

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 30. April, 1946.

Office of President: Vacancy—Triennial Elections: Members Elected—Members Sworn—Election of President—Chairman of Committees (Suspension of Standing Orders)—Temporary Chairman of Committees—Assent to Bills—Liquor (Amendment) Bill (third reading)—Lunacy (Amendment) Bill (second reading)—Bread Industry Bill (second reading)—Adjournment (Air Travel, by Hon. Members):.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT: VACANCY.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order, No. 8A, the Clerk reported that in consequence of the expiration of the term of service of the Hon. Sir John Beverley Peden, K.C.M.G., K.C., on 22nd April, 1946, a vacancy had occurred in the office of President of the Legislative Council.

The Clerk offered the Prayer.

TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS: MEMBERS ELECTED.

The Clerk, as returning officer, read from his certificate the list of members elected at the election of members of the Legislative Council referred to in the certificate tabled in the House on 26th March, 1946, as follows: Alam, Anthony; Alexander, Joseph; Bodkin, Joseph; Bridges, Arthur Dalgety; Buckley, Francis Patrick; Budd, Harry Vincent; Concannon, James Matthew; Dalton, Christopher Alfred; Falkiner, Otway McLaurin; Farrar, Ernest Henry; Gleeson, Thomas Patrick; Horne, Henry Edwin; King, Robert Arthur; Manning, Henry Edward; Murray, Thomas George; Padgen, Walter Thomas.

The Clerk announced to the House the names of the Commissioners appointed to administer to members the oath or affirmation of allegiance to His Majesty the King, and read the Commission.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The following members took the oath and subscribed the roll: The Hon. Ernest Henry Farrar, the Hon. Sir Henry Edward Manning, the Hon. James Matthew Concannon, the Hon. Henry Edwin Horne, the Hon. Anthony Alexander Alam, the Hon. Christopher

Alfred Dalton, the Hon. Robert Arthur King, the Hon. Thomas George Murray, the Hon. Joseph Anthony Bodkin, the Hon. Arthur Dalgety Bridges, the Hon. Francis Patrick Buckley, the Hon. Harry Vincent Budd, the Hon. Otway McLaurin, Falkiner, the Hon. Thomas Patrick Gleeson, and the Hon. Walter Thomas Padgen.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

Major the Hon. F. P. KNEESHAW [4.47]. Mr. Clerk, I have very much pleasure in proposing to the House for their President, the Hon. Ernest Henry Farrar. I move:

That the Hon. Ernest Henry Farrar do take the Chair of this House as President. I do not propose to speak at length, but I think it right that I should draw attention to Mr. Farrar's distinguished parliamentary service. He was appointed to the Legislative Council on 29th March, 1912, and has, therefore, the longest service of any hon. member. He was Minister for Labour and Industry in the Fuller Government from 13th April, 1922, to 17th June, 1925, during which time he acted as New South Wales Commissioner at the British Exhibition at Glasgow, held in 1924. He was Minister for Labour and Industry in the Bavin Government, from 1st October, 1927, to 4th November, 1930. On 1st November, 1933, the Hon. Mr. Farrar was elected to the reconstituted Legislative Council for the term of twelve years, beginning on 23rd April, 1934. He has held the office of Chairman of Committees since 2nd May of that year. In 1938 the Hon. Mr. Farrar was elected Acting President of this House during the absence in London of the Hon. Sir John Peden, and he was re-elected to the Legislative Council for a further term of twelve years on 14th March, 1946. I submit that he has carried out his important duties with dignity and ability, and have no hesitation in commending him to hon. members for their favourable support.

The Hon. G. S. ARCHER [4.49]: I have very great pleasure, Mr. Clerk, in seconding the nomination of the Hon.

Mr. Farrar for the high office of President of the Legislature Council. The Hon. Major. Kneeshaw has related in detail the service that the Hon. Mr. Farrar has rendered in this House and outside it. He has gained a very full knowledge of the duties that he will be called upon to perform; if the motion is agreed to. Much of his political experience, indeed, was gained in the hard school of the Labour movement. The hon. member was in that movement for a number of years, some time ago. He was, at various times, President of the Eight-Hours Committee, President of the Labour Council of the Trade Union Congress, and President of the Political Labour League, before transferring his allegiance to another political party. During the time that I have been a member of this Chamber I have had ample opportunity of assessing the Hon. Mr. Farrar's capacity in the Chair. During the absence abroad of Sir John Peden, our former President, the Hon. Mr. Farrar acted as President and I performed some of the duties usually performed by the Hon. Mr. Farrar himself as Chairman of Committees. During the last twelve years I have been associated with him in the conduct of the business of the House, and therefore have personal knowledge of his qualifications and ability. There can be no doubt that, if elected, he will perform the duties of the high office of President with dignity and in that courteous and competent manner that characterised his occupancy of the Chair during the absence of Sir John Peden. I am pleased indeed to support the motion of the Hon. Major Kneeshaw.

The Hon. E. H. FARRAR. [4.52]: I desire to express to hon. members my deep sense of gratitude at the honour proposed to be conferred upon me. I submit myself to the House.

[Members of the House calling the Hon. Mr. Farrar to the Chair, he was taken out of his place by the Hon. Major Kneeshaw and the Hon. Mr. Archer and conducted to the Chair].

THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, standing on the dais, said: Before taking the Chair, I desire to express my thanks for and appreciation of the very distinguished honour that the House has seen fit to confer upon me in electing me President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales. In this historic building sat the first British Parliamentary Institution in the southern hemisphere, and from it has grown the whole of the Parliamentary Institutions of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand. Many eminent Australian statesmen of the past served in this House. Some of them attained the highest office in the political life not only of New South Wales, but also of the Commonwealth. One, Sir Edmund Barton, became the first Prime Minister of Australia; another was the Hon. R. E. O'Connor, a member of the first Federal Senate and Vice-President of the Executive Council and leader of the Senate in the Barton Government. Subsequently he became a member of the High Court bench. I am not unmindful of the very eminent gentlemen who have preceded me in the high office of President, and who left behind them traditions and standards that will be most difficult to maintain. However, it will be my constant endeavour to conform to the traditions and standards set by my distinguished predecessors. As the custodian of the rights and privileges of hon. members, I shall, at all times, do my utmost to safeguard their interests.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [4.55]: I have ascertained that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor would be pleased to receive the new President of this House at Government House forthwith.

The House proceeded to Government House, there to be present at the presentation of Mr. President to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

The House having returned,

THE PRESIDENT: I have to report that the Council has been to Government House where I informed his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor that, at its

sitting to-day, the Legislative Council, in the exercise of their lawful right, had proceeded to the election of their President, that the choice had fallen upon me, and that I presented myself to his Excellency as their President, whereupon his Excellency was pleased to offer me his congratulations.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [5.52]: May I take this opportunity, Mr. President, to offer my congratulations and those of other hon. members on your appointment to the office of President of the Legislative Council. I am sure that all hon. members feel that, with your long experience in this Chamber, nobody more fitted for the office could be chosen. We feel that in your hands the rights and privileges of hon. members will be adequately safeguarded and protected. We know that you have had the benefit of many years association with past Presidents of this Chamber, and as a result of your service here you have been able to acquire much of the knowledge that it is necessary for one occupying the office that you occupy to have. During the last twelve years you have had the advantage of association with Sir John Peden, who gave to the House the benefit of his great legal knowledge, and in that you have been fortunate. I have no doubt that you will be able to carry on as past Presidents of this Chamber have, and that in the future the Legislative Council will be proud that its privileges and rights are in your hands, confident in the knowledge that at all times they will be protected by the great experience and knowledge you have acquired in this Chamber.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING [5.53]: To add my congratulations to those which have been so generously offered by the Minister is one of the greatest pleasures that has been accorded to me. I do so with an added sense of pleasure when I reflect on the personal friendship with you, sir, which has existed over many years. While I feel this very great pleasure in joining in the congratulatory remarks of the Minister, I cannot help feeling that

this afternoon we, as a Chamber, have discharged a most important function, because I think it is impossible to imagine an occasion when the weight of responsibility falls more heavily upon hon. members than when they are called upon to elect to an office of such pre-eminence in the legislature of New South Wales the person who is to have charge of what is nothing short of the parliamentary functioning of democracy. No doubt we have all felt the necessity of being acquainted with the lessons to be learnt from the wonderful exhibition of the functioning of democracy that we have witnessed in the last few years. In no part of the world has the supremacy of democracy been demonstrated more forcibly than in the British Empire. On the one hand there was the spectacle of dictatorial power in which force was the governing factor, and on the other the assertion by British peoples of the imperishable principles of freedom. When the test came, and it was said by those exercising dictatorial power that we must bow to that power or perish, the people of Great Britain and Australia proved that those who enjoyed the benefits of democracy could bury ill-feeling and political acrimony in order to protect their freedom. To-day we have been called upon to demonstrate that we are conscious of our obligation for the preservation of democracy. We have elected to the supreme office of President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales a man who is familiar with the workings of the Constitution—one in whose jealous care are reposed the observance of the standing orders that this Parliament is empowered by the Constitution to make. For that reason I feel confident that the House has acted wisely to-day, and I join with other hon. members in tendering my congratulations to our newly elected President. We know that you, Mr. President, have been in this Chamber much longer than most hon. members and that you are familiar with the forms of the House. You have witnessed, in the course of the deliberations of this Chamber, some very fine expositions of parliamentary acumen and public

candour and uprightness. Those deliberations are traditional to those who are anxious to benefit from all that is best in the parliamentary history of this State.

