

HON. A. F. GRIFFITH: As one who faces the electors next year I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by other members. There are occasions on which the Chief Secretary and I exchange a few cross words; but I say sincerely that, as one of those who saw him off to the Eastern States to receive medical treatment, I am genuinely pleased to see him back again and fighting fit. The best that I can wish him and myself is that we will both be in our places next year and able to carry on. I compliment the Minister for the North-West on the manner in which he deputised for the Chief Secretary. As Whip for my Party I have received tremendous co-operation from both Ministers, and also from Mr. Davies, the Government Whip. I wish all members the compliments of the season.

HON. G. E. JEFFERY: As the youngest member of the House I extend to you, Mr. President, and your good lady, to members, to officers and staff and Hansard the compliments of the season. I thank all members for the great assistance they have given me since I came here. I wish all the compliments of the season and hope that most of us will meet again next year.

THE PRESIDENT: When the Chief Secretary moves that the House adjourn, it will bring to a conclusion my fourth session as President.

I thank the Chief Secretary, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Hall and Sir Charles Latham for the good wishes they have expressed, and especially do I thank those members who have gone out of their way to help me by their co-operation, both in the House and outside.

This has been one of the longest sessions, as far as sitting hours are concerned; and I pay special tribute to the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Hall, who has done sterling work on the Committee stage of the contentious legislation, and to the help he has received from his deputies—Mr. Davies, Mr. Logan and Mr. Griffith.

Special mention must also be made of the Clerk of Parliaments, Mr. Roberts, and the Clerk Assistant, Mr. Browne, who have been able to keep right up to date all stages of legislation. Mr. Ashley has also been of very material help both in the Chamber and outside. Mr. Courts and Mr. Carrick have also at all times been most helpful.

To Mr. Royce and his Hansard Staff, I also add my word of thanks for the way that Hansard has attended to the reporting in the House, and for the various other Committees. To the two typists, Miss Watkin and Miss McCaul, I also express my thanks. Mrs. Abbott and Mr. McDonald have, as usual, provided service at all times. To the Controller, Mr. Burton, and Mrs. Burton, the domestic and outside staff, I express appreciation on behalf of all members

In conclusion, I trust that I still retain the confidence of my electors and will again be returned as a member of this House when Parliament reassembles. I wish members all the best for the festive season.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. G. Fraser—West): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn to a date to be proclaimed.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.55 a.m. (Saturday).

Legislative Assembly

Friday, 29th November, 1957.

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

Premier and Parliamentary Committee on Chamberlain Industries Ltd.

THE PREMIER: I wish to make a statement in connection with the proceedings of the committee on Chamberlain Industries Ltd.

The SPEAKER: Has the Premier leave of the House to make a statement? There being no dissentient voice, the Premier may proceed.

The PREMIER: The statement I have to make is as follows:—

The parliamentary committee comprising the Premier, Hon. A. R. G. Hawke, the Leader of the Country Party, Hon. A. F. Watts, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr. C. W. M. Court, and the member for Beeloo, Mr. C. Jamieson, held its final meeting yesterday when the company's results to the 31st October, 1957, were reviewed.

The committee's recommendations were presented to the Government fairly recently and are generally acceptable to the Government. In the interests of the activities of the company, it is not advisable to make the recommendations public at this stage, but they will be made public in the reasonably near future.

Since the committee's deliberations commenced over two years ago, considerable reorganisation has been achieved with greatly improved financial and trading results.

The objectives throughout the inquiry were—

To determine the problems which brought about the company's excessive demands on the Treasury and adverse trading results;

To assess the company's prospects of successful reorganisation.

The outlook for the company is now greatly improved, and it is hoped that, with the help of the committee's recommendations, the industry will successfully continue on a long-term basis without further demands on the Treasury, and will be financed and operated in due course on normal commercial lines.

Members of the committee agree that the timing of an announcement of the committee's recommendations and steps to implement them is now a matter for Government decision.

I would like to express my personal thanks to the members of the committee for the time and effort which they gave to the inquiries made by the committee and for their obvious anxiety at all times to do the very

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

BILL—PARLIAMENTARY SUPER-ANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

best to establish the tractor-making industry in Western Australia on a stronger and permanent basis.

The industry is of very great importance to Western Australia and it is encouraging to know that Chamberlain tractors receive very good support from farmers in this State, who regard these machines as of very good quality and particularly suitable to Western Australian conditions.

It is also encouraging to be able to report that sales of Western Australian made tractors are increasing in eastern Australia.

On behalf of the committee, I would like also to express the committee's thanks to those who appeared before the committee to give information.

QUESTIONS.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Safety Measures.

Mr. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Labour:

(1) Has the Factories and Shops Department, or any other department, power to ensure the safety of operation of agricultural machinery?

(2) Has the corresponding department in any other State this power?

(3) Do power take-offs from farm tractors require guards to be safe?

(4) Can this guarding be enforced by Western Australian legislation?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The matter is covered by the Inspection of Machinery Act.

(2) Inquiries are being made.

(3) Yes, if the tractor is being used as a prime mover.

(4) Yes.

RAILWAYS.

(a) Supply of Ballast.

Hon. D. BRAND asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

Will he lay on the Table of the House forthwith all of the papers of the departments concerned regarding the tenders for ballast supplies for the Railway Department, as referred to in the third interim report of the Royal Commissioner, Mr. A. G. Smith, S.M.?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

Yes.

(b) Insurance Against Damage Caused by Fires.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: Yesterday afternoon the member for Murray asked me a question and I told him I

would obtain the information from the Minister for Railways. The hon. member wanted to know whether it was the policy of the Government to insure through the State Government Insurance Office against damages that might be awarded because of railway fires; and he asked if future claims in such cases would be paid through that office. The reply is as follows:—

The Railway Department is insured with the State Government Insurance Office against claims in excess of £100 for damage caused by fire when negligence by the department is proved. Payment in such cases is made by the State Government Insurance Office but claims should be lodged with the Railway Commission as hitherto.

YANCHEP ANCHORAGE.

Control by National Parks Board.

Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) Does the State Gardens Board have control over the anchorage at Yanchep?

(2) Are there any permanent moorings set down there?

(3) If so, are they available for use by any boat that may desire to use them?

(4) Can the State Gardens Board refuse a boat permission to anchor and land its catch of crayfish on the shore for the purpose of transport to market?

(5) Is the board refusing any boats permission to anchor in the anchorage and land its catch ashore?

(6) If the answer is in the affirmative, what are the reasons for refusing any boat the right to use the anchorage and transport its catch from shore to market?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The National Parks Board of Western Australia controls that anchorage.

(2) Eight seasonal mooring sites have been granted for use by boat owners concerned.

(3) No.

(4) No, but the National Parks Board can.

(5) Yes.

(6) There is very limited space available within this anchorage, and amateur anglers, swimmers, and small private boats have to be considered in addition to crayfishermen, as this reserve is available for use of the general public.

ALBANY HARBOUR BOARD PROPERTY.

Payment of Toll.

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Is it a fact that there is an agreement or arrangement between the Albany Harbour Board, Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. and State Government Departments, for the payment of a toll for the use of any road constructed on land the property of the Albany Harbour Board?

(2) If so, is it correct that the arrangement provides for a charge of 6d. per ton on all grain delivered direct to the terminal shall be paid to the Harbour Board and in the event of grain being delivered from the country terminal by road, the toll is to be fixed by arbitration?

(3) Will he give the reasons why these tolls are charged?

(4) Is it true that in respect of grain brought to Albany by transport contractors under arrangements with the Transport Board, the Transport Board will pay the toll?

(5) If not, by whom is the toll to be paid?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) An agreement between the parties referred to has been prepared which includes provision for the payment of a toll for the use of any road constructed on land the property of the Albany Harbour Board.

(2) Yes.

(3) For the construction and maintenance of roads within the Albany Harbour Board area.

(4) Any harbour toll payable on grain transported to Albany by Transport Board contractors will be regarded as part of the road transport cost. Where such cost exceeds the cost by rail the Government will pay the difference as subsidy.

(5) Answered by No. (4).

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES.

Raebourne-rd. Residents.

Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

(1) In view of the fact that heavy electric light poles carrying the means of switching on and off the pump at the tank in Raebourne-rd., pass two residences, will he agree to allow these poles to be used for the erection of a low tension main to supply electricity to residents along the route?

(2) If not, why not?

The MINISTER replied:

Yes, the State Electricity Commission will be permitted to use the poles.

FLOURMILLING.

Retention of Local Wheat.

Mr. COURT (without notice) asked the Premier:

(1) Has he received representations from the W.A. Flourmillers' Association regarding the retention of sufficient wheat in Western Australia to enable its members to undertake their normal export commitments?

(2) If so, what is proposed in connection with the representations?

The PREMIER replied:

Yes, the W.A. Flourmillers' Association has made representations to me by letter, and I think has also placed representations before the Minister for Agriculture. These representations are now receiving urgent consideration, and I think it is certain that the State Government will make representations to the Commonwealth Government for the purpose of trying to safeguard the situation of the flourmilling industry in this State; and also to try to obtain a much fairer deal for the wheat producers of Western Australia than they now appear likely to obtain from the Wheat Board.

IRON ORE.

Export from Geraldton.

Mr. SEWELL (without notice) asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Can he inform the House if any information has been received from the Prime Minister in connection with the export of iron ore from Talling Peak through the port of Geraldton?

(2) If no information has been received, can he say when he expects the Prime Minister to come to a decision?

The MINISTER replied:

Although several representations have been made to the Commonwealth Government regarding Talling Peak ore and the export of 1,000,000 tons of iron ore from that centre, so far, other than the acknowledgment that the request has been received, the Government has had no further information. As a result, I am unable to give the hon. member anything definite as to when we are likely to receive any information.

AGENT GENERAL.

(a) *Resignation of Minister for Lands and Approximate Date of By-election.*

Hon. D. BRAND (without notice) asked the Premier:

When does he anticipate that the Minister for Lands will resign as a Minister of the Crown—we are entitled to anticipate that he will resign in the near future—and can he give us the approximate date of the subsequent by-election for Warren?

The PREMIER replied:

I am not able to say with any certainty when the Minister for Lands—the Agent General-elect for Western Australia in London—will resign, but it should be in the reasonably near future.

Hon. D. Brand: It will have to be.

The PREMIER: I am not able to say when the necessary by-election for the Warren electorate will take place. But after reading a certain article in a certain newspaper this morning, I am wondering whether the Government would not be wise to hold a general election for the Legislative Assembly for all districts on the same date.

Mr. Roberts: That would be a good idea.

(b) *Date of Commencement of Duties.*

Mr. BOVELL (without notice) asked the Premier:

Will he inform the House when it is anticipated that the Minister for Lands will assume his duties as Agent General for Western Australia, particularly in view of the long delay in that appointment?

The PREMIER replied:

I appreciate the pleasant approach by the member for Vasse in this matter. It is hoped that the Agent General-elect will commence his duties in the United Kingdom reasonably early in 1958.

CHAMBERLAIN INDUSTRIES.

(a) *Approximate Number of Personnel and Increased Production.*

Mr. ACKLAND (without notice) asked the Premier:

Dealing with the report which he presented with reference to Chamberlain Industries Ltd., can he inform the House of the approximate number of persons employed at Chamberlain's prior to the inquiry being held, and at present; and if the production has increased recently? If the production has increased, can he give us the approximate percentage of the increase?

The PREMIER replied:

I am not in a position offhand to give actual figures or percentages.

Mr. Ackland: I asked for the approximate figures.

The PREMIER: Over the last two years or so, and particularly over the last 12 months, there has been a fair reduction in the total number of persons employed; and the production output per person now employed is considerably better than it was previously.

(b) *Use of Locally-Made Radiator Cores.*

Mr. HEARMAN (without notice) asked the Premier:—

Have any investigations been made as to the possibility of using locally made radiator cores in Chamberlain tractors?

The PREMIER replied:

The member for Blackwood discussed this matter personally with me a few days ago, following a discussion which a radiator manufacturing firm in this State had had with him. As a result, the firm in question sent me a letter this week, offering to provide free of cost to Chamberlain Industries Ltd. a radiator core with which the company could make any test it wished to make. I have forwarded that letter to the management at Welshpool and have asked that this very reasonable and generous offer be accepted, and accepted in the very near future.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Number of Businesses Commenced in Last Three Years.

Mr. ANDREW (without notice) asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

(1) How many manufacturing businesses have started in Western Australia during the last 12 months and during the last three years?

(2) What is the total capital cost involved?

The MINISTER replied:

This would require quite an amount of detailed investigation because the information is not available in a compiled form. In any case, I would say that even under those conditions, the records would still be incomplete. I have with me some figures which will cover the period of three years mentioned by the hon. member, but they are incomplete. They are as follows:—

1954-55—130 factories completed at a building cost of £3,125,000.

1955-56—117 factories completed at a building cost of £1,878,000.

1956-57—92 factories completed at a building cost of £1,105,000.

Mr. Court: That is a steady decline.

The MINISTER: If the hon. member would consider it over the last three years, he would see that it is a very slight decline.

The Minister for Lands: I thought they were frightened to come to this State.

Hon. D. Brand: It looks as though they are.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: An examination of the results of trading in Western Australia gives an excellent indication of just how little business is lagging in this State. Finally, I have asked that records be obtained and if they are available, I will let the hon. member have the information.

RAILWAYS ROYAL COMMISSION.

(a) *Evidence Given by Railway Commissioners.*

The PREMIER: I would like to give some reply to questions asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition without

notice of the Minister for Works yesterday, which had to do with the investigation being made by the Royal Commissioner into the management of the affairs of the railway system. The questions were as follows:—

(1) Is it proposed to release evidence given before Royal Commissioner Smith?

(2) Will the evidence of the Railway Commissioners on the question of purchases given in interim report No. (3) be released so that their answers and reasons can be appreciated by the general public?

(3) Did the railway commissioners give evidence on the matters on which they have been criticised?

The answers are—

(1) and (2) This matter will be decided when the Royal Commissioner has finalised his investigation.

(3) The Royal Commissioner obtained information on these matters from the railway commissioners.

(b) Opportunities for Commissioners to Rebut Criticism.

Mr. COURT (without notice) asked the Premier:

I would like to ask the Premier a further question which arises from his reply to the third question I asked yesterday. Did the railway commissioners have an opportunity to rebut the criticism of Commissioner Smith before he included such criticism in his report?

The PREMIER replied:

I am not in a position absolutely to say, but I think not. I cannot imagine that any Royal Commissioner would take evidence, prepare his report for submission to His Excellency the Governor and, before doing so give some person or persons an opportunity to read and criticise it!

Mr. COURT: That is not the point.

The PREMIER: That appeared to me to be the point. I am sorry that either the member for Nedlands did not explain his question clearly or I was lacking somewhat in my customary ability to absorb the question.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

Completion of Current Sittings and Commencement Next Year.

Mr. HEAL (without notice) asked the Premier:

Does he think it is possible that this House and another place will complete this session today, Friday, or tomorrow, Saturday; and is it the Government's intention to commence the next session of Parliament at approximately the same time as it was commenced this year?

The PREMIER replied:

There is good prospect of the session finishing either late tonight or early tomorrow morning. Our notice paper is not unmanageable provided each member economises reasonably in the use of words. The Legislative Council notice paper is heavier than ours. However, I understand there is a very commendable spirit of co-operation developing in the Legislative Council this afternoon. This may be a reaction from the very great and savage disagreements which occurred there yesterday and last night, but, from the information I have, I would say that the Legislative Council will complete consideration of most of the items now before it either late tonight or early tomorrow morning.

As to the question of the commencement of the next session of Parliament, this will have to be considered by members of the Government. Most of us have been here long enough to know that it is not necessarily the date on which the session is commenced which indicates how long it is likely to last. That depends greatly on the extent to which members discuss the various matters brought before them. However, I can assure the hon. member that the Government has not given and will not give any consideration to the application of the guillotine during the next session.

RIVER FORESHORE DREDGING.

Complaint Regarding Noise.

Mr. WILD (without notice) asked the Minister for Works:

Can he tell me what was the result of the inquiries he was going to make last week in connection with the use of the dredges off South Perth and Como?

The MINISTER replied:

The inquiries indicated that no great inconvenience was caused.

**BILL—CHILD WELFARE ACT
AMENDMENT (No. 2).**

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. A. F. WATTS (Stirling) [2.43]: This Bill is one which is going to effect some fundamental changes in the procedure of children's courts. There is something of a history attached, of course, to the legislation which has given rise to the present amendment. Prior to 1955, and since 1948, when the Child Welfare Act was consolidated and passed as a new statute in this Parliament, it was not permissible for offences by adults against children to be dealt with by the Children's Court—at least, that was broadly the position. Prior to 1948 it was possible for

special offences by such adults against children in certain cases to be heard in the Children's Court.

In 1955 members may recall the Minister for Child Welfare introduced an amendment which included words necessary to provide that offences by adults against children could be heard in children's courts. At the time I expressed my disapproval of that proposition. If I remember rightly, I submitted an amendment in the Committee stage which was, at that time, rejected by one vote; and it was in consequence of that rejection that the Child Welfare Act was amended so that offences by adults against children could be heard. If the amendment I moved had succeeded, then the legislation before us today would, so far as I can understand the position, not be necessary.

Anyway, there is no use being historical at any great length on an occasion such as this. The situation today is that the activities of the children's court, in certain matters, has been called seriously into question by the High Court of Australia. Like the Minister, when introducing this Bill, I do not intend to traverse in any way the points at issue in the decision of the High Court. Suffice it to say, as he did in effect, that a superior tribunal has decided the matter and it is for us to obey. So we come to the question of the Bill itself.

I propose to support the second reading of this Bill. In doing so, I would comment that it has been drawn up in such a manner as not to make it easy of comprehension, because it makes reference back to the 1955 amendment that I referred to a little time ago, and refers to a proclaimed day, which is to be a day fixed after the coming into operation of this Bill, if it becomes an Act. Then it goes on to say—

Except to the extent mentioned in Subsection (3) of this section, the amendment ceases to operate on and from the proclaimed day.

The amendment which ceases to operate on and from the proclaimed day, curiously enough, is the amendment made to the Act in 1955, to which I have referred and which inserted the words "or against" in the Act, so that the Act covered, as I said, offences by adults against children. Then, having got over that hurdle, the Bill goes on to say—

Where prior to the proclaimed day a children's court in exercise of the jurisdiction conferred by the amendment—

That, of course, as I said, is the amendment giving it the right to hear offences against children.

—has commenced any proceedings but has not finalised the proceedings by the proclaimed day, the children's court is authorised to continue the

proceedings to finality in all respects as if the amendment had not ceased to operate on the proclaimed day but had continued to operate until the time when the proceedings are finalised.

As I understand the position in regard to that, it is this: The purpose of this Bill is to give special powers to the Children's Court in regard to specific offences against children and, be it remembered, a child under the Child Welfare Act is a person under the age of 18 years. So that after the coming into operation of this Act, except for this particular paragraph which I have just read, the powers of the Children's Court in respect of such offences will be limited to those offences specifically set out on page 5 of the Bill. However, if the proceedings had been commenced before the day on which this Bill is proclaimed an Act, then the proceedings commenced in the Children's Court can go on just as though this amending legislation had not been passed.

That seems to me a rather extraordinary proposition. If it is necessary, as I agree it is, to amend the law as proposed in the later portions of this Bill, then I am at a loss to understand why the Children's Court should be permitted to continue proceedings under the old 1955 legislation, in regard to the jurisdiction respecting which there is obviously some doubt. After the new Act is proclaimed, simply because these proceedings started before the proclamation of the new Act, it seems to me that every offence that has not been dealt with and completely finalised by the Children's Court before the proclaimed day, should come under the provisions of the new legislation and, unless the Minister for Child Welfare can provide me with some additional reason why this proposal should be carried into effect, I propose to ask the Committee to give consideration to taking out this particular subclause.

If this subclause is taken out nothing could happen except that the Children's Court would, in future, notwithstanding whether or not the proceedings have been commenced before or after the proclaimed day, carry on under the new law. It is quite unnecessary for me to refer to the specific offences which this Bill proposes to bring under the jurisdiction of the Children's Court, because they are clearly set out on the fifth page of the Bill. Suffice it to say that in the majority of cases they are sexual offences against children.

The approach of the Bill to the question of trial by jury is a very reasonable and proper one. It follows largely the provisions of the Criminal Code in respect of certain indictable offences which can, with the consent of the accused, be heard before magistrates, provided the accused person is first told that he is not obliged to plead before the magistrate, in which case he

would be committed for trial if there was a *prima facie* case against him, and his actual trial would take place without any particular provisions being necessary in this Bill, before a judge in the Supreme Court in his criminal jurisdiction.

This Bill provides precisely the same thing in respect of the offences to which I have referred. If the accused person expresses his willingness to have the charge dealt with summarily—that is to say, by a magistrate—after this explanation has been made to him, then the magistrate is entitled to deal with the case summarily and impose a maximum penalty of 18 months' imprisonment; and there is nothing to take away the power of a magistrate or the court, under the Criminal Code, in one or two rare cases to impose a monetary penalty instead of imprisonment, because that is there all the time, though it is rarely exercised unless the case is a very simple one.

But if the magistrate does not think 18 months is severe enough, then, notwithstanding the fact that the accused person has agreed to be dealt with summarily by a magistrate, the magistrate is entitled to commit him to a superior court for sentence. That has been done in other cases; and I think that, in all the circumstances which surround this measure, we are justified in allowing magistrates to do it in these cases. There may be circumstances attached to one of the sexual offences referred to on page 5 which would normally indicate to a magistrate that a sentence as low as 18 months—bearing in mind the considerably greater penalties that can be inflicted under the Criminal Code in respect of these offences—would not be sufficient; and the magistrate would then be competent to send the accused person to a judge of the Supreme Court for sentence. I do not think that in all the circumstances, there is any objection to that proposition.

If the accused person wants to be tried by a jury, he has a perfect right under the measure to get his trial by jury by simply refusing to accept the summary jurisdiction of the magistrate; and I think there is far less objection to the provisions in the Bill than to those that appeared in 1955; because it was fairly apparent then that in certain cases—though I do not think it occurred to any of us that the cases would be so numerous—the right of trial by jury in respect of offences which in the ordinary way would be indictable offences and should be tried before a jury would vanish. But as it happened it did.

As the Minister said yesterday, the system of trial by jury is so well established in the British code of justice and has, by and large, proved so extremely satisfactory, that it is completely undesirable to depart from it to any greater extent than is absolutely desirable.

It could be said, I suppose, that the powers of the magistrate with respect to some of these offences should be entirely limited to a right to commit for trial. For example, the charge of unlawfully and indecently assaulting a girl under the age of 16 years; or having, or attempting to have, unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under the age of 16, is regarded, as I see the Criminal Code, as very serious offences; and it might be argued that it would be desirable that all the magistrates should be allowed to do in such cases would be to commit the offenders for trial.

But, as I have said, his fate in that regard is entirely in the hands of the accused person. He can say he will not be dealt with summarily, and then has the right to be charged and tried before a jury. So I think, taking all the facts into consideration, that the Bill is a reasonable one, designed partly to remedy a suddenly arising state of affairs, and partly to re-establish the right of an accused person of which he was deprived a year or two ago. I think it may be regarded as a fairly satisfactory measure.

I have no objection to the last amendment in the Bill. It does not insist that any particular savings bank shall be used. The Premier was quite frank when he said that he hoped it would be the Rural and Industries Savings Bank; but all the amendment actually does is to refer to a savings bank instead of the Commonwealth Savings Bank. Of course, the Commonwealth Savings Bank was the one originally referred to, because at that time it was the only one. However, times have changed, so the law must be changed too. I support the second reading.

MR. ANDREW (Victoria Park) [2.58]: The crux of this Bill is to provide for a person accused of a serious crime the right to go before a jury. In 1955 an amendment was made to the Act by inserting the words "or against," which meant that offences committed against children by adults as well as those committed by children could be dealt with in the Children's Court. I was quite in accord with the Government's intention at that time, because I could understand the purpose behind the move to have such cases dealt with in that court. It was considered that to do so would save children from the embarrassment of appearing in a larger and more important court and keep the proceedings on a quieter basis, removed from the atmosphere of the Criminal Court.

However, the amendment has not worked out in the way anticipated. In practice—I have seen this in operation and have been appalled—there is no greater tragedy in life than for an innocent person to be adjudged guilty, as could easily happen under the present system. I was in the Children's Court

when a person was charged with an offence against a child. I heard one particular witness give evidence and I said to the person next to me, "That is utterly impossible," but the magistrate apparently accepted it at its face value. Two friends of the witness also gave evidence of like nature.

Fortunately, the evidence given could be proved, by mechanical means, to be false. For instance, I cannot see the hands of the member for Avon Valley at the moment and I do not know how they are situated, and therefore if I gave evidence that I could see his hands at this moment it would be untrue, as it would have been physically impossible. In other words, one cannot see around corners.

Mr. Oldfield: Why?

Mr. ANDREW: Because one can only see straight ahead.

Mr. Oldfield: That is further than you can see.

Mr. Cornell: I know one Minister who can see around corners.

Mr. ANDREW: The hon. member should take that up with the Minister concerned, and not with me, at this juncture. After hearing evidence that was given in the Children's Court, I made a mechanical drawing of the classroom to scale and marked the respective positions of the alleged victim and the witnesses. I demonstrated in the court that the children who gave evidence could not have seen what they alleged they had seen, because they were in a row against the wall and the happening was supposed to have taken place two rows away.

They were behind, and nobody else in the class of 40 children saw the alleged happening except these two girls who were friends of the one concerned; yet the magistrate accepted that evidence. I do not think the magistrate was impressed by my demonstration of the falseness of the evidence, but only by the fact that I was a member of Parliament. When a man goes before a jury there is not only one man, but ten who must make a mistake. Some of the jury would be certain to point out what I saw, which was so obvious in the case I have referred to.

We do not protect children any more by dealing with them in the Children's Court than in the Criminal Court, inasmuch as they are subject to questioning by the counsel for the accused and are cross-examined on exactly the same lines in either court. I therefore cannot see that there is any protection provided for the children, such as was anticipated. I believe that a person accused of a serious crime should have the opportunity of going before a jury for trial.

The Leader of the Country Party referred to Subclause (3) on page 3, in relation to any cases that had been started in the Children's Court at the time when the

legislation will come into operation. I am inclined to support his view in that regard because if a person goes before a jury in the Supreme Court his case is dealt with continuously in almost all instances, until it is finished, whereas in the Children's Court a case may be heard for a couple of hours, adjourned for a week or two and then heard for another two or three hours and can proceed in that way for up to three months before it is finished.

A person brought before the Criminal Court just after the date of proclamation of the measure might easily have his case finished before one that had commenced quite a while before in the Children's Court, and to my mind such a situation would be incongruous. I would be inclined to move an amendment to the provision on page 5, with a view to adding indecent assault to the offences, but I think that could be done in another place. I am glad that this matter has been brought before the House because I feel the Bill will right a wrong. I support the second reading.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [3.7]: I have pleasure in making some brief observations in relation to this Bill. It may be remembered that, during my first speech in this Chamber, I devoted part of my time to the anomaly that was created by the amendment made by the State Parliament to the Act in 1955. As I understand the situation, from actual experience and from listening to other speakers, I believe the reason for that amendment was to safeguard children from the embarrassment of having to give evidence in a crowded court against an adult who had committed some serious offence against the child concerned.

That view has something to recommend it, but the right of trial by jury for an adult should be preserved as it has long been the right of every British subject. The anomaly that exists was first brought to light in the Supreme Court of Western Australia as a result of the hearing of the case of McGrath v. Dowson. That case occurred in Kalgoorlie and McGrath, being the detective-sergeant in Kalgoorlie at that time, brought the charge against Dowson, who was defended by a Kalgoorlie solicitor and was acquitted on some technical point relating to the effluxion of time.

When the case came before the Full Court the five judges drew the attention of the community at large to this anomaly and I have pleasure in supporting the Bill as it seeks to restore the right of trial by jury for every adult alleged to have committed an offence against children. It is an established practice of the law courts that the judge should deal with points of law and that the jury should deal with the facts. Therefore, the fact that a person is innocent until proved guilty is of paramount importance, especially when that person can go before a jury of 12 good people and true; a jury which we hope will always be the bulwark of British justice.

The point raised by the Leader of the Country Party with regard to Clause 4, Subclause (3), of the Bill is an interesting one. That subclause deals with the position of a case now being heard or which could be commenced before the measure is proclaimed—I refer to a case being heard in the Children's Court—being concluded in the Children's Court despite this amendment. I would be inclined to strike out that provision, because if there is sufficient reason now to amend the Act in order to give the right of trial by jury, I see no reason why the right to such a trial should be taken away from a person who might be undergoing trial before the measure is proclaimed. I am proud to support the Bill, having spoken of this case during my maiden speech. It brings to my mind the words of a famous English judge who said, "The more I see of trial by judge, the more I believe in trial by jury."

