

have resulted in a record low annual death rate of 14 per 100,000 for the year 1951. Additional appointments were made in the North-West medical service.

Legislation will be introduced to amend the Health Act, the Physiotherapists Act, the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, and the Nurses Registration Act.

Public interest in the welfare of natives has shown a remarkable increase in recent years. The system of maintaining large and expensive native settlements has been almost abandoned in the south in favour of State support for Christian missions. Assistance to missions has been increased from £6,400 to £46,000 over the last four years.

The report of the honorary Royal Commission to consider a Bill to establish a metropolitan town planning authority has been received and is being considered. A decision will shortly be given regarding the appointment of a Town Planning Commissioner, in regard to which inquiries are now being made.

There is an increasing interest in the State's tourist attractions, and the offices of the Tourist Bureau have been modernised to handle the increased business.

I now declare this Session of Parliament open and trust that Providence may bless your labours.

His Excellency then withdrew from the Chamber.

[The President resumed the Chair.]

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

The Clerk then announced the return of writs for the election of members at the biennial elections showing that the following had been duly elected:—Hon. J. G. Hislop (Metropolitan), Hon. F. R. H. Lavery (West), Hon. C. W. D. Barker (North), Hon. C. H. Simpson (Midland), Hon. N. E. Baxter (Central), Hon. J. Murray (South-West), Hon. A. L. Loton (South), Hon. W. R. Hall (North-East), Hon. J. A. Dimmitt (Suburban), Hon. G. Bennetts (South-East), and Hon. L. C. Diver (Central—by-election).

These members took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

QUESTION.

TOWN PLANNING BILL.

As to Report of Royal Commission.

Hon. G. FRASER (without notice) asked the Minister for Transport:

When will the Government release for publication the report of the Honorary Royal Commission on the town planning Bill?

The MINISTER replied:

The report has been received by the Government and is now being considered by members of Cabinet. It will be released for publication and a copy of the report laid on the Table of the House within a few days.

BILL—RAILWAY (MUNDARING-MUNDARING WEIR) DISCONTINUANCE.

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to authorise the discontinuance of the Mundaring-Mundaring Weir railway".

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

The PRESIDENT: For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained copies of the Speech that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to deliver to Parliament. These will be distributed amongst hon. members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

HON. L. C. DIVER (Central) [3.56]:
I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—"May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament."

In the course of his Speech, His Excellency mentioned that he had already visited a considerable number of localities in the State in order to learn at first hand something of the type of country and the manner in which the people make their living. During those excursions, His Excellency has travelled as far as the North-West and the Kimberleys, and it is indeed a pleasure to find that he has travelled so extensively so soon after his arrival to learn something of the country and the conditions under which the people live. On many of those visits to the country, His Excellency has been accompanied by the Hon. Lady Gairdner, and both of them, by the manner in which they have met the people, have endeared themselves to many of Her Majesty's subjects. I have

no doubt that in a few years' time, it may be said that such visits have been made throughout the length and breadth of the State and have been greatly appreciated by the people.

Reference is also made in the Speech to the appointment of the Chief Justice, Sir John Dwyer, as Lieut.-Governor of the State. I am sure that every member will join with me in expressing pleasure at the appointment. I trust that Sir John will long be spared to occupy that high and honourable position.

In this my first speech in the House, I should like to place on record my appreciation of the services rendered to the State by the late Hon. G. B. Wood, my predecessor. At the time of his death, he held the portfolio of Minister for Agriculture, and in the discharge of the duties of his office, he always had the welfare of the whole of the people at heart. I am deeply conscious of the high standard of public service he set, and trust that I may prove to be a worthy successor to him.

I regret that we have not with us this afternoon Hon. A. R. Jones, one of the representatives of the Midland Province. As members are aware, Mr. Jones recently underwent a major operation, and is still a patient in Hollywood Hospital. We trust that he will have a speedy recovery and will soon be able to resume his seat in the House.

Some of the major works to be undertaken at Kwinana in the near future were mentioned by His Excellency, including the oil refinery to be constructed by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Coy. and the steel works proposed to be established by the Broken Hill Pty. Coy. I understand that representatives of other major industries are seeking building sites in the same locality. While the vast bulk of the expenditure needed for these undertakings will be provided by the companies concerned, there will necessarily be many facilities required in the area that will have to be provided by the Government of the day. Mention has been made of the extensive public works now under way or projected. These may be said to fall into the category of normal routine activities of the State, and we may regard the new industries at Kwinana as a loading on the economy of the State.