We are glad to reflect that the traditions of this Parliament are in safe keeping and that your knowledge of them will ensure the proper discharge of the presidential functions. In some extraordinary fashion the British Constitution, and that of our own country, have in one or two instances moulded in a mysterious manner the judicial function with that of the legislative function. For that reason the President is called upon to exercise great skill and judgment in the performance of his duties. The exercise of the judicial function demands that all prejudice and political bias be set aside, and it is most important, if the principles of democracy are to be maintained, that parliamentary Government as such should be sustained. It must be recognised by any person who has the responsibility of discharging duties in this Chamber that parliamentary life is the lifeblood of democracy, that the parliamentary institution is the voice and the organ pipe of democracy and that therefore the performance of our parliamentary duties calls for the highest personal qualities, the deepest knowledge of the subjects to be dealt with, and the utmost readiness to make allowance for all political views in this Chamber.

With those words and with the knowledge that you, sir, have been chosen by us unanimously because of our recognition that you hold the necessary qualities for the performance of the arduous functions associated with your office, I feel that I may leave that subject. But one thing which I would like to mention, and which, you sir, would not like me to fail to mention, is the height to which the whole of our parliamentary life was raised by your predecessor, Sir John Peden, who, by his example, set a standard to which few people in this community could ever aspire. It is a high standard, one to be aimed at by any person who occupies the Chair. From

the point of view of those who occupy seats in this Chamber, that standard is one of our most precious possessions. It was created by the proper appreciation of the duties of his office by a great scholar, a great statesman and a great constitutionalist, and we are the inheritors of some of the traditions which he has been able to establish for this Chamber and for the public life of New South Wales. When you, sir, come to formulate your judgments upon the enunciation of principles by that great man, you will be doing something which will be a great pleasure to yourself personally and which will be in accordance with what we all feel is one of the sheet-anchors of our parliamentary life.

The Hon. W. E. V. ROBSON [6.3]: I suppose that I am one of the oldest members in this Chamber to be associated with you, sir. It is nearly sixty years since we met as young fellows at Lewisham, where we were associated in connection with The Methodist Sunday School. In view of that long acquaintance, and I may say friendly acquaintance with you, sir, I have, over the intervening years, watched with great interest your career in the public life of this State. I join with other hon. members to-day in offering you my congratulations upon the fitting climax to your public life in this State in your election to the high office of President of this House, which is one of the chief civil positions in New South Wales. I am sure, sir, that you will uphold the traditions of this Chamber. Over very many years you have had long experience in the conduct of public affairs. You have been Chairman of Committees in this Chamber, and everyone who is familiar with your work in the occupancy of that office and in the occupancy of the Chair as Deputy-President, are confident that you will sustain your new office with the dignity and ability that you have hitherto displayed. I tender to you my hearty congratulations and trust that you will be spared for many years to occupy the office to which you have been elected unanimously by

this House to-day; and that you will continue to give to the public of New South Wales the service that you have given in the years gone by.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER [6.6]: I should like to add my congratulations to those of hon. members who have already spoken, and I do so with great feeling and in no perfunctory manner, assuring hon. members that every word I say comes from the bottom of my heart. The Hon. Mr. Robson has beaten me by only four years in his friendship with you, as I have known you for only fifty-six years. Our acquaintanceship began when I was a schoolboy, and you, sir, were employed on the property of my uncle. I have watched your career with great interest for many years, and as a culmination I have had the pleasure of associating myself with you in this House for some twenty years. For many years I had the pleasure of sitting under you when you were Chairman of Committees and on those occasions when you acted as Deputy President, and I have always been filled with admiration at the profound grasp that you have of the standing orders of this House, a knowledge that qualifies you admirably for the high office to which you have now been elected. I should like to recall the words of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor when he said, a few minutes back, that not only did he congratulate you, but he congratulated also the members of this House in having you as their President. I feel sure that you will have the confidence of every hon. member during your occupancy of the Chair, as you have always exercised the utmost impartiality, and have gained the respect of all. Again I congratulate you, sir, and repeat my hope that you will occupy your honoured office for many years to come.

The Hon. J. M. CONCANNON [6.8]: I join with the previous speakers, Mr. President, in extending to you my personal congratulations on your elevation to the highest civic office to which a citizen of the State of New South Wales can aspire. It is indeed pleasing to see

that after your long service in this House you have been selected to-day unanimously as the choice of hon. members to be their President. It is particularly pleasing to me that again the Labour party has contributed one of its previous members to the highest civic office in this State. I have a distinct recollection of your service to the Labour movement as President of the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Labour Party, as President of the Trades and Labour Council, and as President of the Eight-hours Committee, and even though, in the course of time, you have fallen out of step with the Labour movement, it is pleasing to reflect that once again Labour has contributed to this eminent office one of its former members. I have no doubt that you will exercise the impartiality that was displayed by your illustrious predecessor in office, Sir John Peden, who was one of the outstanding intellectuals of New South Wales, who was Dean of the Faculty of Law in the University of Sydney, President of this Legislative Council, and who occupied other eminent positions in the life of this State. To him I extend my humble homage. Following as you do in the steps of so many illustrious citizens, you have a difficult task to perform, sir, but I feel confident that you will be a credit to the movement that created you a public figure, and to the movement that gave you your present prominence and the opportunity to give your lengthy and creditable service in this House. I repeat, I hope that your period of office will be characterised by strict impartiality, that you will be jealous in preserving the rights of members of this council, and that more you will continue to reflect credit on the Labour movement that gave to you the opportunity of aspiring to your present office.

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY [6.11]: May I, too, join with other hon. members in tending to you, sir, my good wishes and congratulations on your elevation to the high office of President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales. As you pointed out earlier in

"the evening, this Chamber is unique historically in the Parliamentary history of the British Dominions in the southern seas. I hope that it will continue to be so. You yourself have had a unique career. I cannot compete with the Hon. Mr. Robson and the Hon. Sir Norman Kater in length of time of having known you, Mr. President. While they were speaking I tried to remember where I first met you, and I think hon. members will recall that it was on the good old industrial fighting ground of the court where you appeared as an industrial advocate. It did not matter upon which side one fought. Before the industrial tribunals one learns to know and respect his fellow advocates. I saw a great deal of you, too, Mr. President, in the days of the late William Holman, who, like you, came from the little land of England, which has had, and still has, such a great influence on the world. He came here as a young man and rose to great heights.

Before proceeding to Government House, I noticed in the gallery one of your close personal friends, the son of the late Hon. Sir Joseph Carruthers, who came to pay tribute for his family. With great pleasure I also saw your own son, who, to-day, is very successfully following in your footsteps in the career that you marked out for him. It is almost unique, Mr. President, to have started on the lowest rung of the ladder and to have climbed to the highest, as you have done. You have held almost every office that has had to be worked for and fought for in the Labour movement. That is something of which any one in this country ought to be proud. The Labour movement is a critical group of men and women; I have no complaint about that. It knows its man, and it knows his record before it elects him to office. Hon. members have stated that you have been a member of this House for thirty years, and so far as I can see that is a record. In the Library there is a book which tells us that life begins at forty, but for you, Mr. President, life is beginning after forty.

I again convey to you my good wishes for the full enjoyment of the high office which you have attained.

The Hon. E. C. O'DEA [6.14]: I, too, Mr. President, desire to offer my congratulations upon the attainment of your high office. The people of this State know of the existence of one Parliament in New South Wales, but in the minds of the workers there exists another Parliament—the Trades and Labour Council of New South Wales, on which many years ago you had the honour to hold office. There is no doubt that played a most prominent part in moulding your life and fitting you to perform the many duties that have been associated with your career in Parliament. I am one of the oldest members taking an active part in the work of the trade union movement in this State, and I remember your meritorious work in the early days in helping to uplift the masses of this country. I think it was Mr. Gladstone who said that every reform that became law in Great Britain came from the common people. There are no "common people" in Australia, but we know what the term means, and we know what the grounding of men in the trade union movement means. It is a signal honour for the movement that to-day, for the second time in the history of this Chamber, one who has been so closely associated with it has attained the high office of President of the Legislative Council and will help to guide the destinies of this State, which we all love.

We all wish you, Mr. President, success in the performance of your many duties. We are proud of your achievement, and your appointment illustrates what a wonderful democracy this is. It shows that a chosen representative of the Parliament of the workers can ultimately be sent to hold the highest office in this House. This helps in the upholding and moulding of the laws of this State. On behalf of the trade union movement I congratulate you, Mr. President. We feel that the grounding you have had with it will be of great assistance to you. I congratulate you, too, on behalf of my colleagues on this

side of the House, particularly because of the prominent part that you have played in helping to mould so many of the industrial and social laws which benefit the people of this State.

