for I shall be satisfied.

Captain DUNN: You may take that for granted!

Mr. BENNETT: In regard to the appointment of officers I presume the officers will be controlled by the Public Service Board. The inspectors will be controlled by the Minister and will be appointed by the Minister as in the case of inspectors of the Pastures Protection Boards.

Captain DUNN: The board will mainly utilise the services of officers of the Health Department or the Agricultural Department!

Mr. BENNETT: The Pastures Protection Board officers are appointed by the Minister and discharged by the Minister, and the board has no power in that respect. I think the board in this case should have the power to control its own officers.

Captain DUNN: The board will not appoint the inspectors. They will be employees of the Health and Agricultural Departments, and the board will only control them for the purposes of its work!

Mr. BENNETT: Under the bill ample provision has been made for the board to enter upon trading enterprises after the expiration of two years. The bill seems to in effect indicate to the board that it should take control of the distribution of milk at the end of two years.

Mr. DAVIES: A very good idea!

Mr. BENNETT: I do not know whether it is a good idea. In regard to the companies and private individuals who are engaged in the milk distribution business in a wholesale or retail way, is it intended that the board shall compensate those who are frozen out of the industry?

Captain DUNN: Obviously the board will not pay compensation at the rate of £10 per gallon!

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps not, but some provision should be made. When the State takes away a business in which a man has invested his money and by which he gains his livelihood it should be prepared to compensate him to some extent at any rate. I do not say that the State should pay him everything he asks, but there should be some compensation.

Captain DUNN: Clauses 51 and 52 make provision for the payment of compensation. Subclause (8) of clause 51 provides that where an undertaking is resumed

The Governor may, by notice in the *Gazette*, notify that the undertaking is so resumed, and thereupon all the personal property and plant used in connection therewith shall become vested in the board, and the interest of the owners thereof shall be converted into a claim for compensation.

Subclause (1) of clause 52 provides:

Where the board resumes an undertaking under paragraph (b) of subsection one of section thirty, or in the exercise of any power conferred by paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection one of section thirty-one terminates the business of any person, full and adequate compensation shall be paid by the board.

Mr. BENNETT: An industry has been established on the North Coast recently for the manufacture of caseine, from which artificial tortoise-shell is produced, and which is used most satisfactorily in the manufacture of three-ply wood for commercial purposes. I think it would be worth while on the part of the Minister to look into the question of the milk supply with a view to enabling the surplus product to be utilised in some such direction. I know the industry at Byron Bay is a flourishing one, and that on what are known as "block" days a very large quantity of milk is utilised for the production of this caseine. Perhaps the loss which takes place now by the over-supply of milk may thus be obviated. There is one thing necessary, however. I think it is the duty of the State to see that the city of Sydney and its suburbs are supplied with pure milk in large quantities. The health of the community and the wellbeing of

[*Mr. Bennett.*]

infants depend largely upon the supply of good milk. Most people do not realise what a valuable food it is, both for infant life and in old age. It is a duty the Government should undertake to see that a pure and ample milk supply is maintained. I am sure that if milk can be delivered more cheaply than it is to-day, its consumption will very largely increase, and a great deal of good will result.

I look upon this as very largely an experimental measure, but it is one which is much needed for giving co-operative associations of producers the necessary legal power to compel all producers of the commodity to join the pool. Under those conditions I view the experiment with a considerable amount of interest, and trust that it will prove successful.

Debate (on motion by Mr. Hoskins) adjourned.

[*Mr. Speaker left the chair at 11.32 a.m.*]

## Legislative Council.

*Tuesday, 22 March, 1927.*

[*Continuation of sitting of Tuesday, 15th March.*]

Industrial Arbitration (Living Wage Declaration) Bill—  
Family Endowment Bill (Second Reading)—Assent  
to Bills.

The House resumed at 4.30 p.m.

## INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION (LIVING WAGE DECLARATION) BILL.

### REPORT OF FREE CONFERENCE.

The Hon. A. C. WILLIS: The managers appointed by the Legislative Council by resolution of 10th March, 1927, whereby a free conference with the Legislative Assembly was requested on the subject of the Assembly's disagreement from the Council's amendment in the Industrial Arbitration (Living Wage Declaration) Bill and who were instructed to consider family endowment in relation thereto having met the