

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 1934

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allowed to go for the oral examination at the abattoir?

"4. What is the name of this entrant?"

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, *Barcoo*) replied—

"1. The examination recently held was for inspectors under the Diseases in Stock Acts, and Slaughtering Act, and the Dairy Produce Acts; 125 candidates sat; 22 passed.

"2. Yes.

"3 and 4. No candidate who failed to secure the required aggregate in the three sections of the examination was allowed to present himself for the State oral examination which form a consistent part of a pass."

PERMITS FOR TIN HARE RACING.

Mr. MAHER (*West Moreton*) asked the Treasurer—

"1. Have any permits been issued enabling mechanical coursing (otherwise tin hare racing) to be conducted in Queensland?

"2. If so, to whom have such permits been issued, and what centres authorised for mechanical coursing?

"3. Is he aware of the grave abuses associated with tin hare racing when permits were granted to conduct this form of dog racing in New South Wales during the regime of the Lang Labour Government, and which subsequently resulted in the appointment of a royal commission, whose recommendations were later incorporated in the New South Wales Gaming and Betting Act of 1932?"

The TREASURER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) replied—

"1. No.

"2. See answer to No. 1.

"3. This is a statement, not a query."

INTEREST ON SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS OF ABORIGINALS, 1932-33 AND 1933-34.

Mr. KENNY (*Cook*) asked the Home Secretary—

"In reference to the decision of the present Government that interest on the Savings Bank accounts of aborigines would not be credited to their individual accounts but would be utilised by the Home Department, what was the amount of such interest accrued due in respect of the financial years 1932-33 and 1933-34, respectively?"

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, *Ithaca*) replied—

"The question is based on false premises. Interest is not deducted from aboriginal Savings Bank accounts. Owing, however, to the fact that the Moore Government took over £47,000 from the aborigines' provident fund for the relief of consolidated revenue, it is necessary to make a charge on all aboriginal savings and earnings to help to provide for sick and indigent aborigines."

WEDNESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 1934.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. G. Pollock, *Gregory*) took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

QUESTIONS.

COST OF SALARY AND WAGES INCREASES, STATE EMPLOYEES.

Mr. MAXWELL (*Toowong*) asked the Premier—

"1. What is the estimated cost of the increase in salaries and wages to Government employees granted by the court— (a) per annum; (b) in 1934-35?

"2. What is the estimated cost of the automatic increases in 1933-34 and 1934-35 respectively?"

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) replied—

"1. (a) £237,000; (b) £177,750.

"2. In 1933-34, £70,000; in 1934-35, £75,000."

EXAMINATION FOR MEAT INSPECTORS.

Mr. SPARKES (*Dalby*) asked the Secretary for Agriculture—

"1. How many persons sat for the recent examination for the position of meat inspector? How many passed?

"2. Is it a fact that the requirement for a pass is an aggregate number of marks in the three sections of the examination—viz., stock, slaughtering, and dairying?

"3. Is it also a fact that one entrant for this examination failed to secure the required aggregate, but yet was

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE OF BEEF CATTLE
INDUSTRY AFTER GREAT WAR.

Mr. W. J. COPLEY (*Bulimba*) without notice, asked the Secretary for Public Lands—

“When the slump in cattle values occurred subsequent to the Great War, was any assistance given to the cattle industry by the Queensland Government?”

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (Hon. P. Pease, *Herbert*) replied—

“Under the provisions of ‘The Land Acts (Review of Cattle Holding Rents) Amendment Act of 1923,’ introduced by a Labour Government in 1923, reductions ranging up to 66 per cent. in the rents of holdings used mainly for the depasturing of cattle were granted by the Land Court.

“The duration of the period of relief was originally fixed at five years, and was made retrospective to the 30th June, 1921. Owing to the continuation of low prices for cattle, this relief measure has been extended from time to time, and is still operative.

“These reductions for the three successive five-year periods for which they have been granted total £590,741.”