The Hon. R. A. KING [6.18]: I desire to extend to you, Mr. President, congratulations upon having attained the high office of President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales. I thought that I knew you a long time ago, but I discover that I am quite an infant compared with some other hon. members. I might state that some forty years ago you were responsible for my joining the trade union movement, and I have never regretted your persuading me to take that step. I do not know whether you, Mr. President, have regretted it. In those days, particularly in Tasmania, it was a hard thing to be a member of a trade union. I, like other hon. members, have watched your career, sir. You were secretary of my union when I came to New South Wales, and you were then organising that union. That was in 1910, and in 1912 you were appointed an hon. member of this House. There came a time when a difference of opinion arose. Whether we were tolerant or intolerant is beside the point, because at a later period in our lives, when our democracy was in danger, we all exhibited a spirit of tolerance, and emerged supreme against the tyranny of Fascism and the dictatorship of one man. I feel sure that, with the qualities you possess, and the training that you have had over the years, you have undoubtedly fitted yourself for the high office to which you have been elected. I am also sure that you will preserve the high traditions of this Chamber, and that you will carry out your onerous and responsible duties with distinction and credit to yourself, and to the Legislative Council of New South Wales.

The Hon. Sir GRAHAM WADDELL [6.21]: I rise to extend my sincere congratulations to you, Mr. President, upon your election to the high office that you now occupy. The late Hon. Thomas Waddell, who at one time was Premier of this State, first introduced me to you

over twenty years ago, and I can truly say that since then you and I have been excellent friends. When this House was reconstituted some of the older members were getting on in years, and decided not to stand for re-election. At the first election Mr. Waddell gave his number one vote for yourself. He was a statesman with a broad outlook, and he felt that in giving his No. 1 vote, as he did, he was doing something in the best interests of the country. Since then you have justified the confidence reposed in you. I offer you, sir, my sincere congratulations on your elevation to the office of President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales.

The Hon. M. E. MANFRED [6.22]: Like a number of other members, my association with you, sir, has been of a much shorter duration than that of older members who have just spoken. However, I look back on the early days when I came into this House, and I have to thank you for your many courtesies, and the manner in which you assisted me. It must be a proud hour for you to be elected to the high office which you now occupy, an office which has been held by other distinguished members of this House—members who graduated through a course of business, or a course of law, or through the larger school of the modern world. In selecting you as President, I have no doubt whatever that you will uphold the traditions established by former Presidents and that in the days that lie ahead we shall benefit from your sagacity, wisdom and experience. Some hon. members, particularly the Hon. Sir Henry Manning, have referred to the attributes of democracy, and to the importance of the part that is played by Parliament in a democracy. We all realise that in the difficult times through which we have just passed successfully, the parliamentary institution has regained a great deal of its supremacy. But let us not forget that what we may win on the foreign front we may by carelessness lose on the home front. Let us ever be on our guard to see that the instrument of democracy

—our great parliamentary institution—shall always remain the mainspring of our life and well-being. Thus, by maintaining the dignity and the responsibilities of its parliamentary system of government will our democracy survive, and I am sure, Mr. President, that you will be ever watchful in maintaining the high traditions of the past.

The Hon RICHARD THOMPSON [6.26]: May I join with my colleagues in offering my warmest congratulations to you, sir, upon your election, unopposed to the high office of President of this House. I pause to express my appreciation of your distinguished service as a member of the Legislative Council, as a Minister, as Deputy-President and Acting-President, and Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Council. I particularly wish to say a word or two on behalf of the residents of Manly, and the Warringah Shire. I know that one of the pleasures of your life, Mr. President, is to live at Manly. You have known Manly since it was a village. It has grown, and you have grown with it. I also know that among the warm congratulations you have received none will be more appreciated than those which come to you in full measure from your fellow residents of Manly and Warringah.

You and your family are amongst our best loved and best respected citizens, and we look forward to many more years of your close association in the Municipality of Manly. Your work as an industrial advocate, as a conciliator and as an arbitrator is well known, and I am sure all members share with you, your satisfaction that your son Laurie—Mr. L. W. Farrar—who has already made a name for himself as an industrial advocate, is treading the same path in industrial affairs as his father did over the years. When I was elected to this House six years ago, at the age of 33, I was the youngest member, a distinction that now falls to the Hon. Mr. Otway Falkiner. As the former "baby" of the House I am particularly indebted to you, sir, for the guidance and kindly interest that you have shown me and all

hon. members who were new to the House. As we travelled to and from Manly, either by car or boat, I have had many opportunities of seeking your counsel and interest, and I appreciate all that you have done for me over the years. This House—part of the oldest Legislature in Australia, the membership of which is honorary—has a tradition of achievement and service second to none, and I share the firm belief that that rich tradition will be safe in your hands.

The Hon. R. MAHONY [6.29]: I also congratulate you, sir, upon your election to the high office of President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales. I have known you for many years. I knew you first in the early Labour movement, and I know the qualities that you possessed when you were elected as chairman of various organisations associated with that movement, including that of chairman of the Trades and Labour Council. I remember when you were engaged in that great industrial upheaval, the coal strike of many years ago, when you and I were entrusted with the task of bringing back Peter Bowling and other union leaders who had been imprisoned. You were on our side at that time, but in politics people take different sides on a particular subject, according to their views. Something happened, and we split. I remained on the Labour side; but you chose the other side at the time. However, I am sure that all you learned in the Labour movement and in other spheres has equipped you to fulfil the duties of President of this Chamber. I again express my congratulations to you upon your well-deserved elevation.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM [6.30]: I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to you, sir, upon your election, and to thank you for the courtesy and assistance that you have extended to me during the last twenty years. It is certainly a high honour that has been bestowed upon you. You, Mr. President, are following in the footsteps of Wentworth, Blaxland and Suttor, pioneers of our Constitution, in the Mother of Parliaments in Australia—and for that matter in Australasia—the Legislative

Council of New South Wales. Our House is like the House of Lords—they are the only two Houses that render honorary parliamentary service. I congratulate you upon your intimate knowledge of the standing orders, which will prove a very valuable asset to you in your new office.

I join with others in welcoming here as a witness of your elevation to the Presidency, your son, Laurie. I know that he is not politically inclined, but I sincerely hope that his son, your grandson, will have political aspirations, and that the name of Farrar will live in the years to come in the political life of this State. Your name is allied with political stalwarts of the early part of this century, such as William Morris Hughes, William Arthur Holman, MacDonell, Flowers and others. In such associations members of this House possess a heritage of which they feel proud. If we were to compare the debating and intellectual ability of members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales with that of any other parliamentary institution in the world, I know that it would be found superior. Men like James Ashton and Sir Joseph Carruthers and E. M. Mitchell—who, I suppose, was one of the greatest English scholars the British Empire has ever seen—have added their quota to the debating prestige of this Chamber. We are delighted that you have been chosen to fill the position of President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales. I know I am expressing the feeling of us all when I wish you, sir, good health, long life and contentment.

The Hon. L. S. SNIDER [6.33]: I desire to be associated with the congratulatory remarks regarding your elevation, Mr. President, to the high position of President of the Legislative Council. It is with satisfaction that I do this because we honour him we know that has proven his worth and earned the honour. Thirty-four years of continuous legislative service have been to you thirty-four years of study—a unique benefit to the State.

It is fitting that a man who has held the highest offices in the Labour party

and ministerial rank in non-Labour Governments should preside over and direct the activities of this House of review. Your administrative experience outside the Legislature has even broadened your outlook and given you the practical balance which we have observed in your remarks in this House. Beneath this exterior competence we all know that you possess a kindly nature, a readiness to help others and a broad understanding of your fellow man. These qualities have endeared you to so many.

I have been happily given access to a transcript of certain speeches made at a farewell dinner to you, sir, on the eve of your departure to the Empire Exhibition in 1924. I feel that extracts from speeches made by representative public men on that occasion should be reiterated on this occasion. Speaking at a complimentary dinner, the late Sir James Murdoch, then a member of this Chamber, said in reference to our Chairman: "He is an honest and honourable man, whose word is his bond and would deceive no man; he is a wonderful worker and an organiser of consummate ability; and I hope that he may achieve honours greater than that now conferred on him by his colleagues in sending him abroad." The late Sir George Fuller's remarks are worthy of repetition. On the occasion of this dinner, referring to Mr. Farrar as his colleague and friend, he said that his mission was one of the most important that anyone from the State had ever undertaken, and that when he pondered over Mr. Farrar's work he could not fail to realise that in devoting himself to public life he had sacrificed his own material interests, and that otherwise he might have become as great in the commercial world as had many of the members present at that gathering. He added: "Our honoured and trusted representative, with his indomitable energy, his genius for organisation and his fervent Australian patriotism, is the man above all others to represent the Government and the people of New South Wales at the Empire Exhibition."

In his inimitable manner, the late W. A. Holman, who knew Mr. Farrar closely, said he had known many public

men and departmental officers, some hard workers, but there were four men—Flowers, Watson, Nielsen and Farrar—who were workers beyond all ordinary experience. They were men of character; they were men of clearness of thought and expression, and they were all possessed of a spirit of thoroughness that induced a meticulous care of detail. The consequence was that they knew their own minds and could marshal all their facts to place them before the men they were working for. Mr. Holman added that he had been associated with Mr. Farrar during many years of intense anxiety, with a minority party, fighting an uphill battle. They were the weakest side and they knew it; that being the case, any slackness and disloyalty, any failure was treachery. Those were the days when Mr. Farrar's capacity for work and organisation were developed. He considered three corner-stones of Mr. Farrar's triumphs to be—first, an industry that never tires; second, an intelligence that enables him to envisage every problem and to discover the key to its solution; and third, the power to impress his personality and to dominate his will on others. The late Sir Hugh Denison, himself an outstanding organiser, said of our President: "The men that were sometimes called 'Captains of Industry' were supposed to have organising ability, but his assurance could be taken that he had never known any chairman of a business or a public body who had shown the same magnificent ability that Mr. Farrar had in connection with the British Exhibition scheme."