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Minister for Child Welfare in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3—agreed to.

Clause 4—Sections 20A and 20B added:

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I move an amendment—

That Subclause (3) in lines 1 to 11, page 3, be struck out.

The MINISTER FOR CHILD WELFARE: I have no serious objection to the amendment. However, I am not clear on what would be the legal position if proceedings had been commenced prior to this amending Bill being proclaimed. If Subclause (3) is struck out of the Bill there would appear to be no provision for a case part heard to be completed. It was for that reason that the subclause was inserted in the Bill. It could be called a subclause of convenience more than anything else because it would allow the case that had been commenced before the proclamation of this Bill to proceed in the normal way to its completion.

Whether, by the deletion of this subclause, those cases could be recommenced is something of which I am not positive. I would also point out that if the subclause were deleted it would require the deletion of a few words in Subclause (2) and whether that would be a consequential amendment I am not in a position to know. If this amendment is carried, it might be better, if the circumstances so permit, to retrace our steps to Subclause (2) and struck out the words that are required to be omitted in that subclause.

I would also point out to the Leader of the Country Party that the passing of this amendment would make it impossible for the Bill to be presented to another place today and would thereby imperil the probability of having this legislation

passed during the present session. To avoid that situation I am prepared to discuss this question with the Leader of the Country Party on the points that I raised initially and if we can agree on it, I would then arrange for the deletion in the Legislative Council of the first few words in Subclause (2) and for the complete deletion of Subclause (3).

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I am prepared to accept the Minister's suggestion. However, I do not think the deletion of this subclause would present the difficulty that he has in mind. I will agree, however, that it should have been amended, at the inception, in Subclause (2). Assuming that Subclause (3) is taken out of the Bill, I understand that the position would then be that the Children's Court would have to finish all the cases that are before it now, irrespective of this measure. That is all I seek to achieve. If we are to ensure that an accused person has the right of trial by jury we should provide that every accused person shall have that right after this date and not allow the present position to permit of somebody becoming involved in the situation that, because of the limited number of offences that can be handled by the Children's Court, he is not entitled to trial by jury, whereas next week some other accused person is.

The striking out of this subclause from the Bill would not affect the problem because all the subclause does is to make special provision for the Children's Court to complete the cases that had been started under the old system. So, if the subclause is struck out, the court must deal with all cases in the future under the new system. However, in view of the Minister's request and the circumstances involved, I ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 5, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILL—TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. WILD (Dale) [3.22]: Without a doubt a most peculiar position has arisen with the publication of an advertisement in the "Daily News" or "The West Australian" some few days ago by a company which has announced its desire to sell a fairly large parcel of land, subdivided into lots—or such as they call them—in an

area adjacent to Wanneroo. When a layman reads that advertisement, it immediately strikes him that it is one of those land-selling schemes which come just within the law and the promoters are able to get away with it.

In most instances it is to the great detriment of the unfortunate person who listens to the volubility of the salesman who is selling the land. In this instance the company seemingly has bought a tract of land from a man who had apparently obtained approval from the Town Planning Board to have it subdivided. However, this approval was subject to certain provisos before the land could be subdivided. To me, it seems that the possibility of approval being obtained from the Town Planning Board in the very near future is very remote.

However, that particular owner sold this land to another man who will now be subject to what I and others on this side of the House hope will be a successful piece of legislation to prevent this type of transaction continuing. In effect it means that if some plausible salesman is able to impress upon an individual that he should buy a piece of land in this area, the latter is going to have a lot leased to him for five years, with the option of a further five years at a rental of £10, on top of which he has to pay stamp duty, the solicitor's costs of three guineas, a security payment for the purchase of the block—the cost of the block is set out in the brochure that goes with the application—of half the purchase price to the vendor of the land, with the proviso that if, at some future date, the subdivision of the land is not approved, the money will be returned to the purchaser.

From the company's angle, it seems to me to be a pretty good proposition. If it can induce people to pay half the cost of each block of land that it intends to sell it would mean that it would have some thousands of pounds in use free of interest and if eventually the Town Planning Board said, "We cannot approve of this subdivision," all the company has to do is to return the money to the people who are buying the blocks after it had had use of the money over several years.

It is very doubtful, too, whether the present pegging of the lots by the existing vendor of the land will be the final pegging. If the Act is not amended by this Bill the Government could be faced with the position, in the not-too-distant future, of having to decide whether any houses that have already been built on these blocks are to be pulled down and deny the intending purchaser his right to the land after he had paid the purchase price, or accept the fact that it was a fait accompli and agree to the subdivision of this land.

Therefore, I consider that there is justification, even although this measure has been introduced so late in the session, to

do something in an endeavour to protect the unfortunate people who may be led up the garden path by those voluble salesmen who are able to get people to do something which is not in their interests. Last night, I understand, the Minister gave some indication that he was not completely satisfied that the Bill would close the gate.

I would like to point out that only this morning I took the opportunity to discuss the position with one or two people and I have handed to the Minister a further amendment to be made to the Bill with the main object of ensuring that all these parcels of land, if subject to lease, do not have to be brought before the Town Planning Board for approval because there are many other tracts of land of a similar nature and it is very undesirable that all applications should be sent to the Town Planning Board for it to decide either way or nay.

Therefore, I will have distributed the copies of the amendment I propose to move if the Bill passes the second reading. This amendment proposes to make it mandatory for these people who are selling these pieces of land to insert a proviso in the contract of sale indicating that there can be no re-sale of any building or piece of land unless approval by the Town Planning Board is first obtained. I support the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Section 20 amended:

Mr. WILD: It is my intention to move for the insertion of certain words in this clause so as to indicate that parties to a lease could not grant or take an option on the land; that the owner of the land could not grant an option of purchase to any other person during the term of the lease; and that the lessor could not receive nor the lessee pay any consideration in respect to the land other than the rental set out in the lease.

In fact, what it amounts to is that they will not be allowed to charge any security payment, which is half the total purchase price of the land. It will not be necessary for people wishing to lease land to send an application to the Town Planning Board. I therefore move—

That after the word "structure" in line 25, page 2, the following words be inserted:—

unless the instrument of lease is made subject to a proviso that no option of purchase of the land

comprised in the lease has been granted or taken and that no such option will be granted by the lessor to the lessee or any other person during the term of the said lease and that no consideration in respect of the land has passed between the parties to the lease other than the rental reserved in the lease.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: So far as I can see, all that this amendment seeks to achieve is the exemption of a certain number of leases from the necessity of having to apply to the Town Planning Board for approval. As it is, a great number of leases will not have to be so submitted, therefore I do not see any great merit in the amendment. I would be disposed to accept it under ordinary circumstances because it does not do any harm to the intention of the Bill.

I would point out that if an amendment is now made we will not be able to get a clear print of the Bill for the purpose of the third reading, and that may result in no Bill at all. I am fearful of the fact that another place may not be disposed to wait a great length of time to deal with this Bill which admittedly has been introduced very late. If the Bill cannot pass through the third reading expeditiously, it may become a slaughtered innocent. I will give this assurance: I shall place the amendment before the Chief Secretary and express my view on it. I have no objection to it other than the fact that it will delay the passage of the Bill.

Mr. WILD: In view of the Minister's remarks that the amendment will be introduced in another place, I ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3 and 4, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILL—LAND TAX ASSESSMENT ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Amendments.

Schedule of three amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Treasurer in charge of the Bill.

No. 1.

Clause 4, page 2, line 13—Add after the word "amended" the following paragraph:—

(a) by inserting before subsection (2) the following subsection:—

(1) Every owner of improved land (being improved land on which the value of improvements thereon or thereto amounts to not less than the unimproved value of the land) shall, in respect of such land, be entitled to a rebate of one-quarter of the tax levied on the unimproved value thereof as assessed under the provisions of this Act.

The TREASURER: This amendment will result in a very serious reduction in the total revenue which the State will receive in due course. The effect is that every owner of land who carries out improvements to the land, up to the value of the unimproved value of the land, will be entitled to receive a rebate of 25 per cent. of the tax to be levied on the unimproved valuation. It will be seen very clearly that this would mean the loss of upwards of 25 per cent. of the taxation to be collected under the existing law. I am advised by the officers of the Treasury Department that the inclusion of this amendment in the law will deprive the State of £300,000 per annum.

The State at this stage is not in a position to lose that amount of revenue, and I should say not in a position to lose that amount for a considerable time to come. The cost of the services which the Government provides to the people of this State is far above the total revenue which the State receives, so much so that during the current financial year the budget deficit is anticipated to be nearly £2,750,000.

A later amendment passed by the Council will bring about this rebate of the tax during this current financial year. If it becomes law, the effect will be to increase the estimated total deficit in the Consolidated Revenue account from about £2,750,000 to approximately £3,000,000. Clearly the finances of the State are not in a condition to receive a blow of that nature.

The Government is doing its utmost to maintain existing services which are financed from Consolidated Revenue. It is endeavouring to provide the best services possible in the fields of education, health and many others. The extent to which the estimated deficit will be increased will either mean the imposition of very heavy charges in other directions where the Government is able to impose them, or it will mean eating further into the loan funds available to the Government to finance revenue deficits. To that extent the loan moneys will be used up to an even greater extent than they are at present, to finance

the revenue deficit; and to that extent the Government will be in a worse position in regard to the provision of school and hospital buildings, and other loan undertakings of that description.

In my opinion, the amendment is lacking in any sense of financial responsibility. I know, and I admit quite freely, that the Government is directly responsible for the finances of the State and for the control of them, but there is also surely some degree of financial responsibility resting upon Parliament. I suggest that no section of Parliament, and no individual of Parliament, can become financially risky, to put it in a very mild manner, anywhere near to the extent proposed by the amendment. I therefore move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Hon. D. BRAND: I can readily understand the Treasurer disagreeing with this amendment. He has taken the line which one might expect him to take in defence of any action by his Government to increase taxation, and to oppose any move which might be made in the process of passing the Bill having the effect of reducing the total revenue. However, the Treasurer must not overlook the fact that in his initial decision to reimpose the land tax in this State, he increased the total revenue from this source; it could have been an increase of 100 per cent. It was, in fact, ever so great.

Another place moved the amendment representing a 25 per cent. reduction by way of rebate. I believe that, in view of the possibility of the tax on rural lands being taken off in due course, the high level of land tax imposed on the balance of landowners is unfair.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

Hon. D. BRAND: The total income derived from land tax for the year ended the 30th June, 1956, was £529,000, and it is anticipated that £1,330,000 will be derived from the tax in this financial year. In view of the increasing valuations, I have no doubt that even this estimate is a conservative one, and we can anticipate that next year it will be substantially above that figure. Because of the substantial sum derived by the Government over the last two years, and because of the anomaly which could exist if the land tax in respect to farming lands is repealed, I think the rebate of 25 per cent. could be agreed to by the Treasurer.

The Treasurer said that the Government needs more money, and he has instanced the fact that we are in the red to the tune of £2,700,000. I do not know whose fault that is, but if he were on this side of the Chamber he would say that it was a Government responsibility and any suggestion by the Government of increasing taxation to overcome the difficulty

would not receive his approval—and justifiably so, because there must be some point beyond which we cannot tax private individuals. There must be a limit to the burden which they can carry, and the money they can contribute to the Government, irrespective of the service given.

Mr. COURT: The amendment of the Legislative Council seeks to restore part of the justice that was meted out with respect to improved land before the heavy increase in 1956. I have heard many and varied criticisms of people who own unimproved land, and various suggestions are made as to the punishments they should suffer by way of taxation through owning unimproved land. Prior to the 1956 increase there was a flat rate of tax of 2½d. in the £ and if one's land qualified as improved land, within the meaning of the Act, there was a rebate of 50 per cent. When the 1956 legislation was enacted, the whole set-up was changed and the inducement to improve one's land was practically removed.

We started off with a base rate of 2½d. for unimproved land; but in point of fact the base rate was changed to 1½d. for improved land with a surcharge of 1d. if the land was unimproved. And that applied all the way up the scale whether one was paying 3d. in the £ or 7d. in the £. There was a flat penalty of a surcharge of 1d. for unimproved land. Had the old system been applied, all the rates would have been subjected to a 50 per cent. rebate if the land qualified as improved land within the meaning of the Act, and the Legislative Council's amendment will go part of the way to restore the old state of affairs by granting a rebate of 25 per cent. if the land qualifies as improved. Also in its amendment the Council states that the land can only be classified as improved if the value of the improvements is not less than the unimproved value of the land.

There is a further point. This session a Bill was introduced which sought to use the machinery of the Land Tax Act to extract from property-owners in the metropolitan regional area a further tax, which was to be applied to the metropolitan regional plan. Although the Minister indicated that it would be ½d. in the £ initially, one has only to do a short arithmetical calculation, based on the figures the Minister was mentioning, to arrive at the conclusion that the tax could be as high as 2½d. in the £.

Therefore we cannot consider this taxing measure on its own, but we have to consider the other taxes that are being sought on the self-same property. Because of the ever-increasing valuations being made on land, the Government's revenue must automatically increase, and the amount lost by way of this rebate would soon be overtaken by the administrative process of revaluation.

The TREASURER: We cannot look at this proposal separately. It must be related specifically to the financial position of the State. If this were the only issue confronting us and the finances of the State were reasonably satisfactory, then we might agree with what has been said by the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy—we might even be able to go further. It would be foolish to shut out of our consideration the general financial position of the revenues. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows that the estimated deficit is nearly £2,750,000 so far as the Consolidated Revenue Fund is concerned, so the Government cannot afford to lose an amount of money which would be involved in the acceptance of this amendment. No member looking at the total situation could possibly agree to the amendment.

Mr. Court: Any amount you might lose from this amendment would be more than made up with the saving you propose in connection with coal, and which is not included in the Budget.

The TREASURER: Is the ultimate of achievement in regard to the improvement of the finances of the State in the mind of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, a total deficit for one year of £2,600,000?

Mr. Court: No.

The TREASURER: Of course not. The hon. member has a sufficient sense of financial responsibility—even if he does not possess it in the same degree in regard to political responsibility—to know that it is not only desirable but necessary to reduce the Consolidated Revenue deficit very substantially. Any move, and particularly this one, to worsen the State's finances should be strongly resisted.

Question put and a division taken with the following result:—

| | |
|------|----|
| Ayes | 25 |
| Noes | 19 |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Majority for | 6 |
|--------------|---|

Ayes.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Mr. Andrew | Mr. Lawrence |
| Mr. Brady | Mr. Marshall |
| Mr. Evans | Mr. Moir |
| Mr. Gaffy | Mr. Nuisen |
| Mr. Graham | Mr. O'Brien |
| Mr. Hall | Mr. Potter |
| Mr. Hawke | Mr. Rhatigan |
| Mr. W. Hegney | Mr. Rodoreda |
| Mr. Hoar | Mr. Sleeman |
| Mr. Jamieson | Mr. Toms |
| Mr. Johnson | Mr. Tonkin |
| Mr. Kelly | Mr. Norton |
| Mr. Lapham | |

Noes.

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mr. Ackland | Mr. W. Manning |
| Mr. Bovell | Mr. Najder |
| Mr. Brand | Mr. Oldfield |
| Mr. Cornell | Mr. Owen |
| Mr. Court | Mr. Roberts |
| Mr. Crommelin | Mr. Thorn |
| Mr. Grayden | Mr. Watts |
| Mr. Hearman | Mr. Wild |
| Mr. Hutchinson | Mr. I. Manning |
| Mr. Mann | |

(Teller.)

(Teller.)

Pairs.

Ayes.
Mr. May
Mr. Heal

Noes.
Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Perkins

Question thus passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 2.

Clause 4, page 2, line 29—Add after the word "tax" a new subclause as follows:—

(2) The amendments made by subsection (1) of this section apply to assessments in respect to the year of assessment ending on the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight and in respect of all subsequent years.

The TREASURER: The proposal in this is to apply the amendment we have just decided to the current taxation year and all those after it. In the circumstances, I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 3.

Clause 5, page 3, line 22—Delete the word "four" and substitute the word "three."

The TREASURER: This amendment proposes to reduce by one year the period during which the land tax on improved agricultural land will operate. I do not know if we want this issue to come before Parliament more or less every year.

Hon. D. Brand: It depends which side of the Chamber you are.

The TREASURER: The Leader of the Opposition has expressed a great truth. I do not mind introducing this legislation each year and giving members both here and in another place an opportunity to do battle on it. But is it desirable? We have a general State election not so far ahead, and if the present Government were to be re-elected, it would find it necessary to continue this taxation. If there were a change of Government, the new one would most certainly require money.

Hon. D. Brand: You're telling us!

The TREASURER: It would then be in the position of finding that this legislation was due to expire in a few weeks, or months, and it would have to reintroduce that legislation itself or make some increased charges in some direction.

Mr. Court: We would take that risk.

The TREASURER: I have no objection to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition taking the risk; he takes other risks, so there is no reason why he should not take this one. If the majority of members in another place are prepared not to insist on Council amendments Nos. 1 and 2, I would be prepared to agree to No. 3. I move—

That the Council's amendment be not agreed to.

Hon. D. BRAND: It will be recalled that the Opposition moved to limit the life of the Bill which is also the purpose of the amendment. The latter, however, carries the Bill on for one year and not two. It is customary for Parliament to review taxation measures from time to time and there is no reason why this legislation should be any exception. As for any suggestion of the present Government facing up to its reintroduction or of a new Government doing the same, I think it is a matter that should be decided by the Government of the day. If by chance we were to make that decision, we would give consideration to what we have said from time to time respecting the reimposition of the taxes and the rebates on taxes already imposed, and decide accordingly. Even though it is a reduction of the time I suggested, I support the amendment.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I support the Council's amendment. I have said before that I object to the principle of the taxing of improved agricultural land, except for vermin destruction which, relatively, has a beneficial result. The more frequently the Legislature can review the imposition of such a tax, the better it might be, though, in my opinion, it would be better if it were not imposed at all. But the circumstances being what they are, I think it will be preferable to impose the tax for one year and review the position later on. I disagree with the Treasurer's motion.

Question put and a division taken with the following result:—

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Ayes | 25 |
| Noes | 19 |
| Majority for | 6 |

Ayes.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Mr. Andrew | Mr. Lawrence |
| Mr. Brady | Mr. Marshall |
| Mr. Evans | Mr. Moir |
| Mr. Gaffy | Mr. Nulsen |
| Mr. Graham | Mr. O'Brien |
| Mr. Hall | Mr. Potter |
| Mr. Hawke | Mr. Rhatigan |
| Mr. W. Hegney | Mr. Rodoreda |
| Mr. Hoar | Mr. Sleenman |
| Mr. Jamieson | Mr. Toms |
| Mr. Johnson | Mr. Tonkin |
| Mr. Kelly | Mr. Norton |
| Mr. Lapham | |

(Teller.)

Noes.

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mr. Ackland | Mr. Nalder |
| Mr. Boveil | Mr. Oldfield |
| Mr. Brand | Mr. Owen |
| Mr. Cornell | Mr. Perkins |
| Mr. Court | Mr. Roberts |
| Mr. Grayden | Mr. Thorn |
| Mr. Hearman | Mr. Watts |
| Mr. Hutchinson | Mr. Wild |
| Mr. Mann | Mr. Crommellin |
| Mr. W. Manning | |

(Teller.)

Pairs.

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| Ayes. | Noes. |
| Mr. May | Sir Ross McLarty |
| Mr. Heal | Mr. I. Manning |

Question thus passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of Hon. D. Brand, Mr. Johnson and the Treasurer drew up reasons for not agreeing to the Council's amendments.

Reasons adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1957-58.

In Committee of Supply.

Debate resumed from the 27th November, Mr. Sewell in the Chair.

Vote—Medical, £3,392,000 (partly considered).

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe) [4.40]: I entertain grave doubts as to the real value of speaking on the Estimates, particularly at this stage of the session, but, undismayed by the seeming futility of it, I propose to have a few words to say. Recently there came into my possession a document that I consider to be very important. It is a paper prepared on hospital and health matters in regard to this State and it covers certain aspects of the medical training school; and its authors are Professor Eric G. Saint, University Department of Medicine, Professor C. W. D. Lewis, University Department of Surgery, and Professor Gordon King, University Department of Gynaecology.

The subjects mentioned in this paper are of great value to my way of thinking. I do not necessarily agree with all the propositions made and points of view presented; but very many problems are posed in the paper and I hope that the Minister will have something to say about them when he makes his reply. The name of the paper is "Clinical Teaching in Western Australia." I should imagine that the Minister has some knowledge of this paper but, if he has not, I think it would be wise for him to study it very closely and answer some of the problems posed in it.

At the outset, the paper sets out that the medical student in his three years' of clinical training must have an opportunity of observing the full range of diseases in teaching hospitals—and it specifically mentions the full range of diseases—in order that during his subsequent professional life he may be best able to deal with the wide variety of problems he will encounter. So the effectiveness and value of a teaching hospital is definitely related to its ability to provide this wide variety of experience in the full range of diseases.

The general hospital exists for the purpose of providing for the care and investigation of the sick in all sorts of diseases ranging from acute medical and surgical emergencies to obscure diseases which require skilled laboratory work. Of course, there will be patients who have chronic disabilities, the aged sick, and those who are, more or less, long-term sufferers.

The paper goes on to say that in order to provide a sufficient variety of cases for the well-being of a medical school and to ensure that the medical students have the wide variety that is so essential for them to qualify to become medical practitioners, the size of the hospital should be at least in the vicinity of 600 general and surgical beds occupied by patients drawn from a population of not less than 600,000 people. The paper proceeds to point out that by these standards, it would appear that the size of the Royal Perth Hospital is only just sufficient to cater adequately in this regard for the well-being of the Medical School and provide the clinical teaching so necessary for the students.

It appears, however, that the Royal Perth Hospital still suffers in this regard by virtue of the fact that a great number of beds are taken up by people suffering from diseases of the aged, which cuts down that number of 600 and lessens the variety of cases that should be there in order that our medical students can study the full range of diseases.

In the paper, mention is made of the fact that there are other ways in which the Royal Perth Hospital falls down as a medical training school, and I will touch on those other reasons later. It is also true to state that the hospital has reached its maximum size; and that with the increase in techniques concerning the ancillary professions and the teaching services, the number of beds could quite easily be cut down, this again lessening the value of the hospital from the point of view of numbers of patients to provide clinical material.

The paper states that although the need for the provision of more general hospital beds in the metropolitan area has already been recorded, no steps have been taken to plan the building of a new general hospital of teaching status. In fact, there is a lack of clarity about whose responsibility it would be—that of the State department of Public Health or the University—to advise the Government on the planning of such a costly building programme.

The Minister for Health: I should say that that would depend on finance.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It depends greatly on finance. Mention is made in the paper of the chest hospital which is being built to accommodate cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and it is said to be questionable whether the complement of 200 beds will ever be fully extended and, before the last brick is laid, to what other purpose the hospital may be put in future years. The Minister may be able to enlighten us with regard to that problem.

In order to relieve the Royal Perth Hospital from catering for chronic cases in regard to the aged sick, the gentlemen who have written this paper state that a

real and pressing need in this State is for inexpensive hospital accommodation for the elderly infirm who cannot be re-habilitated. Something has been done, but much remains still to be done.

Then comes a rather important part of the paper, which relates to the medical benefits scheme. I think members generally appreciate what a valuable scheme this has proved to be; how it means that the community can insure against sickness; and how it helps to relieve the family man's financial responsibilities in the event of sickness, and enables him to absolve himself from becoming completely subservient and financially dependent on the State and assists the State to recoup some of the moneys expended on hospital services.

The point of view expressed by these learned medical men is one which poses quite a problem. They say—

Clearly one of the consequences of the medical benefits scheme has been to direct many patients from the teaching hospitals into channels of private practice. This trend has been dramatically illustrated by waiting lists and outpatient attendance statistics. In the surgical practice of the Royal Perth Hospital numbers of patients presenting at outpatient clinics and for admission have declined precipitously; the surgical teacher will find it impossible to provide the variety of simple, common and important surgical emergencies and disorders necessary to demonstrate to students. There can be no gainsaying that medical insurance of one form or another ought to be extended to the entire population, nor can there be any difference of opinion about the right of a patient to choose his own doctor whenever possible. But, if the form which insurance takes is to lead to a decline in the quality of medical teaching and research or deviation of patients from those hospitals with the best available diagnostic and therapeutic facilities, the scheme may well destroy the basis of good medical practice in the community.

So it would appear that these gentlemen point out that the medical benefit schemes which are so admirable in many respects tend to denude teaching hospitals of that wide variety of cases, that full range of diseases of which I spoke, and which are so essential in the teaching of medical students. Therein lies a very great problem about which we should be more fully informed.

I do not know—and I doubt whether at this stage the Minister would know—the solution to that problem. But it is a vital one and must be answered. I think it is fair to say that with regard to sickness

and medical students being able to attend various hospitals, the medical practice in Australia differs very much from that which applies in England; and I am not referring only to conditions that have obtained since the medical profession has been nationalised in England. There is apparently a different approach, with medical students having access to private patients.

The paper goes on further to state in more detail that the only answer is a radical change of admission policy at the Royal Perth Hospital and other designated teaching hospitals. The conclusion which these three doctors have reached is one which I think should be included in Hansard. It is as follows:—

It is assumed as axiomatic that the medical profession in Western Australia wishes to see the development of a strong medical school, which will attain to the highest standards of diagnosis and treatment of patients, and which has at its disposal the material for first class teaching and the furtherance of research. It cannot be said at present that this objective is being reached, nor is it likely that it will be if present conditions are to remain unaltered. It would seem that a change of attitude is required in two respects—

Firstly, the many sectional factions interested in hospital building and development should be prepared to submit to the discipline of a small planning committee—preferably one which has statutory powers comparable with those of regional hospital boards in Great Britain and which takes cognisance of the total needs of the State with respect to general, mental and rehabilitative beds and the need of the faculty facing the difficulties inherent in the establishment of a new medical school. If interests are allowed to clash, the spectre of misplaced money and wasted endeavour will frustrate and haunt us.

Secondly, it is necessary that we reconsider the community roll of hospitals which circumstances have promoted from municipal hospitals to potentially first rate teaching hospitals. If they are to be starved of first class clinical material, then it will be absolutely impossible to teach well or to undertake worth-while research—in fact it will be impossible to justify the existence of a medical faculty at all. To enable the teaching hospitals to rise to the first order, it is abundantly clear, firstly, that the Government must increase the annual grant to permit the inevitable development of

laboratory and ancillary services; and secondly, that beds and out-patients' departments in the teaching hospitals must be available to a wider range of patients than it was ever possible in the old public hospital days, and thirdly, that modification of the honorary staff system should be considered.

The contents of this paper, which I have endeavoured to summarise, pose a number of problems which are of very grave importance to this State. They are important not only to the people of this State as potential patients in hospitals, but are important as far as the actual well-being of the Medical School is concerned. We all want its success to be very real. I hope the Minister, if he is not able to give a complete and comprehensive answer at this stage, will at some subsequent stage be prepared to make a public statement giving answers to the problems posed by the doctors.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [4.58]: There is one subject I would like to address myself to in respect of health services, and that is the very urgent need in the country for something to be done for the senile, indigent and chronically sick old-age pensioners. These people, in country districts where they have to be hospitalised on account of their condition, find great difficulty—when they reach a certain stage of health at which hospitals can do no more for them—in obtaining accommodation in which to reside. In many cases they have no friends or relatives able to look after them. This means that they are necessarily kept in the hospitals for longer than is absolutely necessary and are using beds which would otherwise be available to members of the public and should be available when required.

In many instances these people who go into hospital, instead of being able to get into the cheaper wards, are forced to go to the more expensive ones, which are probably beyond their means, and involve them in an extra burden, when they leave hospital, of finding the money to pay for the services they have received. I think the country district hospitals should have attached to them annexes for chronically ill or aged people. This could be done through the funds supplied for homes for the aged and such other homes as are built by the homes section of the Health Department under the relevant Act. If such annexes were added to Government hospitals, they would not be a direct charge on the hospital section of the Health Department. They could be administered and run by the existing hospital staffs and would not require a kitchen or nursing staff or even a domestic staff. They could therefore be run in conjunction with the hospitals at a considerable saving to the State.

If people in this category could be transferred to such annexes the department would save at least £2 per week in each instance because care in a hospital is considerably dearer than keeping a person in a home. If it were possible to attach a two-bed annexe for males and a two-bed annexe for females to each such hospital, we would be showing some measure of gratitude to those who served their districts all their active lives and would allow them to live the remainder of their time in the district and climate to which they were accustomed, and among their friends and relatives, thus giving them a little more of the pleasures of life during the period remaining to them.

MR. ROBERTS (Bunbury) [5.2]: I wish to deal with the hospitals in my electorate. As the Minister well knows, in recent years considerable work has been done in the alteration, extension and modernisation of the district hospital at Bunbury, and no doubt last Saturday the Minister noticed that the approaches to it had been improved considerably.

