POLICE OFFENCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

BOOK PURCHASERS PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ADVANCES TO SETTLERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Advances to Settlers Act, 1930-1970. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The principal Act authorizes the making of an advances presently limited to an advance of $9,000 for the purpose of erecting, enlarging or altering a dwellinghouse on the holding of a person who is a "settler" within the meaning of the Act. Since it has been decided that the maximum loans which may be made by the State Bank for ordinary housing purposes is to be increased to $10,000, it appears equitable that the maximum loan under the principal Act for settlers should also be set at $10,000. Accordingly, this short Bill provides for this increase. However, since it is possible that the maximum amount that can be lent by the State Bank for ordinary housing purposes may be determined by the Treasurer, it appears desirable that some additional flexibility should be provided in the Advances to Settlers Act so that any increase that may be made for ordinary housing can be reflected in the Advances to Settlers Act without the necessity of legislative amendment.

It is proposed that the maximum amount will in future be varied by proclamation.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 amends section 12a of the principal Act which relates to the provision of advances for dwellinghouses and the amendments proposed provide (a) that the maximum advance will be increased from $9,000 to $10,000; and (b) by the insertion of proposed subsection (2a), that in future the maximum advance that can be made under this Act may be varied by a proclamation. This latter amendment should ensure appropriate flexibility.

Mr. MATHWIN secured the adjournment of the debate.

BUSH FIRES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Bush Fires Act, 1960-1968. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Arising from submissions by, and discussions with, bodies and authorities interested in the operation of the principal Act, it covers a number of disparate matters. Topics dealt with in the Bill include—

(a) a revision of the requirements as to obligations of bodies to insure persons engaged in fire-fighting operations under the Act;

(b) a revision of the general level of penalties provided for under the Act to ensure that they are an appropriate deterrent;

(c) a change in description from "inflammable" to "flammable" the latter word being, it is felt, less likely to confuse those whose mother-tongue is not English;

(d) the conversion of denominations of weights and measures in the Act expressed in English Units of measurement to denominations expressed in metric units; and

(e) a revision of the restrictions on the movement of aircraft on private air fields.

The Bill deals also with other matters that will be mentioned in connection with the relevant provision. Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 provides for a definition of "nominated council" and for a metric conversion from 2gall, to 9 l in the case of portable water sprays; this conversion should ensure that all present portable sprays may be kept in use. Clause 4 provides for the declaration of a municipal or district council to be nominated as the council responsible for a fire-fighting organization and further provides that the fire-fighting organization is to keep its nominated council informed of the current state of its membership. Clause 5 inserts a new heading in the principal Act.

Clause 6 is the operative provision as regards insurance against injury of fire fighters and is intended to make quite clear just who is the responsible "employer" of the fire fighter for insurance purposes. Subsection (2) of proposed new section 36 applies the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1971, to the fire fighters' employment as such. The notional salary of the fire fighter for these
Clause 22 increases penalties for offences against section 67 of the principal Act, makes further metric conversions and alters references to "flammable" to read "flammable". Clause 23 repeals and re-enacts section 68 of the principal Act to make it clear that this section applies only to the use of internal combustion engines within the boundaries of property. The penalty for an offence against this section is increased from $40 to $200 and the Court has discretion to order the offender to pay the cost of extinguishing any fire caused. Clause 24 enacts a special section on the duty of a person to extinguish a fire on a public road. Clause 25 increases the penalty for an offence that involves failure to comply with a direction under section 89 of the Act given by a fire control officer. Clause 26 enacts a new section to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 27 amends section 94 of the Act to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 28 makes provision for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 29 amends section 95 of the Act to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 30 makes provision for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 31 amends section 96 of the Act to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 32 amends section 97 of the Act to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 33 amends section 98 of the Act to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 34 makes provision for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 35 amends section 99 of the Act to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 36 amends section 100 of the Act to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 37 sets out in detail the power of a court to order the disconnection of fire mains and the alteration of the fire control officers. Clause 38 amends the provisions relating to the fire control officers. Clause 39 enacts a number of amendments to section 86 of the Act, which deals with the powers of fire control officers under the Act. The effect of the amendments is to enable the powers to be exercised when there is a present danger of a fire. Previously, the powers could be exercised only when a fire had actually broken out. It is not difficult to imagine a situation arising that presents such a danger—for example, the situation of a fire on a building and a bomb on a public road. Clause 40 amends the penalty for an offence that involves failure to comply with a direction under section 89 of the Act given by a fire control officer. Clause 41 amends section 94 of the Act to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 42 makes provision for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 43 amends section 95 of the Act to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 44 makes provision for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 45 amends section 96 of the Act to provide for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. Clause 46 makes provision for the appointment of fire control officers and for the exercise of their powers. 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