The Hon. J. C. Watson, another old friend of Mr. Farrar, and the first Labour Prime Minister of Australia, testified to the positions Mr. Farrar had held in the trade union movement. Mr. Watson desired particularly to stress the courage required to take the stand that Mr. Farrar did when unionism faced the Empire crisis. He was a young man with a vista opening in front of him which might have proved tempting to most men, but he was loyal and willing to sacrifice position at the call of duty. Mr. Farrar had the ball at his feet. His deep sense of loyalty should have our

homage and his courage our admiration. One feels inclined, when speaking of the President, to call him "Ernie," and recognise him for the good fellow he is. I feel that on reviewing his career and knowing his capacity, we have very cogent reasons to congratulate ourselves that such an astute, human and experienced gentleman will direct the activities of this House.

[The President left the chair at 6.40 p.m. The House resumed at 8.3 p.m.]

The Hon. G. S. ARCHER [8.8]: I should like to offer you my personal congratulations on your elevation to the high office of President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales. In seconding the motion nominating you for this office, I had an opportunity of voicing my sentiments, but not having had the lengthy association with you that some hon. members have enjoyed, I was very brief. I cannot claim to have played marbles with you eighty-seven years ago, nor were we together at the battle of Waterloo. The remarks of some hon. members have made me wonder how old you really are, but to my personal knowledge you are not nearly so old as some of them imagine. I have been associated with you since the reconstitution of this Chamber twelve years ago. During the absence abroad of Sir John Peden you acted as President, and I as Chairman of Committees. From my experience then and on other occasions when I had acted as Deputy Chairman I know how interested you are in the traditions, practice and conventions of the Chamber. In placing its destiny in your hands the House has made a wise decision.

Your close association with the late William Arthur Holman, a former Premier of New South Wales, brings to my mind that he was a member of the union to which I belong, having at one period of his career been a cabinet maker. I had in my possession a photograph of Mr. Holman working in a cabinet factory situated behind the Deaf and Dumb Institution in City road, but someone kindly lifted it from my office table and shortly afterwards I saw it published in a news-

paper. I regret losing that photograph, because it was something that I treasured. In those days, as well as making good furniture we had some very splendid men in the union. I remember Mr. Holman opening a union meeting by saying that he had never been in better company in his life than when he served a term of imprisonment—of course, for a purely political offence. One member interjected, "How would you like to make four-drawer chests" and in a flash Mr. Holman replied, "I was never in better company in my life than when I was associated with you in that work." I recall also my last conversation with Mr. Holman when he telephoned me about a matter with which he was concerned. Before his work was completed his life was cut short and Australia lost his valuable services. I have no doubt, Mr. President, that from your association with Mr. Holman, you acquired much of the organising ability that has manifested itself throughout your career. The furnishing trades produced a number of good organisers and Mr. Holman was one of them. He subsequently went to other organisations, and did some excellent work organising in the back country. I can well remember returning to town with him after a victorious political campaign in which he had swept the country. The fettlers along the railway line cheered him as his car passed through. In those days you, Mr. President, were particularly closely associated with Mr. Holman, and possibly your association with so eminent a man helped you considerably. It has been a pleasure to be associated with you, and I have no doubt that you will be impartial and will uphold the traditions of this Chamber in the same way as the many excellent men who have preceded you.

The Hon. H. LATIMER [8.14]: I feel that I should not allow this opportunity to pass without conveying my congratulations to you, Mr. President, upon your election to the high and important office of President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales. As previous speakers have pointed out, it is well-known to all hon. members that

you have acted as Chairman of Committees, Acting-President and Deputy-President. Reference has been made, also, to other positions, that you have occupied, but no mention has been made of your connection with the Board of Fire Commissioners from 1915 to 1922. You, Mr. President, were chairman of that board. During that period horse-drawn vehicles were superseded by motor vehicles, and I think that you blazed the track to Broken Hill as well as the driver who took the first motor vehicle there. As Minister for Labour and Industry, you were responsible for abolishing the dole and paying men according to the work that they did.

I am pleased that it is on record that you were responsible for opening up National Park and Taronga Park, where the children's playground and the aquariums stand as a memorial to you. You were also instrumental in the reclamation of the mangrove swamp by the Kuring-gai Park Trust, which established the park at Bobbin Head and constructed the road which is called after you "Farrar-avenue." This was responsible for opening up some 58,000 acres of land to the public of New South Wales. I understand that you are still a member of the Kuring-gai Park Trust, which one may term your "old love," as you have been associated with it for the past thirty-five years. I sincerely trust that, in filling your responsible office as President of this House, you will be able to devote the same amount of time to your other activities. The Hon. Sir Graham Waddell referred to his uncle, the late Hon. Thomas Waddell, who was a member both of this House and of the Legislative Assembly, and a former Premier and Treasurer of New South Wales, and said that he gave his number one vote to you when you were elected to this House on its reconstitution. I feel that I do not like to let the opportunity pass without drawing attention to the fact that my late esteemed father, the Hon. W. F. Latimer, had the privilege and pleasure of giving you his number one vote on that occasion, thus assisting you to be elected to the reconstituted Cham-

ber. It gave me great pleasure when you came and asked me if I would nominate you for re-election to this Chamber. I did so whole-heartedly and, with others, we saw that there was no doubt that, to use racing parlance, you "flew home." I feel certain that the privileges and rights of hon. members will be safeguarded by you, and that the little personal attentions to which they have been accustomed will be continued. I sincerely trust that you will have a pleasant term of office, that you will see the whole of your time out, and that you will look as hale and hearty at the expiration of your term of twelve years as you do to-night.

Major the Hon. F. P. KNEESHAW [8.19]: I should like to extend to you, Mr. President, my personal congratulations on the way in which the motion was unanimously received by the House. The fact that I took the responsibility of moving it is sufficient evidence of my confidence in your ability to carry out the duties of your high office.

The Hon. P. M. McGIRR [8.20]: I take this opportunity, Mr. President, of offering my congratulations upon your elevation to such a high office. It must be very gratifying to know that as a result of your own energies and study you have risen to such a high state in the public life of this country. I am confident that you will do honour to the office, for your rulings in this House have convinced me that your knowledge is as great as that of any of your esteemed predecessors. I have not had the privilege of knowing you as long as have some hon. members, but I have been a member of this House for over twenty years, and though there have been heated debates they were forgotten as soon as you were outside the Chamber. Your rulings have always been fair and just and I know of no occasion when they have been questioned. I trust that you will be long spared, for I know that you will do honour to your high office and justice to all hon. members. No more can be expected of any President. I wish you good health and a happy period as President of this Chamber.

The Hon. G. D. BASSETT [8.23]: I should like, Mr. President, as a plain country man, to add a few words to the eloquent testimony to your efficiency and popularity that has been made here to-night. Previous speakers have referred to your early career and I shall confine myself to my observation since I have been a member of this Chamber. You have a wonderful memory and I have frequently been amazed at the decisions that you have made—often at a moment's notice. Though I have been called to order upon occasion I have always profited by the experience. I remember that in one instance I committed the great sin of moving from one part of the House to another while a vote was being taken and you, sir, very promptly drew attention to the breach of the Standing Orders. Your experience in the primary industries of this State will stand you in good stead in discharging the functions of the important office that you now occupy. Your long association with the flour milling industry—with which I am pleased to know you are still associated—and your experience in the wool industry as was mentioned by the Hon. Sir Norman Kater will, I am sure, make you more tolerant of country members than would be a President not so well acquainted with the problems of the man on the land. I wish you long life and a successful career as President of this Chamber.

The PRESIDENT: I should not be human if I were not deeply moved by the kind and affectionate references that have fallen from the lips of hon. members this afternoon and this evening. An open season upon myself seems to have been declared, and hon. members whom I have known from early boyhood have proved that they, too, have good memories. I fondly imagined that many of the incidents to which they referred had long since been forgotten. I feel proud and highly honoured that such expressions of goodwill and congratulation should come from members on both sides of the House, for I know that they have come from the

heart. As was mentioned by some hon. members, my early years in this Chamber were occupied with industrial and social problems, and I have never altered my outlook towards those problems. Though, as the result of the study of economics, I may have developed a viewpoint that did not coincide with that of hon. members, it was, in my opinion, that which was calculated to serve the best interests of this State. References to my industrial and political activity before entering this House brought back memories of happy days working with a band of men and women that struggled to better the conditions of the "under-dog." The beacon lights that were erected then by men like Holman, Hughes, Watson, McGowen, and Fisher, and the platforms that they espoused have, in the course of the years, been crystallised in the legislation of this Parliament. I vividly recollect their battle for early closing and for the Factories and Shops Act, and the valuable work that they performed in respect of the Arbitration Court, family endowment, invalid and old age pensions and other social services which through their efforts found crystallisation on the Statute Book of this State and which were afterwards as the Commonwealth Constitution permitted, placed on the Commonwealth Statute Book. It was my privilege as a young man to be associated with these men and the mention of their names to-night brought back to me the memories of those days.