During the course of this session I asked some questions regarding an area of land in Bunbury, 17 acres in extent, that has been set aside for the building of a regional hospital. It has recently been considered by some that that area of land is not in a good location and is not large enough for a regional hospital. My personal opinion is that the location is quite good as it joins a recreational area in Bunbury known as Forest Park and is off the main road. Apparently, there is now some doubt as to whether the area is sufficiently large.

The Minister for Health: I think it is any amount.

Mr. ROBERTS: I think 17 acres is sufficient for a regional hospital in a district such as Bunbury, to cater for the foreseeable future. On the 17th instant I asked the Minister a question regarding this area and his reply was that the matter was being investigated by the Town Planning Commission. The people of Bunbury and the surrounding districts would be grateful to the authorities concerned if the matter could be finalised one way or the other as soon as possible, because for many years now they have looked forward enthusiastically to the ultimate erection of a regional hospital in Bunbury.

Members will agree that Bunbury serves a large and closely settled area and the erection of a regional hospital there would mean that people from the surrounding districts could enter the regional hospital to obtain specialist treatment, instead of having to come to the metropolitan area. Albany has been selected as the first centre for the building of a regional hospital and I say, "Good luck to Albany," but I hope the Government will not overlook the claims of centres such as Geraldton and Bunbury for regional hospitals to be built

at the earliest possible date. I hope the Minister will give some definite indication, as soon as he can, as to what the future holds for the 17 acres of land set aside for a regional hospital in the Carey Park area of Bunbury.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [5.7]: I would remind the Minister that some seven years ago, accompanied by the then member for Victoria Park, we finally selected the site for a hospital on the south side of the Swan River. Since then both I and the member for Victoria Park have frequently reminded the Minister of the necessity for that hospital. With the appeal for funds for the establishment of an ambulance centre in that area progressing favourably, the need to establish a hospital there is becoming more urgent.

The site, which at that time appeared as though it would not be available for a number of years, is part of an area of pine forest that was burnt out last summer and it could no doubt be made available now for the erection of a hospital. I know the Treasury has not unlimited funds, but at the time when the site was selected, I understood that the idea was to have a number of subsidiary hospitals around the metropolitan area as ancillaries to the R.P.H.

As little progress has been made in that direction in the interim, I would like to know whether the Minister's department is keeping this question under consideration. There is need for a hospital of some size on the eastern extremity of the metropolitan area in order to obviate the crowding of people from those areas into the city for hospitalisation.

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (Hon. E. Nulsen—Eyre—in reply) [5.10]: I thank those members who have spoken, for their contributions to the debate, because constructive criticism is always helpful. Naturally each member desires to obtain whatever is required by the people of the area he represents, and the member for Claremont has been very active, particularly in regard to the hospital in his electorate. I feel that any figures required can be obtained from the report, but I agree that we should have a number of smaller hospitals in the metropolitan area.

The new chest hospital is being constructed, but that is a Commonwealth institution and we have not yet come to any firm agreement as to whether any spare beds there can be made available for general hospitalisation. Although all the patients at Wooroloo will be brought to the chest hospital when it is completed, there will probably always be some vacant beds there. Because the incidence of t.b. is dropping all the time, eventually, as in the case of diphtheria, there will be only sporadic cases and then the State will probably get full use of the chest hospital

for ordinary hospitalisation, as it will no longer be required for its present purpose. Any use of spare beds there is dependent upon negotiations that are now current.

We have done a good deal of work on the Claremont mental hospital in recent times. The work on the bathrooms will soon be completed and it is hoped to start on the new kitchen soon. In this financial year I believe about £10,000 will be spent on that hospital although, all in all, it will be a tremendous job, which may ultimately cost anything up to £50,000 or £100,000. Work on the laundry will be carried out as finance is available. At Heathcote, also, a lot of work has been done on the new kitchen and scullery and in other directions.

At Whitby Falls, also, considerable improvement has been made. As a matter of fact, a complete new building is planned and I hope to open it very shortly. It must be remembered that the Public Health Department has to administer 100 hospitals which are scattered over an area of nearly 1,000,000 square miles. Therefore, the spread of social services in Western Australia is much greater than in other States. Also, I do not think a fair comparison can be made between the costs of our social services and those which prevail in England, especially when we take our large area into consideration. In England they have much closer settlement than we have here, and therefore their cost of administration on a per capita basis must necessarily be lower than ours.

Nevertheless, the costs in Western Australia, in spite of our large area, are comparable with any other State in Australia and England. It is proposed to bring a linear accelerator to this State for the treatment of cancer and this machine will cost about £100,000. It has already been ordered and it is hoped that it will be placed in operation in about 2½ years. The member for Claremont said that the present appeal for funds for this linear accelerator would probably exceed the actual cost by approximately £25,000. I hope he is correct because that extra money can be well spent in providing a building to house the linear accelerator.

Such a building will cost approximately £30,000. We are not yet quite certain which place would be the most suitable position to house the linear accelerator; the University or the Royal Perth Hospital. Personally, I prefer the Royal Perth Hospital in view of the fact that all the auxiliaries are there and there is no doubt that it would be an advantage in having the linear accelerator in the Royal Perth Hospital itself. No doubt the member for Claremont considers that the chest hospital at Hollywood, which could operate in conjunction with the University, would be the best place to install the linear accelerator, and there is some merit in his suggestion.

The cost of the salaries to be paid to the officers who will operate the linear accelerator will be approximately £9,000 and running costs will amount to about £1,000 a year. The total cost of operating this machine, therefore, will be about £10,000. The cost of treatment, of course, will have to be met by the patients, but no person will be denied the use of the linear accelerator should he not be in a position to afford the necessary fees prescribed for the treatment.

The member for Leederville has requested that an investigation be made into health matters generally in this State and the cost of their operation. The hon. member put forward some figures, but I do not know whether they would be comparable with costs in other parts of Australia. Australia is nearly as large as the Continent and the costs of operation here would be much higher than they would be in England where there is a closely settled population. I think the member for Leederville intimated that in England the per capita cost is £11 14s. and that in this State it is £14 10s. That is a fair comparison.

I would like to advise the hon. member, too, that our general practitioners compare more than favourably with those in England. I admit that the proficiency of medical specialists in England is very high and although perhaps the specialists who practise in this State may not be as proficient as their English counterparts, I think any comparison between the two would be very close.

Next, I would inform the member for South Perth that the Government is very sympathetic towards the welfare of natives in this State and a good deal of money has been spent towards that end. The Department of Native Welfare has officers travelling all over the country at various periods and it is known that some have been sent to places as far afield as the Warburton Ranges. Professor Ida Mann of the Public Health Department has visited the Warburton mission to treat the natives there for trachoma and other eye diseases. The hon. member raised the question that there were too many cases of children rolling into fires. However, such accidents have been occurring for hundreds of years but, nevertheless, the department has rendered assistance in regard to such cases wherever possible.

The Department of Native Welfare also sends its officers out to the North-West, to the various Goldfields areas, and to the South-West of the State to render assistance to the natives. I take this opportunity of paying tribute to the work done by the Minister for Native Welfare because he is most sincere in the performance of his duties. He has done a great deal of travelling around the State in order to improve his knowledge of natives and their activities. There is no doubt

that he is worthy of the portfolio that he holds. Therefore, instead of at times criticising him for this, that and the other, I think members should commend him for the excellent work he is doing.

The natives generally are being treated better now in every part of Western Australia than they had formerly been for some time. It has been suggested that, twice a year, the department should send patrol officers to every centre throughout the State where natives are located. The principle behind that suggestion is quite good, but its implementation is almost impossible. It would be difficult for patrol officers to enter all native reserves and, in fact, I do not think that the natives themselves would welcome such a suggestion. Nevertheless patrol officers are sent to inspect these outlying places occasionally and their reports are accordingly submitted to the department.

The Derby leprosarium has performed excellent work and the incidence of the disease is gradually decreasing. It is now only one-quarter as bad as it was a few years ago and I am hoping that in the not too distant future the incidence of leprosy will fall as low as the incidence of diphtheria and that we will have only isolated cases reported. I feel certain that we are fast approaching that stage.

In connection with health work generally, I would like to inform members that Dr. Gibson periodically travels along the Trans-continental line and handles hundreds of children along that railway. The benefit of her services is also enjoyed by many adults who reside in the remote centres beyond Kalgoorlie. It is interesting to note that she has given all children situated along the Trans. line the course of three injections of Salk vaccine for the prevention of poliomyelitis.

The member for Kalgoorlie spoke about the Kalgoorlie hospital. I realise that is an important institution serving a large area. I realise, too, that it accommodates many patients who are flown in by the Flying Doctor. The department is rendering all possible assistance to that hospital but it must be realised that sometimes a shortage of beds is unavoidable. Should a patient be forced to occupy an intermediate bed instead of one at a lower rate per day, a compromise is reached and so long as the patient is fair, it will be found that the department will act accordingly. The comments made by the member for Kalgoorlie in regard to medical practitioners will have to be left for the consideration of the Medical Department. I agree with what he has said in many aspects and there is no doubt that the hon. member made a very good speech on this occasion.

The question of the Licensing Court granting permission for hotels on the Goldfields to be open on Good Friday is a matter that would have to be decided by

Cabinet and consequently the position must remain as it is for the time being.

The member for Cottesloe dealt with some papers that have not come into my possession. However, I shall make it my business to obtain them and study their contents. I can advise the hon. member that I will take those papers with me on my holidays and should it be necessary for me to make any comment on them at a later stage, I will do so publicly.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You have the name of them, have you?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: No, I have not, but I will get it from the hon. member later. I think it is agreed that medical students must have a training hospital in order that they may improve their knowledge of all diseases. As far as we are concerned, the Royal Perth Hospital in this State will make an ideal centre for that purpose. I agree with the member for Cottesloe that there is an excessive number of aged people who are occupying beds in the Royal Perth Hospital and provision must be made for them in the future. I think we should do all we can for our senior citizens.

Unfortunately, nothing has been done about the chest hospital at Hollywood. That hospital, of course, was built with Commonwealth finance but I am hoping, with the decrease in the incidence of t.b. that not many years will pass before that hospital passes to the State. It is proposed that all t.b. cases now accommodated at Wooroloo will be brought to the chest hospital and that the Wooroloo hospital will then house only aged people who are chronically ill. I feel that such a move will prove to be of great benefit not only to the patients themselves but to the department.

In replying to the member for Gascoyne, I wish to say that I agree with his comments in their entirety. There is no doubt that too many beds in the country hospitals are occupied by our senior citizens. It would be much more economical if an annexe could be built on to each of those hospitals to accommodate these aged people. If extra beds were provided for, say, two men and two women, benefit could be obtained from the subsidies that are granted by the Commonwealth Government.

In my opinion, the member for Bunbury has done very well so far as public health and hospitalisation in his electorate are concerned. We have effected great improvements to the Bunbury hospital, and 17 acres of land have been set aside for the building of a regional hospital which will be erected as soon as funds become available. I am hoping that oil will soon be discovered in this State, which discovery no doubt would enable the Government to proceed immediately with the building of regional hospitals at Bunbury and Geraldton.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It is more or less a case of waiting until the ship comes home.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: The member for Beeloo has suggested a site that should be set aside for a hospital in part of his electorate. No doubt that hon. member was very pleased that the fire which occurred in the Collier pine plantation has resulted in such a site becoming available. It is hoped that reasonably large hospitals will be built on the south and east sides of the river. Such hospitals would play a big part in relieving the pressure on the Royal Perth Hospital.

I think I have dealt adequately with all matters raised in connection with the Health Estimates. At this point I want to pay tribute to the Health Educational Council. That body has done a fine job. I commend the work that has been performed by the chairman, Mr. W. J. Lucas and the secretary-organiser, Mr. J. Carr. They have been very keen and enthusiastic and the members of the council have dealt with many problems. The motto of the Premier is "prevention is better than cure" and that council has followed that out to the letter.

Generally speaking the Medical Department in this State has done a very fine job. The officers work very hard indeed, and they are always willing to discuss any matter pertaining to hospitalisation in any district of the State. They give every consideration to the proposals put forward. The Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. Henzell and the Under Secretary, Mr. Devereux, are always co-operative and helpful, and that applies to most of the officers of the department. Some of them, especially the departmental heads, are overworked. I refer to men like Dr. Davidson, Dr. Snow, and a few more. I know that on some occasions they have had to return to work in the evening.

Their contribution to the health of this State is greater than is realised by most people. I am aware of that because I know what they are doing. I know they are very enthusiastic in their work. I thank members for their contributions to this debate and in my view the very constructive criticisms that have been put forward will prove to be of great benefit to the State generally.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Homes, £359,283; Public Health, £444,201; Tuberculosis, £627,130; Mental Health Services, £894,610; Crown Law, Offices, £525,425; Licensing, £8,672; Arbitration Court, £26,321—agreed to.

Vote—Mines, £411,469.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. L. F. Kelly—Merredin-Yilgarn) [5.35]: Normally in discussing the Estimates, particularly of the Mines Department, it is necessary to give quite an amount of

statistical information to the House. However, as there are a number of other departments to be considered, I have endeavoured to reduce very considerably what I want to say.

The year under review has been a very active one. Strange as it may seem, even gold recovery has shown an advance over last year's figures, but that advance is way below anything that can be considered as large. It is very pleasing that in times when conditions in the industry are regarded as very critical, there has been a slight increase. Although the final figures for the year will not be available until some time in the new year, judged by the recovery up to date and the average that will be maintained in December, it would appear that the output will be increased by 30,000 fine oz., representing roughly £1,500,000.

It is no news to members that the industry is going through difficult times. A number of marginal mines are finding it hard to continue operations on payable proportions. In some cases they are having difficulty in continuing operations, bearing in mind that as marginal mines they are drawing some Federal assistance. Of the mines suffering in that way, two come to mind readily—the Sons of Gwalia and the Great Western Consolidated.

In the case of the former the Government has had to render assistance on several occasions for quite large amounts. Only now does it look as if this mine will have a reasonable chance of survival. It has been reorganised, and in some sections mechanised. Amenities have been provided for the employees. All in all, providing the management remains right on the ball, it is possible for the Sons of Gwalia to again enter the shades which it passed through at the turn of the century.

The Great Western Consolidated Mine is not quite so fortunately situated because its operating expenses are rather high, and, as is to be expected, the cost of production is also very high. It is a very fine accomplishment that after several years of continuous battling, this mine has been able to maintain a crushing rate of 40,000 tons a month. If Providence will only improve its recovery by $\frac{1}{4}$ dwt., it will not only be in a position to hold its own but also to expand.

During the year the affairs of the Blue Spec mine came to a head. This company which has been assisted by the Government found it impossible to carry on. It had to cease operations. For some time it endeavoured to reconstruct, but that was not possible. Eventually the Government was in a position to buy out the mine at a figure of £23,000. That represented the outstanding liability of the mine. Within a few days of the Government taking over that mine, it was able to enter into an agreement with another company

to open the mine. It should be operating with 12 or 15 employees early in the new year.

Considerable interest has been shown in the department's activities in respect of deep drilling. At the present time five drills are being worked. These are mostly used for drilling in connection with gold, although two have been used for other minerals. In the past 12 months drilling has achieved one or two outstanding successes. The Bamboo Creek drilling turned out very well, and as a result a revival is taking place in the Pilbara district. Judged on the results of the drill holes, the future looks very bright.

In regard to Agnew No. 2 in the Murchison, payable ore has been drilled and the future looks somewhat like having possibilities. At Day Dawn the first hole was very successful. From that hole directional drilling was carried out which resulted in further confirmation of what had been found in the No. 1 drill. Since then a second hole has been commenced. Drilling has not been fast by any means. Difficulty was experienced as a result of vuggy ground. After several starts the hole at present is in the correct azimuth. It has gone down to 900 ft. and is proceeding very well.

Members representing the agricultural areas have shown very considerable interest in the setting up of the hydrological section within the Mines Department. I have received many queries as to the position which that section has reached. I am able to say that two machines which were ordered from England are due to arrive today or tomorrow. We have the necessary plant and equipment already on order, and a determination has been made as to where the first of the drill holes will be sunk. I should say that towards the end of February we will be in a position to commence drilling for agricultural purposes. Of course, that will not be the sole use to which the drills will be put. They will be utilised to some extent in departmental activities for the testing of clays, bridge and other sites. They will also be used in conjunction with the Forests Department as well as with the Agricultural Department. In all, there will be a pretty busy time ahead for the two drills on order.

In carrying out a drilling policy, on account of the number of drills having to be increased and the activities covering a far wider range, it has been necessary to concentrate those drills on an area where they could be quickly serviced, where repairs and maintenance could be attended to, and where they could be kept under control while being repaired or refitted with spare parts. So the permanent engineer will have at his call all those drills to be put to the best use possible.

For that purpose we are putting up a building at Welshpool. Tenders have been called for the building which should cost

in the vicinity of £20,000. In departmental circles it has long been felt that there should be a central depot from which these drills could be operated.

With regard to mineral research, we should be gratified with what has occurred in the last 12 months, and indeed for several years past, because each year has shown an expansion. The search and production sides have both been encouraging. For the 12 months ended June, 1957, the out-turn—completely excluding gold and coal—resulted in £4,500,000 worth of metals being recovered. This is in advance of the previous year's record figure by about £1,500,000.

There have been a number of marked increases in particular items of mineral production, among them being asbestos, which has now turned the £1,000,000 mark. Iron ore, too, is interesting. The iron ore from Yilgarn reached a value of £303,000 in the last 12 months, while the Yampi Sound iron ore returned in the vicinity of £325,000.

Although we export very little manganese—at least we do not export as much as we might—nevertheless £870,000 worth of manganese has gone out of Western Australia in the past 12 months. Pyrites is around the £500,000 mark. The occurrence of a number of new minerals has been reported, and interests in a fairly large way have applied for leases with respect to manganese, and their applications have been concerned with, notably, the Pilbara and Kimberley areas where a considerable amount of manganese ore, new to the department, has been uncovered in the past 12 months.

Some of the deposits are small in size—probably as low as 60,000 tons—but they go up to some millions of tons of profitable ore. The State can be pleased with this, because there is a heavy demand for manganese. If we could get to the point where it was safe to export it, the amount of revenue resulting to the State could be considerable.

Much of what I have been saying applies to iron ore. Whilst a lot of knowledge has accrued to the department over the years, further iron ore deposits have been found in recent times. I do not know whether the controversy that has raged around the possibility of exporting iron ore has been responsible, but there have been a number of new finds. I think the best of them would be one that is north-east of Koolyanobbing. This find is estimated to contain about 40,000,000 tons.

Members will have watched with interest the rather spectacular showing that beach sands have made during the last 12 months. It seems that hardly a day went by without a number of new leases being pegged. The member for Bunbury would have kindly recollections of what beach

sands recovery is achieving in the Capel area and other parts of his electorate. The extent of what we know as beach sands is considerable, and in most cases the deposits are of good quality. The fact that our ilmenite, or beach sand, is more or less free of chrome, makes it particularly acceptable to many of the purchasing firms.

Hon. D. Brand: What is the potential demand for these minerals? Is it decreasing?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I shall come to that matter in a moment. The amount of beach sand available in Western Australia is practically incalculable. We could not calibrate the possibilities in the matter of recovery, but at this stage I would issue a note of warning to those who are investing or are considering investing in the recovery of ilmenite or titanium white, zircon, monosite, and other attendant minerals, because the market is by no means sure.

During the period I was in the States I found that any of our beach sands which contained no rutile, monosite or zircon, generally, were practically unacceptable to the U.S.A. Since that time, much research has been carried out and a lot of use has been made of the recovery of metals. The latest report I have sets out to show that much of the metal that had been fabricated from various recovered minerals within the family of ilmenite, had rather inclined to let the manufacturers down.

As a matter of fact, at one aircraft factory, a complete consignment of parts made with alloys of these minerals had to be discarded. The Government itself, I think, has stock-piled to a considerable degree. Most of the ilmenite, or the concentrates, from Western Australia were handled through the American Government. The position has become obscure, and the Government has issued a note of caution in the matter of the future of the black sands. It also adds the comment that whilst the position at present does not look very happy, science will undoubtedly quickly overcome the difficulties.

The position is well worth watching, but anyone who is interested in the metal's recovery should be a little cautious. Titanium is a different proposition, and titanium is mainly the ilmenite content in the black sands. Most of our percentages are high. Its use is chiefly in connection with paint because as a pigment it rates very high. But here again careful watching is necessary because until the finding of sands in Australia it did not need more than three months' production of titanium white to supply the needs of the world; and huge amounts are available in Australia. Caution should be exercised with respect to the future expansion of this industry.

The department has been conducting a regional geographical and geological survey in the Pilbara area, and this is having a marked effect on the interest shown in the district. Some encouraging results have been obtained in various ways, and there could be an appreciable revival in this important field. Drilling is playing its part there, too. The position at Bamboo Creek has come about as a result of the drilling policy of the department. It has enabled the area to come to life again and the future prospects are very bright.

An increasing interest is shown by a number of new companies which are endeavouring to get large areas of auriferous land over which they wish to carry out large-scale investigations. Now that we have the necessary legislation, it will be possible to accommodate these people. We are keen for the companies that are already in the State to expand, and we desire to bring here other companies that will be acceptable to Western Australia. It is hoped within a short time to enable these concerns to carry out a large-scale search.

Some of the minerals they will be seeking are bauxite, copper and pyrites. We know that we have a lot of pyrites in the Norseman and Koolyanobbing areas, but by no means have we a full picture of the extent of the pyrites at Koolyanobbing. The result of drill holes can be regarded as encouraging. A new big company coming into that area would bore and do scout drilling over a considerable area and it would then be in a position to calibrate the amount of pyrites there, and from those figures we would be able to determine whether their future interests, from the point of view of sulphuric acid production, would justify them in coming to Western Australia.

Bauxite is a type of mineral for which a huge area is needed because, being of a flat nature, it extends over a considerable distance and consequently the lode, or body of ore, is small in size. Soon after the recent legislation was introduced into the House, the department received a letter from a firm regarding the possibility of establishing itself in Western Australia in order to search for diamonds. This company actually had some knowledge of what had happened in past times in the Kimberleys, and it was keen to find out whether the department could give it a large area—in the vicinity of 5,000 square miles—so that it could search for diamonds, and diamonds only. Now that the legislation has passed both Houses, it will be possible, when the Bill becomes law, for this organisation to come here.

The search for nickel is continuing, but there have been no startling developments. Occasionally we have had reasonably encouraging reports, but no sooner do they come through than a discouraging note

is sounded. The work is continuing, and it is hoped that before long the company interested will have something fairly encouraging to tell us.

There is no need for me to say a great deal with respect to oil search. Most members have closely watched the operations of the various interests searching for oil. The problem has become a difficult one, and it has been costly in the history of the State. Many times the company concerned anticipated a change of fortune, but just as often the disappointment of finding that there was no oil has been its lot. It is pleasing to know that although this company—known by the name of Wapet—has suffered these setbacks, its enthusiasm and optimism have not waned to any appreciable degree. It has carried out a tremendously valuable search in Western Australia.

This year the company has budgeted for an expenditure of £2,000,000. I think that, owing to the reorganisation that has taken place, and because of some of the loose ends that have been tied together, and also because of an improvement in administration, the company will get more for that expenditure than it has done in the past.

Mr. Crommelin: It does not seem to be drilling as frequently as it did in the past.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Drilling is about the most expensive part of its work. If it drills without the data that is collected by seismic methods, and a knowledge of the country which it is drilling which would enable it to pinpoint the likely spots, the work is truly wild-catting. A certain amount of money that it has spent has been expended in this way because it has not had as complete a knowledge of the country as it now possesses.

There is no doubt in my mind that this company is quite capable of assessing and appraising the possibilities of discovering oil in this State, and it has come to the conclusion that, although the number of holes drilled will be fewer, it will drill with much more confidence that it has been able to do in the past. It has eliminated a lot of the less attractive country and it has been able to remove the possibility of waste, as was the case before, such as drilling ahead before its knowledge was complete.

The company has already spent £12,000,000 on the search for oil in this State and a further £2,000,000 will be spent this year. In conversation with the principals recently, I understand that the estimate for next year's drilling programme is on a par with this year's estimate, and, as members can appreciate, that means a very big expenditure on the search for oil. We all hope that the company is successful; it is battling along and if it strikes oil, it will be a tremendous thing for Western

Australia. I think the Minister for Health, not long ago, promised that several hospitals would be built when oil was struck in commercial quantities. We hope that he will be able to build many more hospitals than he now contemplates.

The final item I want to discuss in connection with the Mines Estimates is the rather gloomy picture from the prospecting point of view. It does not need me to tell members that the future of the goldmining industry depends on the men who go out and find new areas and new mines. Coupled with that is the other side of prospecting—deep drilling. But as far as the prospector is concerned, it is a matter of intuition, his eyes, and his knowledge of the country.

Over a period of years there has been a gradual lessening in the number of prospectors operating in the country. There are several reasons for this, apart from the fact that it is getting harder to find new areas where there is ore of a payable character. One reason is that the mines themselves are short of manpower, and wages for men working on the mines are fairly good. As a result, prospectors are not so inclined to battle along on assistance and leave solid employment.

They have been some of the main causes for the lessening of the numbers; but it is interesting to note that in 1938, under the assisted prospecting scheme, there were 725 men prospecting in various parts of the State, mainly for gold; there would be very few who would be prospecting for anything else. Today there are only 71 men working under the assisted prospecting scheme. Of course, in addition to that number, there would be other men who are not known to the department in the same way as the people who are receiving assistance.

It has been a busy year for the Mines Department and the movement in various districts has been very marked. It is very pleasing for us as a State to be in a position where we are not totally dependent, from a mineral point of view, on gold production. Our figures are advancing at a satisfactory rate, with many minerals, and in the not too distant future the recovery of various minerals in this State will be very great.

I would now like to turn to the Fisheries Department and here again the production figures for the past year far exceed those in past times. That has been the case annually for the last few years. The recovery of fish has been increased, particularly with regard to crayfish tails; and they play a most important part in our export trade and in our dollar-earning potential. The fishing industry, in the last couple of years, and again this year, has attracted a lot of new capital. As a matter of fact, it becomes a little embarrassing at times, to know where to allow this new capital to be invested safely.

When I say "allow," I do not mean in a dictatorial sense, but there is a safety margin in an industry of this type. If we do not worry about a balance, and allow the industry to go beyond the safety limit, we can get into serious trouble. I think all members who have known me over the last few years realise that I have always had a keen sense of responsibility as to the necessity to preserve our fishing grounds, and to allow the fish to reproduce and the grounds not to become fished out.

That is becoming even more apparent every day because many of the craft engaged in this industry are capable of working only in the nearer areas. Because of this there is a tendency for those grounds to become worked out, and that is something we must avoid. The inclusion of new capital, and the consequent employment of bigger vessels will enable a wider area of search to be made, and new fishing grounds will be discovered. Thus the introduction of this new capital will help the industry to expand on sound lines.

Many more vessels of various sizes are now engaged on this work and a lot of specialised equipment is being used which, of course, makes it much harder for the fish to avoid being caught. Nearly all fishermen use depth finders in the normal course of their work, even though many of them have only small craft. Depth finders enable them to plot the various fishing grounds, and some of them are able to read the reports of the depth finders almost as well as they can read a book. This, of course, enables the fishermen to improve their catch.

There has been a slight decrease in the number of professional fishermen's licences issued. This has been brought about because of the necessity to curb to a certain extent the number of part-time fishermen. As in almost every other industry where there is an opportunity for part-time work, men engage in part-time fishing. This has brought about a lot of distress in the industry because during glut periods, when they can make a fair amount of money, and when the weather is good, the part-time fishermen usurp the position of the full-time fisherman who has to go out in all weather and who is content to make the industry his living. There are many men, in various occupations, who have held part-time licences and we have found it necessary to clamp down on the number issued.

The Act states that a substantial proportion of a man's earning must be derived from the industry. I am not too happy about the word "substantial" because it allows far too many loopholes, and the department is contemplating the use of some other word to replace it. The member for Stirling would know just how wide the interpretation of the word "substantial" could be.

During the last 12 months some new and interesting grounds have been discovered, and one of the most interesting is west of Dirk Hartog Island, where we have not only been getting some very fine catches of crayfish but also some excellent snapper catches. I was there recently and I heard of four men who had gone out for three days and who had caught 11,000lb. of snapper, all by hand. That represents a lot of hard work; but snapper is valuable cargo and it gives the fishermen a tremendous amount of satisfaction. There are many days when they go out and catch nothing and, taking the good with the bad, they make a reasonable living.