ALLEGED DISMISSAL OF NON-UNIONIST RELIEF
WORKERS.

Mr. MAHER (*West Morcton*) asked the Secretary for Labour and Industry—

“Has the notice of the Minister been drawn to a letter in this morning’s ‘Courier-Mail’ over the signature of ‘J. W. Tiffin,’ in which it was stated, *inter alia*—

At Coolangatta on Friday, A.W.U. Organiser Perrett opened the meeting of rotational workers by stating, ‘If you don’t take out tickets, you will be instantly dismissed. Hands up those who will take tickets?’

Finding that the men were unanimous in their decision not to take tickets, Perrett dashed away for the engineer, Mr. McIntyre, with whom he returned, and instructed to dismiss the men, who again refused to take out tickets.”

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member knows as well as I do the rule applicable to newspaper statements that are used in the course of asking questions. The hon. member may use the statements, but he must vouch for their accuracy.

Mr. MAHER: I am prepared to vouch for the accuracy.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! And he must vouch for the accuracy of the matter contained therein. The hon. member knows that the statements can be used only so far as they are required to make clear the question that he desires to ask.

Mr. MAHER: That is what I am endeavouring to do. The question that I desire to ask the Secretary for Labour and Industry is—

“In view of the Minister’s statements at different times that rotational relief workers were not subject to the preference conditions and thereby not compelled to join the union, will the Minister institute an inquiry into the happen-

ings at Coolangatta, and if it is proven that Organiser Perrett and Engineer McIntyre have acted unlawfully, will he take appropriate action to protect the relief workers against a recurrence of such harsh, arbitrary, and unlawful actions?”

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (Hon. M. P. Hynes, *Townsville*) [2.36 p.m.] replied—

“I suggest the hon. member give notice of the question before the next sitting day.”
(Laughter.)

Mr. MAHER: I submit that the question should be answered to-day. This is the last day of the present session.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

PAPERS.

The following papers were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Public Service Superannuation Board for the year 1933-34.

Report of the Department of Harbours and Marine for the year 1933-34.

Thirteenth annual report of the Commissioner of Main Roads, being for the year 1933-34.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Return under section 9 of “The Mining Machinery Advances Act of 1906” of all moneys advanced or expended under that Act during the year 1933-34.

Ordinances under “The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1933”—

Electric light, dated the 15th November, 1934.

Streets, dated 15th November, 1934.

Regulations under “The Health Acts, 1900 to 1931,” entitled “The Rat Prevention and Destruction Regulations of 1934,” dated the 15th November, 1934.

Orders in Council under “The Local Authority (Grazing Districts Improvement) Acts, 1930 to 1933,” dated the 15th November, 1934, and the 22nd November, 1934.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. DANIEL (*Keppel*) [2.38 p.m.], by leave: I wish to make a personal explanation. When speaking in this House on Thursday, 15th instant, on the second reading of the Jury Act Amendment Bill, I said—“I might also say that even the judge—I mean Mr. Justice Brennan—spoke to the jury during the trial on the very Tuesday—I do not remember the exact date, but the day that we adjourned at 1 o’clock. He met the jury outside the court, and he spoke to them for nearly five minutes. I drew the attention of three witnesses to it at the time. If that is a fair thing, well, I do not know what justice is.” It has been reported in the press that on the day following my speech, Mr. Justice Brennan convened a special civil sittings of the Supreme Court at Rockhampton and replied to my statements. He read a statement by the jurymen denying the truth of what I said, and also

Mr. Daniel.]

himself made a statement denying its truth. He also said that he would send copies of both statements to the Attorney-General. Mr. Speaker, I reiterate the truth of the statement I made in this House, and I wish to add that the names of the three witnesses whose attention I drew to the judge privately conversing with the jury during the course of the trial are Messrs. W. J. Austin, J. W. Nuttall, and Mr. Evans (inspector of weights and measures at Rockhampton). I also wish to add that one of the jurymen, Mr. A. C. McColl, was not present, but the judge did speak privately to the other three jurymen, Messrs. W. Thomson, J. E. Armstrong, and H. Rayment. I can, if necessary, also produce other reputable witnesses who will testify to the truth of the statement I made in this House.