As a representative of a country province, I do not wish to say anything that might appear to be detrimental to the establishment of those secondary industries, but I sincerely trust that the Government will pay due attention to the considerable number of works that have been approved and given priority for the development of country areas. Considerable misgiving exists in country districts regarding the modified water scheme. His Excellency referred to the comprehensive water scheme, but that comprehensive

scheme was never proceeded with. The one he alluded to is a modified scheme. Unfortunately, country residents can see very little tangible evidence of the water scheme that was promised them some years ago, and consequently when we speak of the projected works at Kwinana, we should bear in mind that the people of the country are still looking for the comprehensive water scheme for which they have been waiting for so many years.

We also realise, and so do they, that there has been, as the Governor pointed out in his Speech, a shortage of steel-plate. With the coming of the B.H.P. to Western Australia, we trust that shipping will be of such volume from the Eastern States that sufficient quantities of steel will come forward to keep the established pipe manufacturers in Western Australia fabricating steel piping so that the comprehensive scheme can be completed, or at least take shape in the eastern and north-eastern areas. I realise that the Government is temporarily placed at a disadvantage as regards Loan funds, but I assume that is a passing phase, and that in the not distant future we will settle down to an orderly step again and receive reasonable funds so that the work I have mentioned can be proceeded with. The matter of schools was dealt with by His Excellency, and I am pleased to note that a great number were erected during the past 12 months. At the present time, however, quite a number of country schools require additions; and also country hospitals.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: And metropolitan schools, too.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I will deal with my friend at a later date. A very important subject has been brought before the public in the Press, and that is the Burakin-Bonnie Rock railway—a much maligned subject. About 1929 this House, in its wisdom, passed legislation for the construction of that railway after the Railway Advisory Board had reported on the advisability of so doing. If members cast their minds back they will recall that the line was to serve farmers who were to be placed on the land under the 3,000 farms scheme, and it was to be financed partly by the British Government, partly by the Commonwealth Government, and partly by the Western Australia Government.

Wheat in those days was in the vicinity of 4s. a bushel—a little less. Those who knew the existing position had no faith in the wheat market whatsoever, and said there was no justification for wheat being 4s. a bushel then. In face of that opinion, this House agreed to the construction of the railway. Yet today, with the development of new varieties of wheat and of modern tractors, compared with conditions at the time the line was laid down, and notwithstanding that wheat on the same

world market is now in the vicinity of 22s. a bushel, we are told that the line should be taken up. I would like to deal extensively with this subject, and I take it I shall have an opportunity to do so later.

I understood from the Governor's Speech that there will be no need for rationing superphosphate this year. I sincerely hope there will not be, but I advise the Minister for Agriculture that if there has to be rationing, and if we really want increased production, then any tribunal created to ration superphosphate should not do so wilfully on a percentage basis. The capacity of a given area of land to produce should be taken into consideration. We have several instances in the farming areas of relatively small plots of land, using not a large quantity of superphosphate, which turn out a maximum amount of foodstuffs each year. The people owning those areas should not be penalised by a reduction in the amount of superphosphate they now get. In the past we have seen men on a quota of 20 tons being threatened with a reduction. In other places we see excessive quotas allowed where there is a minimum amount of production. Under those conditions, there is no inducement to the smaller man to produce to the utmost of his ability.

I was told I had to stop at a certain time today in order to allow people to go, but it was pretty late before I got on my feet. There is one matter I wish to mention, and it will take me only a couple of minutes, although I could talk on the subject for a long while. It refers to the compulsory oat pool legislation. We have fought two world wars, and the price paid in human life and wealth has been enormous. What were they fought for? They were the price of freedom; yet we have some thoroughly good men who have seen active service—something I unfortunately was never able to see—suggesting that there should be a compulsory oat pool. I say this in sorrow and not in anger: that we are apparently prepared to sacrifice our freedom for a mess of pottage.

Hon. C. H. HENNING (South-West: I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. G. Fraser, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 31st July, 1952.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m., pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, which was read by the Clerk (Mr. F. E. Islip).

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber, and, having heard His Excellency the Governor deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

QUESTIONS.

MARGARINE.

As to Increasing State Quota.

Mr. NEEDHAM (without notice) asked the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Is he aware that the margarine quota has been increased in the Eastern States?

(2) As butter, at 4s. 2d. per lb. can now be included in the luxury class, so far as people on lower incomes are concerned, will he favourably consider increasing the margarine quota in this State?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied:

(1) and (2) Yes, the Government is aware of the position and a Bill is now being prepared so that it can be introduced early this session.

MIDLAND JUNCTION WORKSHOPS.

As to Employment of Metal Tradesmen.

Mr. BRADY (without notice) asked the Minister for Immigration:

As pamphlets distributed at the Midland Junction workshops state that migrants from Western Europe, skilled in metal