Research into prawning has advanced a further stage and we have moved out of the Exmouth area. One or two commercial fishermen are engaging in this class of fishing and the takes last year were of a very satisfactory order. One man took somewhere in the vicinity of 60,000lb. of prawns in a very short time, and another in the vicinity of eight to nine tons. I do not know how many pounds of prawns that would be offhand, but it is a lot.

The departmental vessel has moved to the area around the Bernier and Dorre Islands, Carnarvon and slightly north, and then down to Dirk Hartog and Denham. Interesting research work has been going on but with only one vessel, and with a huge extent of water to cover, it is hard to get conclusive results in a short time. However, some of the results have been most encouraging—and there have been some discouraging ones too. A good deal of research work has been going on in regard to the huge tiger prawns, to a lesser extent into the banana prawns, and into a very delectable type of scallop that has been discovered in that area. In one case a recent haul resulted in 1,100lb. Scallops could be the nucleus of a very fine industry in this State, and it could be on a very sound basis.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Before tea I had proceeded quite a long way towards the concluding stages of the Estimates dealing with the Fisheries Department. There are, however, one or two other matters on which I would like to say a few words. It is very interesting to note that the pearl culture station that was established at Kure Bay, Augustus Island, about 12 months ago has had some excellent results. Recently I saw some of the pearls that had been grown at the island under artificial methods. I was also talking to the Japanese scientist in charge of the station and he was of the opinion that the quality of the locally cultured pearls gave every indication of their being superior to those produced in Japanese waters. He was hoping to build an industry in this State which would approximate that in Japan.

This is particularly interesting because for many years the venture has been featured as a possibility and it is most heartening to see that the first attempt has resulted in such excellent prospects. I think there is every reason to hope that at the end of the present 12 months of experimental work, we will have a considerable quantity of seed pearls for sale. The operations were, of course, originally established on Augustus Island, but it was found that that was not very satisfactory and they were eventually removed and continued on the mainland, opposite Augustus Island.

The only other matter I wish to mention is that of duck banding. Many people have queried the value of banding ducks, and have asked what we achieve by it, and what the purpose of it is. I daresay that some of the inquirers would be happy if we could do something about banding shags, but, of course, we have not reached that stage yet! We have found, however, that the ducks that have been banded have supplied us with a considerable amount of information in regard to their habits, the shifting of the species, and so on.

Recently we found that ducks that were banded in January of this year were discovered later on in Queensland in August. These ducks were banded in our own South-West, and the bands were returned from the top end of Queensland. So it gives some idea of the tremendous coverage that the old duck really undertakes when he makes up his mind to go. I do not know whether it is the band on his leg that gets him going, or whether perhaps he might be some relation to the Sputnik, but he certainly slips along!

I would now like to turn to the matter of industrial development and say that the year has once again resulted in an expansion of existing industry rather than the influx of new industry. I think it is a very sound policy to be able to consolidate the achievements of the State over the past few years. Many new factories have been built in the last 12 months—I think I gave the House some figures this afternoon when I instanced the fact that 92 factory buildings had been put up during the last 12 months at a value of well over £1,000,000. Some of those factories, although new in building, would not indicate a new industry. Some represented cases where old buildings had been replaced with new ones, and others where old manufacturing concerns had branched into new lines of manufacture.

The export market, of course, is an ever-enticing feature in the minds of the producers and manufacturers, and it could be that the requirements of the State are being met by those who have branched into new lines of manufacture. It is certainly a very healthy sign that a consolidation of this kind is taking place, and it also means that those people who have perhaps established themselves under trying conditions and at a time when the type

of article turned out was not of the best—it may have been that the technique was wrong—have put in new and up-to-date machinery, housed themselves in modern buildings and provided like facilities for their employees. Finally they get to the point where they are able to take their place as manufacturers, and I think we can be justly proud of the type of article they manufacture in Western Australia today. Much of the roughness that retarded the attractiveness of the article in the past seems to be disappearing, and the newer methods adopted will assure a state of solid production for many years to come.

Mr. Court: You cannot be happy at the steady decline in the number of factories over the past three years.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: A State such as ours with a population of 600,000 must eventually reach saturation point—it must reach a point where it cannot absorb any more—unless the population increases much more rapidly than it has in the past decade. It is only by an increase in population that we will create a market and get a demand for the goods manufactured here. We have found that the matter of export has not been altogether successful. When I say that I mean that there would be room for a great deal of expansion here if we were certain of an export market and of being able to reach that market with our goods at comparable prices.

I am not in the least concerned about being able to get these goods on to the export markets on a comparable degree of quality—that does not worry us at all. What does worry us is the price factor. Many countries are landing their exports in Africa and to a great extent in the Middle and Far East and we have indications coming forward constantly that our price structure is not meeting with the same success as are those applying to the large amount of imports into some of those countries where, in some cases, black labour is used, and in other territories where mass production—because of the volume they are handling—enables them to put out their goods at a better figure.

Accordingly, while there has been a lessening in the number of factories, I must point out that the figures I gave this afternoon were incomplete—they were incomplete because of the limited time I have had at my disposal to obtain them. Those I have given produce only an incomplete picture.

Mr. Court: Except that they show a trend.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There is a slight trend, but as I said earlier, an absorption point must be reached. We cannot go on expanding if we are not increasing our population at a corresponding rate. It does not need a mathematician to work that out. Many of the manufacturers have become conscious in recent times of the potential that exists from

the point of view of export provided they are able to get to the point of being able to land their goods on a comparable cost basis.

A great deal of interest is being shown by traders at the present time in the matter of organising a trade mission to visit some of these countries. There have been several attempts in recent times to have a trade mission representative of all the Australian States, and there was some talk of chartering a boat of the 20,000 ton tourist type—with space allocated to representatives from each State—which would tour a number of countries where the potential markets existed, in an endeavour to get a foothold in some of those areas where Australian goods—quite apart from the Western Australian goods—are not being received very kindly at the moment. Up till now every such attempt has fallen through, but I understand that there is another taking shape and at the moment we are awaiting details in this regard.

The campaign instituted some time ago in relation to the sales of locally made goods is gaining impetus and we find that there is an ever-increasing demand for goods produced in Western Australia, in places where previously very little interest was shown in those goods. I think the Trades and Industries Promotion Council is doing a great deal towards the fostering of the more consistent use of goods manufactured in Western Australia and even the Government departments have become very conscious of the necessity to purchase goods made in this State, rather than those manufactured outside the State.

Previously these goods were purchased because of the fact that there was a few shillings difference in cost and in other cases a particular line had created an impression, which resulted in Western Australian goods which were equal in quality, not being given any consideration. Today the majority of the departments are looking at that angle with a broader view than has been the case previously for a long time. The results that have been obtained from the manufacturers' point of view have been very satisfactory.

Recently I happened to be looking in a display window of one of our leading emporiums. The manager tapped me on the shoulder, and wanted to know what I was doing in the street, off-the-chain as it were, at that time of the day. My attention was attracted by the display of Albany blankets and other products from the Albany woollen mills. I complimented him on the appearance of his windows and particularly his display of local goods. He said, "If you want to see something really worth while, come inside and I will show you the interior part of the shop." I was agreeably surprised to see the display he had and, at the end of our few minutes

together he said, "There is something I would like to tell you which you can take back to your Premier; our second best account today is the Albany woollen mills." Coming from a big business in the city, I think that is a good indication as to what is really taking place.

The department has been keen on publicity in an endeavour to get to many parts of the world some information in connection with what we have to offer. Following a precedent which had been set some few years ago—I do not know who originated the idea—a number of industrial and commercial journals have been published over the years. It is an idea to which we fully subscribe and as a result of what is published in the journals, quite a lot of very pleasing commendation and expressions of satisfaction have been received.

The publications have the effect of giving people a far better idea as to what is happening in Western Australia than many people realise. They are circulated among those representing Australia in other parts of the world, not in single copies but in some cases quantities are sent for distribution among trade quarters. We find that it is advantageous to send a supply of them. They are sent to diplomatic representatives and business houses in many capital cities overseas. As a matter of fact, the journals are being sought after and I think that is a good indication of the interest being taken in this State by other countries.

Mr. Nalder: Does it advertise goods, or does it contain articles giving details.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am sorry that the hon. member has not seen a copy of the journal. I was under the impression that every member of this Chamber had received a copy. The latest publication of this trade and industry journal was in a red cover. It is a very fine publication and I will see that the hon. member gets one. If any other member has failed to receive one I will be very happy to supply a copy, because it gives an idea of what is taking place. Another of these journals is in the course of preparation, and it should be completed about March or April of the coming year. It should be up to date with all the latest developments in this State.

It is surprising to note the volume of the exports from here to the Eastern States. It is increasing irrespective of the fact that freight charges are fairly high, which makes competition a little more difficult. Apparently our manufacturers have their noses to the grindstone and have been successful in proceeding on reasonable lines, so much so that the quality and prices are attractive in the Eastern States.

Some recent figures of output include, among other things, wearing apparel which is approaching £450,000. That is a large

amount to go from this State to the highly industrialised Eastern States where undoubtedly the greater proportion of this type of goods is produced. The figure for canned fish is £335,000, and for wool tops £269,000, while there are very many in the £200,000 class. In addition, we are sending some of our tractors away, although not as many as we would like. Some of the machinery is going to the Eastern States and quite a number of smaller firms are manufacturing small plant like compressors and small engines. In this field they are beginning to break into the Eastern States market.

There is a pleasing expansion in many of the big industries here, and new departments are being made into lines that previously had not been considered. Vickers-Hoskins Pty. Ltd. have set themselves up in this State and are manufacturing radial drills and large machine tools, mainly for export. Obviously, the amount of trade within Western Australia is not very great for these lines, but they are apparently finding a market and the industry is doing very well.

Mr. Ackland: How is the local pottery industry getting on in competition with the Eastern States?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Very poorly. We have made one or two attempts at turning out pottery on a competitive basis, and whilst the quality was equal to anything from any part of the world, the attempt was not successful. The cost factor must have been the trouble, although those concerned received considerable financial assistance and had very expert artisans in the making of their various types of pottery. Unfortunately we have not been able to meet the competition from imported lines which, although not as good in quality in most cases, were sold at a better figure and consequently were more attractive to the buyers.

Mr. Ackland: Does that apply to the comparatively new factory at Subiaco?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No.

Mr. Court: What type of pottery are you referring to now?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Largely to the ornamental type, not industrial.

Mr. Court: Not utilitarian?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No, not at the present time. I think there is some difficulty in keeping up our supplies of material. But the position is more assured than previously. The Albany woollen mills recently perfected its ideas in connection with the manufacture of fingering wools. It is good to hear the comments of some ladies in regard to these fingering wools—it does one's heart good. Evidently this firm got away to a good start and the ladies were very loud in their praise of these wools.

There are many other industries, but I do not think I should weary the Committee with a long list of the concerns that are expanding or are doing better than they were. However, there is one more which is of interest and that is Plaistowes and its efforts in connection with canning. This would interest those members who have orchardists in their electorates or represent areas which are potentially suitable for the right kind of canning varieties of stone-fruits.

For a long time, Plaistowes has been doing a good job under very adverse conditions. It has endeavoured to utilise the surplus crop, although it has not been grown for canning purposes. Growers frequently get the idea that they can bump in 150 to 500 cases into Plaistowes for canning purposes. Plaistowes has endeavoured to do that type of canning but it has not done justice to either Plaistowes or the growers of this State. The firm has not been able to can successfully and maintain the standard required. The timing has to be tremendously well judged and to assure a continued market the manufacturer must be able to maintain a standard quality. That is not easy, from a purely financial point of view, when dealing with fruit which is brought from a glutted market.

Many growers have not had sufficient encouragement to be able to plant the type of stone-fruit known to be of good canning quality. Plaistowes approached the Government with regard to assistance to help it over a period. There must be a "mark time" period when this particular industry will not pay and some of the machinery will be idle for a long time. The Government had this matter examined and finally agreed to put in the necessary equipment according to Plaistowes's own design in an endeavour to help this canning industry.

It is rather interesting to know that imports under this heading during the last 12 months were valued at £560,000. That would represent a tremendously flourishing trade here. It would be so even if we could keep only one-third of that amount in the State. However, the machinery is on order and Plaistowes will have a long period of time in which to settle down and for the growth to take place of sufficient varieties of fruit suitable for that kind of manufacture.

Members know of the various improvements that have taken place in an industrial sense in the Kwinana area. During the last 12 months or so there have been several very pleasing advances, and I understand that at the present time there is a further contemplated addition which would bring about the spending of a few million pounds in this State.

Hon. D. Brand: Are there any new industries down there?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I think the hon. member will remember that tube makers were interested some time ago.

when it looked as though this State was going ahead with a real boom because of the initial finding of oil in the original hole. At that time there were a number of people interested in coming here. Of course, they marked time.

We were keen to make certain that on any alienated land at Kwinana, appreciable activity would take place within a reasonable period. I think we said they should spend £10,000 in the first year or so and gradually increase until they reached the stage of having a full-scale industry. At that time they said they would be spending £100,000 in 12 months, but they did not make up their minds to come. In recent months we have had a visit from one of the principals and their previous worries in connection with this State seem to have been put into the background. They are now keen to negotiate for 50-odd acres at Kwinana.

Hon. D. Brand: Was there not some difficulty about the area of land they wanted originally?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Originally they asked for 100 acres. If the hon. member will cast his mind back to the area that had been set aside for industry adjacent to existing works and upon which it had been envisaged inter-related expansion would take place, he will realise that kindred industries would be the ones wanting to obtain some consideration. Therefore, the request for 100 acres was referred back to the company at that time and it was asked to reconsider its ideas and get down to earth. After all, the holding of 100 acres in a 270-acre reserve represents a tremendous amount of land. Since reconsidering the matter, they have asked for 50 acres and that amount of ground was granted. The conditions upon which it was granted were, apparently, not quite satisfactory at that time.

I think they were being asked to pay for it in a period of years; but whenever they decided to pay, they would have been paying on the basis of the land value at the time of payment. Recently when they came across, I was able to offer them the land at today's value, even if they purchased it in 12 to 18 months' time; and that seems to have appealed to them. The man who was here was very pleased with what he saw. He had a good look at the State in the few days he was here, and I have every reason to think they are giving full consideration to the matter.

That was the only industry that really looked like being established down there. As the interest in the oil search began to wane and the share market came down, and we had no success following the initial finding of oil, quite a lot of people were prepared to mark time.

Mr. Roberts: Is the department still negotiating with Laporte Industries Ltd?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Not at present.

Mr. Roberts: You are not pressing that?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No. The legislation passed recently in connection with the mining industry could eventually have a beneficial effect in regard to an industry that Laporte would put in here and which would involve the spending of £250,000,000 before its proposals were entirely completed.

Mr. Roberts: How much?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: An amount of £250,000,000.

Hon. D. Brand: When?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Naturally it would take some time, because it would be developed in a series of steps. I do not want to weary the House too long on these matters.

Hon. D. Brand: They are very interesting.

Mr. Roberts: You could weary us for a long time when discussing an industry worth £250,000,000!

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The set-up would be that first of all there would be a calibration of the availability of pyrites within a reasonable distance of Fremantle. For that reason, a fairly big area of country would have to be drilled and much exploratory work undertaken before the initial step would be possible. We know to a great extent what deposits are available at Norseman; and there are other places where pyrites have been discovered but where the amount proved is not extensive, and where much more research work would have to be done before a calibration of the overall value could be assessed. To reach that stage would take from anything up to 18 months or two years.

The second step would be the establishment of a sulphuric acid plant. That would be a separate industry, though it would be a subsidiary under the main company. In conjunction with the recovery of sulphuric acid would be its relationship to our beach sands, particularly in the Capel area and south. Upon the availability of the sulphuric acid recovery would depend the development of titanium white from the beach sands.

I would not like to estimate how long it would take to accomplish all those steps. It is a big undertaking; and, with the doubt existing as to the ultimate result that could be achieved in regard to by-minerals that would come from ilmenite we would be faced with a tremendous amount of investigation; and I would say it would be 8 to 10 years before finality would be reached in an overall sense in regard to big-scale development.

Mr. Roberts: Has that any relationship to that French company which was mentioned earlier in the session?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I think the hon. member is mixing that up with Hutt's Lagoon salt, unless he is confused about the Laporte people, who may be French. There has been a considerable interest in Hutt's Lagoon. I have made one or two announcements over the past six to eight months in connection with the possibilities of this lagoon. There is a tremendous potential there, and quite an amount of information has been gained and much experimental work has been done concerning the possible recovery of salt from that area. Up till now we have not been able to get a very rosy picture regarding anything beyond the pure salt content.

Members will know that many of the salt deposits—particularly those that are deposited by virtue of the action of the sea—contain a number of other by-products; and frequently the by-products are more valuable than the salt. Our salt is unfortunately a little too pure; and because of its inaccessibility and transport difficulties, the major undertaking that would be required would necessitate the establishment of a harbour at Port Gregory. The matter of getting somebody interested is not easy.

Hon. D. Brand: They would not be interested unless you were able to provide very satisfactory road access or a port.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: The whole matter would revolve around transport in some form or other. As the bulk of the products would be exported from Western Australia they would have to go through a port, and naturally those concerned would not want to carry the products one yard further than Port Gregory.

However, that is a major undertaking; and none of the firms that have sent representatives here from the Eastern States have been interested in development. Some have been prepared to take the land and hold it and endeavour to trade it to somebody else. They are purely speculators; and I think this deposit is far too valuable to be allowed to get into the hands of speculators and so have this State exploited under such circumstances. It is far better to mark time for a short period and let some major undertaking have the benefit, with the State deriving some interest.

The main inquiry at present is from France. It was made first through a local firm, which called for all the information we could supply as to results of borings, salinity and so on associated with an undertaking of that kind. Then, almost simultaneously, came an inquiry through the French consul; and he, too, had an idea that something could transpire, and was very keen to get the full information. That was given to him; but nothing further has been heard of the matter.

The member for Blackwood has been interested in hearing something of the Lurgi report. I regret that up to the present that has not been forthcoming. Those concerned are fairly silent and cagey in the matter of giving information as to what stage has been reached. I think it all looked too simple in the first place to design a plant and advise the Government on the best and most economic places in which to establish a briquetting industry. Reports were promised for mid-October, but have so far not appeared.

There are a lot of technical and economical details and aspects to be worked out; and I feel that when we get the picture, we will know very definitely whether we can proceed to interest a company in engaging in the production of coke briquettes, or whether we will find that there are economic handicaps.

The briquettes we have produced have done a very good job on the railways. I understand that sparking was practically nil, and that is something that concerns us all. The trial consignments were put through a "W"-class engine with a 750-ton load, and it performed excellently; and according to the drivers and the engineer, the briquettes were regarded as having excellent steaming qualities. I think that the comments of the Chief Engineer are worth recording. He wrote—

The successful results of this test indicate that uncured briquettes manufactured from Collie coal char are entirely satisfactory as a locomotive fuel. The steaming qualities enable an excellent performance to be obtained. There is no significant spark emission and grate troubles are non-existent. As a result of the high mechanical strength and low moisture content, weathering properties should be very good and the fuel should prove an acceptable substitute for imported Newcastle coal for use in dry areas under summer conditions.

I now turn to another subject concerning which many inquiries have been made during the session. I refer to Wundowie; and, for accuracy, I intend to read my notes. They are as follows:—

The past year has been a record one for the charcoal iron industry. During the year 1956-57 production was valued at approximately £700,000, being—

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| (a) Pig iron | 420,000 |
| (b) Acid and methanyl | 53,000 |
| (c) Timber | 201,000 |

Production of pig iron totalled 14,083 tons and sales totalled 14,908 tons, being 4,248 tons local valued at £98,028 and 10,660 tons exported for £307,000.

The profit and loss account for the year discloses that after meeting all costs and interest there was a net profit of £11,532.

The expansion of the plant at Wundowie, which will treble the production of pig iron with a labour increase of about 30 per cent. is expected to come into full production by July next, giving permanent employment to 400 men. The estimated total cost of expansion is £840,000 with the current year's loan expenditure of £595,000.

Hon. D. Brand: Before you leave that subject could you give us something more concerning the potential demand? What is the possibility of a consistent demand for pig iron? Does it justify the State expending £600,000 on Wundowie?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The market has been probed for practically the past two years. It was probed very extensively by the manager, Mr. Constantine, who went overseas and visited a number of countries from which there have been requests for supplies. He also visited many areas where there had been references to the matter of supplies without any direct requests having been made. He spent considerable time endeavouring to find out just what the potential was. Upon his return to Western Australia, those inquiries were taken a stage further and tentative orders were sought. I think a conservative estimate would be 65,000 to 70,000 tons a year, but, of course, the expansion contemplated would not go near that figure and I think the industry could be given a much greater output providing the quality can be maintained, and with the raw material available there is no reason why it should not be.

Hon. D. Brand: What is the prospect of maintaining the price?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: For the last sales, the price was several pounds higher per ton than at any previous time. The grade of the pig iron turned out at Wundowie is so high that all who have used it in the past two or three years have been surprised at its quality. The quality enables foundries to make a far greater amount of pig iron than can be done in any other way. The position will become more difficult as scrap iron is becoming short in many parts of the world.

For years we could not dispose of scrap iron here or only at from 30s. to 40s. per ton, but in America they are now paying up to 90 dollars or approximately £45 per ton for scrap iron. The people trading as agents and selling scrap iron to the Japanese and others made tremendous profits. The great value of steel produced under nodular methods from Wundowie iron is significant. I believe there are only six manufacturers licensed to produce nodular steel, and that is one reason why this cast steel is in such great demand.

Hon. D. Brand: You say only six manufacturers are licensed to produce it?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes, I understand it is manufactured under licence. There is another type of steel now finding its way on to the markets of the world. It is a hydrogen steel and there is a keen demand for it in some quarters where interest was formerly waning, as this type of steel is expected to revolutionise foundry work in connection with the production of pig iron.

From a tourist point of view this State is enjoying gradual expansion in some directions. The gross collections have risen in all States and we seem to be getting more commission business than in the past, although the commission is low and we do a great deal of work for little return. The Associated Steamship Owners have recently offered us the attractive figure of 5 per cent. on orders booked and I believe that will make a satisfactory contribution to the department's earnings. The tours that have been conducted here have been well organised and have resulted in good publicity for the State. A number of student tours in the last 12 months have brought children here from the other States and I believe they will advertise what they saw.

Country coach tours seem to have fallen off, probably due to the rise in the number of private cars, but the reverse has been the case in regard to passengers on overseas steamers. While the number of steamers calling here last year was lower than the previous year, the number of people transported on tours was greater and they were particularly interested in the half-day tours, on which last year 42,000-odd people were carried.

Some of our country tourist bureaux are at last becoming awake to their responsibilities and the possibilities of the tourist trade. An outstanding example over the years has been Geraldton which has always had a fine branch and has always collected the total amount available, which up till last year was £500 and now is £750 as a subsidy from the Government. The example is set and its success was, I think, largely responsible for the conference between all the outside tourist bureaux four or five months ago.

The conference was successful and the interchange of ideas worthwhile. The delegates left imbued with an appreciation of what Geraldton had done, and confident that they could do likewise. Even Busselton has now put its best foot forward and is determined to take advantage of the £750 subsidy. There is an increasing interest on the part of the business people and there are many keen workers—

Hon. D. Brand: What did Geraldton get from the outside members?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not know. We may take some solace from the fact that our hotels are gradually attaining a better standard. The tendency, particularly in the seaport towns, is for the

standard of the hotels to improve. Often old buildings are having their faces lifted and it is encouraging to find places like the Vasse Hotel in Busselton becoming available to the public at a very good standard. That sort of thing is of assistance and gives us confidence to send interstate and overseas visitors to such areas.

Dealing next with the Harbour and Light Department, as members know, it is primarily a port authority and now controls nine of the 12 outports in the State. On the 1st July last the control and working of the wharf and jetty at Geraldton and Busselton were transferred from the Railways Commission to the Harbour and Light Department, and it is anticipated that the control at Esperance will also be assumed before the end of the current financial year. The department will then control 10 out of 13 ports in the State.

Activities at North-West ports are rapidly increasing, mainly due to expanding production and the shipment of minerals. It is anticipated that up to 50,000 tons of manganese ore alone will be shipped from Port Hedland during the ensuing year and that shipments of blue asbestos from Point Samson will be increased by nearly 100 per cent. The department also administers the Western Australian Marine Act and is responsible for the survey and manning of all marine craft engaged in intra-State trade and the safety of passengers carried. This control covers all vessels engaged in fishing, pearling and whaling. Some of the other main functions of the department are:—

Pilotage services and control of shipping at all ports other than Fremantle.

The control of all coastal and inland navigable waters and foreshores.

The provision and maintenance of aids to navigation in approaches to and within ports other than Fremantle.

Building of boats for Government Departments.

I have much pleasure in submitting the Estimates for my departments.

MR. ACKLAND (Moore) [8.27]: I am particularly interested in the boring plants which the Minister has brought, or is about to bring, into this country for boring in the agricultural districts. I mentioned this matter when the Committee was dealing with the Estimates of the Minister for Lands, but this comes mostly under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Mines. Can he give us an approximate date on which one of these plants will be made available to the people of Badgingarra, where they have had so much difficulty in finding water at depth.

This strip of country runs from Mingenew south past Dandaragan and I do not know how far beyond. There we have millions of acres of land in a good rainfall area, which is just coming into favour for those who seek light land. I appeal to the Government to carry out preliminary boring before throwing some of this country open for selection. Mr. Eric Smart, who has been farming properties in the electorate represented by the Leader of the Opposition, has gone down from 200 to 300 ft. to obtain water in this class of country. In my own electorate, also, people have gone down as far as the boring plant they could secure would allow them, and yet their boring has met with no success.

Therefore, I hope the Minister can give us some additional information on this matter and I suggest that before further land is thrown open for selection, test bores should be put down. If they are successful, the cost of such boring should be added to the cost of the land that is taken up. However, the boring should be considered principally as exploratory work and no costs should be imposed on the people who have not obtained water as a result of that boring. This is a most important matter because the land I refer to is more suitable for stock raising than for cereal growing and without water it has very little value.

I now wish to refer to net fishing in our rivers and estuaries. It is many years since I have done any active fishing. Recently, however, I have spoken to people who hold licences to net fish in the Swan River and could be termed part-time fishermen. Two come readily to my mind. One is a retired man in Nedlands with an ample income and yet he spends much of his spare time fishing in the Swan River. The other is a man who holds quite a good position in the Commonwealth Works Department.

These men catch fish in the flush of the season when the fish should be spawning and I am told that the supply of fish not only in the Swan River, but also in the estuaries and rivers right round the south coast, is becoming less than it has been. Quite recently I entertained in this House a man from Augusta who has been associated with sportsman fishing—if I may put it that way—for quite a long period. He told me that one of the greatest potentialities for the encouragement of tourism in Western Australia is being destroyed because both part-time and professional fishermen are permitted to fish in the estuaries and rivers and inside the reefs and are depleting the quantity of fish to a great extent.

This gentleman is a person who has fished in many parts of the world, including the Great Barrier Reef, and other well known fishing grounds. He went on to inform me that we, in this State, have fishing grounds that are as good, if not better, than some of the well-known and

most attractive fishing grounds anywhere in the world. It seems to me, therefore, that the Fisheries Department is permitting many men to fish in the rivers and estuaries when possibly they should not be allowed to do so. Part-time fishermen are not dependent on fishing for their living and greater restrictions should be placed on their fishing activities than there appear to be at present.

Both part-time and professional fishermen should be encouraged to go beyond the rivers and the estuaries and close in-shore to do their fishing. I do not profess to be speaking with authority. I am only quoting others who know more about the subject than I do. It seems to me, however, that if the Minister in charge of tourist and fisheries matters allows this trend to continue, it may be that we shall lose a large sum of money which could be brought to this State by fishermen from all parts of the world who could be induced to come here to indulge in their fishing activities.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [8.37]: I am sure that all members will agree that there is an urgent need to implement the policy of decentralisation on the Goldfields but, unfortunately, there are many difficulties which prevent this objective being achieved at the moment. Last week, however, I asked the Minister whether any overtures had been made to the Commonwealth Government for assistance to establish either a small arms factory or a clothing factory on the Goldfields in order to encourage decentralisation. When I refer to a clothing factory, I mean one that could manufacture blankets and also uniforms for the armed forces, for officers of the Post Office and other Commonwealth Departments.

Members of this Chamber can be assured that the people on the Goldfields give every support to such a suggestion. There is no doubt that we need to establish on the Goldfields another industry which is not dependent on goldmining. If this were done, it would instil more confidence into the people in those parts and they would be able to look to the future with more heart.

The Minister for Mines mentioned that prospecting was the mainstay of the gold-mining industry. Today, however, prospecting is aided by deep drilling. The people on the Goldfields are confident that the deep drilling programme to be carried out at Morgans will meet with success. Many old timers on the Goldfields remember the production that was obtained from that field in the early days and they still maintain that many of the mines are not dead but merely dormant. They are confident, therefore, that the proposed deep drilling programme will rejuvenate that field and attract more prospectors to it.