The Hon. Mr. Archer on two or three occasions referred to my dear friend, the late W. A. Holman, and he said that that gentleman had been very close to me. That was so in the early days; but since his death I have never been closer to him than I am to-night. Indeed, I am at this moment privileged to wear the wig which he wore as Attorney-General and King's Counsel. I received from Mrs. Holman a message to the effect that as I was the oldest, most loyal and the best friend of her husband she was making me a present of his wig. It can, in the circumstances, be readily believed that I was a very close friend

of the late Mr. Holman. I could continue in the same strain for some time, but I do not propose to do that because we have work to do.

Reference has been made to the work of the President in this House. That is, of course, under the control of the President and, through him, the Chairman of Committees and the Temporary Chairmen of Committees. That is one side of the President's functions; for he is also the custodian of the rights, liberties and privileges of hon. members, not only on the floor of the House when in session but in respect of the amenities round the House. All the things that concern the comfort and well-being of hon. members while present in the Chamber or in the adjoining rooms are the concern of the President. I can assure hon. members that I shall be approachable on any subject that they like to bring before me, and, when requested, I shall do everything in my power to assist them in their work not only in this House but also outside in the furtherance of the interests of the country.

I wish to say a word to my old friend, the Hon. Mr. Concannon. During the regime of the Bavin Government I held the important portfolio of Minister for Labour and Industry and, of course, during my term of office I gave effect to Cabinet policy in respect of industrial legislation. When the Labour Government came into power the slogan was for a new order, and some important amendments were made to the industrial legislation. It naturally fell to my lot, as the former Minister for Labour and Industry, to come to the table opposite the Hon. Mr. Concannon who had moved the second reading of the amending bill, in order to dissect its provisions from the viewpoint of the legislation that through my instrumentality had already been placed on the Statute Book. Those were the stirring times mentioned by the Hon. Mr. McGirr, when we stood up and swapped punches, as it were, in debate, but I am pleased to say that when we left the Chamber there was never a cross word. The Hon. Mr. Concannon and I have always been the

closest personal friends. His kindly and sincere reference to myself this afternoon was one of the best illustrations that could possibly be found to show that men who are strongly opposed in their political views in this Chamber can still remain fast and firm friends outside the Chamber. That is how it should be and it is one of the things that makes this Legislative Council an outstanding debating body. In this Chamber members abstain from personalities and insults by way of debate or interjection and confine themselves to the advocacy of their principles and beliefs. Hon. members who have spoken to-day have expressed themselves in terms of deepest affection for me and I assure them that I am thoroughly appreciative, because I know that they are expressing their feelings not only for one whom they have elected as their President, but also for one whom they esteem and call their friend. I am indeed grateful for the kindly words that have spontaneously come from all sides of the House, and I shall cherish them to my dying day. Gentlemen, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I hope that while I occupy this honourable position I shall live up to the high standards that you have set me, and when the time comes for me to leave the chair I trust that my humble efforts will be appreciated as much as hon. members have to-day indicated by their very kindly references.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

Motion (by the Hon. R. R. Downing)
agreed to:

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would preclude the appointment of a Chairman of Committees of the whole House forthwith.

The Hon. Sir Henry MANNING [8.38]: I move:

That Lt.-Colonel the Hon. Thomas Steele be Chairman of Committees of the whole House.

I feel that I am giving voice to the feelings of all hon. members, when I say that throughout the long period that Lt.-Colonel the Hon. Thomas Steele has occupied the position of Temporary Chairman of Committees he has acquitted himself with a degree of skill

and ability that has always demanded our admiration. He has shown not only an aptitude for that particular class of work but also a knowledge of the standing orders which has enabled him to perform his duties with rapidity and to the satisfaction of those concerned. The hon. member has displayed, as I mentioned before in reference to the election of the President, a marked degree of impartiality which has certainly evoked our admiration. I feel that we personally are gratified in being able to select for this high and honourable position a man who has not only displayed great public spirit in his parliamentary activities, but who, as a returned soldier in both wars, has given his services for the Empire at a time when they were most needed.

The Hon. H. S. HENLEY [8.40]: It is a pleasure to me to second the nomination of Lt.-Colonel the Hon. Thomas Steele as Chairman of Committees. The Hon. Sir Henry Manning has mentioned the many fine attributes of Lt.-Colonel Steele, and I need not repeat them. He is a product of the country and I assure hon. members that he is held in very high esteem, not only in the movement with which he is associated, but also throughout the country and, if he is appointed Chairman of Committees, it will be a tribute not merely to him, but also to a large body of persons who appreciate his many excellent qualities. Since I have been in this House Lt.-Colonel Steele has often acted as Temporary Chairman of Committees and it has been a pleasure to me and to all others who have sat under his chairmanship during the discussion of many vital and intricate bills to note his impartiality and the capable way in which he dealt with the business of the Committee. I commend his nomination to hon. members.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER [8.41]: I move:

That the words "Lt.-Colonel the Hon. Thomas Steele" be struck out and there be inserted in lieu thereof the words "the Hon. George Stacher Archer".

The Hon. Mr. Archer, also, has filled the position of Temporary Chairman of

Committees with very great success, and in moving my amendment, I make it clear that I do not wish to cast any reflection whatever on the manner in which Lt.-Colonel Steele has carried out those duties. Both gentlemen have occupied the office with great success and both have the full confidence of the House. The Hon. Mr. Archer displayed his great impartiality this afternoon when he seconded your nomination, sir, and I wish to reciprocate and to show my impartiality to the great party to which the hon. member belongs. I have no doubt that the solidarity that has always been shown by that party will be displayed on this occasion. Only recently we had an example of it in this Chamber when an hon. member opposite, after stating his objection to a bill, declared that he would be obliged to vote for it.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER: I bow to your ruling, Mr. President, and regard it as an honour to be the first member to be called to order by you in your new office. I see a number of hon. members opposite who belong to the Labour party, and it is only natural that they should support my amendment.

The Hon. G. S. ARCHER [8.42]: I desire to have my name withdrawn from the amendment, as I realise that this is political chicanery on the part of the Hon. Sir Norman Kater. If it were a genuine attempt to put me into the office of Chairman of Committees I should appreciate it. However, the amendment places me in a difficult position and I ask that my name be withdrawn. Under different circumstances I would appreciate the honour that is proposed.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr. Archer has asked that his name be withdrawn, therefore the amendment lapses.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER: [8.43]: I naturally bow to your ruling, Mr. President, but I thought that when an amendment was moved it had to be put.

The PRESIDENT: I must rule in that way because the Hon. Mr. Archer, whose

name is embodied in the amendment, declines to be a candidate for the position of Chairman of Committees. In the circumstances the amendment cannot stand and the Hon. Sir Norman Kater should withdraw it.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER: I withdraw my amendment only because you ask me to do so, sir. I hope that you will not think me disrespectful to your high office.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT: [8.44]: I desire to congratulate the Hon. Lt.-Colonel Thomas Steele upon his election as Chairman of Committees. He, with the Hon. Mr. Archer and the Hon. Mr. Spicer often acted as Temporary Chairman of Committees during my twelve years of office as Chairman of Committees and I know that all three are fully competent to take that position!

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [8.45]: May I be permitted on my own behalf and on behalf of other hon. members, to add my congratulations to yours, Mr. President. I am sure that in Lt.-Colonel the Hon. Thomas Steele the House has appointed a competent and able Chairman of Committees. During the time that I have been a Minister in this Chamber I have had ample opportunity of noting how efficiently the hon. member performed his duties as Temporary Chairman of Committees and I have no doubt that now that he has been elected permanent Chairman of Committees he will continue to perform those duties in the same highly efficient manner.

The Hon. G. S. ARCHER [8.46]: I should like, briefly, to tender my congratulations to Lt.-Colonel the Hon. Thomas Steele—"Tom" Steele, as he is familiarly known to us. I am sure that he will do a good job as Chairman of Committees. I fully appreciate the fact that he is a returned soldier of the 1914-1918 war and that he performed meritorious service during the recent war when this country was in dire peril. I have always regarded Tom Steele as the

best-dressed soldier that I ever saw, the beau ideal of a soldier, and I am sure that he will apply himself competently to the job of Chairman of Committees.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER [8.47]: May I congratulate Lt.-Colonel the Hon. Thomas Steele on his appointment. I am sure that failing the appointment of the Hon. Mr. Archer, who I believe would have made a better Chairman of Committees, the House could not have chosen a more able member than he.

The Hon. F. W. SPICER [8.48]: As one of the band of Temporary Chairmen that has acted over a period of years I add my congratulations to those already tendered to Lt.-Colonel the Hon. Thomas Steele. I am sure that he will carry out his high office in a creditable manner to himself and in a way that will reflect credit on the House. I feel sure that if he follows in your footsteps, Mr. President, this House will have no regrets for having appointed him to the position.