At a later stage of the sitting,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. J. Mullan, *Flinders*) [3.20 p.m.]: In view of the statement made by the hon. member for Keppel, and in fairness to all parties, I lay on the table of the House signed statements by the judge and the jury concerned in the case.

DESTRUCTION OF BALLOT PAPERS.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*): I move—

“That the House approves of the destruction of all ballot papers in the keeping of the Clerk of the Parliament, the period for the safe keeping of which has expired by law.”

Question put and passed.

MOTOR SPIRIT VENDORS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

INITIATION.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend ‘The Motor Spirit Vendors Act of 1933,’ in certain particulars.”

Question put and passed.

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE.

(*Mr. Hanson, Buranda, in the chair.*)

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) [2.42 p.m.]: I move—

“That it is desirable that a Bill be introduced to amend ‘The Motor Spirit Vendors Act of 1933’ in certain particulars.”

The object of this Bill is to state definitely that the principal Act must be read subject to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. The Bill also provides that the term “motor spirit” does not include motor spirit that is the subject of interstate trade, but includes such motor spirit as is or hereafter shall be part of the general mass of property in Queensland that is completely under the power and control of the State. In other words, the Bill will make it definitely clear that the principal Act does not infringe the principle of interstate free trade.

[*Mr. Daniel.*

Another principle in the Bill gives certain exemptions to the holder of a license granted under the principal Act where he is unable to obtain the whole or only part of the power alcohol necessary for admixture purposes. In such cases the Treasurer will issue a certificate of exemption for such period as may be defined in the certificate.

The definition of “to sell” is repealed, but in the evidentiary clause a provision is inserted stating what “sell” means.

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*) [2.45 p.m.]: Thanks to the courtesy of the Premier in giving me a copy of the Bill beforehand I have been able to study its contents, but I am still in a quandary as to the position. The question remains unsettled whether the provisions of the Act can be separated from the effect on interstate trading. The present Act appeared to me to be definite. It provides—

“Subject to this Act, no person shall in Queensland, either as principal or as agent, sell to any other person for delivery in Queensland any motor spirit which at the time of such sale is situate in Queensland unless he is the holder of a motor spirit vendor’s license under this Act.”

That section is so definite that I cannot see that this amending Bill goes any further, or, as a matter of fact, can go any further than the words in that section imply. The High Court has not yet delivered its main judgment on the present Act, and I am quite unable to see that this Bill will clarify the position. It will still be a question for the High Court to decide how far the interstate selling of petrol containing power alcohol can be separated from general selling. I do not believe that if the High Court gives a judgment that is adverse to the present Act, the effect of introducing an amending Bill to overcome that judgment will have any effect. Presumably, if the High Court comes to the conclusion and delivers a judgment that the principle that was established under the measure is *ultra vires* the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, any effort to get round it will be looked upon as a subterfuge and will be disallowed.

The PREMIER: We are not endeavouring to do that.

Mr. MOORE: I am unable to understand how much further the Government can go, for the existing Act definitely states that it applies to spirit in Queensland, sold in Queensland, and belonging to Queensland. The Bill now before the Committee does not go any further except to say that it shall be read and construed subject to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. But it cannot be read in any other way, and the saying of that is only a redundancy. Every Bill we pass must be subject to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. If it is not, it is *ultra vires*, and we shall not get any further by passing a Bill that states that certain legislation must be construed in conjunction with the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. I presume the Premier has secured legal advice on the question—

The PREMIER: There are hills beyond Pentland and rivers beyond Forth! (Laughter.)