I commend the Government on its prospecting assistance scheme but I still think that something more is needed to encourage prospectors to go out into the mining fields. There are many men who would still venture out into the outback mining centres were it not for the high cost of living in those parts. In my opinion, there are many prospectors who are now drawing the old-age pension who would be ready and willing to go prospecting once again if they were accompanied by younger men and if all of them were granted prospecting assistance by the Government, they would be able to carry on with the assistance of the old-age pension granted to the older men.

In speaking of the mining industry generally, I would like to pay a tribute to the Government and also the management of the Sons of Gwalia goldmine. That mine has survived many trials and tribulations in the past and the Government is to be commended for the generous assistance it has meted out to the company to enable it to overcome its difficulties. However, the management is also deserving of much praise for its tenacity of purpose in keeping the town of Gwalia alive and giving many people a source of livelihood. I hope and trust, therefore, that the Sons of Gwalia mine, which is now looking towards a new horizon, will soon break forth into a new dawn and that the mining industry in that area will continue to prosper for some years to come.

I would now like to pay tribute to an officer of the Mines Department who has been a tower of strength to me during my brief parliamentary career. That officer is Mr. Wallie Gannon and I commend him for the courteous attention he has given me whenever I have approached him for information. He has always been courteous and polite and is most willing to render every assistance possible. Therefore, I hope that he will read Hansard and learn what I think of his efforts.

There is another matter I want to touch on, which was the subject of a question I asked some time ago. I would like to point out that there have been two tragic accidents only recently as a result of people being able to obtain explosives without much trouble. I maintain that there should be some restriction on the sale of explosives except in those cases where they are required for a bona fide purpose. A provision similar to that which restricts the sale of dangerous drugs should be incorporated in the Explosives Act. Therefore, I hope that when this legislation is consolidated—as I believe it is going to be—an amendment along the lines I have suggested will be embodied in the new Act.

Next I wish to refer to the pyrites industry and the use of sulphur dioxide, which comes from the mines on the

Golden Mile, and also to the superphosphate works operating at North Fremantle. As recently as the 28th February this year an agreement was entered into between the Government and the North Fremantle superphosphate works to enable leases to be granted by the Government to that company in order that it could treat pyrites brought by rail from Kalgoorlie. This ore is treated both by direct and indirect means. The direct means is used in order to treat the ore for its sulphur content so that sulphuric acid may be obtained for the manufacture of superphosphate. The indirect method of treatment is followed in order to gather minute particles of gold which are present in the pyrites ore.

Since the 28th February, 1957, the amount of gold which has been won from the ore from the goldmines at Kalgoorlie and treated at North Fremantle, was 6,176.5 fine ounces. This is indeed a fine reward for a by-product. I believe that work associated with such a project could reasonably be undertaken on the Goldfields, and that there is no need to rail the pyrites from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle when it can be treated on the Goldfields.

I have obtained information and advice from a scientist who has his own laboratory in Perth. He has given me a written assurance that the establishment of a treatment plant in Kalgoorlie would be an economic proposition. He has set out the reasons. He considers that it is economical to treat the ore on the Goldfields by utilising the sulphur gas which is now escaping from the mines into the air, and which is the cause of so much trouble to the local residents.

In this respect, I have contacted the president of the Chamber of Mines. He is very interested in the proposition. I am optimistic that something will come out of this move, but the assistance of the Government might be required to carry out the necessary full research at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines into the utilisation of sulphur gas for the treatment of the ore in Kalgoorlie. I am quite confident of the success of this proposition and I trust that the outcome will result in the establishment of a sulphuric acid industry on the Goldfields.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [8.47]: I consider that the vote for the Fisheries Department is very disappointing. The fishing industry could be one of the greatest in the State. It could be the foundation of a very large export trade which, if developed, would give us a great amount of overseas credits. Statistics of the fish produced in Western Australia and of the amount imported indicate that over the past three or more years, the quantity of fresh fish produced in this State has been very consistent; likewise, the amount of imported fish was just as consistent.

Over the past three years Western Australia consumed approximately 7,500,000lb. of fish for each year. Of this, 5,000,000lb. was produced from the local waters, leaving 2,500,000lb. which was imported.

Mr. Lawrence: Is the imported fish wet fish?

Mr. NORTON: Imported fish is not wet fish; it is processed before being sent here. The 5,000,000lb. of fish produced in local waters was all wet fish, and one-third of that quantity came from the Shark Bay area, being made up mainly of snapper and whiting. For some unknown reason an impression has been created in Perth that fish produced in warmer waters is not as good as that from southern and colder waters. That is an absolute fallacy. You, Mr. Chairman, are aware that the fish caught in Geraldton waters is equal to that caught out of Albany.

The best fish in the world is the barramunda, and that fish is found in tropical waters. It has been proved that the snapper caught in these waters is up to the standard of snapper caught in colder waters, so there is no reason why this State cannot sell all the fish that are caught in local waters. It simply means the introduction of new methods for catching the fish and the provision of better transportation.

The fishing industry in respect of scallop and prawn catching has been going along slowly but surely in the Exmouth Gulf and Shark Bay areas. These are proving to be quite successful and payable grounds. It is interesting to note that Queensland has built up a scallop industry for export purposes. There is no reason why this State should not be able to do likewise and so compete on the world's markets.

I was astonished to find out recently that large quantities of prawns are imported by the Eastern States from Japan. It is ridiculous to think that Australia has to import any fish at all. If sufficient funds were allocated to the Fisheries Department to enable it to conduct investigations adequately into the occurrence of prawns, this State would be able to supply the local market as well as having a sufficient quantity available for export. In this respect, I am referring to the large prawns found in the North-West—the banana, the tiger, and the king varieties. As the Minister has told us, private enterprise is developing prawn catching in the Exmouth Gulf area.

There is one variety of fish which has not been touched, and that is the tuna. From the middle of 1940 up to 1950 the C.S.I.R.O. conducted a very intensive survey of all the Australian coastal waters. In a survey of the tuna industry written by Dr. Serventy in 1950, a specific account of all the areas in which tuna can be found is given. He pointed out that some of the best tuna fishing grounds in the

Commonwealth are in Western Australian waters. Furthermore, the survey points out that tests made by the C.S.I.R.O. and others show that the bluefin tuna found in the North-West waters is equal to any found around Canada. It is reputed to be of better flavour and quality.

During 1938, when the American Whaling Co. was operating off the North-West coast with the factory ship "Frango," that vessel caught some hundreds of tons of tuna by hand-line between June and October. It was estimated that their daily average catch was 12 tuna, and each weighed between 40 and 50 lb. So this fish is very economical and appropriate in size. The C.S.I.R.O. has not carried out any investigation into the methods of catching tuna. It has, however, established the habits of that fish, and the area in which it is found. It has also established the fact that tuna, when feeding, will not take a trawl line, but when they are dispersed and looking for food, they hook readily and quite large numbers can be taken with a trawl and with practically any type of lure. Once they are feeding, they move in tight packed schools a considerable depth from the surface, and are not disturbed in any way by trawlers passing over or a troll passing through them.

It is the opinion of the people who conducted the survey in the North-West that if experiments were carried out with purse-seining, hundreds of tons of tuna could be caught. They point out that the area in which this fish can be caught is some distance from the market. This should not interfere with an industry like tuna fishing because that fish is not marketed in the round or fresh. It is always canned or preserved in some way. There is no reason why the ships could not be stationed off some North-West port where ample water and power facilities are available. The fish could be either preserved in brine tanks or by freezing, and then brought into the depot and canned for the overseas markets.

The tuna in this area are mainly to be found during nine months of the year when calm water prevails. During the other three monsoonal months, fishing is not practicable. During that off period, the boats can be laid up and refitted, and the factories overhauled. In fact, the waters of the North-West are far more suitable for this type of fishing than any others around Australia, with the exception of the waters around the Queensland coast. Our waters are far more suitable than the waters of the Great Australian Bight which the Commonwealth Government considered to be the best located in which to carry out experiments in respect of trawling for fish.

In view of the fact that the Commonwealth Government made a substantial profit of nearly £500,000 from the whaling

station at Carnarvon, after repayment of the money spent on its development, some of that profit should be returned to the North-West for the purpose of conducting a survey of the tuna industry. If the Commonwealth Government were to make a start with establishing the tuna industry, in the same way as it established the whaling industry in the North-West, it would be doing this country a great service.

If a tuna industry can be started successfully the scallop and prawn industries can be developed around the former, because the canning and preserving facilities will be available. These facilities are essential to treat the fish for the overseas market. I strongly urge that the Commonwealth be asked to make some of the money from the sale of the whaling station available for the establishment of this industry from Geraldton northward, and thus probably bring about the development of one of the best industries that the Commonwealth could have.

MR. MARSHALL (Wembley Beaches) [9.11: The Estimates were introduced on the 12th September—approximately 11 weeks ago—but, owing to the heavy programme of legislation, we have not had much opportunity to discuss them. It is only now, in the last stage of the session, that we can discuss any of the matters that arise out of the Estimates. The chemical and industrial laboratories at East Perth come under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Mines. These laboratories play a big part in our industrial life because at the laboratories it is possible to ascertain the nature of various types of minerals; and great assistance can be rendered to both the mining and agricultural industries of the State.

I am particularly interested in the section of the laboratories that investigates our native flora and especially the drug-bearing plants. The world is searching for various types of chemicals and cures for the benefit of humanity, and in this State we have a vast potential in this regard. As the result of some investigations I have made, I am satisfied that this matter should receive urgent attention. The potential of drug-bearing plants in this State is tremendous, and it has already been proved that they do exist here, but to date very little has been done to ascertain just what plants we have in Western Australia and what properties they contain; although I am informed that the results obtained to date are encouraging.

The investigation of this matter should, I feel, be put on a large-scale basis, and be given full-time attention because the scope of it is so large that it will take years for the field to be covered. From time to time statements made by leading scientists—professors and doctors—appear in the Press to the effect that a world-wide search is being undertaken for drug-bearing plants in an endeavour to find the

answer to a drug cure for cancer. These people have stated that they consider the therapy treatment of cancer by drugs is, while not perhaps the complete answer, at least a challenge to the other methods exercised today through surgery or by treatment with different machines such as the linear accelerator.

I therefore raise this question because at these laboratories there are facilities to do a lot of work in the extraction of drugs from our native flora; and I hope that the Government will continue with this work. I thank the Minister for his co-operation because since last August he has helped me considerably by placing the chemical engineer at the laboratory at my disposal and putting a section of the laboratory aside especially to do the work necessary for the extraction of fluid from various types of drug-bearing plants.

Possibly it is necessary to analyse the background in order to give emphasis to the reasons why I consider we should push ahead and make a thorough investigation of the various types of drug-bearing plants in Western Australia. This State is one of the oldest known countries in the world and it has been populated by the aborigines for centuries. Before the advent of the white man to Australia, and in particular to Western Australia, these primitive people did not have the benefit of medical science, as we know it, to aid them in their sickness. They had to fend for themselves and find their own remedies with the result that they exploited the natural flora of the State. No doubt many of the substances used by them were found by trial and error. But over the centuries they have had the opportunity to perform their experiments and to find suitable treatment for their particular ailments. So, by these methods the learned ones of the tribes have gathered this information and have become the native "witch-doctors" or "medicine men."

In Western Australia there are very many different tribes and they have confined their activities to their own particular areas. A native of the Kimberleys would not travel to the North-West, and a native from the North-West would not travel to the Murchison. Again a native of the Murchison would not leave his area and travel to the wheatbelt, and neither would a native of the wheatbelt travel to the North-West. Even to this day this particular custom is, among the bush natives, still in vogue. The reason is simply that for one tribe to enter the area of another would be to court disaster and, in all probability, death. Thus, right throughout Western Australia in the days before the advent of the white man, each tribe had to fight for its own existence and had to find its own cures for its ailments. The knowledge gained by one tribe was not passed on to another for the obvious reason that the enmity between

the tribes precluded the exchange of knowledge gained. So, throughout the State, each individual tribe adopted its own method of treatment and made its own discoveries of the beneficial properties of the particular flora of its area.

With the coming of the white man to this country, a matter of 129 years ago so far as this State is concerned, and with the civilisation of the native blending with the ways of the white population, the natives have gradually accepted the white man's treatment for their illnesses, and the treatments they used in the past are gradually dimming into obscurity. The old bush native is dying out and with him goes the knowledge he gathered from his forefathers of the native way of treating their illnesses, and the knowledge of the flora that was used; and not only the particular flora but the method of the preparation of the flora for medicinal purposes.

The day is not far distant when all this information will be completely lost, for the native is not like the white man. He does not record in documentary form what plant or mineral is used for a particular purpose, nor does he write down the formula of how to prepare it. This knowledge he keeps in his head and when that head, through age, finally rests for evermore—when the old man of the tribe passes on to the company of his forefathers—so does the knowledge he gained pass into the unknown, never to be recalled.

The material things of life we must leave behind us, but the knowledge we have stored in our brain we take with us and that is exactly what is taking place. Even now the proposal I wish to submit is belated, but before it is too late and hopeless, let us make a move to gather what knowledge is left and to collate this knowledge, record it and ultimately investigate it to the fullest, for who knows what this State, which we call our own, has in it in regard to medicinal properties and treatments about which we know nothing.

It is all very well to be apathetic about the issue, but what we must keep in mind is this: If we do not help ourselves, how can we expect to receive help? How many of our known treatments have been found and adopted through the knowledge that the natives used them? Many of their practices have been taken over in this way. True, they have been refined, isolated, concentrated and prepared in a manner that we know is safe for use, and for this, credit is due to the science of medicine.

Did we know of the effects of cocaine before the natives did so? No. Coca leaves are obtained from two South American plants, *erythroxylon coca* and *erythroxylon bolivianum*, which contain an alkaloid—cocaine. The dried leaves have been used from time immemorial by the South American Indians who chew them mixed

with a little lime. The effect is to dull the mucous surfaces of the mouth and stomach, with which the saliva, produced by chewing these leaves, comes into contact, thus blunting for a long time all feeling of hunger.

The cocaine being absorbed produces on the central nervous system a stimulating effect so that all sense of fatigue and breathlessness vanishes for the time being. It was by the use of coca that the Indian post runners of South America were able to achieve their extraordinary feats of endurance using half-an-ounce of the leaves daily. The South American Indians were cognisant of the effects of this plant and they used it long before medical science ever heard of it.

Betel nut, where the fresh leaves of the plant are wrapped around the betel nut and lime and it is chewed, is a stimulant and narcotic. For many others, no doubt too numerous to mention, credit is due to the natives who found them. Medical science subsequently took them over and put them to scientific medical use. But these discoveries have been outside of our State of Western Australia, and for that matter Australia, and so far as our own State is concerned little or nothing at all has been done to ascertain what we have on our own doorstep.

From my own investigations, I know of many native treatments that the natives have used in the past and which I believe have been beneficial to them. I quote, for instance, a particular plant that grows in the Kimberleys. Not only has it been used by the natives, but it is used by some of the white people to this very day. It has a common name among the people, and I believe that the botanical name is *gruer polygama*. In the case of severe enteritis or diarrhoea, all that is required to remedy the complaint is a handful of the leaves of this plant boiled in the same way as one would prepare senna leaves. The liquid is drunk, and in next to no time the complaint is remedied.

This particular plant is known to the Government Botanist who is aware of the use of it. Then there is the gum with the reverse action. This gum is commonly known as "sugar brother" and grows in the Murchison district. A portion of the gum chewed, and a hot drink afterwards, is all that is required for a complete evacuation. There is the plant that grows on Murgoo station that, when chewed and swallowed by the native women, produces abortion.

There is the bush that grows in the Northampton district that has been used by the natives in the past for the cure of venereal disease. There is the milk from a vine that allegedly cures warts. There is the bark from another tree that is boiled and in the case of arthritis the affected limb is soaked in the hot extract and the pain is relieved. Another bush is

burnt and the fumes are inhaled to relieve colds. The leaves of another bush are chewed and swallowed to relieve biliousness.

Of course, there are countless others, but last and by no means least is the bush that I have recently brought under notice and which I have every reason to believe is a palliative in the case of cancer. It could, and may even be proven to be, a cure for this dreaded complaint. Even though it may not be a cure, and proves to be simply a palliative—and certain unofficial tests to date indicate that it is—this is a tremendous step forward, and at this stage I may mention that this particular plant is, I believe, peculiar to Australia and principally Western Australia.

These are only some of the treatments that have come under my notice, and I say without fear of contradiction that there are many more. Western Australia is a large area and the growth of flora is of many and varied types. Facilities for investigation are already provided at the Government Chemical Laboratories and this work, I am satisfied, can be effected if official sanction is given. Some of the work is already going on and, as I have said, they have the facilities there to continue it at the industrial branch of the Government Chemical Laboratories, Hay-st., East Perth.

I believe that when the laboratory was built, in 1954, it was designed specifically for this particular purpose—the investigation of native flora and such items as are closely allied to this particular type of investigation. In support of this statement I quote "The West Australian" newspaper of the 24th July, 1951. An article was published stating that the laboratory was to be established for the purpose of investigating the possibility of obtaining drugs from native flora.

Then, in a report by the director, it was said that the laboratory was to be utilised for working on the extraction of drugs from local plants. Also in the "Sunday Times", dated the 21st October, 1951, a statement was publicised that the laboratory would work on extracts from native flora. The English magazine "Manufacturing Chemist" dated September, 1951, at page 377, stated that this laboratory had been established for the work I have mentioned; and "The West Australian" of the 31st January, 1952, published an article stating that the laboratory would be working on the extraction of drugs from local flora.

I have ascertained that in the laboratory is installed equipment valued at £26,000, and it has been designed specifically for this type of work. There is sufficient equipment installed to cover this field of operation. As members are possibly aware, I have been conducting a considerable amount of investigation into the

work at the laboratory but there is one factor which I think could be assisted by the Government through the Minister—I refer to the fact that the laboratory needs more staff. At the moment it is very much under-staffed and I believe that the valuable work being carried out there warrants the provision of more officers. I would like to see a system established under which we could encourage young people to enter the laboratories on a cadetship. They could be taught elementary laboratory work, and they could work as laboratory assistants. This would give them an opportunity to study while attending the Technical College with a view to becoming chemical engineers.

Few realise the great value of such people, particularly in these days, and if the Government could assist in that regard, and provide cadetships so that young people could work at the laboratory while at the same time attending the Technical College or the University they would, when they became chemical engineers, be a great asset to the State.

There is one final statement, which I would like to quote from the "Sunday Times," dated the 10th November, 1957. It concerns a report of a Sydney doctor who recently returned from a trip to Japan. He was commenting on new drugs and the article reads—

A top Sydney doctor who returned to Sydney tonight from Japan said new drugs had achieved cures of 40 per cent. of cancer and leukemia in mice. He looked forward to similar success with human beings. The doctor, Dr. A. Freedman, has been attending a five-day international conference on these diseases in Tokyo as delegate from the N.S.W. Cancer Council. Dr. Freedman, honorary physician at the special unit for cancer research of Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney, said, "I am convinced some success with human beings will be achieved with chemotherapy. Chemotherapy will prove to be a powerful ally in conjunction with surgery and deep x-rays in the fight against cancer."

He said that an enormous amount of work in the field of chemotherapy had been carried out in Japan, Russia and U.S.A. Professor Larionov, of Moscow, had discovered a chemical substance which was effective in treating a small group of comparatively rare tumours. These included cancer of the liver and malignant tumours arising from bone.

And so the article goes on. It seems that the search for drugs to overcome this dreaded disease is necessary. In the field of medicine over the years we have been fortunate in that we have been able to retard the incidence of tuberculosis; and

considerable assistance has been given by the Commonwealth and State Governments. When we read the figures showing the high incidence of cancer today, we realise that we have to do everything possible to make some progress in combating it.

Mr. Lawrence: What are the qualifications of the doctor you quoted?

Mr. MARSHALL: It was Dr. Freedman, honorary physician at the special unit for cancer research at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney. He had been attending an international conference in Tokyo as the delegate from the New South Wales Cancer Council. I ask the Government, through the Minister, to do everything possible to assist in the work of combating this scourge, cancer. I know that the laboratory is carrying out valuable work, but I feel sure that if any further investigation is required, the Government will allow these people who have the proper technological facilities to carry it out. They will thoroughly investigate our flora—they are already doing work in this field—and I feel sure that their work will be beneficial to mankind.

We already have some results of the work that is being done and I thank Dr. Samuel, the officer in charge of the chemical laboratories, for the assistance he has given. I also want to pay a tribute to Mr. Reid, the chemical engineer, who is most enthusiastic, and they are doing a wonderful job. It now remains for the Government to assist in every possible way because I feel sure that those officers will do all they can to co-operate and to overcome the dreadful scourge of cancer.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Industrial Development, £152,649; Fisheries, £57,586—agreed to.

Vote—Tourist Bureau, £42,876:

Mr. COURT: Can the Minister give me the break-up of the estimated revenue for 1957-58 of £14,000? I am also rather interested to find out whether it is expected that the Metropolitan Tourist Omnibus Services will form part of the trust when the trust commences to operate. At the moment, there is quite an important tourist traffic in the metropolitan area catered for by the tourist omnibus service and that, of course, is a private concern. Its bookings are done by the Tourist Bureau, as are its bookings for country tours. The bureau in return, presumably, receives a booking fee the same as it does for air-lines and other bookings.

Can the Minister tell me whether it is proposed that this service will continue to function as a private service, or whether it will come under the trust because it is a specialised type of service, and it is necessary that it dovetails in with its country services which are expanding?

I also want to know whether the Minister is satisfied about the attention that is given during the busy tourist season at the Tourist Bureau office in connection with bookings. Bookings for tours are quite a tricky business—even a specialised one—and it needs people to be thoroughly trained in the work, as no doubt they are there. But I understand there is a curtailment of staff on Saturday mornings, and it is logical to suppose that Saturday morning would be a fairly busy time for people thinking of taking tours. If my information is correct and there is a curtailment of staff on Saturday mornings, it seems illogical, especially during the busy season.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Regarding the first point raised by the hon. member, apparently it has not loomed very largely in the bureau's mind or it would have been brought to my notice. I could not say definitely that there is no intention of absorbing that section but I would not think there is; otherwise there would have been some howling done at my door before now. Probably the Minister for Transport could answer the query.

As regards the bureau giving a service to the public, I would point out to the hon. member that few bureaux in Australia are open on Saturday mornings. Some are, but very few, and obviously the cost of keeping the bureau open in a fully-manned state on Saturday mornings would be considerable. As a matter of fact, the volume of Saturday morning business is not great at any time.

Mr. Court: I should imagine that during the season Saturday morning business would be the heaviest.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: During the week is the time when the office is inundated with business.

Mr. Court: Cannot they overcome it with the roster system?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have been to the office on a Saturday morning and seen no one there.

Mr. Court: The season would affect it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It would be difficult to have a staff specially to handle bookings at odd times.

Mr. Court: I do not think it is an odd occasion because the remuneration the bureau would receive from these bookings would be considerable.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Not very considerable.

Mr. Court: You said 10 per cent.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The majority of them are lower than that.

Mr. Court: On their tourist omnibuses they get 10 per cent.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am not sure what the figure is exactly. It would not pay to keep the office open for work on Saturday morning.

Mr. Court: Do you know how much of the £14,000 is derived from their booking arrangements?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No, but I will endeavour to secure the information for the hon. member.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—North-West, £1,650,176; Harbour and Light and Jetties, £274,585—agreed to.

Vote—Supply and Shipping, £8,008:

Mr. ROBERTS: I would like the Minister to inform us as to the functions of the Department of Supply and Shipping. From Item 1 it will be seen that the staff comprises three members for liaison work and three clerks. The number of clerks was reduced from five in 1956-57 to three in 1957-58. The total decrease in the estimated expenditure for the year 1957-58 is £2,920. Some years ago this department was important in obtaining goods in short supply for this State, but I feel it has probably outlived its usefulness. Can the Minister explain its functions?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: These Estimates are presented on behalf of the Minister for Supply and Shipping and I would have to obtain the details for the hon. member. The decrease is the result of the transfer of two officers to the Chief Secretary's Department and the non-recurring payment in marginal increase.

Mr. Roberts: You do not know whether the department is still securing goods for the State?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The liaison officers are doing a good job in facilitating the transference of goods from one State to another. Beyond that I have no information.

Vote put and passed.

Progress reported till a later stage of the sitting.

(Continued on page 3940.)

BILLS (4)—RETURNED.

- 1, Town Planning and Development Act Amendment (No. 1).
- 2, Child Welfare Act Amendment (No. 1).

Without amendment.

- 3, Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act Amendment.

- 4, Child Welfare Act Amendment (No. 2).

With amendments.

BILL—LAND TAX ASSESSMENT ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it insisted on its amendments Nos. 1 and 3.

BILL—COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT.*Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it insisted on its amendments Nos. 6 and 16 and had disagreed to the further amendment made by the Assembly to No. 15 and insisted on its original amendment.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1957-58.*In Committee of Supply.*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting, Mr. Heal in the Chair.

Vote—Department of Native Welfare, £223,552.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [1947]: There are two matters with which I wish to deal. The first concerns the amount which has been set aside for natives in Western Australia for the year. The total amount, including that in Division 58, is £458,487—in other words, it is a little short of £500,000. That amount is to be spent on something in excess of 22,000 natives distributed throughout Western Australia. In the same year, however, the Commonwealth Government proposes to spend £1,150,000 for natives in the Northern Territory. There are about 10,000 natives in the Northern Territory. In other words, for every £1 that we spend on natives in Western Australia, the Commonwealth Government will spend £4 in the Northern Territory. I think that clearly indicates that when the committee that has been set up arrives at an estimate as to what is necessary to provide for the basic needs of the aborigines in Western Australia and when that estimate is finally put up to the Commonwealth, then we should have a very good case for a substantial amount from the Federal Government for the care of our natives.

The second matter I want to deal with will take much longer, and I must apologise for this. I hesitate to bring it up at such a late stage of the session; but it concerns the propriety and accuracy of various statements which have emanated from the Native Welfare Department in recent times, and unfortunately, from the Minister for Native Welfare in this State. I do not know where the Minister is at the moment, but I hope he is in the House, and that if he is, he will come in and hear what I have to say.

The Minister for Works: Unfortunately he cannot be back until 10 o'clock.

Hon. A. F. Watts: The hon. member had better keep going until then.

MR. GRAYDEN: I regret that the Minister will not be back until 10 o'clock but I intend to take advantage of this opportunity, because it may well be the last one I will have to correct the statements made. There is still an item on

the notice paper dealing with a report which has been laid on the Table of the House and perhaps the Minister can take that opportunity to reply to anything I might say.

The Minister for Works: Perhaps he might reply next year.

MR. GRAYDEN: The first point I want to make is this: The Minister recently based his justification and the justification of the department's ridicule of the select committee appointed by this House, on the fact that in the select committee's report this statement was made—

The facts disclosed by this inquiry provide ample justification for a similar parliamentary investigation in other parts of this State and this committee recommends accordingly.

Because that statement was contained in the report of the select committee the Minister for Native Welfare says the Commissioner of Native Welfare has a right to defend himself and his department by calling the report exaggerated. The members of the select committee went out of their way to avoid criticism of the Native Welfare Department as they did not want to involve it in the controversy, yet because we included the simple statement to which I have just referred, the Minister now says that the commissioner was quite entitled to do what he could to defend his department. Members of the committee know exactly what he did and the statements he made.

The Minister for Works: Haven't you said this before?

MR. GRAYDEN: I have not dealt with that particular point because the Minister only made mention of it the other day.

The Minister for Works: I seem to have heard you saying that before.

MR. GRAYDEN: The Minister for Native Welfare described the statement I have just referred to as a violent attack on the department. These are his actual words—

But having regard for the position as the commissioner saw it, I feel that his report is not an unfair or an unreasonable one. I think in some ways the commissioner acted with mildness when he replied to what was a violent attack upon the department in the recommendation which I read. It appears to have taken no cognisance of the recognised policy, either of the department or of other authorities throughout Australia, to agree that desert natives in a nomadic state be left in that condition.

Here we have the Minister saying that the select committee took no cognisance of the fact that it is the recognised policy of the department to leave these natives in a nomadic condition. The Minister for Native Welfare knows only too well that

he has permitted wholesale intrusion in the central areas in which these nomadic natives reside.

On the Warburton reserve he made available to a nickel mining company over 4,000,000 acres and it has 100 men working in close association with the natives on the reserve. He also allowed the Commonwealth Government to put a weather station at Giles. These are instances of wholesale intrusion into these areas. Therefore, it is futile for the Minister, at this stage, to say that the recognised policy of his department is to leave these natives in a nomadic condition.