Lt.-Colonel the Hon. THOMAS STEELE [8.49]: I appreciate very much indeed the honour that has been conferred upon me this evening, and I am thankful indeed for the congratulations that have been tendered to me by the Hon. Mr. Downing, the Hon. Sir Norman Kater, and other hon. members. In accepting this position I am not unmindful that I am following in the footsteps of a former able Chairman of Committees, namely, yourself, Mr. President. I feel that with the help and co-operation of hon. members I shall be able to give the House the service to which it is entitled. I feel, too, that as time goes on I shall be able to learn something from you, Mr. President, and make myself more useful to hon. members in Committee. In conclusion, I thank hon. members for electing me to this position.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

The PRESIDENT nominated the Hon. Hugh Latimer to act as a Temporary Chairman of Committees during the

present session of Parliament in the place of Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Thomas Steele.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Royal assent to the following bills reported:

Census (Amendment) Bill.

Glenbawn Dam Bill.

Burrendong Dam Bill.

LIQUOR (AMENDMENT) BILL.

THIRD READING.

Motion (by the Hon. R. R. Downing) proposed:

That this bill be now read a third time.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING [8.56]: I move:

That the words "read a third time" be struck out, and there be inserted in lieu thereof the words "recommitted with a view to the further consideration of clause 48".

I might say that I am making a request for allowing a course of action that has been almost unanimously adopted in this House, as far as I can recollect, during the last thirteen or fourteen years. I can recall one instance, and one only, upon which such a request has been refused, and that was when the whole matter had previously been dealt with in detail. I feel sure that the Minister will be impressed with the necessity of giving this his serious consideration when he reflects that the bill, and particularly clause 48, introduced a matter of vital interest to the whole community, namely, the establishment of community hotels. The Minister will recall, as the very reason for agreeing to recommitment, that the bill sought to amend by inserting words in dozens of different parts of a very complicated piece of legislation already in existence, namely, the Liquor Act, and to make provision for reading portions of other Acts into it. The bill, which is of formidable dimensions, running as it does into 109 pages, was seen for the first time by this House on the day it was introduced. On that occasion the Minister asked hon. members to bear in mind that there were a number of other matters that would be dealt with by amendments coming from him, and these were presented when the bill was first brought down in this Chamber. I must add that the Minister was good enough to let

me have in advance a copy of the bill on the Friday before it was introduced. The bill was seen in this Chamber for the first time on the Tuesday. It was made available to hon. members on the previous Friday, by being sent to them, but that was the first opportunity afforded members of this House to devote attention to it over the week-end.

I also wish to point out that since they have had time to consider the debate which took place on the bill, hon. members have realised that the debate was conducted with insufficient information. In fact, there was no information whatsoever as to the meaning of many of the clauses of the bill, because it was impossible to know what they meant without comparing the amendments with the Principal Act. In addition, there was a formidable sheet of amendments to the bill itself. With those difficulties confronting hon. members, it is obvious that there were no opportunities during the debate to deal with all the matters in detail, with a full appreciation of their meaning. The bill was taken through Committee on that night. The debate went on until about one o'clock in the morning. It was forced on by the Government, hon. members being faced with two alternatives: first, to deal with the matter there and then, or secondly, to sit all night or until the measure had been dealt with. I suggest that hon. members are entitled to a re-committal for the purpose of considering an amendment or series of amendments in regard to community hotels which will not jeopardise any of the existing provisions of the bill, but will enable such hotels to be established on the lines provided for in the South Australian and New Zealand legislation. That is the sole purpose of this attempt to have the measure recommitted. The Minister will have an opportunity of saying whether he will agree to its re-committal to give effect to the experiment which has taken place elsewhere. Parliament should be allowed to express its views upon the bill, and I ask that it be recommitted for the purpose of adding to the facilities already existing in regard to community hotels, and to

enable a set of provisions to be incorporated in the bill which will permit the Government to adopt what has already been a success in other countries.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [9.4], in reply: I am unable to accede to the request of the Hon. Sir Henry Manning. I appreciate that this bill was received by the Legislative Council and dealt with in two nights, but I have yet to learn that hon. members pay no regard whatsoever to the business transacted in another place. My experience has shown me that any member of this Chamber who is interested in any legislation the Government brings forward certainly displays that interest from the moment the measure is introduced in another place. This bill was introduced one week in another place, and was not dealt with until the following week. The discussion occupied at least a week, so that by the time the bill reached this Chamber hon. members had had at least three weeks in which to consider it.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: Those views are utterly repugnant to parliamentary procedure so far as this House is concerned!

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: They are not repugnant to hon. members. The hon. member is flaunting all procedural principles in seeking the recommitment of the bill. Hon. members had an opportunity to study the bill for a period of three or four weeks. This procedure has been followed by the hon. member and other hon. members of this Chamber on numerous occasions. I took the precaution of having the bill circulated among all members of this Chamber on the Friday preceding the week that it was proposed to deal with it here, and I understand that all members received a copy of the bill as amended in another place. If any hon. member failed to receive a copy of the bill he has made no complaint to me.

It is also inaccurate to say that this part of the bill was dealt with on the Tuesday. The second reading debate took place on the Tuesday. The Committee stages of the bill were dealt with

The Hon. Sir Henry Manning.]

on the Wednesday. I cannot attribute any reason why the hon. member has moved this amendment to-night, other than the fact that he has been influenced by propaganda that has been published in the daily press recently, with the sole object of seeking to make some capital out of this proposed move. He had an opportunity to move these amendments when that part of the bill was under consideration, but no amendment was moved by the hon. member or by any other member associated with him. I can be pardoned, I hope, when I express the opinion that this move for the recommittal of the bill has been actuated by press propaganda. The Government proposes to dispose of its legislation in the ordinary course so that the business of the State may be dealt with in an orderly manner. I appreciate that bills are frequently recommitted at the third reading stage. This has been often the case where it has been discovered that a necessary amendment should be moved which would make the bill a better measure, or that an anomaly should be removed. In this case the matter referred to by the Hon. Sir Henry Manning was within the knowledge of hon. members at the Committee stage, and could have been suggested and debated on that occasion. It is establishing an entirely new principle when an hon. member seeks to reintroduce such matters by a recommittal of the bill. I therefore suggest that the House should refuse to allow its recommittal.

Question—That the words proposed to be struck out stand—put. The House divided:

Ayes, 27; noes, 18; majority, 9.

AYES.

Alam, A. A.	Graves, J. J.
Archer, G. S.	Hackett, C.
Buckley, F. P.	King, R. A.
Concannon, J. M.	McGarr, P. M.
Dalton, C. A.	Mahony, R.
Dickson, W. E.	Murray, T. G.
Downing, R. R.	O'Dea, E. C.
Ferguson, J. A.	Padgen, W. T.
Gibb, W. J.	Parry, S. F.
Gleeson, T. P.	Savage, R. E.

Spicer, F. W.
Stewart, J.
Tannock, C.
Williams, S. C.

Wright, E. G.
Tellers,
Bodkin, J. A.
Harrison, E. J.

NOES.

Bassett, G. D.	Manning, Sir Henry
Binks, A. N.	Pratten, F. G.
Bradley, Captain	Robson, W. E. V.
Budd, H. V.	Snider, L. S.
Eggins, E. S.	Speck, E. J. C.
Falkiner, O. M.	Steele, Lt.-Colonel
Henley, H. S.	
Horne, H. E.	<i>Tellers,</i>
Kater, Sir Norman	Bridges, A. D.
Kneeshaw, Major	Sommerlad, E. C.

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment negatived.

Original question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Legislative Assembly with amendments.

LUNACY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

SECOND READING.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [9.19]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time. This bill is a bill that alters the general law in respect of lunacy, and its application is in two directions. First, it gives a discretion to the Minister under section 67 of the Lunacy Act to commit from time to time either to what is known as the criminal division in a hospital for the insane or to the free division. At the present time where a person committed to a hospital for the insane under section 67 of the Lunacy Act is placed in either the criminal or the free division, the Crown Solicitor has advised that he cannot be transferred. The persons dealt with under section 67 of the Lunacy Act include persons who have been summarily convicted or persons who are held in default of bail.

First, the bill gives a discretion to the Minister to transfer such persons either to the free or the criminal division of an asylum. Secondly, as will be seen from clause 2, at the discretion of the

Attorney-General, a jury may be empanelled to determine a patient's fitness to plead. Having stated the two main principles of the measure, I should perhaps refer to the specific case that has given rise to it.

Probably all hon. members have heard of the case of Boyd Sinclair, who is detained at the hospital for the criminal insane. The history of his detention is briefly this: In 1935 he was charged with the murder of a taxi-cab driver. He was brought before the court, but prior to committal for trial was certified insane and, at hand of the then Minister for Health, Mr. FitzSimons, placed in the criminal division of a mental hospital. He has remained there ever since. In 1944 an application was made to the Chief Judge in Equity to determine his sanity. The Chief Judge held that under section 99 of the Lunacy Act, under which the application was made, he had no jurisdiction to deal with Sinclair, he being a person who had been placed before trial in the criminal insane division under section 67 of the Principal Act. The Government then amended the law by introducing new section 76A, which, hon. members will recall, was passed about eighteen months ago. Under this measure jurisdiction was given to the court to determine the question of sanity of persons such as Sinclair. Chief Judge Nicholas again heard the application made under the amended section and decided that Sinclair was insane. However, in his judgment he made certain remarks that have caused the Government to review the position and to introduce this measure.

