

will accommodate 300 people. There are four doors (2 of 10 ft. each), which give access to two wide corridors leading directly to the open air. Two of these doors are on the floor of the theatre and the other two lead from the tiers of seats to two short stairways. This hall is used for extension lectures, students' societies, and so on. The occasion would number about 30 in the year. It is also used frequently during the day for small classes. Electric lighting is used. Under the Bill authority was taken from the Mayor, he thought, in the case of the present legislation and given to the Minister. Some of the regulations in the measure before them were too absurd when applied to the University, and he asked the Chief Secretary to take particular note of them. There was no necessity to bring the University under the operation of the Bill at present. There was one institution with which the Chief Secretary happened to have been connected for years—the School of Mines—which possessed a hall which, if report were correct, should not be allowed to remain in its present condition. He alluded to the Brookman Hall, which was publicly considered to be unsafe. (Hon. J. Lewis—"It's a death trap.") The Chief Secretary had not shown that ample provisions did not already exist in regard to the University. He hoped he would not dare to exempt the School of Mines under present conditions, although if that had been possible he would have been glad to see the institution exempt.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said he was glad attention had been drawn to the Brookman Hall, because that provided one of the strongest arguments for including the Elder Hall under the Bill. Some time ago he had had occasion to make enquiries and had been informed that the School of Mines was exempt from control, and when a member of the council he had carried a motion that the hall should not be used for any purpose when artificial lights were used until extra exits were provided. That resolution was observed, and about four years ago two extra openings had been pierced through the walls. Now there were three doors enabling people to leave by three aisles, and the hall to be emptied in a very short space of time. In regard to the University, he pointed out that there was no exemption of Universities in the New South Wales Act. So far as the Elder Hall was concerned tickets were sold for admittance to entertainments, showing that it was a place of public entertainment.

The Hon. Sir JOHN DOWNER said he was not impressed with the argument raised regarding the Brookman Hall. Was there not power in the municipal or other legislation, without the present Bill, to protect the public regarding the Brookman Hall, assuming it to be dangerous? Could they justly say that the Brookman Hall was a place of public entertainment? Nothing of the kind. If regulations were necessary there was enough power already available. But if the power to regulate such educational places was not sufficient the present Bill was not the place for it.

The Hon. J. COWAN agreed that the provisions of the Bill were too drastic. It might or might not be necessary to bring the University under the law, but the most objectionable feature was the suggested licensing fees. If Sunday school buildings were occasionally used for concert purposes—at most only once or twice in the year—they would have to be licensed. He could not support the Bill with that provision remaining in it.

Amendment declared negatived. The Hon. Sir JOHN DUNCAN called for a division, which resulted:—

Ayes, 4—The Hon. Sir John Downer, J. H. Howe, J. Lewis, and Sir John Duncan (teller).

Noes, 8—The Hon. J. Cowan, W. Hanford, E. Lucas, T. Pascoe, A. W. Styles, F. S. Wallis, J. P. Wilson, and J. G. Bice (teller).

Majority of 4 for the Noes.

The CHIEF SECRETARY moved his amendment.

The Hon. J. P. WILSON hoped the proposal would not be proceeded with. It would be a matter of great inconvenience if a religious building, where a tea meeting, or concert, or lecture, was to be held had first to be licensed. The Act could be proclaimed to apply to country districts, and the inspector supervising the carrying out of the law might not grant a licence to certain roughly built pioneer religious halls. The Chief Secretary would be well advised not to press the matter, for it would not pass.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said the whole point still was the main principle of the Bill—namely, the protection of the public wherever they might congregate. The Bill would only deal with the more congested areas of the State.

The Hon. F. S. WALLIS agreed with the Chief Secretary that it was well to have a nominal fee for the places, which would be evidence for the owners that they were under the Act. That provision, too, made the case for non-exemption of the University stronger than would otherwise be the case. What would be the position if one of the halls in connection with the churches should be required for a purpose outside of that allowed in the amendment?