I also criticise the Minister for his failure to support his colleagues in respect of the select committee's report. A report was before the House the other day on transport and the Premier made some particularly caustic comments about the Opposition because it failed to support the member for Blackwood. That was a question of policy. The particular matter was completely contrary to Liberal policy, so there is no parallel. The Premier was very caustic in his criticism of the Opposition for failing to support one of its colleagues; yet the Minister for Native Welfare openly not only fails to support the report drawn up by a select committee which included his colleagues and was unanimously approved by the House but has actually gone out of his way to ridicule the report which was submitted. For some time, I have been endeavouring to get the Minister for Native Welfare to substantiate the statements made in connection with the select committee's report.

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that he is supposed to be discussing the Department of Native Welfare and not the report of the select committee. The hon. member must realise that Item No. 10 on the notice paper is in relation to the select committee and when that matter is dealt with, he will have an opportunity to reply. He must confine his remarks to the Department of Native Welfare.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I am suggesting that I am most unhappy about the type of statements which have recently been made by the Commissioner of Native Welfare and the Minister; and it is bringing the department into disrepute.

The Minister for Works: There is nothing in Standing Orders providing for unhappiness.

The CHAIRMAN: There is a motion which has been fully debated and the hon. member has the right of reply. Therefore, he must confine his remarks to the Department of Native Welfare.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I will be happy to leave the matter until a later stage of the sitting provided that item on the notice paper will be debated.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not in charge of the House; all I say is that the hon. member cannot debate that matter now.

Mr. GRAYDEN: If it is not debated and the Minister is allowed to get away with the things he is saying, it will be deplorable indeed.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, but I cannot be blamed for that.

Mr. GRAYDEN: In deference to your ruling, Mr. Chairman, I will leave these matters until we come to that particular item and hope that the Minister will be present. From my point of view that would be more satisfactory. With those remarks, I will conclude at this stage.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Police, £1,618,168—agreed to.

Public Utilities:

Vote—Country Water Supplies, Sewerage, Drainage and Irrigation, £1,441,812—agreed to.

Vote—Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department, £1,104,900:

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I desire to take this opportunity of making a brief comment on the increase in the irrigation and drainage rate which has taken place throughout the State.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member will have to name an item and speak on it.

The Minister for Works: You can speak generally on the departmental Estimates. We will go back if you like.

Mr. COURT: I understood we could speak generally when we go back to the Minister's Estimates.

The Minister for Works: That is right.

Mr. COURT: Could I get a clarification as to whether the State Trading Concerns Estimates will come before or after the consideration of the postponed Works and Education Estimates.

The CHAIRMAN: After.

Mr. I. W. Manning: Very well, I will leave my comments till then.

Vote—State Abattoirs and Sale Yards, £150,967—agreed to.

Vote—Railways, £16,708,000:

MR. COURT (Nedlands) [9.58]: I desire to raise a query but the Minister is not here.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not in control of the Ministers. I have a duty to do here.

Mr. COURT: There are two general points I would like answered. The first is: What is the progress to date in the financial year 1957-58 regarding estimated expenditure and income of the railways as

against actual performance? Since these Estimates were drawn up, and I think since they were presented to Parliament, the Government has negotiated the coal agreements and we were given to understand there would be a considerable saving to the State in respect of the State Electricity Commission and the Government railways. I am speaking from memory, but I think the Treasurer said the Estimates were drawn up without making any allowance for the anticipated saving in coal. With the reorganisation we are told is going on in the railways, it is logical to assume that some economies will have been effected on the expenditure side even if there is no stimulus yet to the revenue side.

Lastly, can the Government yet indicate whether it proposes to adjust freights and fares in the near future, and to what extent? I am wondering whether the reorganisation that we are told is proceeding in the Railway Department has resulted in economies on the expenditure side. I understand it has not been possible to stimulate the income greatly and that that will depend on various factors related to increases in fares and freights.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. J. T. Tonkin—Melville) [10.2]: Several factors must be considered in relation to the coal position in the railways. To take advantage of the reduced price of coal, the Government was obliged to enter into a contract for a larger quantity than would have been purchased on the cost-plus basis and that necessitated additional storage, occasioning capital outlay. The department is now providing that additional storage and that will affect the saving which would otherwise immediately be apparent and it will be some time before the actual saving on the cost of coal is large.

Mr. Court: Do I take it you have not yet got the benefit of the lower price, owing to lack of storage?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Not quite. Because the difference in price is fairly substantial and the railways have not yet expended the £19,000—I think that is the figure—which the additional storage will cost, they have up to date shown a cash advantage but that will probably be wiped out when the cost of the additional storage is charged against the accounts. The position, however, will right itself eventually.

The difficulty formerly was that owing to limited storage, when the existing storage was filled, the orders had to be reduced and, under the arrangement with the companies, the cost of coal then went up. In order to obtain a uniform price, additional storage became essential and by providing it the department will be able to take advantage of the saving in cost.

Mr. Court: Are you building the storage out of revenue and not from loan funds?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I have no precise information on that. If it is done out of loan funds, there will be a sinking fund and interest charged against it, but if it is built out of revenue, as it might be, the whole cost would be debited in this financial year.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (Hon. H. E. Graham—East Perth) [10.5]: The Railway Department anticipates a saving of £134,000 this year through the lower price of coal under the new contracts. Like the Minister for Works, I have no specific information as to the method of financing the construction of the new tank to hold additional supplies of coal in order to be able to satisfy the regular output from the mines. No decision regarding fares and freights has been made by the Government. Indeed, the proposals have not been considered by Cabinet as such.

There have been discussions between the Treasurer and the Minister for Railways and the matter has been explored from both the Treasury and the railway angles. Because of the substantial anticipated losses on the railways the Government may have to give serious consideration to a review of the existing charges, though to what extent they would be increased, if at all, I have no idea. Did the member for Nedlands seek information with regard to the savings?

Mr. Court: I want to know how the actual expenditure is going for the first five months of the financial year, as against the estimate submitted, in the hope that there has been a saving owing to the progressive reorganisation.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: There are some savings. Today there are some 800 employees fewer than there were 12 months ago, partly owing to the cessation of operations on certain lines and the lesser staff required for the handling of a lower volume of goods, particularly in regard to the haulage of wheat. I have not the information available to translate those economies in wages into pounds, shillings and pence.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse) [10.8]: The Minister was gloriously vague as to the possibility of an increase in rail freights and fares and as Parliament is expected to rise at the end of this sitting, I think he should indicate whether the possibility of an increase has been discussed by Cabinet and, if so, what the proposals are.

The Minister for Works: The answer is "No."

MR. BOVELL: I am pleased to hear that.

The Minister for Transport: You were told that a few moments ago.

Mr. BOVELL: I am glad to hear the Minister say no consideration has been given to increasing rail freights and fares.

The Minister for Transport: I said Cabinet had not considered it, but that there had been discussions between the Treasurer, the Minister for Railways and Treasury officials, although nothing has yet been presented to Cabinet.

Mr. BOVELL: I hope the Government will not say it is only a coincidence if as soon as the session ends, increased rail charges are imposed on the community.

The Minister for Transport: I think it is likely that the fate of certain financial legislation at present before Parliament will have some bearing on the matter.

Mr. BOVELL: It should not. The conducting of the railways should not be tied up with other financial proposals of the Government. The Railway Department is entirely independent and I am alarmed to hear that the Government's intentions regarding freights and fares hinge on whether it can get revenue from other directions. Country people will be penalised as a rise in freights and fares increases the cost of living in country districts.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
(Hon. H. E. Graham—East Perth [10.10]: The anticipated loss this financial year is £6,359,000, which means that the Treasury is subsidising railway activities to that extent and so it is a question of whether the Government can afford to subsidise the railways to that extent. If it has less funds available from other sources, it will be necessary to bridge the gap. It is not a matter of penalising country people but of them being subsidised to a lesser extent. If one branch of the Legislature decides that money shall not be raised from certain sources it is open to the Government, perhaps as the only alternative, to raise the money from other sources.

MR. ACKLAND (Moore) [10.11]: I do not like the statement that the Government is subsidising country people. I am convinced that the railways can be made to meet their operational expenses. I asked the Premier this afternoon a question regarding Chamberlain Industries, which the Government claims is not a Government concern, although practically the whole of the invested capital is Government money and the concern is controlled by three men, including some who are, or were, civil servants. I refer to Mr. Constantine, someone from the R. & I. Bank and Mr. Fernie.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think that has anything to do with this Vote.

Mr. ACKLAND: I will link it up as I proceed. The Premier's answers to my questions were vague, but we know that Chamberlain Industries has reduced its works staff considerably. I understand, from the Press, that while more than 1,000

people were employed in that industry some two years ago, there are approximately only 600 today—a drop of 40 per cent.—but they have increased their production by 50 per cent.

In answer to a question relating to the railways, the Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Railways, gave me certain information in September last. I asked the number of employees in the Railway Department as at the 1st March, 1953, the 1st March, 1954, and at the end of August, 1957. The answer was that at the 6th March, 1953, there were 12,771 employees. Two years later there were 13,337 and at the end of August last 13,507. In the first instance there were 3.2 men per mile of railways, in the second instance 3.5 men and, after the closure of 842 miles of railway, at the end of September there were 4.3 men per mile.

I am satisfied that, with good administration, the same good results can be achieved on the railways as has been achieved with Chamberlain Industries. Government money is invested in both undertakings, with civil servants managing each of them.

The statement is often made that the Government is subsidising the people in the country, but this statement is absolutely false. An extract taken from a country newspaper, dated the 12th September, 1957, reads as follows:—

In Australia transport costs accounted for over 30 per cent. of the National Budget. In England, Canada and America the cost ranged from 10 to 12 per cent.

Australia suffered by comparison by having the lowest population density of any country served by railways. Part of this problem was due to maldistribution of the existing population. It was a case of congestion at the centre and anaemia at the extremities.

In regard to railway services, the country dweller was fully alive to the value of railways, which opened up the country and added greatly to the value of the land. It assisted rural development and promoted settlement.

These residents paid State and Federal taxes and this revenue greatly exceeded any railway operations loss which was incurred.

The man in the country paid at least 90 per cent. of railway freight charges. Hence he had to bear his heavy proportion of any losses, and one thing he could not understand was why he, as the major earner of the burden, should shoulder the cost of losses in the metropolitan area, to the extent of £1,000,000 per year as well as his own country losses.

It has been said, and figures have been quoted in that respect by the Minister for Transport, that the Government coaching service lost over £500,000 last year, yet 842 miles of railway lines operating in the country were responsible for the loss of practically an identical sum. Despite the fact that the Government has been instrumental in closing 842 miles of railway in country districts, the expenditure of the Railway Department has increased and it has put on more trains in the metropolitan area than were in operation previously. This should be a Government that governs all the people with fairness and not with bias.

Now it has been decided to institute another metropolitan transport system which, in my opinion, will result in the loss of another £500,000. It is about time the Government realised that it is from the country that the revenue of this State stems; it does not come from the metropolitan dweller. Although the Government is quite prepared to allow the railways to lose £500,000 on the metropolitan coaching system which represents only a few railway lines around Perth, it has decided to close railway lines in the country and already, as a result of such a move, there has been a contraction of production and development in those areas, and the position will become infinitely worse in the future.

In studying the expenditure figures for the railways, it is discovered that for every 20s. earned by the railways, 18s. 4d. is spent on salaries. However, although mention is often made of the high cost of administering Commonwealth departments, it is found that for every 20s. earned by the Commonwealth railways, only 8s. 8d. is spent on salaries and wages. If the Government is desirous that Western Australia should continue with its development and progress, I can assure members on the other side of the Chamber that that is not going to be done with the 190 miles of railway lines in the metropolitan area. The cost of development will continue in the metropolitan region, but it is entirely tied up with the development that continues in the out-back districts. It is a shocking state of affairs.

The Treasurer has often said that the farming population is being subsidised by the Government. He has also stated that to carry iron ore by rail from Southern Cross either to Fremantle or Wundowie, is profitable for the Government. In the figures quoted by the Treasurer, it is found that grain is carted at the rate of 2s 9d. whereas iron ore, which is much more difficult to carry than grain, is being transported at the rate of 2s. 2d. I cannot understand how the Treasurer can suggest, for one moment, that iron ore can be carted at a profit when the freight rate

is much lower than the rate for grain which the Treasurer says is carted by the railways at a loss.

The position is one that calls for efficient management. I understand that the Commonwealth Government, with all its railway systems, can show a substantial profit. Therefore, there is no reason why our railways should show a loss of £6,000,000 as has been suggested.

Mr. Jamieson: How is the Midland Railway Co. faring?

Mr. ACKLAND: This year that company has shown a loss, but in previous years it has shown appreciable profits. I have not the actual figures here, but reports for the years indicate that that is the position.

The Treasurer: You are a genius, all right!

Mr. ACKLAND: The Treasurer cannot get away from the fact that he made the statement that the Government was subsidising the people in the country because of the low freights that were charged for the cartage of grain.

The Treasurer: Of course it is!

Mr. ACKLAND: I have the Treasurer's statement in black and white, but unfortunately I have not got it with me at the moment. He also said that iron ore was carted from Southern Cross to Wundowie or Fremantle—

The Treasurer: Make up your mind; which one was it?

Mr. ACKLAND: I said either one or the other. The Treasurer cannot put me off the track like that.

Mr. Evans: Does the Commonwealth railways make it profitable for the farmers to cart their grain by rail?

Mr. ACKLAND: The Commonwealth railways carry the grain of farmers at a profit. I cannot let these Railway Estimates pass without having my say. I believe that in the areas where railways have already been discontinued, production and development are going to contract and, in fact, they have already done so.

The Treasurer: Even the Liberals agreed to that.

Mr. ACKLAND: I have said that Parliament as a whole agreed to the discontinuance of those railway services. In any case, I think that the members of the Liberal Party are very sorry now for their action in that regard.

The Treasurer: They are getting like they were on the transport trust Bill.

Mr. ACKLAND: That is the position as I see it. I know that if Chamberlain Industries can reduce its staff and increase its efficiency, the Railway Department can do the same. Instead of having the huge expenditure of 18s. 4d. for every 20s.

earned, it should try to emulate the Commonwealth railways where the expenditure on salaries and wages is only 8s. 8d. for every 20s. earned. The Commonwealth railways, therefore, are showing a substantial profit not only on the Trans railway but on all services.

The Treasurer: How much superphosphate and wheat do the Commonwealth railways carry?

Mr. Evans: That comparison is completely invidious.

Mr. ACKLAND: Members do not like what I am saying because it is the truth. There is no doubt that the discontinuance of many of the railway services in the country is going to result in the contraction of development and production. Eventually, the people in the city will lose far more than the people in the country. Most country people can contract their expenditure and still make a living, but if they do, the people who are spoon-fed and who enjoy the benefit of a metropolitan railway service which shows a loss of £500,000 a year, will immediately suffer. In fact, the total loss on all transport services, is £1,090,000. That is the figure that has been quoted in this Chamber.

Despite that, the Government is still aiming at spending more money on the metropolitan coaching service. It has a bus and tram service which is losing something in excess of £250,000 a year and it will be the spoon-fed city individual who will suffer the results of such losses more than the people in the country. In comparison with those losses, the railways that have been closed showed a loss of only £500,000. Fortunately, no railways in my electorate have been discontinued, but that is beside the point.

What is important is that the discontinuance of many railway lines will be a great blow to production and development in country centres that are affected. Despite the fact that the Treasurer has said that iron ore is being carted at a profit, he still maintains that grain is carted at a loss. The grain freight is carried on at a loss because the Treasurer is spoon-feeding the people down here.

The Treasurer: The Treasurer did not say that.

Mr. ACKLAND: He and his colleagues are the quickest to complain when they find there is unemployment.

The Treasurer: Why not get within a few miles of the truth?

Mr. ACKLAND: The people of the country have to find the money to pay the workers down here.

The Treasurer: The hon. member is the greatest political humbug in the whole of Western Australia.

Mr. ACKLAND: I have been in this Chamber for over 11 years together with the Treasurer. I have followed a good

teacher in him if I have come anywhere near him as a humbug, because he has been one ever since he has been in the Government.

The CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member to refrain from referring to humbug and to connect his remarks to the Vote.

Mr. ACKLAND: If you, Mr. Chairman, want me to keep strictly to the Vote, you should see that the Treasurer does not interject by making remarks that have nothing to do with the Estimates. I ask you, Sir, to be fair in your strictures to me as you should be to the members on the opposite side. Coming back to the point I was making, this company is showing a profit.

The Treasurer: It is not. Why not tell the truth?

Mr. ACKLAND: That is stated in the Press.

The Treasurer: That is where you ought to be.

Mr. ACKLAND: I have the article before me and the Treasurer might be interested to see it. They have made a profit as a result of incentive payments to the employees. That is something which the Treasurer and his colleagues abhor, because they like the workers to be turned out in a mould and to see that the work is set at the rate of the slowest.

The Treasurer: On that base, the hon. member would get no salary at all.

Mr. ACKLAND: Oh yes, I would. The worker should do a fair day's work for his wages.

Mr. Jamieson: In that case, you would get no pay.

Mr. ACKLAND: The oracle from Beeloo is always coming out with some remark which he considers very clever but which to the rest of the Committee is as stupid as it can possibly be.

Mr. Norton: What has that got to do with the railways?

Mr. ACKLAND: If the hon. member wants to interject in that way, I shall have a go at him.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest the hon. member take no notice of the interjections and refer to the Vote.

Mr. ACKLAND: If you, Mr. Chairman, want me to take no notice of the interjection you have a duty to protect me from the stupid remarks made by the members opposite.

The Minister for Transport: What about protecting us from your remarks? Remember this is a season of good will.

Mr. ACKLAND: To conclude this article, it says—

The man in the country is paying at least 90 per cent. of railway freight charges. Hence he had to bear his

heavy proportion of any losses, and one thing he could not understand was why he, as the major earner of the burden, should shoulder the cost of losses in the metropolitan area to the extent of £1,000,000 per year as well as his own country losses.

The loss on transport sustained by the Government during this financial year is £1,090,000, yet it is increasing the expenditure and the services. It has severed the artery of 842 miles of railway line which was the means of keeping some of the workers in the metropolitan area in production and employment. It is only reasonable that the Minister should tell members how the despised Midland Railway Co. is able to operate its services with 1.5 men per mile of line, whereas, after the closure of 842 miles of line, the Government railways, employing 13,507 men as at the end of August last, operates its services with 4.3 men per mile of line. If that is the sort of thing that goes on, no wonder there is a loss of £5,000,000 or £6,000,000 in the railways. I believe that the railways can be made to operate perfectly satisfactorily.

Mr. Potter: In the other States as well as this?

Mr. ACKLAND: I am talking about Western Australia. The hon. member can tell us about the other States. These lines have been suspended but I believe they will have to be re-instituted, otherwise this State will be the loser thereby.

MR. WILD (Dale) [10.33]: I would ask the Minister to tell the Committee if any consideration has been given to the discontinuance of metropolitan railway services over the week-ends. Members may recall that during the disastrous railway strike about five or six years ago when the McLarty-Watts Government was in office, and when the engine power was reduced to 100 units, the metropolitan railway passenger system was closed from 12 noon on Saturday until midnight Sunday. From the figures given at that time, it was estimated that, apart from the saving in engine power, there would be a saving over a period of 12 months—had the strike continued for that long—of £250,000.

As one living very close to the Armadale-Perth railway line I have observed the fantastically small number of passengers that are carried over those services not only during the week but the week-ends. During week days admittedly there is a large patronage during the peak hours of morning and evening, when the men are going to and from their work; but for the rest of the day the trains carry a few odd shoppers. The metropolitan bus services run almost parallel to the railway line, in some places only 100 yards apart, and they also run within five minutes of the train services. They are competing for patronage and they are both losing. Is it any wonder that with such a duplication of

transport the State is losing a colossal sum on the operations of the metropolitan railway services? I would ask the Minister whether consideration has been given to this aspect.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
(Hon. H. E. Graham—East Perth) [10.36]: As all the members are aware, the management of the railways is in a most unsatisfactory condition. That has been revealed by the several reports submitted by the Royal Commissioner, Magistrate Smith. Because of the unfortunate triumvirate type of set-up, I am afraid that many things which should have been resolved reached only the debating stage and got no further, but of recent date Parliament has decided there should be a metropolitan passenger transport trust.

One of its most important tasks will be to examine metropolitan transport—not only that traversing the roads but also in connection with the railways. Naturally I am not in a position to anticipate what the trust will do. Apart from other factors the personnel of the trust is unknown. Furthermore, the Minister will have no control whatsoever of the trust.

I think I would be right in saying that very serious consideration would be given to the point raised by the member for Dale. It could result with the reverse remedy being applied; that is to say, if there are road services in the area to which he referred, they will be used to feed the railways rather than to compete and run parallel one with the other, and both losing. There are other ideas in connection with this matter which I do not think I should disclose at this stage because of the importance of the situation. I have no doubt whatever that something will be done to meet the position that has arisen.

Item, Contingencies, including stores and materials, etc., £2,020,950.

Mr. COURT: This item deals with the coal situation. I would like some clarification from the Minister as to how far the Government has gone in effecting any savings. I gathered from the Minister for Works that some savings have been effected but not the total savings that were expected once the storage facilities were installed. The answer to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition the other day would indicate that the railways are holding a fairly heavy quantity of both local and imported coal.

The Minister for Works: The railways are not holding more than the original storage amount. That storage is full.

Mr. COURT: Fairly substantial quantities of coal are held in trucks.

The Minister for Works: The State Electricity Commission has taken about 14,000 tons over the period more than it would normally have done, because the railways could not take the extra amount.

Mr. COURT: That is to say, overall, between the S.E.C. and the railways, the required quantity from the mines has been taken in order to get the benefit of the reduced price, but the railways have not had the full share of the benefit because it could not take the greater quantity.

Hon. D. Brand: Would that account for all the trucks being filled with coal in the Midland Junction yards?

The Minister for Works: It could to some extent.

Item, Timber mill locomotives overhaul suspense account, £103,950.

Mr. COURT: Regarding the railway timber mill, the total cost is apparently absorbed into the railway stores account. Can the Minister indicate whether any appraisalment has been made of the commercial value of the timber produced by that mill? If the same timber had been purchased through private suppliers or through the State Building Supplies, what would have been the cost?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I regret that I have not been supplied with any information in connection with the operations of the railway mill at Banksiadale.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Tramways, £1,255,000:

Item, Salaries and allowances, £135,000.

Mr. JAMIESON: The general manager's salary last year was £3,520 and the estimate for this year is £8,700. Mr. Napier is about to retire and possibly a lot of this extra amount will be taken up in leave. However, it appears to be in excess of what we would expect him to be normally entitled to.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: It does appear to be excessive. At the same time I am aware of another public servant who is about to retire and for some strange reason he has an accumulation of one year and 200 days' leave due to him. That would represent a considerable sum. I have no explanation on the point.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Ferries, £15,600; State Batteries, £157,500; Cave House, £45,355; Medina Hotel, £34,200—agreed to.

Vote—Public Works and Buildings, £1,169,080 (partly considered):

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [10.48]: I wish to deal mainly with drainage in the Belmont area. The Minister is well aware of the necessity for drainage in the Belmont-Kewdale district. He has indeed made some provision to commence a scheme there during this financial year. The Belmont Park Road Board is somewhat concerned because of the consideration

that is being handed out to some districts and not to others. On the 7th November, the secretary of the board, wrote to me as follows:—

It was recently reported in "The West Australian" newspaper that the Hon. the Minister for Water Supplies in reply to a question in the House stated that provision had been made for drainage of Brown's Lake at Bayswater at a cost of £26,000 in the current loan programme whereas only £8,000 had been provided for work in this district despite contribution of my board to cost of such work.

Considerable disappointment was expressed at the paucity of the funds allocated in view of the urgency of the problem, particularly in Kewdale. Members feel that work in this district should have had a greater priority considering the finance made available by the ratepayers concerned to relieve the position.

The Minister has been considerate, in some degree, to the requests that have been made by this road board from time to time, but very little in the way of works of any kind has taken place in the district. With the exception of road works, Government works to improve the district have been practically negligible. Yet we see what has been done at Brown's Lake. I do not deny that drainage there is required, but it is not as necessary as it is in the Kewdale area. First things should come first. The departmental officers, when drawing up the Estimates, should be more careful to weigh the advantages that will accrue to the number of people in each particular district that will be served by drainage schemes.

The Brown's Lake area, which is off the end of Beaufort-st., is, in the main, confined to a clear boundary as compared with the swampy nature of the terrain at Kewdale. As Brown's Lake is confined more or less to a natural lake which goes right through the northern suburbs district, drainage there is not of vital importance. It does not affect the operation of septic systems and other drainage functions associated with closely-settled areas. I suggest to the Minister that when his departmental officers are preparing estimates, he should see that the areas that most need attention should be given consideration. Then, and then only, would I consider that a local authority would not be justified in further complaining about the treatment meted out to it.

As a matter of fact, some of these other authorities may have offered to pay a portion of the cost of the drainage, but so far as I know they have not, whereas the Belmont Park Road Board has. Recently the Minister, in answer to a question, indicated that the work on drainage in the Kewdale-Belmont area would begin somewhere early in March.

While the departmental officers might consider that to be the best month in which to start such a project, it might be indicated to them that where they have to start there is a single drain, and they could possibly start much earlier. If we had an early winter, they would be bogged down before they got very far. There was much concern in the district this year when the drain at the corner of Francisco-st and Belmont Avenue collapsed and caused flooding in the area. Emergency action was taken and that saved the situation from being considerably worse than it would otherwise have been.

I suggest that the Minister should arrange for this work to commence some time in February, and by so doing he would save the department a lot of money in the long run because if there was an inundation of water, it would be necessary to throw a considerable work force into the venture in order to save the money already expended. Another aspect in connection with the Drainage Department is the request that has been forthcoming from the authorities, particularly the Board of Health at Belmont, with respect to the sewerage of the international airport at Guildford.

As this airport grows, more and more people will be working there and using it. When it was first opened, the septic systems were working quite successfully, but due to the low nature of the terrain—in general it was a natural drainage course before being filled in for the construction of air strips—the disposal of sewer waste has become more and more difficult. I understand that when the airport was first constructed there were some negotiations with the Commonwealth in regard to this matter, but the cost to put a sewer line over the river to connect up with the system in Bayswater, would have been exorbitant. However, as there are now sewerage works in progress in the Guildford district, further consideration might be given to the question of something being done, on a co-operative basis, with the Commonwealth Government.

I have noticed that recently the Federal member for Stirling in the House of Representatives, Mr. Webb, has asked the Government whether it would be interested in assisting the State Government in such a project, and I understand the reply is that an examination of the possibility of having further funds made available is taking place. For the sake of the health of the people who work at the airport and those who use it as an air terminal, it must be effectively sewerage.

Another aspect I wish to touch on concerns the departmental activities in advising the Town Planning Board on the water levels with respect to approvals of subdivisions of land. The departmental officers seem to have developed a system of suggesting that as long as the location name is Cannington, or something similar,

they do not bother to check, but say, "It is damp and should not be subdivided for homes." It is due to their action in so advising the Town Planning Board that a considerable area that could well be developed for housing purposes, has been held up.

The water level is no doubt only a few feet under the surface pretty well all over the Canning district, but never at any time have there been overall complaints of failure of septic systems or flooding; but there have been in the undulating territories of Bentley Park and other such regions. I suggest that before a policy of disregarding any recommendation for a subdivision in this area is adopted, the proposition should be gone into very fully. I had a proposal recently for a subdivision in Mill-st. where it is as dry as it is here, yet it was refused on the ground that certain drainage works were required.

The Drainage Department itself had at the rear of this property a deep drain which would prevent the water from rising further than about 4ft. from the surface. I suggest that in these circumstances the advice tendered to the Town Planning Board was completely wrong. It was not in any way satisfactory to the people requiring subdivisions. The general policy which is adopted of disregarding areas with certain watertable levels, is a poor one; and it is obvious that this has taken place because the complaints all seem to centre around the one area.

The land there is flat and huge drainage projects are not required, as they are in other areas. Where there has been no natural flooding over the years, and no possibility of flooding in the future, the recommendations for subdivision should be endorsed by the department. Even if areas do not quite measure up to the required standards, but the ground is undulating and there is a likelihood of trouble in getting waste water away at a later date, the department should further investigate the position.

There is one other matter I would like to bring to the Minister's notice and this concerns water rates. The question has been before the department on a number of occasions, I understand, and it concerns the person who, on taking over a house, is levied with a big excess water bill because the vacating tenant has used a considerable amount of water. The incoming tenant is unlucky because he arrives just as the rates become due, and instances have been brought to my notice where people have been living in State Housing Commission homes for only a month, and in that time have used very little water. In one case the tenant moved in during the winter months and no water was used on the garden, but because they moved in at that particular time, those people were levied for a considerable amount of excess water rates.