Sinclair is suffering from a schizophrenic condition—he is a split personality. The medical officers of the Crown are definite in their opinion that the schizophrenic condition is such that Sinclair should not be at large. It is usual for these patients at certain periods to be quite normal and at others to be quite insane. Mr. Justice Nicholas said that he was unable to hold that Sinclair was of sound mind but proceeded to point out that he regarded sanity as a condition of such permanence that a patient could be trusted to mix with his

fellows without danger to them or to himself and that he could not hold that Sinclair had reached that condition. Under the new section the Chief Judge found that Sinclair was of unsound mind, and, while conceding that he had no jurisdiction to take action, made certain observations which could be classed as recommendations. These might be summarised in this way: (a) That Sinclair should be brought to trial without further delay; (b) if this were not possible that some means should be found of establishing his guilt or innocence; (c) if he could not be brought to trial that he should be removed from his present surroundings.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: Did his Honour say he should be brought to trial if he is not fit to plead?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: That is not clear from his Honour's judgment. His Honour suggested that some way should be found to determine his guilt or innocence. The difficulty under the present law is that no effect can be given to the recommendations. This is a case in which the person charged has not been tried and has been held as a criminal lunatic. Under existing law Sinclair is required to remain in confinement until certified to be of sound mind. I might have misinformed the Hon. Sir Henry Manning when I said that the judge had not considered the question of fitness to plead.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: If he is schizophrenic the jury might find that he is fit to plead, but in the intervening period before he tenders his plea he might become insane again!

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: That is so. Perhaps I should read what his Honour said when drawing a distinction between insanity and fitness to plead. He said:

In my judgment a man may be held fit to plead, although he could not be held to be of sound mind. Fitness to plead, I think, may be a condition of much less permanence than a soundness of mind, and Lord Atkins' committee, to which I have already referred, stresses the importance of bringing a person confined under circumstances similar to those of Boyd Sinclair, to trial at the earliest possible moment.

The Hon. R. R. Downing.]

Fitness to plead, again, involves a state of mind on or about the date of trial. It does not involve the continuance of a rational condition or the ability of the patient to mingle in society for a lengthy period without danger to himself or to his fellow citizens.

The root of the difficulty is determining Sinclair's fitness to plead.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: That could be decided only on the day of his arraignment!

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: That is so. The bill provides machinery for establishing, by the verdict of a jury, his fitness to plead. Unless and until that question has been decided there is no way of determining his guilt or innocence and no way of giving effect to His Honour's recommendations. The Crown never seeks to put on trial a person not fit, because of insanity, to plead.

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: Does it not come back to the opinion of the medical officers?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: That suggestion has been made over and over again. Under the bill the matter will be determined by a jury and the opinions of the medical officers will be evidence before the jury.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: Assuming that the measure is passed, there is the safeguard that if the finding is one of sanity, before he is brought to trial Sinclair might again become insane and could be dealt with as a judge ordinarily deals with such cases?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: That provision is not amended. Section 65 of the Lunacy Act deals with the procedure where persons charged with an offence are found to be insane by a jury, or are acquitted on the grounds of insanity. Subsection (1) of section 65 reads:

If any person indicted for any offence is insane, and, upon arraignment, is found to be so by a jury lawfully empanelled for that purpose, so that such person cannot be tried upon such indictment, or if upon the trial of any person so indicted such person appears to the jury charged with such indictment to be insane, the Judge before whom any such person is brought to be arraigned or tried as aforesaid may direct

such finding to be recorded, and thereupon may order such person to be kept in strict custody in such place and in such manner as to such Judge may seem fit until he be dealt with as provided by the next succeeding section of this Act.

The raising of the defence of insanity at the time of the commission of the offence is not precluded. This case has worried both this Government and the previous Government because of the peculiar circumstances associated with it. That has been particularly the case because the person concerned was only a youth at the time of the commission of the offence. There has been no way, because of his mental condition, in which his guilt or innocence could be determined. The Hon. Sir Henry Manning, as he no doubt recollects, previously dealt with the facts from the Crown's point of view, and came to the conclusion, quite properly, that the Crown had a proper case on which to place Sinclair on his trial. The present Attorney-General has been called upon to determine the same matter, and his opinion is the same as that which was given by the Hon. Sir Henry Manning. It is now suggested that the question as to whether or not Sinclair is fit to plead should be determined by a jury. If this is done, Sinclair could still set up insanity at the time of the offence, even though he may have been found fit to plead. It is a very fine distinction.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: He may have been insane at the time of the commission of the offence, but may be now perfectly sane!

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: He may still be held as an insane person because of the schizophrenic condition from which he suffers.

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: What was the decision of the magistrate when he was brought before the Court?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: He was brought before the court on two or three occasions, but on each occasion the case was adjourned. He was last brought before a magistrate in March, 1935, when a certificate of insanity was presented. The magistrate did not deal further

with the matter, and Sinclair was committed to the Hospital for the Criminal Insane.

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: Those were only inquiries. He was not called upon to plead!

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: That was an inquiry by a magistrate as to whether or not there was a *prima facie* case.

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: The magistrate must have been satisfied for him to hear the evidence!

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: Legal members of the Chamber will, no doubt, know that the issue of sanity or insanity can be raised by either the Crown or the accused, but invariably it is raised by the accused, because if the Crown is satisfied that a man is insane he is placed in the proper institution and the case is not proceeded with. If the Crown thinks he is insane it would utilise the provisions of section 66 or 67, whichever was appropriate.

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: I do not see the benefit to be obtained from proposed new section 67A!

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: Subsection (3) of proposed new section 67A provides that the Attorney-General may order that a jury of twelve persons be empanelled for trial of an issue as to whether the patient is fit to plead if placed upon his trial. It is quite possible that the jury may determine, after hearing the evidence, that a person is fit to plead.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: It is an added safeguard!

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: The Hon. Sir Henry Manning has summed up the position admirably. I have no doubt that hon. members who have had correspondence in connection with the Boyd Sinclair case would appreciate an inquiry by which the question of his guilt or innocence, or sanity or insanity, could be determined. The question of insanity has been determined by the judge, who felt that Sinclair's condition was such that for periods of some duration he would be quite capable of pleading to any charge. At present the responsibility rests on the Government

to determine, on the advice of its medical advisers, whether or not a man is fit to plead. Under the bill the responsibility will be transferred to the jury.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 3. The Lunacy Act, 1898-1945, is further amended by inserting next after section sixty-seven the following new section:—

67A. (6) At the request of the Clerk of the Peace the Sheriff shall summon twenty-four persons chosen by him from the list of jurors in the Sydney jurors' list to attend at the time and place appointed by the Attorney-General for the trial of the said issue.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Minister of Justice and Vice President of the Executive Council) [9.40]: I move:

That in subsection (6) of proposed new section 67A the words "twenty-four" be struck out and there be inserted in lieu thereof the words "thirty-six".

Subsection (6), as it stands, does not provide for a sufficient number of jurors bearing in mind the right of challenge and the exemptions from jury service customarily granted as the result of dislocated conditions.

Amendment agreed to.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING [9.41]: Subsection (10) of proposed new section 67A reads:

If a bill is found against him he shall be placed upon his trial.

What is meant by the words "placed upon his trial"? Apparently if the question of his sanity is raised on his arraignment, it may be determined by the judge in the ordinary manner, irrespective of this legislation. I should like to know whether that is so. The subsection provides an added safeguard—an investigation beforehand by the jury, which may find that he is perfectly sane. A week afterwards, upon his arraignment, the question whether he is at that moment sane may be raised?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: That is so!

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: Only if the Attorney-General files a bill!

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: A bill would be filed long before then. Captain the Hon W. J. BRADLEY: The Attorney-General may not wish to file a bill!

The Hon R. R. DOWNING: No doubt the Attorney-General would endeavour to have his guilt or innocence determined immediately following the determination as to fitness to plead!

Captain the Hon W. J. BRADLEY: Once the jury brought in a verdict he would be returned to hospital and the Attorney-General would make the next move!

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: He would file a bill on other considerations. If the accused then became insane, the matter could be raised upon arraignment.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: In the first instance the jury would decide his fitness to plead, and then the bill could be filed against him. The provision deals with procedure only.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING [9.45]: Subsection (9) is the first alternative and subsection (10) is the second alternative. He may be returned to the goal or, alternatively, placed on trial?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: Yes. The Attorney-General could decide not to file a bill while Sinclair was in the hospital for the criminally insane and there would be no authority to hold him there. He would be transferred to the free division of the hospital because he would not be a person in default of bail!

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: The proviso to section 67 would allow him to go to the free part of the hospital?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: That is so—even though he were a person held in default of bail or summarily convicted of some offence!

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER: The change from sanity to insanity might come very suddenly. If the jury decided that he was fit to plead, and he had a sudden access of insanity during the trial, could the judge take action?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: The bill would not prevent a decision whether he was insane being arrived at on the trial of the accused!

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: It would be dealt with in the ordinary course, with the assistance of medical evidence!

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING [9.47]: The circumstances to which the Hon. Sir Norman Kater refers would make the case a little more complicated. If the accused became insane in the course of the trial, the judge and jury would be asked to try a man who was insane and could not instruct counsel. That would be a wrong thing. The person charged would be in the custody of the jury and the judge could direct that he was in such a state of health that his trial could not proceed. The judge could be asked to direct that he be released without bringing in a verdict. In that case the accused would be returned to his place of detention and the Court would await developments to see whether he could be tried again at a later stage?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: That is so!