The CHIEF SECRETARY said a licence would have to be taken out if the question of commercial gain came into the matter.

The Hon. E. LUCAS said he would not offer any objection to the amendment, but later he would seek to do away with the licensing of church and Sunday school halls. He objected to trustees having to take out licences for them as though they were boxing stadiums or something of that kind.

Amendment carried. Clause as amended passed. Clause 9—"Fees payable."

The CHIEF SECRETARY moved to add the following amendment:—"Provided that—(1) If the place of public entertainment is a hall or building used by a religious congregation, body, or denomination in connection with a church or place of public worship, and all the public entertainments held therein are held in connection with such congregation, body, or denomination, the fee shall be the sum of 1/2; (2) If the place of public entertainment is the property of a municipal corporation or district council, or if it is the property of or is used solely by a university or other body or institution established for educational purposes, and all the entertainments held therein are held in connection with such university or body, the fee shall be one-fifth of the appropriate vote set out in the second schedule, not reckoning a fraction of a penny." There was not much in the objection of Mr. Lucas regarding the licensing. It was a sentimental objection. The only purpose for the licensing was to bring the places under registration and supervision, and, so far as he could see, there was no better way of accomplishing it. Men who desired to practice in some of the professions, and also business firms, had to submit to registration, and there could be no real objection to it.

The Hon. E. LUCAS stated that to test the feeling of the members on the point he would move that, in subsection 1 of the amendment, the words "the fee shall be the sum of 1/2" be struck out, and that the words "no licence shall be necessary" be inserted in their place. His reason was largely sentimental, but there was nothing in which people were so sentimental as regarding their religion. The church and Sunday school buildings should not be licensed as places of public entertainment.

The Hon. F. S. WALLIS said he thought Mr. Lucas's amendment would practically put back into the Bill what had been struck out. (Hon. Sir John Downer—"No. It leaves supervision and takes away licence.") The fact that the Adelaide Town Hall or any other place was brought under the Bill did not bring it down to the level of a common gaming house, as asserted in the debate.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said the Parliamentary Draftsman informed him that the places they were discussing would still come under the provisions of the Act if the licence fee were struck out. It had been suggested that all the words after "denomination" in the next to last line of subsection 1 should be deleted, and the words "no licence fee shall be required" inserted. However, he asked hon. members to allow his amendments to stand at the present stage, with the assurance that an opportunity would be given for recommitment.

The Hon. Sir JOHN DOWNER remarked that he quite failed to see why religious bodies should receive any greater concessions than educational bodies. Why should institutions engaged in the education of the public have to undergo the indignity of having to ask for a licence? He thought Mr. Lucas's amendment was a good one. He moved to insert, after "worship" in the Chief Secretary's amendment, the words, "or educational institutions."

The Hon. J. P. WILSON considered that trades halls should be placed in the same category as educational institutions, and that an amendment should be inserted to that effect. (Hon. J. H. Howe—"Why not add Liberal Unions, also?") If the hon. member moved in that direction he would support him.

The CHIEF SECRETARY intimated that while he would not oppose the amendment, he would take opportunity later, if it was found necessary, to alter the phraseology of the measure so as to give the public full protection in every place and respect.

Amendment carried. The Hon. F. S. WALLIS asked if it was not necessary now to provide a definition of "educational institution."

The CHIEF SECRETARY agreed that it would be requisite. He would strike out of subclause 2 all the words after "Council," down to and including "body."

Subclauses 1 and 2, as amended, inserted. Bill reported and recommitted to consider second schedule.

The Hon. J. P. WILSON thought that there should be some reduction of the fees. He moved to amend the schedule so that the fees in each case be reduced by one-half.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said Mr. Wilson's point would have some weight if it were not for the fact that the expense in control of public halls was continuous and heavy. The scale in the schedule was an increase in some cases compared with the old Act, and a decrease in comparison with other instances. The general fees in the Bill were considerably less than those ruling in Sydney. The amounts were moderate, and he could not agree to reduction.