That is a very unsatisfactory position, and even if the Government finds it necessary to call upon every person whose property is connected to departmental mains to provide some form of deposit to cover any discrepancies that may occur, I think it would be much more satisfactory than billing people for excess consumption when they have never used the water. The present system of making the person who happens to be in the house at the time pay the excess water bill, is completely wrong. Nobody in his right mind would request a person to pay for something that he did not use. If it can be done with one commodity, it can be done with another. If it involves a change of departmental policy, then that should be done.

It is of no use anyone saying that it cannot be done because it has been done with the supply of electricity; and it can be done with the supply of water. So I would like the Minister to give close consideration to changing the policy completely in respect to rented homes. Tenants of State Housing Commission homes are more liable in this connection because with privately-owned homes, the department has a hold over the owner of the property. But it is high time that people who rent homes just when the excess water rates are due are given some protection so that they do not have to pay for something that they have not used. To assume that they are responsible for the excess and to levy a charge on them, is nothing less than daylight robbery. Those are the only remarks I wish to make on this vote, and I hope that the Minister has taken some notes of the requests that I have made, and that some action will be taken on them.

MR. I. W. MANNING (Harvey) [11.51]: I desire to offer some protest to the Government, and the Minister for Works in particular, for the recent steep increase of 15 per cent. in the irrigation and drainage rates. Where is this all going to end? For a number of years now we have had steep increases in irrigation and drainage charges, and it does not seem to get us anywhere because the operating costs of these schemes seem to be increasing also.

Last year the Minister promised me that he would have a look at the cost of operation of these schemes to see if some move could be made to reduce the operating costs, so that the ever-increasing need for increased charges could be obviated. These increased charges cover a very wide area and the Minister says that they are required because of the constant losses on operations, even without providing for the interest and sinking fund. As far as I know, it has never been the Government's intention to take the interest and sinking fund into consideration. The charges made are designed, as nearly as possible, to cover

operating expenses; but while charges are being increased, it seems operating costs are increasing also.

Little new work is being done on these schemes, particularly the irrigation schemes, which would warrant an increase in charges. So at this stage I can only appeal to the Minister to have a look at the question of operating costs to see what can be done. Perhaps he can tell us, if he replies, how it is that operating costs are increasing as they are. In drawing a comparison between this year's and last year's figures, taken from the Auditor General's report, I find that as regards the Waroona district, the deficiency has been halved; but in other areas, such as Collie and Harvey, the deficiency has doubled. That indicates that something might be happening along those lines, and I would like the Minister to comment on the figures.

I would also like to know from the Minister how the land grading charges are arrived at for the Stirling drainage district. I recently asked a question on this matter and the Minister said that the charge for land grading is made on the unimproved value of the land. The accepted method of charging for land grading is so much per acre or so much per hour—so much per hour for the operation of the land grader. I should like to know from the Minister the method used in this instance because I am interested in it.

While I do not propose to have a great deal to say on this question, I feel very concerned about it; and I know my colleague, the member for Murray, is most concerned about it because it affects his electorate as well. His electors, like mine, are concerned that each year it is necessary to have steep increases in the charge for irrigation water and in the drainage rates. If this is to continue, it will become a problem because farmers in those areas have no opportunity of passing on the extra costs. Their produce—milk, butter-fat, potatoes and stock—is largely controlled by marketing boards, with the exception of stock which is sold on the open market by the auction system. But even so, the producer has no opportunity of passing on these ever-increasing costs and charges.

The Minister for Lands: Doesn't he get increased production as a result of it?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: No; how can he get increased production? If he is an irrigation farmer he is producing the same products as last year on the same type of country.

The Minister for Lands: You cannot tell me that irrigation does not increase production and make it possible to produce more!

Hon. D. Brand: The increased rate for water does not increase production.

The Minister for Lands: That is why they are using it at Harvey.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: The question raised by the Minister does not come into it at all because these are established irrigation districts, and the land has been under irrigation for many years. It is not new land that is being brought under irrigation for the first time. The rates these farmers have been paying for their water have been increased by 15 per cent., and that is a steep increase.

The Minister for Lands: Don't you think the farmers there can afford to pay it?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: No, I do not.

The Treasurer: You think the Government should give them water at a quarter the cost of supplying it?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: There is a cost-of-production formula for most of those commodities, such as milk and potatoes, but the increased costs are not taken into consideration. Milk, which is the main product of the irrigation districts, is controlled by the Milk Board, and that board is most reluctant to increase the price to the consumer. So the producer gets no extra return and he is not in a position to pass these charges on. He is not getting the same margin for his produce as he did several years ago. I ask the Minister, in fairness to these people, to look very closely at the operating costs of these schemes so that these points can be taken into consideration.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Local Government, £39,410; Town Planning, £31,587; Education, £7,071,675; Labour, £14,248; Factories, £32,327; State Insurance Office, £5; Unfair Trading and Profits Control, £8,810—agreed to.

This concluded the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

In Committee of Ways and Means.

The TREASURER: I move—

That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the services of the year ending the 30th June, 1958, a sum not exceeding £46,493,164 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

STATE TRADING CONCERNS ESTIMATES, 1957-58.

Tabling of Estimates.

The TREASURER: I present a copy of the State Trading Concerns Estimates for the year ending the 30th June, 1958, and move—

That these papers be laid on the Table of the House.

Question put and passed.

In Committee.

Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the State Trading Concerns for the year ending the 30th June, 1958, now considered, Mr. Norton in the Chair.

Divisions—State Engineering Works, £766,727; State Hotels, £218,462; Western Australian Meat Exports, £652,700; Wyndham Freezing Works, £1,408,600—agreed to.

Division—State Shipping Service, £1,984,881:

Mr. COURT: The question of State shipping is at a transitory stage because a new ship will be coming on and the "Delamere" is being converted. The old ships are being disposed of. The estimated cash deficit as distinct from the trading deficit for the year ending the 30th June, 1958, is shown at the substantial figure of about £800,000. Could the Treasurer give us some indication of the trading losses that are expected from State shipping services when the new ships are in operation and the old ships have been disposed of? It is a heavy loss. The Minister said that he was able to counter losses of freight to Wyndham through greater efficiency and quicker turn-around, but normal operation is still a matter for concern. I presume that the £500,000 from the Commonwealth Government and the Grants Commission is for a specific purpose.

The TREASURER: The replacement of the old vessels in the State Shipping Service on the run from Fremantle to Darwin by modern vessels will make a substantial difference to the running costs of the total fleet and the net financial result achieved from year to year. I have not any clear-cut figures in this matter but we know that the "Koolinda" is a very old ship and costly to run, and the "Kybra," though not costly to run in the sense of working or operating costs, is costly because it is a very small ship and not capable of carrying great quantities of cargo either on the North-West run or when returning to Fremantle.

The State Shipping Service is, of course, the lifeline to our North-West and it is also important to the port of Darwin. I understand a great deal of trade is done by Perth manufacturers and Perth businessmen generally with Darwin traders, and therefore the maintenance of this shipping line, particularly beyond our own North-West ports to Darwin, is important. Naturally that service will improve when the new ships come on to the run and the Government is hopeful that the losses incurred in recent years will be reduced.

The Grants Commission has taken a reasonable view of the losses incurred in the running of this service. Quite rightly and fairly it took the view that this service could not possibly be expected to run

at a profit because it is of an essential character serving only a small population. The ships run great distances to serve the sparse population that resides in our North-West. So the Grants Commission feels that it is quite within its jurisdiction to recommend to the Commonwealth that it is fair that Western Australia should be compensated for the heavy losses in operating this service for the people in the North-West.

Mr. Court: Do you think increased efficiency will offset the operating costs sufficiently to avoid an increase in freights?

The TREASURER: Yes. The members of the Government have a confident belief in that direction and it is an important consideration to the North-West industries. We are looking forward with confidence to the substitution of these new, modern, fast-travelling ships for the old ones which have served the North-West very well over the years, and which are now operating beyond their economic life.

Division put and passed.

Division—State Building Supplies, £2,601,690:

Mr. COURT: The figures shown in this vote are the cash figures in respect of the Estimates for this particular trading concern. I would like to know what is the budgeted loss or profit for this venture on a commercial accounting basis. The Auditor General's report deals with the figures on a commercial accounting basis and his figures for the year ended the 30th June, 1957, show a net loss for the State Saw Mills of £50,197, and a loss for the State Brick Works of £6,911. It is well nigh impossible to determine the figures of profit or loss expected from the State Building Supplies on a commercial accounting basis. When the Bill was put through to combine the State Brick Works and the State Saw Mills into the State Building Supplies, the Minister undertook to show the figures separately for each venture. In other words, there was to be a dissection between the activities of the State Saw Mills as such, and the State Brick Works as such. I wonder if the Treasurer could give me the information for which I ask.

The TREASURER: The position in regard to the State Brick Works has improved in recent months. Just prior to last Christmas, if I remember rightly, the brickworks suffered a reduction in orders which I think was general among most of the brick-making yards in the metropolitan area. As a result of that, unfortunately a number of men had to be re-rented because the stockpile of bricks at the State yards was growing beyond manageable proportions. However, fairly early this current financial year, the demand for bricks began to increase. That trend has continued since and has grown from month to month. As a result, it

is hoped the State Brick Works, during the current financial year, will show a much better result than they did during the last financial year.

With regard to the State Saw Mills, the position is still fairly difficult. This is probably due mainly to the fact that most of the State mills are located in the South-West in the heavy karri areas. The demand for jarrah is much greater than the demand for karri. The State Saw Mills are able to dispose profitably of the whole of the jarrah produced. I think that is the experience of private sawmillers who, fortunately for themselves, produce a far greater proportion of jarrah in regard to their total production than happens at the State Saw Mills.

The sale of karri is fairly slow. The management of the sawmills has taken some steps to increase the sale of that type of timber in the Eastern States and particularly in South Australia; and I think has achieved some measure of success—indeed, a great measure of success. The amount of karri stockpile at the State Saw Mills is fairly substantial and the management is still having difficulty in increasing the disposal of karri from the State mills.

A campaign for the greater use of all classes of Western Australian timber is under way. The idea of this campaign is mainly to educate people to use timber more for normal purposes and also to try to educate the people to use timber for purposes for which it has not been used in the past or, if it has been used in the past, only to a small degree. In view of these circumstances I would not like to say with any degree of confidence that the financial position of the State Saw Mills will improve very considerably during the current financial year, or as compared with the previous financial year; but I think probably we can look forward to some worth-while improvement in the year to follow.

Whether the State Saw Mills can be organised to handle more jarrah is a question that is being investigated. It seems to me, from a knowledge I have of the situation—which is by no means complete—that the State mills would do a great deal better financially than they are doing at the present time if they could handle substantially more jarrah than they are doing now. If success can be achieved in that direction, I think we can look forward to the State Saw Mills operating at a profit during the next financial year.

Mr. Court: June, 1959.

The TREASURER: Yes.

Vote put and passed.

This concluded the Estimates of State Trading Concerns for the year.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1957-58.

In Committee.

Resumed from the 3rd September, Mr. Norton in the Chair.

Vote—Railways, £2,760,000 (partly considered):

HON. D. BRAND (Greenough) [11.37]: Having staked my claim at an early stage and having waited for so long until this late hour to say a word or two on the Loan Estimates, I feel, in the first place, I should point out that the Treasurer, when introducing these Estimates, indicated to the Chamber that he had less money as a result of no special consideration being given by the Commonwealth by way of extra grant last year, as was the case in the previous year, although the Commonwealth had decided to make a special grant of £2,000,000 to help offset the difficulties, particularly in relation to unemployment, which existed in the State at that time.

The Vote which we are discussing as a lead-off on the Loan Estimates is the railway expenditure, and I want to point out to the Committee that, as advised by the Treasurer at this time last year, or in the previous year, a very substantial sum of money was owed by the Government for overseas payment, to meet moneys due for railway equipment. I think it was in the region of £1,100,000 that we owed overseas from the amount which was allocated to the railways in 1956-57. The sum allocated was £3,820,000, which left a balance for other works of some £2,678,000. In the meantime, the Government has taken steps to close down 800 miles of railway lines and, in reply to the many arguments put forward in this Chamber as to the wisdom of closing the railways—or should I say as a result of the claim that it would assist the State financially—the Treasurer has referred continually to the great relief this would have on the impact on loan funds in respect of rehabilitation of the railways.

It is very evident that in actual road rehabilitation a very large sum of money has been expended, but unfortunately in a number of instances, prior to the suspension or the decision of the Government to suspend the railways, very large sums of money had been expended on the rehabilitation of the rail track. Therefore, there has been no worth-while saving up to the present time.

This year, the Government owes for railway equipment overseas some £30,000 and therefore it has, by and large, the same sum of money to spend locally on the general payment for railway equipment and improvement where capital cost is concerned. The Government has advised recently of its intention to order more rollingstock, or rather coaching stock, for the metropolitan railways. The matter

has already been raised here tonight by the member for Moore. During this session the Government has been questioned closely as to the procedure in respect of the calling of tenders for the construction of these coaches and whatever may be necessary in connection with the purchase of rollingstock for the metropolitan system. Not very satisfactory answers have been given, because, as far as we can make out, these coaches are to be built at the Midland Junction Workshops.

If that is Government policy, that is the Government's business. However, I believe we should not depart from a policy and procedure of calling tenders, not only in Australia, but throughout the world for the provision of any worth-while orders. The Government might well reply that in respect of certain contracts that were let in past years, there has not been a great deal of satisfaction, as shown by the Royal Commission inquiry. There has been some dissatisfaction as to the letting of these contracts overseas. However, surely that is not so much the fault of actually accepting the lowest tender for any of the large contracts, but rather because there seems to be some looseness in respect of the specifications and detailed requirements in connection with the contracts which were let.

Mr. Lawrence: They would not do that in Russia.

Hon. D. BRAND: I do not know, but perhaps the member for South Fremantle could tell us about that. I am wondering in connection with this contract—if we might call it that—which is now about to proceed at the Midland Junction Workshops, by what standards the Government has decided to let the contract for the construction of these new railway coaches in Western Australia. It seems almost a system of by guess and by God, because the answers given to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition indicated that there were no real details of contracts drawn up at this stage. If the Government decides to let the contracts for these coaches to be built locally at Midland Junction, I can only hope it is adopting the most economic course.

In the Estimates there is allowed the sum of £200,000, which the Treasurer said might be the expenditure required in the setting up of the metropolitan transport trust, which Parliament has just agreed to. The Government should give an early indication of the machinery it intends to set up and how soon the general manager is to be appointed, although I understand, from tonight's Press, that the appointment could be made before Christmas. If all we hear regarding certain of the transport companies is true, some are on the verge of bankruptcy and are having trouble with their equipment, and so the trust will face an immediate outlay of much more than £200,000 for the replacement of vehicles for the routes that it will have to take over

immediately. I know the Bill provided for the trust to borrow from the Government or other sources, but how much money can the Treasurer afford to lend the trust for any length of time?

Mr. Lawrence: Our Treasurer is a wizard of finance.

Hon. D. BRAND: The hon. member can discuss that with him. The hon. member seems to obtain the inside story of some things not evident to us. I believe that the greatest problem still facing Western Australia is the provision of country water supplies. Under the Commonwealth-State agreement great progress has been made over the years, but large areas are still unwatered and many country towns still experience yearly a serious shortage of water. We have experimented with expensive dam construction and have provided natural catchments and others sealed at a cost of £1,000 per acre, yet the shortage of water in those centres persists.

Adequate water supplies are a top priority need if we are to encourage people to live in the country. A great deal of money could be spent in providing water supplies for a number of country towns. In my own electorate many towns are not provided with any source of water and the only sure way of dealing with the problem is to plan for the reticulation of those areas. The present approved scheme has been extended from Narrogin south to Wagin and will eventually reach Katanning. It extends now to Kalgoorlie, and to Bruce Rock, Kununoppin and Narembeen, and it must be a great boon to the people of those centres, but most of the northern areas of the State remain unprovided for, even as far as planning goes. The Minister for Works has intimated his interest in a plan for the North Midland and Wongan areas, but I am satisfied that there has been no real progress in that regard.

The Government should give more direct consideration to the provision of water, by means of a reticulation scheme, in that part of the State. Even under the present approved scheme, towns such as Corrigin are not included and a large sum of money would be required to connect them with the scheme. Unfortunately, this year there has been a slight reduction in the sum to be made available for water supplies. With the gradual but sure expansion of our agricultural areas and the increasing demand for our primary products, rural reticulation is necessary for the progress of the State. The most essential of our public works is the provision of water and to that end we should maintain an increasing annual expenditure from loan funds.

I realise that millions of pounds are expended each year on education and health facilities and when introducing his Estimates the Treasurer explained at

length the high cost of hospitalisation and of the capital work associated with medical services. In spite of that, I maintain that there is no more vital investment in this State than the provision of potable water from the sure rainfall coastal areas to the fertile inland portions of the State where the rainfall is not assured.

Although we may not be able to grow cereals satisfactorily in some of the drier areas, science has already given us varieties of pasture that will stand up to the long dry inland summers. In view of that the only way to increase the numbers of stock carried is to pipe water to those areas. Year after year the member for Roe has emphasised that the only way to provide water to inland areas is by means of conduits from reservoirs built to catch the rain which falls on the coastal plain.

As the Government has been able to repay £400,000 to B.P. Ltd., leaving a balance of only £100,000, I am wondering what interest was paid on the loan and whether, if it was not greater than that paid for money from other sources, we could not have retained the £400,000 for two or three years as it would have been of great assistance to the Government—

The Treasurer: The interest rate was very reasonable in the circumstances.

Hon. D. BRAND: Then I wonder whether that money could not have been invested for another 12 months or so in the works I have referred to. I understand that the Under Treasurer shudders when reference is made to pine forests but I think they are a good long-range investment. However, expenditure in that regard remains at a steady £100,000 per year in this State.

Mr. Nalder: It is not very profitable if a few acres are burnt each year.

Hon. D. BRAND: No, it is no more profitable than having some of the State sawmills burnt down when they are not fully insured. Nevertheless, it is a good policy to increase the area of our pine plantations, because in future there will be an increasing demand for white woods in this State and we will not always be able to fall back on our local red hardwood timbers that are grown in the South-West.

The Treasurer told us of the Government's intention to spend some £600,000 on expanding the Wundowie charcoal iron industry. Tonight the Minister for Industrial Development confirmed that statement by saying that approximately that amount would be spent this year and very soon the extra furnace that has been installed will come into production and there would be a marked increase in the output of pig iron. I questioned him as to whether the demand and the price were secure in the future. He has assured us that the demand is definitely there. He said that because of the extremely high

quality of the pig iron produced at Wundowie there would be a constant demand for it. He claimed that because of that high quality, a better price than that anticipated was being obtained.

However, I would point out that there has been a sharp decrease in the price of all minerals throughout the world, including copper and lead. I should think that as the defence policies of many countries throughout the world change and greater emphasis is placed on scientific developments, the demand for minerals must drop. In fact, America at this stage is making very marked changes in its defence programme in this regard and the old 25-pounders and rifles are being placed on the second priority list. Therefore, it would seem that there is not sufficient demand for various minerals that would tend to increase the price for them in the future.

In view of this trend, I doubt the wisdom of the Government in expending all this money on an expansion programme for the Wundowie charcoal iron industry when there is such a great demand for the expenditure of loan funds elsewhere. I should imagine that every member of this Chamber has, over recent months, received almost a consistent pro forma reply to any application made by him, which was that certain works could not be carried out because the money was not available. Although that may be a fact, there is the question of priority to be considered.

We have listed for expenditure on our Loan Estimates some £600,000 which is being spent on the expansion of a charcoal iron industry. I know quite well that the claim will be made that this project will employ 400 men. That is a good thing, but I consider that if that £600,000 was spent elsewhere on the provision of water supplies, hospitals and other public works, we would, in so many places, be creating a demand for employment of a secure and permanent nature. If by any chance, the price of pig iron is not maintained we cannot make a profit from its production or meet the operating costs, the losses, inevitably, will be met by the Treasury. It would be said that because so many are employed and that the project becomes almost a vested interest, the Treasury feels that it has an obligation to keep those men employed. On the other hand, if it were a private industry action would be taken immediately to retrench the men who would be forced to find other employment and the Government would not be involved in any problem.

In the small town of Yuna—as in the case of a certain town in the electorate of the member for Narrogin—there has been an urgent demand for the installation of a septic tank system at the school and yet we are told by the Minister for Education that this facility cannot be provided because there is insufficient money. Right throughout Western Australia, particularly

in the outback centres, where climatic conditions are bad, school teachers and children are apparently faced with the task of making their own sanitary arrangements, and yet the Government responds by saying that it cannot provide a septic tank system because there is no money.

These are only minor matters in one sense, but nevertheless, they are very essential and if provided, they improve the standard of living for the people concerned. The provision of septic tanks at the various country schools in outback centres would line up with Dr. Henzell's hygiene programme and with the septic tanks that must be provided by private concerns according to the provisions of the Health Act. Yet, at Yuna, the problem is met by the Government saying that it has not sufficient money to provide for a septic tank system at the school.

The Treasurer: The present Minister is not the only one who has said that, whilst in office, knowing full well that these schools have no septic tank system.

Hon. D. BRAND: I agree, but there are many major problems involving the provision of schools, hospitals, police stations, houses for civil servants and the like that must be provided out of loan funds. All these works have a high priority and so I ask the Treasurer whether he considers the expenditure of such a large sum of money for the expansion of the Wundowie charcoal iron industry is justified, when all these claims for public works are still outstanding?

Mr. Potter: You have to give the future population something to do and the Treasurer is doing that by creating a basic industry.

Hon. D. BRAND: We understand the reason for expanding the industry; I do not challenge that, but I am asking whether the priority given to it at this stage can be justified.

The Treasurer: I hope the Leader of the Opposition has not forgotten that he was Minister for Works for a period.

Hon. D. BRAND: I have not forgotten, nor have I forgotten the criticism that emanated from the Treasurer, when he was Leader of the Opposition, for the priority that was given to public works at that time. Criticism came not only from him but also from others.

The Treasurer: Why did not the Leader of the Opposition carry out these works, as the Minister for Works, when he was in office?

Hon. D. BRAND: As Minister for Works, he gave priority to the provisions of schools and hospitals and other major public works throughout Western Australia.

The Treasurer: At what centres did the Leader of the Opposition install septic tank systems in country schools?

Hon. D. BRAND: I could not name them now and whilst the hon. member may shake his head, the position is that many septic tank installations were placed in country schools at that time, but the fact remains that many still need to be installed at various other country centres. The principal factor is that there are many higher priority works on which money could be spent rather than on the Wundowie charcoal iron project. That is a going concern, and it can sell all the pig iron it can produce. I therefore question the wisdom of spending such a large sum of money on its expansion.

In fact, I believe that the Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. in Western Australia can meet the demand for pig iron and it is not necessary, at this stage, to extend the activities of this State-owned industry. State Building Industries this year, I notice, are also making some demands on loan funds. If this is to be the position year after year, it may be wise to consider handing these industries over to private concerns and so relieve the State of the annual demand upon its loan funds which should be spent on urgent public works, such as the provision of water supplies, hospitals and schools.

Finally, we must not overlook the fact that the Treasurer tonight has emphasised the alarming deficit which this State is showing annually, and this year the figure is approximately £2,700,000. In meeting that deficit we are making a tremendous draw, year by year, on the loan funds that are available to us. Whilst it is regrettable that the situation is that more money for capital works is not available to us, we should not forget that at last the Commonwealth has decided to grant either £2,000,000 or £2,500,000 for development works in the north of this State.

I heard over the radio that the Treasurer had announced that he would probably contribute to that works programme on a £-for-£ basis which would lift the expenditure on it—I think the Treasurer said—to £5,000,000. In my opinion, he was sticking his neck out when he said he would match the money that was being granted by the Federal Government on a £-for-£ basis.

Mr. O'Brien: That is over a five-year period.

Hon. D. BRAND: Yes, I should imagine it would be if the Treasurer were to grant that amount of money. If the Commonwealth is to be encouraged to make available a larger sum—which, indeed, it must be if there is to be a continuity of work in the North on a stage-to-stage plan—I think the State would be unable to match that expenditure on the basis of anything like £-for-£.

However, as I have said, there are so many demands on the limited loan funds that are available to us this year. Some

£17,000,000 is actually to be spent on the works that are covered by the Loan Estimates now before us. Therefore, it is purely a question of priority. In the Treasurer's opinion, such projects as the Wundowie charcoal iron industry have a high priority. I am sure that such a large sum cannot be justified against the other very pressing and important demands.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe) [12.15 a.m.]: I desire to take the opportunity which this debate on the Loan Estimates affords me of saying that of necessity there must be increased expenditure on education generally. The Education Department is a very important one in the affairs of the State.

The CHAIRMAN: I would draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that there is nothing in these Estimates relating to education, so the hon. member cannot speak on an estimate which has not been provided for.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I feel there is most definitely in the Loan Estimates a relation to public works and buildings in regard to education.

The Treasurer: Only in regard to school buildings.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It also refers to public buildings, furniture and equipment. It concerns new high school construction and primary school extensions. I hope that you, Sir, will not prevent me from speaking on education. I desire to speak on the general aspect of education and the necessity for more expenditure to be spent on buildings for education. In doing so, I shall probably reach a broader sphere. In view of the fact that the Minister for Education did not introduce the Education Estimates last night—

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member cannot make reference to that.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I consider this is a most important item because education plays a great part in the productivity of every country. I consider that the item on page 7 allows me to go as far as I desire because it concerns the building of new high schools. Surely, if a Government is to build new high schools, there is fundamentally in the minds of the Government a desire to cater for the education of the children in this State! It is to my purpose to say a few words on education. Surely the matter is so intertwined that you, Mr. Chairman, will allow me to speak!

The Director of Education recently deprecated the fact that his department is referred to as a non-productive department. On the contrary, he states that education plays a very important and great part in increasing the productivity

of any country. I doubt whether any other department of government is more concerned in raising productivity. I agree very much with his views, and I would carry that point further. We frequently hear comments and sound logic regarding the economic potential of the State, and of the State's capacity to produce; we hear of the potential wealth of the State in regard to agriculture, mining, secondary industries and the like. We may deduce from such remarks that this State has a very great wealth potential and an excellent future.

I consider that by far the greatest potential source of wealth in the State, as in any other country, lies in the education of the children. In the minds of children lies the treasure that will provide the knowledge and the know-how for future generations in order to take advantage of the world's scientific achievements and rapid development in all spheres. The proper utilisation of this treasure will undoubtedly mean a tremendous uplift for the benefit of the people, but as it is, that treasure is cabined and confined for the want of money. It is cabined and confined for the want of additional expenditure to be made on the construction of new high schools and new primary schools.

The key to unlock the treasure is made up of two parts; the first is better educational methods and the second, governmental action in providing finance. Of course, the provision of finance extends far beyond the individual capacity of this State. I suggest we must continually watch where we are going in education to ensure that we properly utilise the new schools which are proving to be inadequate.

The Minister for Education: They are proving very useful.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: They are proving to be inadequate to cater properly for the needs of the children. The Minister for Education cannot doubt the fact that this State requires additional school buildings. We still need additional expenditure from the loan funds. In our examination of where we are going in education, these questions should be asked—

- (1) Is what we are doing adequate?
- (2) Are we on correct lines?
- (3) How can we achieve for man the advantages of the age?

The Minister for Lands: In regard to buildings?

The CHAIRMAN: It will have to be in regard to buildings, because that is the only item members are permitted to speak on.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: In the course of what I have had to say so far, I have referred to the General Loan Funds at least three times. I have just posed

three questions as to what the Government is doing in regard to education. I shall try to answer these questions.

Mr. Court: The Minister for Education is quite relieved to think that you are going to answer them for him.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The answer to the first is that what we are now doing is not adequate and falls far short of what we should be striving to do for the children of the State. I pay due regard to what the Government is trying to do, but there remains so much to be done. It is far more than the people realise. There needs to be greater expenditure and greater realisation of the fact in State and, particularly, in Federal spheres.

The Minister for Education: Can you suggest how we can do that?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The answer to the second question is in the negative, although that is not the fault of the educationists. There are many educationists who have a complete knowledge and understanding of what is required.

Mr. Lawrence: Don't you think that one man's meat is another man's poison?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I regret that some of the members opposite should regard this very important subject with such levity. I deplore that outlook. The needs of the children of this State should be treated in a more appropriate manner.

The Treasurer: I think they are regarding as levity your battle with the Chairman.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Members should have sympathy with my battle and appreciate what I am trying to do for the children.

The Minister for Works: Our sympathy is for the Chairman.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I can understand the Minister not having sympathy for any member on this side. Continuing with my answer to the second question, I would say that the fault of our not being on the correct lines lies principally in the field of politics. The fact that the Government has not enough money is basically the main fault, although how the money is used is of very great importance. The answer to the question of how we can achieve for man the advantages of the age is that we must, firstly, endeavour to encourage more children to remain at school.