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment; report adopted.

BREAD INDUSTRY BILL.

SECOND READING.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [9.52]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The bill has for its purpose an amendment of the law to provide for day baking. As hon. members are well aware, the hours worked in the baking industry have been a great cause of discontent in New South Wales and elsewhere, and the matter has been the subject of discussion at many places, including the International Labour Organisation Convention at Geneva. Following upon a report by Mr. Justice Kinsella—the commissioner charged with the responsibility of reporting on the bread industry in New South Wales—the Government set up a Bread Industry Advisory

Committee to consider certain of the recommendations of his Honour. That committee consisted of representatives of employers, operative bakers and bread-carters, and had an independent chairman. The question of the hours which operative bakers should work in the bread industry was considered at some length and eventually the committee was unanimous in its recommendation as to the hours that should be worked. Those are the hours as set out in the schedule to the bill. The recommendations when given effect will result in the elimination of night baking except on seven nights in the year preceeding statutory holidays. Except on extraordinary occasions, the operative baker will be freed every week-end and the carter will be freed each week-end from 11 a.m. on Saturday. The committee that was set up made this statement:—

It must be appreciated that there has been a re-organisation of hours of baking which will result in week-end bread baked under the hours recommended being only twelve hours older than at present.

At the week-end bread will be baked on Friday morning for delivery that morning, and later on Friday for delivery on Saturday morning. Also, the bread carters' monthly holiday will be eliminated. There will be at least twelve occasions during the year on which housewives will not receive day-old bread, as is necessary at present to give carters their monthly holiday. The hours proposed by the bill have the unanimous approval of the three interested parties, the master bakers, the operative bakers, and the carters, and the master bakers have agreed to these hours only on condition that certain other recommendations shall be implemented. This measure deals solely with hours, and in no way touches the recommendations made in other directions by either Mr. Justice Kinsella or by the Bread Industry Advisory Committee. Those recommendations will be the subject of a separate bill that will be submitted later. The position to-day is that the operative baker starts at 5.30 a.m., on Friday and works until approximately 11.30 a.m. He is then off duty,

but must again start work at midnight on Friday and work through until about 10 a.m. on Saturday. That has been the real trouble in the baking industry. Under the bill the normal start on Friday will be at 4 a.m. and the baker will work right through until sufficient bread is baked to cover Friday and Saturday deliveries. I understand that in Adelaide, Brisbane, and Hobart, baking on Friday night or on Saturday has been eliminated, and I suggest that the new hours proposed should be given a fair trial in the interests of industrial peace. The result will be to give a five-day week to operative bakers and a five-and-a-half-day week to bread carters. I think it will be agreed by all hon. members that where it is possible for an employee to have a five-day working week or a five-and-a-half-day working week every effort should be made to achieve that result.

The schedule to the bill might be better understood if I explain briefly to hon. members the hours at present worked by bakers. The ordinary day at present begins at 5.30 a.m. and there is a provision that it must end before 6 p.m. On what are called double days, that is when there are deliveries on Saturday to provide bread for Saturday and Sunday, the operative baker starts at midnight, and the award provides that he shall stop not later than 6 a.m. On a treble day the start is at 10 p.m. or 11 p.m., and work finishes only when baking is concluded. Under the proposed scale the employee will start an hour earlier on Monday, that is at 4.30 a.m., and on other days he will start at 5.30 a.m.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER: Does the Minister mean by a "treble day," Saturday, Sunday and Monday?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: Yes, and a double day embraces Saturday and Sunday. Under the schedule, instead of starting at midnight, as provided for in the award, the baker will be required to start at 4 a.m. In the case of treble days he will be required to start at 4 a.m. except on a few occasions when he will be required to start at 10 p.m. Those occasions are when holidays occur

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on succeeding days. It will be necessary for baking to commence on the night prior to the eve of the holiday at 10 p.m. Hon. members will see from the schedule what hours it is proposed shall be worked. The principal alteration is in respect to double days. Under the bill the baker will start an hour earlier on Monday, but will start at the same time on ordinary days except Friday, when he will start at 4 a.m. and work long enough to bake bread for both Friday and Saturday.

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: This does not touch shops at all?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: No; and it is applicable only to the counties of Cumberland and Northumberland.

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: The retailer can sell outside the hours set down in the bill?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: This legislation does not interfere with the retailer. Section 122 of the Factories and Shops Act deals with the hours of delivery of bread by bread-carters. This legislation does not alter in any way the hours during which bread may be resold by shops and other distributors.

The Hon. E. J. EGGS: Can this measure be applied to other parts of the State?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: I should have mentioned that by proclamation the operation of the bill can be extended to any other part of the State. I feel that the House will recognise that there is justification for the Legislature intervening to fix hours in the bread industry. As the House knows, there is a precedent for a Day Baking Act. In 1926 such an act was in operation in this State, and it remained in force for some time. However, the starting and finishing times under that legislation varies from those under this measure. As I said previously, the question of whether there should be day baking or night baking has been discussed for years. In the circumstances I feel that the House will agree to the measure.

Captain the Hon. W. J. BRADLEY: What committee was it that made these recommendations?

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: It was the committee set up to advise the Government how best to give effect to the recommendations contained in Mr. Justice Kinsella's report and any matters that might arise out of it. The Kinsella report did not recommend a change of hours in the baking trades.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

AIR TRAVEL BY HON. MEMBERS.

Motion (by the Hon. R. R. Downing) proposed:

That this House do now adjourn.

The Hon. G. D. BASSETT [10.6]: I wish to submit a matter of importance for the consideration of the Minister and the Government. Air travel is now becoming the order of the day. Airlines are being established in country centres, and country members feel that the privileges of air travel should be extended to them. Speaking for myself, the Butler Air Service is establishing a daily service each way between Sydney—Dubbo, Bourke, Cunnamulla and Charleville. It would be helpful to hon. members, particularly those engaged in primary production, if we could save twenty-four hours' travelling time in connection with our parliamentary duties. As an example, I could have left Dubbo at 2.30 p.m. today and been able to attend the opening of the House at 4.30 p.m. If we sat till midnight to-night, I could be home at Dubbo by 11.30 a.m. to-morrow. Hon. members enjoy the privileges of sleeping berths and railway facilities generally. If the Government departments obtained the value of the sleeping berths to which hon. members are entitled and set off that amount against the cost of air travel for members there would not be a very large debit. I ask the Government to give this matter earnest consideration. Many country airlines are being established to the northern and

southern areas of the State and many hon. members may desire to take advantage of these fast travelling facilities.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [10.8]: in reply: This is the first occasion on which this matter has been brought to my notice. It will require some consideration, but I assure the hon. member that it will be fully considered.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

House adjourned at 10.8 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 1 May, 1946.

Legislative Assembly Members Pensions Bill—Printing Committee—House Committee—Lunacy (Amendment) Bill—Closer Settlement: Purchase of Havilah Estate—Closer Settlement: Purchase of Carramar Estate—Closer Settlement: Purchase of Pine Lodge Estate—Closer Settlement: Purchase of Wantabadgery East Estate—Bread Industry Bill (second reading)—Forestry (Amendment) Bill (second reading).

The PRESIDENT took the chair.

The opening Prayer was read.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS PENSIONS BILL.

Royal assent to this bill reported.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.

Motion (by the Hon. R. R. Downing) agreed to:

That the Honourable John Stewart and the Honourable Robert Emmet Savage be appointed as Members of the Printing Committee in the places of the Honourable Walter Corrie Cambridge and the Honourable Sir Frederick Henry Tout, Kt., whose terms of service have expired.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Motion (by the Hon. R. R. Downing) agreed to:

That the Honourable Thomas George Murray, the Honourable Ernest Charles O'Dea, the Honourable Horace William Whiddon and the Honourable Samuel Connell Williams be appointed as Members of the House Committee in the places of the

Honourable Thomas Sinclair Holden, resigned, and the Honourable Keith Gregory Brooks, the Honourable Henry Clements Moulder and the Honourable Sir Frederick Henry Tout, Kt., whose terms of service have expired.

LUNACY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Legislative Assembly with an amendment.

CLOSER SETTLEMENT: PURCHASE OF PART OF HAVILAH ESTATE.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [4.35]: I move:

That pursuant and subject to the provisions of the Closer Settlement Acts this House approves of the Governor purchasing by agreement with the owner the private land comprised in part of Havilah Estate of a total area of about 6,530 acres at a price of £6 0s. 0d. per acre on a freehold basis.

I have arranged for hon. members to be supplied with copies of the report of the Closer Settlement Advisory Board with respect to this property. Hon. members will see from that report the details of the ownership of the property, its area, purchase price, situation and its suitability for the purpose of closer settlement. It also sets out the estimated number of farms that can be allocated as a result of the acquisition of this estate. The Advisory Board's report gives complete details of the property. A map has also been provided for the information of hon. members.

The report of the Advisory Committee states that this property has been the subject of investigation by expert officers, of the Commonwealth and State Governments who agree as to its suitability for the settlement of discharged members of the Forces. The property is situated in the Central Tableland area about 7½ to 12 miles north-easterly from the town of Mudgee, which has the usual amenities of a fair sized country town, including Primary and High Schools. There are also Public Primary Schools at Budgee Budgee, Buckaroo and Havilah which are in close proximity to the estate. The land is mainly suitable for