Amendment negatived. Bill reported; report adopted; third reading on September 18.

Brookman Hall School of Mines, in case of fire. He had seen crowds struggling for admission to that hall, and there should be proper control over it. Other institutions might take the precedent to approach the Government for exemption also, if the Elder Hall was not included under the Bill. The measure was for the purpose of preventing the public from accident by obstruction in entering or departing from the building.

The Hon. Sir JOHN DOWNER held that the primary object was to protect the public in connection with places where the public paid to enter, but not to include halls which were not public, and which were connected with a learned body. It was extravagant to call the University a lecture hall in the public sense. If the University was brought under the Bill, they would have to include every school and church. The University was not a place open to the public for amusement—it was exclusively for educational purposes. Whether it would be wise to have some control over every building, including private houses, was another question, and should not be considered in connection with the present Bill. But it would be most undignified to place the University in a measure while public and private schools were exempt.

The Hon. E. LUCAS asked the Chief Secretary to stay his hand a little longer in connection with this lapsed Bill. The scope of the Bill was altogether too wide. If they exempted the University, churches, and lecture halls they were doing no more than they should. (Chief Secretary—"If you exempt the University, you cannot do other than exempt quite a number of public places.") The definition was a perfect dragnet, and if the Chief Secretary or any one else let his front lawn for a church bazaar it would come under the Bill, and a licence would have to be obtained. Did they want to bring in all the schools throughout the State wherein children held little concerts to raise funds for decorative purposes.

The CHAIRMAN—I think the hon. member is wandering from the question before the committee, which is the exemption of the University.

The Hon. E. LUCAS said Sir John Downer was right in his contention. The Bill was too stringent. He would rather vote against the Bill than pass a law whereby each little school before it could hold an entertainment would have to apply for a licence.

The CHAIRMAN—I again draw the hon. member's attention to the question before the chair.

The Hon. F. S. WALLIS sympathized with the Chief Secretary in his desire that there should be no exemptions under the Bill. When he was concerned in the administration of the Act, no difficulty had arisen in regard to the interpretation of the regulations. The question of lawns being used for church bazaars had never come up for consideration. The object of the measure was to protect the public. Many things were dealt with by regulation to protect the people in case of fire, and he could not see why the University should be exempt. People assembled there, and there was just as much risk there as anywhere else.

The CHIEF SECRETARY said Sir John Downer had rather strained the position. Elder Hall was as much a place of public entertainment as the Adelaide Town Hall. People went there sometimes on payment of fees, and sometimes free. People were asked to pay for tickets for concerts in the Elder Hall. If they exempted Elder Hall they would have to exempt Brookman Hall, every lecture hall, connected with churches, and all friendly society halls. He fully recognised the value of the University, but he also recognised his duty to protect the safety of the public. If the provisions to that end at the Elder Hall were adequate no harm would be done, but otherwise it must be altered and made what it should be. He had to insist on the essential and initial principle of the Bill to protect the public.

The Hon. E. LUCAS said he wished to make his opinion on the Bill quite clear. He was prepared to support the Government in protecting the safety of the public, but he objected to the licensing of every hall that might be associated with a school or church and be used for children's or other entertainments.

The Hon. Sir JOHN DUNCAN said he would like to hear the Chief Secretary either confirm or contradict his opinion that he had said the Elder Hall was let for entertainment. (Chief Secretary—"I said tickets were sold and fees charged for admission.") He had a letter from the Assistant Registrar, in which it was stated:—"The Elder Hall is not let for hire, and should not be placed in the same category as public halls. Our halls are used only educationally, and by this Bill we would be subjected to conditions which would be onerous and unnecessary." Was the licensing too small a matter to be mentioned. Under the old regulations it would be £12 a year. He wished to refer to the Prince of Wales Theatre, another part of the University. Regarding that the letter stated:—"The Prince of Wales Theatre