Mr. MOORE: That does not get me any further! (Renewed laughter.) I presume

the advice has been followed; hence the Bill. At all events, it does not appear to me that the objective the Government have set out to achieve will be obtained by this measure, any more than it was possible to achieve the objective by the legislation passed last session. As to the evidentiary clause, the fact you have evidence of selling does not make much difference. The definition, the main clause, is the vital factor. Is the Bill going to achieve the objective the Government had in passing the Act? Can the passing of this Bill make it any more valid than it is? That appears to me to be very doubtful. Until we see the judgment of the High Court—I presume it will be delivered at some future time—it is difficult to see what advantage this Bill is going to be.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) [2.50 p.m.]: In reply to the Leader of the Opposition, I should like to point out to members of the House that this Bill is not by any means an attempt by any form of subterfuge to evade the principles of the Commonwealth Constitution, or any judgment delivered thereunder. As he himself pointed out, any Bill must be read subject to the terms of the Commonwealth Constitution, whether it explicitly says so or not; but the original Act has been the subject of litigation and a judgment has been given to the effect that any interference by the Act with certain transactions that may take place would be an infringement of the Constitution. It was pointed out when the matter was before the court that in the process of selling of imported petrol in Queensland a company may transport case petrol from, say, Sydney to Charleville. That, of course, is an interstate transaction. It might have been held under the Act that immediately a storekeeper took possession of that case petrol he was bound to mix with it a proportion of power alcohol. If it were so held, the effect of the High Court's judgment is in the direction of indicating that that would be an interference with the principles of the Constitution in relation to interstate free trade. Very well! The object, therefore, of the Bill is to make it clear we are not making any attempt to interfere with any interstate contract as between a merchant in any other State and a citizen of Queensland. The effect of the judgment was only to assert that such an interference was invalid and the judgment quite clearly indicated that in the opinion of the majority of judges that apart from such interference the Act was valid and sound. The whole proceedings were extraordinary. Anyone who read the report of the proceedings before the High Court in Melbourne would naturally be astonished at the apparently irrelevant matter that was introduced by counsel. It was seriously asserted by counsel opposed to the Queensland Government that the only power alcohol as defined in this Act was the product made from molasses, and, therefore, that the Act was a further attempt to protect the sugar industry at the expense of other portions of Australia. The facts, of course, are—and a perusal of the Act will establish the truth of my statement—that "power alcohol" as defined in it can be produced in any part of Australia from any vegetable or mineral product. The Act is very specific on that point—power alcohol can be produced not only from the by-products of the manufacture of sugar-cane, but also from maize or

any other starch-bearing vegetable product. As a matter of fact, the Italian Government are carrying out very extensive experiments in Tripoli at the present time in regard to the production of power alcohol from sweet millet, and through the courtesy of the Italian Government I have been able to obtain some of the results achieved up to date. All of them are very interesting, and show a line of activity that may be worth developing here. Furthermore, power spirit that may be a derivative of coal comes within the scope of this Act. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and other organisations have been working for a number of years with a view to making use of such coal deposits as under modern industrial conditions are not required for the purposes to which coal is usually put. The discovery of a satisfactory method of extracting power spirit from coal would be of tremendous advantage to Great Britain and to every other country that is coal-bearing but has not up to date been able to discover oil wells within its boundaries. Industry itself is to a very large extent dependent on power spirit of some kind, and consequently it is of extreme importance to any nation that it should be as independent as possible in this respect and as free as may be from the necessity to import power spirit. Every gallon of fuel that can be used in internal combustion engines and is produced in Queensland is of national importance and of national advantage. For example, take the navy. Can anyone contemplate with equanimity the navy as solely dependent on foreign countries for its fuel supplies? I need only mention that possibility to indicate the importance of encouraging the production of power alcohol, and its use in internal combustion engines. Any power fuel that is the product of any vegetable grown in Australia or is a derivative of coal or shale is power alcohol within the meaning of this Act. The other sections of the Act have not been seriously attacked.

It is anticipated that the judgment of the High Court of Australia will be given next week. Of course, no one can foretell what the result will be. No barrister in Australia of any eminence is prepared to give a definite opinion as to what he considers would or would not be an infringement of section 92 of the Constitution. As a matter of fact, the ex-Federal Attorney-General, Mr. Latham, scrutinised the principal Act before it was introduced in this Parliament, from the constitutional point of view, and indicated to this Government that it was valid, and that the Commonwealth Government were quite satisfied that it was no infringement of their powers or Constitution. The present Federal Attorney-General has also expressed an opinion in that sense, and but for the fact that he had certain duties to perform on behalf of his own Government would have been the counsel briefed to represent the Government of Queensland in the High Court of Australia. I mention these facts to indicate how uncertain is the whole position with regard to this section of the Constitution. Decisions given by the court to-day are entirely different from those delivered in the time of Sir Samuel Griffith, or even recently in that of Sir Adrian Knox. Therefore, until such time as the judgment of the court is delivered, no one can say with any degree of certainty what clause may or may not be an infringement of the Constitution.

Hon. W. Forgan Smith.]

With the passage of this Bill the position, briefly, becomes this: While we agree that a given case of petrol is the subject of an interstate transaction, we of necessity arrive at a point where the imported article becomes absorbed in the general mass of property subject to the laws of the State. We claim, at any rate, that our legal position is sound. Petrol is brought in bulk to a Queensland port and distributed from a receiving centre. That commodity ceases to be the subject of anything in the nature of interstate trade when it is placed in the reservoirs, or whatever the storage receptacles are called, and distributed from there. It becomes absorbed in the mass of property of the State and therefore is subject to any State enactment. We propose that the Act shall be applicable under these conditions, and the sale of petrol fuel for internal combustion engines shall be subject to the conditions that are set out in this Bill, read in conjunction with the principal Act. I am satisfied, so far as anyone can be reasonably satisfied on these abstruse matters, that we are proceeding in the right direction, and I do not anticipate any further trouble in regard to them. I have always felt that it was better to induce people to agree with the principles contained in a law rather than to be under the necessity of enforcing the law after it had been evaded. I am satisfied that, in pursuance of that policy, satisfactory arrangements can be made with the oil companies to co-operate with the Government so that the power spirit may be distributed in a manner that will meet the national purpose of this legislation and still be in keeping with the ordinary business done by these companies. Negotiations between the companies involved and myself have recently been conducted, and I am satisfied that a satisfactory arrangement is possible in the near future. At any rate, I certainly propose to give it a trial.

I think that I have covered the matter dealt with by the Leader of the Opposition. The subject is tremendously interesting, and indicates that in carrying out the powers of the State and reasonably interpreting the law the principal Act, read in conjunction with the present Bill, will be adequate to deal with the position.

Question—"That the resolution (*Mr. Smith's motion*) be agreed to"—put and passed.

The House resumed.

The CHAIRMAN reported that the Committee had come to a resolution.

Resolution agreed to.

FIRST READING.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) presented the Bill, and moved—

"That the Bill be now read a first time."

Question put and passed.

SECOND READING

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) [3.3 p.m.]: I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Having given a very full exposition of the Bill on the initiatory stage, I feel that it is unnecessary to recapitulate the sound reasons that I then gave for its introduction.

[*Hon. W. Forgan Smith.*]

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*) [3.4 p.m.]: The Premier has given us several reasons why it is desirable that this Bill should be introduced, including one outstanding reason that really does away with the necessity for the Bill altogether. He suggested that he had been able to come to a satisfactory agreement with the oil companies.

The PREMIER: I did not say that. I said that I anticipated that we should be able to do so.

Mr. MOORE: The negotiations that have taken place lead to the anticipation that a satisfactory arrangement will be made without any resort to legislative pressure. That is the most satisfactory factor in connection with the whole matter. If that can be done, then it does not matter what is in the Bill—or out of it. We shall be able to overcome the difficulty this Bill seeks to remove if we can enter into a satisfactory arrangement with the oil companies to absorb the quantity of industrial alcohol that is available. The Premier's statement on that point was the most satisfactory part of his speech. He said that he was unable, just as everybody else in Australia is unable, to forecast the position in the future. He, of course, did not know the nature of the judgment to be delivered by the High Court, nor has anyone else in Australia any idea of what that judgment will lay down. He has received legal advice to the effect that the Bill was acceptable to the Commonwealth Government. I believe that it would be infinitely more satisfactory if an amicable arrangement could be arrived at rather than that we should be under the necessity to resort to legislative compulsion in a matter like this. It would be better for all parties concerned, it would make for smoother working, and it would considerably assist in the sale of the spirit that is used to such an enormous extent throughout the State. It is very satisfactory to know that an agreement may probably be arrived at.

Question—"That the Bill be now read a second time." (*Mr. Smith's motion*)—put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

(*Mr. Hanson, Buranda, in the chair.*)

Clause 1—"Short title and construction"—agreed to.

Clause 2—"New section 1A—Act read subject to the Commonwealth Constitution"—

Mr. RUSSELL (*Hamilton*) [3.8 p.m.]: I do not see any necessity for the inclusion of this clause at all. It is simply a pious resolution that "this Act shall be read and construed subject to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act." All our Acts are subject to that Act, and therefore the clause is a redundancy and should never have been included in the Bill. If the Bill is ultra vires the Constitution then it must fall. The Premier can tell us why it was found necessary to put into this Bill a declaration of this sort, which is simply an unnecessary acknowledgment of the unquestioned principle that every State Act must be read as subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth Constitution.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) [3.9 p.m.]: The hon. member for Hamilton does not appreciate the fact that it was contended in the High Court that the original Act was an ingenious statute

designed to evade the principles of the Constitution. Of course, there was no such intention, and we want to make it clear that there is no such intention.

Clause 2, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5, both inclusive, agreed to.

The House resumed.

The CHAIRMAN reported the Bill without amendment.

THIRD READING.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a third time.”

Question put and passed.

LOCAL OPTION VOTES (LIQUOR ACTS) POSTPONEMENT BILL.

INITIATION.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, Ithaca): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirability of introducing a Bill to postpone the taking of certain local option votes under ‘The Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1932.’”

Question put and passed.

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE.

(Mr. Hanson, Buranda, in the chair.)

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, Ithaca) [3.11 p.m.]: I move—

“That it is desirable that a Bill be introduced to postpone the taking of certain local option votes under ‘The Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1932.’”

The object of the Bill is to postpone, to a date to be fixed—later in the year—the taking of local option polls that under the Liquor Acts fall due in May of next year. The term of Parliament expires on or about the 11th June next, and if the present Liquor Acts were adhered to certain polls under those Acts would be conducted at a period when hon. members of this Parliament and other candidates would be engaged in an election campaign. All hon. members will agree that it would not be desirable to have two campaigns being conducted at the same time, one on the question of electing representatives to this Parliament and the other on the questions covered by the Liquor Acts. It is desirable that electors should record their votes uninfluenced by any other consideration than those affecting the issues for the time being contested. For that reason it is deemed advisable that the polls under the Liquor Acts should be postponed. This Bill does no more than postpone the date for the taking of such polls to a date not later than the 30th November, 1935. The exact date of the poll will be fixed by the Governor in Council, and provision is made in the Bill that a proclamation must be issued three months before the date fixed for the taking of such poll.

Under the present Acts the memorials for the polls that would ordinarily be held in May next have to be lodged by November of this year, and we are providing that these memorials will be applicable to the

postponed poll. Power is also given for the preparation of rolls of electors who will be entitled to vote at any local option poll.

Mr. MOORE (Aubigny) [3.15 p.m.]: I see no reason for objecting to this Bill for the postponement of the taking of certain local option polls under the Liquor Acts. The Home Secretary has suggested that it would be undesirable that anything should distract the attention of people who will vote at parliamentary elections—in order, I presume, that the electors may do the correct thing. Of course, it all depends on one’s viewpoint. (Laughter.) I do not think it will make the least difference to the result of the referendum whether the poll to be taken as to whether a district desires more licenses to be granted or refused is postponed or not. I do not object to the postponement of the poll so long as the rights of the voters are preserved.

I presume the same period will run from the taking of the postponed poll as if the poll were taken in May next, namely, three years. I see no objection to the Bill, for after all it may give an opportunity for the election issues to be discussed without the introduction of extraneous matters.

Question—“That the resolution (Mr. Hanlon’s motion)—be agreed to”—put and passed.

The House resumed.

The CHAIRMAN reported that the Committee had come to a resolution.

Resolution agreed to.

FIRST READING.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, Ithaca) presented the Bill, and moved—

“That the Bill be now read a first time.”

Question put and passed.

SECOND READING.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, Ithaca) [3.14 p.m.]: I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

I have already outlined the provisions of the Bill, and it is unnecessary for me to do so again.

Question put and passed.

COMMITTEE.

(Mr. Hanson, Buranda, in the chair.)

Clauses 1 to 3, and preamble, agreed to.

The House resumed.

The CHAIRMAN reported the Bill without amendment.

THIRD READING.

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, Ithaca): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a third time.”

Question put and passed.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay): I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday, 8th January, 1935.”

Question put and passed.

Hon. E. M. Hanlon.]

VALEDICTORY.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) [3.21 p.m.]: I move—

“That the House do now adjourn.”

The business to-morrow will be to proceed with the administration of the very wise laws that have been passed by this Parliament at the present session. (Laughter.)

In moving the adjournment of the House at this the last sitting of this Parliament, I wish to express my appreciation of the manner in which the duties of Parliament have been carried out by the officers of the House. Mr. Speaker and the Chairman of Committees have carried out their duties in a commendable spirit and their activities have been to the benefit of Parliament. There can be no doubt at all that the Standing Orders, properly administered, are a help to members of Parliament, like law in an ordered community, and should therefore be upheld by all of them.

The “Hansard” staff and the officers of the House generally in their combined activities have all carried out their duties in a manner creditable to themselves and to the benefit of Parliament.

I wish also to take this opportunity of wishing hon. members on both sides of the House the compliments of the season, and to express the wish that the coming year will be one in which they, in common with the rest of the people of the State, will enjoy good health and prosperity. The difficulties of the people are very real. The world-wide depression continues. The problem of low price levels with limited markets gives the people very great concern and affects very seriously their general means of livelihood; and the efforts of the Government and Parliament should at all times be directed to aiding them in the overcoming of those difficulties and the solution of their problems. It may be said, with truth, however, that conditions generally in Queensland are much better than they were at this time last year. There is a great deal of general recovery in the State, and it is our duty to nurture and conserve it in every way. I feel satisfied I speak for every hon. member in this House and of every lover of the human race when I express the hope that our difficulties will be speedily overcome and that in the new year the people will enter into a period of prosperity and peace that will be definite and lasting. I wish all hon. members the compliments of the season, and I wish the staff generally the very best that can come their way.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS. Hear, hear!

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*) [3.25 p.m.]: I desire to join with the Premier in his remarks regarding you, Mr. Speaker, and the Chairman of Committees, the staff, representatives of the press, and that wonderfully efficient staff on “Hansard,” and in wishing them all and hon. members of this House a happy Christmas. The Premier has said the difficulties we are passing through are by no means over. We shall not be meeting again before an election, and I trust that the Government will carefully study the position of unemployment relief and its effect upon the employment of labour in the farming industries of the States, and the results that are accruing from it at the present time. With the Premier, I trust the position will

[*Hon. W. Forgan Smith.*]

improve, but I fear that there is not very much sign of it at the present time, with the limitation of our markets and low prices for our products. Fortunately, hope is a very cheap commodity and we may make preparations, as far as we can, for taking advantage of the better times when they do come.

I trust, Mr. Speaker, that the redistribution of electorates that has been decided upon will not be too great a strain upon the principles of democracy, and I also trust that the Government will be successful at the forthcoming Labour Convention in their efforts to avoid plebiscites for sitting members. It would be a terrible thing if such ingenuity were wasted. I also trust that any casualties that may take place as a result of the elections will fall on the side best able to bear them, the side of the Government. (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: On behalf of the staff and myself, I thank hon. members for their kindly remarks and for their seasonal greetings. The session has not been of very long duration, but it has been an exceptionally strenuous one, and I know that all hon. members will be glad of the respite. Certainly, I shall be. The Chairman of Committees, who has been carrying on with difficulty for a part of the time, will also be pleased that the session is over. The parliamentary staff has worked particularly well during this session. I take the opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the work that has been done by the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr. Dickson. (Hear, hear!) He has more than justified his appointment; he has been quite an outstanding success in his job. (Hear, hear!) The Queensland “Hansard” staff has always been credited with a high reputation, and that reputation did not suffer when, on the retirement of Mr. Brennan, Mr. Wood was appointed Chief Reporter. His work has been eminently satisfactory to hon. members on both sides of the House and to myself.

On behalf of the whole of the staff of Parliament House, the Chairman of Committees, and myself, I take the opportunity of wishing hon. members a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. I should also like to add the hope, if I may, that all hon. members will be successful in retaining their seats at the next election. (Laughter.)

The House adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

BILLS ASSENTED TO AT CLOSE OF SESSION.

Gazettes Extraordinary were issued notifying the assent of His Excellency the Governor to the following Bills:—

(*Thursday, 6th December, 1934*)—

- Electric Light and Power Acts Amendment Bill;
- Eungella State Forests Amendment of Boundaries Bill;
- Trades and Labour Hall Management Bill;
- Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts Amendment Bill;
- Stallions Registration Acts Amendment Bill;
- Railways Acts Amendment Bill;

Sugar Experiment Stations Acts Amendment Bill (No. 2);	Motor Spirit Vendors Act Amendment Bill;
Land Acts (Crown Dues) Relief Bill;	Apprentices and Minors Act Amendment Bill.
Bureau of Industry Acts Amendment Bill;	
Health Acts Amendment Bill;	(Thursday, 20th December, 1934)—
Rural Assistance Board and Agricultural Bank Acts Amendment Bill.	Main Roads Acts Amendment Bill;
	Jury Act Amendment Bill;
(Wednesday, 12th December, 1934)—	Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts Amendment Bill;
Local Authorities Acts and Other Acts Amendment Bill;	Workers' Compensation Acts Amendment Bill;
Law of Distress and Other Acts Amendment Bill;	Insurance Acts Amendment Bill;
Australian Mutual Provident Society's Bill;	Local Option Votes (Liquor Acts) Postponement Bill.
Land Acts Amendment Bill;	

PROROGATION.

Parliament was prorogued by the following Proclamation in *Gazette Extraordinary*, Thursday, 20th December, 1934.

A PROCLAMATION by His Excellency the Right Honourable SIR LESLIE ORME WILSON, Colonel on the Retired List of the Royal Marines, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Governor of the State of Queensland and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

[L.S.]

LESLIE WILSON,
Governor.

IN pursuance of the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the State aforesaid, I, SIR LESLIE ORME WILSON, the Governor aforesaid, do, by this my Proclamation, Prorogue the Parliament of Queensland to TUESDAY, the twelfth day of February, 1935.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Brisbane, this twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-four, and in the twenty-fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

By Command,
W. FORGAN SMITH.

GOD SAVE THE KING!