The Treasurer: To do that we must have more school buildings.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It would appear that I am on safe ground. We must encourage more children to stay at school. Furthermore, we must reduce the size of the classes which means still more school buildings. Basically, we must use the money to the best advantage by ensuring

that educationists are given full rein by a proper and increased utilisation of modern school curricula in all spheres.

The Minister for Education: There is a special committee dealing with the curriculum for secondary schools.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes. I was happy that a committee was formed to examine the curriculum that is essential particularly for the new intake that will come in with the increased school-leaving age. I do not know whether I played any part in that, but I do remember suggesting earlier in the year that we must ensure that these children were properly catered for. Whether I get any credit for that or not matters little as long as the conclusions these people arrive at are sound. We must not think that we can overcome the problems merely by raising the school-leaving age. That is not the only means to the end of increasing the productivity of the country. The most important thing to do is to reduce the size of the classes.

The Minister for Education: The school buildings that have been built from loan funds will help.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: They will indeed. We must appreciate that there must be a reduction in the size of classes.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I think the hon. member has had a fair go at this. He is only wasting the time of the Committee. He is not dealing with the Estimates at all.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I do not think I am wasting the time of the Committee and I very much resent the statement. What I am saying has great point in regard to the welfare of the State.

Mr. Lawrence: Are you, Mr. Chairman, allowing the member for Cottesloe to disagree with your ruling.

The CHAIRMAN: No, I am not.

Mr. Lawrence: Then put him down.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I must ask the member for Cottesloe to refrain from dealing with the matter in general. He had a chance on the Loan Estimates and apparently he missed the opportunity. I cannot allow him to go any further.

Mr. Court: This is on the Loan Estimates.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I am normally a very dutiful member with regard to statements, such as you, Sir, have made from the Chair; and I hope I will be on this occasion. I am trying to debate some important aspects of education which touch closely on the General Loan Fund. I hope you will allow me to continue to develop my speech. I am not wasting the time of the Committee and it is not my intention so to do. I have waited for a considerable period to have something to say on these lines.

The CHAIRMAN: Unfortunately the hon. member missed his opportunity on the General Estimates. If he cannot confine himself to the buildings, etc., I must ask him to resume his seat.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: If I talk about a reduction in the size of classes, has not that a direct bearing on the building of schools and upon the use of loan funds? I am talking on the General Loan Estimates and not on a particular item.

The CHAIRMAN: Up to date I have not heard the hon. member speak on anything in connection with a reduction of school classes. The question is—

That the item be agreed to.

Mr. Court: On a point of order, is not the hon. member entitled to speak on any subject on the general debate on the Loan Estimates?

The CHAIRMAN: He must speak to the item on this, and the only one he mentioned on page 6 was public buildings.

Mr. Court: Unless I missed something when I was out of the Chamber, we are still on the general debate on the Loan Estimates. We have not started on any items. I understand the hon. member is entitled to speak on any subject at all.

The CHAIRMAN: There is a general debate, but the hon. member must stick to the Loan Estimates. The member for Cottesloe mentioned in the first place on page 6 the public buildings, including furniture and equipment, and new buildings. I have allowed him a lot of latitude in connection with this matter. Personally, I think he has made his point.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I have not.

The CHAIRMAN: No good purpose would be served to the Committee or to the hon. member by allowing him to continue in this strain.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Are you going to refuse to allow me to speak?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, on the theme you have developed.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Then I desire to disagree with your ruling because what I have to say has a direct bearing on the General Loan Fund; and I further feel that I should be given the opportunity of saying this. If you, Sir, persist, I can have no other course than to disagree with your ruling.

The Minister for Transport: I don't think that—

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: You speak up or shut up.

The Minister for Transport: Are you an animal, or certified?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I will have a go at you, boy! Don't mutter under your breath.

The Minister for Transport: I will hit you under your chin in a moment.

The CHAIRMAN: I am trying to help the member for Cottesloe as much as I can. The hon. member may proceed provided he sticks to the Loan Estimates and this item. He must stick to it. I will be a little indulgent with the hon. member, provided he continues with his speech and sticks to these things.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I do not intend to speak to the item, but to the general debate of the Estimates.

Mr. Lawrence: On a point of order, did not the hon. member move that your ruling Mr. Chairman, be disagreed with?

The CHAIRMAN: I did not hear him if he did. There is no point of order.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I was talking about the necessity for a reduction in the size of classes. The primary classes could still remain fairly high—say, a figure between 30 and 35. At present many classes are over 50 in number. I feel this cheats the child and cheats the country. The secondary classes should be reduced to 12 or 25. This may seem rather low, but I feel that we will have to get around to reducing the size of these classes in order to give the best we can to our children and so that we can extract from them the best of service and gain the greatest productivity for the country. While classes remain large, we will always remain only a part-literate people—only semi-educated—compared with what we could be.

The Minister for Education: There are plenty of classes of less than 40 in the primary schools.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I realise that. We will remain only a partly educated people in comparison with what we could be, given the proper conditions. I think there are limitations applying to such a society. We might even have regard for the words of the poet who said—

A little learning is a dangerous thing;
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian
spring;
Shallow draughts serve but to intoxicate the brain,
While drinking deeply sobers us again.

But how can we drink deeply at the well of learning when our teachers can give us little or no individual tuition because of the size of the classes?

The Minister for Education: The personal tuition factor can be overdone.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I much doubt that.

The Minister for Education: The child has to learn to think for itself as well as be told everything.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I think the Minister is going too far when he says that. I agree that one must not stifle the

intelligence of the child. Individual tuition helps a great deal in education. There may be good in the Minister's remark but individual tuition is something that must be carried out in conjunction with the factor of enabling the child to exploit its initiative. How can we properly assist children to become better citizens, to produce more and to enable our standards of living to increase if we lack equipment and technical facilities.

At present many of our teachers have no time to understand a child properly. It is certain that the school curriculum that applies at present is not appropriate to this modern day and age. I feel that teaching a mass of children is a prime contributory cause of juvenile delinquency. Mass teaching without proper equipment and without a proper curriculum gives rise to conditions that apply in parts of the United States.

The Minister for Education: You are not suggesting that the size of the classes is a contributing factor to delinquency?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I am saying it is a prime factor in causing juvenile delinquency.

The Minister for Education: There are many other factors, before that, concentrated round the home, or the lack of a home.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I am not denying that there are other factors.

The Treasurer: Juvenile delinquency is an interesting subject.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It is. Large classes lead to boredom in the child, and lack of child understanding in social concepts as well as in actual learning. They actually cheat the child and the country, too. They cheat the children, many of whom have not the average capacity to understand what the teacher is saying, and they become naughty children at school. They become imbued with a desire to have a crack at authority, and so are sown the seeds of juvenile delinquency. Mass teaching gives rise to a loss of human values as well as of economic values. It is essential that wherever possible the Minister for Education should ensure liaison with the Minister for Works.

The Minister for Education: The closest liaison exists between us.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: This should be brought about in order that the Minister for Education could get a greater proportion from the General Loan fund than is available at present.

Mr. Lawrence: On a point of order, how is the hon. member's time?

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may consider that there is no point of order.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I would like to say at this juncture that members on this side of the Chamber have been very tolerant with regard to the idiosyncracies of certain members opposite. I think that is quite laudable, and I do not think the point of view should be altered under any circumstances. However, there is no reason for us to put up with insults.

Mr. Lawrence: I think we on this side are being tolerant.

Mr. Court: That is not so. The Minister had the Estimates postponed to suit his own convenience, and the hon. member has had this speech prepared for a long while.

Point of Order.

The Minister for Education: Did I understand the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to say that I had the Estimates postponed to suit my own convenience?

Mr. Court: That is correct.

The Minister for Education: That statement is not correct.

Mr. Court: For whose convenience was it, the Government's?

The Minister for Education: I am not arguing the point. The Estimates were not postponed to suit my convenience.

Mr. Court: Then it was done to suit the Government's convenience.

Debate Resumed.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Cottesloe will continue the discussion on the general Estimates and nothing else; and I ask the hon. member not to take any notice of interjections.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I do not want to take any notice of them, Mr. Chairman. I think even members opposite will appreciate the point of view I have just expressed.

The Minister for Lands: I think you are introducing a very interesting theme, but in the wrong place. You have a good argument.

Mr. Roberts: That is up to the Chairman to decide.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I have endeavoured to put forward my ideas on a very important aspect. Perhaps it is not the proper place in the Estimates for it, but as the Treasurer indicated earlier, I tried and battled to make this statement to the Committee. I have sought the indulgence of the Chamber, and the Chairman, and I feel deeply that I should be allowed, under the general Estimates, to say what I am saying. I conclude at this stage with a deep disgust that I am not permitted to have my complete say. I have said most of what I wanted to say,

but I had a few further points I wanted to put forward. But, I repeat that it is with deep disgust I conclude because some members have attempted to make this in the nature of—

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member may continue to speak so long as he keeps to the general Estimates.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I am sorry that the Government has allowed this state of affairs to continue.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [12.48 a.m.]: At the outset I wish to indicate quite clearly my views on certain aspects of housing in this State, and in these Estimates there is an allocation to the State Housing Commission of £1,150,000 for the coming year. I shall, as I go along, point out to the Minister where he should spend some of this money in tidying up a mess which was not originally his responsibility, but is one which he has inherited.

Members will have noticed that lately I have been asking a considerable number of questions regarding grease traps; but I have not got very far with any of them. One satisfactory reply that I did receive indicated the cost that would be necessary to rectify the position that prevails at the East Belmont flats. They were built some years ago by the previous Government; and in fairness I must say that that Government's intentions were quite good, because at the time they were built to provide a settling-in place for migrants. However, they were never used for that purpose but have been used for general housing, and over the years it has been necessary to make certain improvements and alterations to them to render them fit for housing.

It is my belief that they need far more improvements to be made before they become satisfactory permanent dwellings. I shall endeavour to show members how I think they can be improved and I shall quote certain sections of the report of the Health Department, regarding the inspection that was made of these flats, which has been laid on the Table of the House. Together with Hon. G. E. Jeffery, M.L.C., Mr. Gibson, the senior maintenance inspector of the State Housing Commission, and Mr. Hazelhurst, the senior inspector of the Belmont Road Board, I inspected the grease traps at many of these places in East Belmont.

The Minister knows these houses very well because he has inspected them from time to time, and it was at his direction that, in 1954 or possibly a little earlier, a contract was let for the cleaning of grease traps in this area. Anyone who has visited the area will know how densely populated it is, and how close the houses are together. In such circumstances hygiene must be of the highest order. After

the Minister's having let a contract for the cleaning of the grease traps some time ago, he now has, for some unaccountable reason, changed his ideas and his policy in regard to the matter. In reply to a letter sent from the Belmont Road Board, a letter was received from the former Under Secretary of the State Housing Commission, Mr. H. B. Telfer, reiterating the Minister's decision that a private contract for the cleaning of the traps was unwarranted now that the flats were classed as private dwellings.

While they might be classed as private dwellings, the Minister has not done, nor could he do, anything to separate them or to increase the available space because of the way they were originally constructed. There are 232 flats in the area and they are, to all intents and purposes, full-sized dwellings. According to the health inspector's report, which was laid on the Table of the House, the houses are generally supposed to be built on one-fifth of an acre; but they are built on less than half that and the area would possibly be about one-twelfth of an acre. Unfortunately, too, many of them are quadruplex type dwellings and the centre flats have their grease traps almost adjacent.

The centre two dwellings are in such a position that the back doors face one another. They are roughly about 12 ft. apart, with a dividing fence in the centre, and a grease trap on each side of the fence. That does not leave very much room for movement. On many occasions, as indeed they were on the occasion when we inspected the flats, the conditions are deplorable. In fact, they were so bad that the inspector who came out from the Health Department, Mr. Benjafield, was satisfied, after he had inspected only a few of them, to stand well back from them and let somebody else make a decision on what they looked like and how well they were kept.

They were in an absolutely deplorable condition and it is a scandalous state of affairs that exists. Neither the State Housing Commission nor the Minister need be proud of their answers either to the local authority or to me in this Chamber with respect to the waste water disposal devices that are in use at these dwellings.

Mr. Nalder: Shameful!

Mr. JAMIESON: He tries to get out of the trouble by inferring that the State Housing Commission has 1,000 of this type of disposal unit in the metropolitan area. The commission might have a number of them. I have tried to trace some of them and they are most elusive. As late as today, I had information about 12 of them but they turned out to be in another hon. member's area, and I did not feel disposed to go wandering into his district to see how they were working.

Hon. D. Brand: How do you trace these grease traps?

Mr. JAMIESON: It was through the agency of one of the staff officers of the State Housing Commission, who had lived in a Housing Commission home and who had been called into the office when I was endeavouring to get some information, that I was able to find out some more about them, and to find out how they worked in a private dwelling. He lived in a house situated on a quarter-acre block and when asked how they worked, he said, "They work quite well but I never allow any washing up to be done in the sink." When asked why not he said, "Because you cannot handle the waste that comes off the washing up. It gets into such a mess that it is not worth handling it in that way. We do our washing up in a basin, or something like that, and get rid of the waste water in the back-yard." Because of the small area on which the flats are situated at East Belmont that is not possible. We will not get over the trouble if the Minister sits back and keeps saying, "But they do this and they do that." He will have to see that something is done.

Mr. Benjafield, in his report, sets out the facts very well. The report reads—

These houses are built as flats in batches of two and four flats and total 232 dwellings.

Mr. Hazelhurst stated that in a recent random inspection made by him of 10 houses in this area, seven grease traps were found not to have received the necessary cleansing. No record was kept of these addresses, so it is possible that these same houses were again visited during our joint inspection.

The object was to inspect a representative cross-section of all houses, and Mr. Hazelhurst and Mr. Jamieson led the party.

Forty-three grease traps were inspected with the following decisions agreed upon regarding their condition:

They were not agreed upon. If we could get a stick through the scum on the top we thought they were not too bad; but if we could not get the stick through they were in a pretty bad condition. The report goes on—

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 21 | satisfactory |
| 6 | fair (due for cleansing) |
| 16 | unsatisfactory |
| — | |
| 43 | total |
| — | |

Mr. Benjafield was not too keen to go on inspecting them after he had seen a few; nor would members here because the traps were crawling with maggots, and the only ones that could be seen clearly were the larger maggots. They were crawling out all around the top of the

grease traps, and it was not a pleasant sight. Mr. Benjafield was not keen on viewing them at close quarters. To continue the report—

Three of the unsatisfactory and one of the satisfactory traps were at vacant houses.

This does not make it better, because it shows that the Housing Commission has been lacking in responsibility. Surely it is for the commission's officers to look to and consider the health of the people and to ensure that it is immediately protected upon the vacation of these flats by tenants. They should have attended to this matter. I understand that several dwellings have been occupied for many weeks and yet this is the condition that still prevails. The report continues—

1 a.m.

The figures for the occupied houses would be as follows:—

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------|----|
| Satisfactory | ..... | 20 |
| Fair (due for cleansing) | ..... | 6 |
| Unsatisfactory | ..... | 13 |
| Total | ..... | 39 |

The fair ones were due for cleansing and there was no reason to believe that they would not have been cleansed within a few days.

Although the report says there was no reason to believe that they would not be cleansed within a few days, there was also no reason to believe that they would. The question of cleaning became so bad previously that it was necessary for the Minister to step in and call in a contractor to make sure it was done. The report continues—

The unsatisfactory ones did not appear to have been cleansed for four to five weeks.

Evidence of fly breeding was found in seven unsatisfactory traps, of which three were in vacant houses, leaving fly breeding in four occupied houses.

Mr. Benjafield was most concerned because it was quite obvious and apparent to the observer that there were maggots crawling round the oily greasy scum on top of the grease traps which, because of the nature of their construction, could not be made fly-proof. We are then given some history of the case. It is as follows:—

These flats were erected in 1950 and are all let on a rental tenancy of £2 6s. and £2 7s. per week.

They consist of two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, bathroom and verandah and wash-house.

Most of them are like three bedroom dwellings but they are very badly congested—the number of children in the

immediate vicinity have to be seen to be believed. When the Belmay school dismisses its pupils for the day it is necessary for one to keep out of the road for five minutes or so.

The Minister does not seem to appreciate the fact that Belmont has had a high incidence of a disease caused by bad drainage in the past few years. As a matter of fact, he may recall Press statements at the time relating to the incidence of diphtheria in that area and the alarm it caused the health authorities. That does not seem to matter to the department at all. The report continues—

In the early period, these houses were occupied by a variety of types of tenants. The population was more or less floating, either by their own inclination, by promotion to a better or larger S.H.C. home, by demotion to Allawah Grove, or eviction as completely unsuitable types of tenants.

They still are. To continue—

In recent years this area was used by the S.H.C. as a staging post for tenants awaiting transfer to a particular type of house to fall vacant for rental or completion of a new house for purchase.

Within the last six months new tenancies are now considered by the S.H.C. to be of a permanent nature only.

Following representations made by the Belmont Road Board to the State Housing Commission in 1952, the commission entered into a contract with the board's sanitary contractor for the weekly cleansing of all these grease traps.

These traps were skimmed weekly and completely emptied and disinfected fortnightly. The charge for this service was 1s. for skimming and 3s. 6d. for cleansing, i.e. 4s. 6d. per fortnight. All waste was disposed of at the sanitary depot.

The cost of this amounts to £1,357 4s. per annum.

On 12th August, 1957, the Commission advised the board that it had decided to revert to the system whereby the cleanliness of the traps becomes the tenant's responsibility.

This was eventually discontinued and we can say there is something in favour of the Housing Commission in that respect but I would point out that the only reason why it was discontinued was the fact that fences had been built between the houses and this made it impossible for the contractors to negotiate their plumbing gear. That was the main reason for their discontinuance, because it would have cost

more to have the pumping done with manual tools than it had in the past. The report continues—

Copies of all relevant correspondence which has transpired since then giving the various points of view of both sides have been obtained by courtesy of the Secretary to the Board, and are attached hereto.

A block plan to a scale of 1 in. = 20 ft. of the area was provided on loan by the building inspector of the board. This shows details of all fencing, buildings and outhouses.

Fences were erected towards the end of 1956, and the blocks are cut up into various shapes and sizes.

The plan shows that the majority of blocks have an area of between 3,500 square feet and 3,700 square feet. This is approximately 1/12th of an acre which is 3,630 square feet.

In his summary Mr. Benjafield said—

(1) The Commission does not provide a grease trap cleansing service to any other of their properties and are not obliged to provide such a service.

That is so, but none of the other properties are situated like these. Those at Midland Junction are sewered and those at Mulberry Farm are not the same—they are not provided with this water waste type of sanitation and it cannot be assumed that there are any others that are the same. The way these homes are placed makes it most unpleasant for neighbours who have a lounge window overlooking the grease trap in somebody else's house, particularly if the people next door are not clean in their habits. The summary continues—

(2) The occupier of any premises is legally responsible for maintaining a grease trap in a clean state.

Of course that is so, but who is going to take action? Does the State Housing Commission or the Minister require the Belmont Park Road Board to employ a full-time inspector on this cleaning project? If that is the attitude of the Minister and the department, it is completely wrong. It is the responsibility of the Housing Commission to supervise this matter.

The Minister for Housing: Tommy rot!

Mr. JAMIESON: It is not Tommy rot because it is the responsibility of the Housing Commission to attend to these matters.

The Minister for Housing: You will want the Housing Commission to do the washing up next.

Mr. JAMIESON: That might not be a bad idea, either. The summary continues—

The areas of various blocks are less than half the minimum of 1-5th of an acre which is the minimum area approved by the town planning for new subdivisions.

If the tenants have been cleaning their grease traps, there is nowhere for the grease waste to be thrown and it is generally left in the one area where it is buried, which means the ground becomes fly-blown and full of maggots. This, of course, is not conducive to good health. Most of these people carry the stuff out into the bush on the opposite side of the road and throw it in the scrub where, of course, it becomes a breeding ground for maggots and a most real danger to the health of the people. To continue with the summary—

(4) Though the area available for the disposal of skimmings in these backyards is restricted, these areas—after deducting space for wash-houses, clothes hoists, paths, septic tanks, soak wells, drainage and allowing distances from foundations and fences—are not insufficient for the proper disposal of skimmings.

How this inspector could make a statement like that I do not know. I would invite any member to have a look at the situation and with the exception of a few, he will see that there is not an area available for the disposal of this waste. In fact, in many cases they are taking it up the alleyways between the houses and disposing of it there. To continue with the summary—

(5) The tenants of the majority of the houses surveyed had in fact cleansed their grease traps regularly and satisfactorily disposed of skimmings.

That is not so; and if anybody doubts that, I would invite him to inspect the place with me tomorrow.

(6) It is not improbable that some of those tenants who had been found to have neglected to cleanse their grease traps would also neglect this task if they lived in a house built on an acre-block of land.

That is also true. There are quite a few tenants that do not come up to scratch in any Housing Commission homes or in any homes for that matter, and there is very little that can be done about it. In his final remarks Mr. Benjafield says—

It is suggested that the following alternatives exist:—

(a) The tenants be reminded of their responsibility for cleansing of grease traps, and the board take appropriate action against offenders.

A number of these tenants are widows with children, deserted wives with children and others who could not afford to pay the higher rents and that is why they have stayed there. To continue—

(b) The tenants arrange privately with a contractor for the regular cleansing of grease traps.

This would be impossible. It would not be possible to get any concerted effort along those lines. It would be far easier for the State Housing Commission to undertake that task. The remarks continue—

- (c) The board arrange to contract for the cleansing of grease traps under Section 112 of the Health Act and recover the cost from the tenants.

That might be a solution but it is a doubtful one. It is a harder way out than the obvious way. To continue—

- (d) As a special concession, the commission continue the previous contract and recover the cost by an increase in rent.

That is one of the best suggestions, and yet I do not think it is the complete answer, because, as the Minister indicated in reply to a question, that sort of service would increase the costs and would not be an economic proposition. The Minister said that it cost £7 16s. per unit per year, which means an increase of approximately 3s. per week per flat in rental. That is not too bad when one considers the services rendered for the disposal of this obnoxious waste. The final suggestion is probably the best one, and that is where I am suggesting that some of these funds allocated to the Housing Commission should be spent, and spent quickly. The suggestion reads as follows:—

- (e) As a permanent solution all grease traps be dispensed with, and a system of double soak wells connected by a long square be installed instead.

The cost for this I understand will be approximately £20 per unit for the whole project. I suggest that this is the most economical because the cost to cover the repayment would be less than 1s. per week. It would be the best way out of the difficult problem that exists today. Unsatisfactory conditions appear there now, or will appear by the time the summer gets well under way and, as soon as the aroma and stench wanders from one home to another, the Minister will have plenty of trouble on his hands and he need not think he can get out of it by saying it is somebody else's responsibility. That is not a good way out.

The Belmont Park Road Board is doing its darndest to keep the Housing Commission informed as regards tenants who are not coming up to scratch and the Housing Commission has power under the tenancies agreements to take action. In fairness to those who want to keep their buildings in order, as against those who do not, the Housing Commission should institute a system to ensure that everything is clean and above board. It is interesting to note that on a recent inspection of the grease traps cleaned out prior to the reletting of the premises by the Housing Commission, though the

water was quite clear in them, there were still a lot of "bardies" because of the waste matter that existed in and around the cement which had become pitted after several years use.

For those who have to clean them out, the matter of removing the large slabs that exist on the top is not easy, depending on the type of person who lives in the house. If there is an able-bodied man in the house it is easier, but that is not always the case; and I suggest that in the very near future the Minister and the Government should give some consideration to expenditure that will indeed make these houses more permanent types of dwellings.

The Minister would agree more readily if he were expected to exist in similar circumstances with the stench coming in his front windows from his neighbour's grease trap; or if he were confronted at his back door by the ooze from the next door grease trap. It is not reasonable to ask people to continue living in those conditions. With a stroke of the pen the Minister can remedy the position. With a lot of talk, ballyhoo and letters to the road board, he will get nowhere and these conditions will still prevail.

HON. A. F. WATTS (Stirling) [1.20 a.m.]: There is only one matter I propose to refer to at this hour of the day, but I am proposing to refer to it because at last I see the Minister for Education is available to listen.

Personal Explanation.

The Minister for Education: On a point of explanation, I do not like the tone of the member for Stirling and would like to make an explanation. I was here from about 8.20 p.m. until after 11 p.m. when I left the Chamber to have supper. During my temporary absence the Education Estimates passed through. I have been in the Chamber ever since and was only out for a while just now. I would like to know from the Leader of the Country Party if he thinks I have been trying to dodge my obligations.

Debate Resumed.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: The Minister has an excellent imagination. I was referring to the fact that the Education Estimates were originally postponed by the Treasurer on account of the unavoidable absence of the Minister for Education. That took place yesterday afternoon.

The point I wish to refer to is this: The people in the Great Southern, including a substantial portion of my own electoral district, are extremely concerned about the diminution of the facilities available at the Narrogin School of Agriculture. I presume it is generally recognised in this Committee that the wheat and wool industries are still the mainstay of this State, particularly the

last-mentioned of these two, so far as financial considerations are concerned, and that it is highly desirable there should not be a lessening of the facilities that are available for the instruction of the younger generation in matters which would develop their knowledge and therefore assist in future development of our country. The customary attendance at the Narrogin School of Agriculture is 80 boys and at the present time only 50 can be admitted. That is causing grave concern.

Mr. Lawrence: Where?

Hon. A. F. WATTS: At the Narrogin School of Agriculture—high school, if the hon. member likes that term better. There are only 50 admitted. What is the reason for it? According to an answer given by the Minister for Education to the member for Narrogin he said that only 50 boys are being admitted to the Narrogin Agricultural High School instead of 80, owing to the lack of funds to provide the necessary dormitory accommodation. Therefore, the concern is not only my own; it is the concern of a very considerable number of people who are anxious to have their boys put into this school in so far as it is possible to have them accommodated there; but it means at the present time there are 30 boys who ought to be there and who cannot attend.

In a country like this, which is so substantially dependent upon the two primary producing industries—the main industries which this school has served with great success in the past—I am going to ask the Minister and the Treasurer to make some special effort to have more funds provided to remedy this deficiency in dormitory accommodation.

The Minister for Education: Why did you postpone it when you were Minister for Education?

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I think that is a feeble answer; but I wholly expected it. At that time at least no boys were kept away from the school. We were able to keep it open, but now the position is one where 30 boys cannot attend. It is not the only problem, but it will be one to which I particularly want to make reference because I think it is of relatively great importance in a State such as this. If I am allowed to go on with what I started to say, I would make a special appeal to the Minister and the Treasurer to see whether an additional amount can be made available in order to commence doing something about these dormitories so that more boys can be received at the school next year and put an end to the diminution of numbers from 80 to 50.

The Minister, in reply to a further question, said that the provision of classrooms for children who have no high school accommodation is regarded as more urgent than is the provision of residential accommodation. In the normal way, I would

agree with that, but this school was designed for residential accommodation and its function is dependent on the provision of that accommodation. I will leave the matter at that hoping that the hon. gentlemen will see their way clear to remedy this situation. It is an important matter in the scheme of affairs in Western Australia.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. J. T. Tonkin—Melville) [1.26 a.m.]: A few weeks ago when dealing with the matter of loan expenditure, I made a statement that the Commonwealth Government placed a restriction upon the amount of loan funds for expenditure on the comprehensive water supply scheme and that it deliberately restricted the amount available each year. When challenged on that statement, I said I had a letter from the Prime Minister which would prove the point. Unfortunately, I did not have the letter with me but undertook to produce it. I have had it in my drawer for some weeks waiting for an opportunity to read it.

I have the letter now and propose to read it out to prove beyond doubt that what I said at the time was absolutely true. The letter is dated the 15th September, 1955, and signed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Robert Menzies, at Canberra. It is as follows:—

When deciding to increase the maximum Commonwealth contribution to the cost of the scheme from £2,150,000 to £4,000,000, my Government gave careful consideration to the manner in which the additional commitment involved was to be discharged. We had to have regard for instance to the Commonwealth's own budgetary problems, to the effect of Government spending on the economy in general, and to other factors affecting general Commonwealth/State financial relations. The outcome of our deliberations was to make the increased contribution subject to the annual limits advised to you in my letter of 8th August. Since then, we have become even more concerned at the problem of maintaining stability in the economy and have to look critically at any proposal for increasing Commonwealth spending. In these circumstances the Commonwealth cannot agree to provide more than £681,796 this financial year.

It is clear, because the Commonwealth Government believed that it had to limit Government expenditure in order to provide for stability in the economic position of Australia that it deliberately restricted the amount of money it was prepared to make available to the State for the comprehensive water scheme. I am pleased to say, as members know, that representations from the State Government on a

number of occasions, plus representations from various bodies throughout the State—and I understand representations from some Federal members, although not all—resulted in the Commonwealth finally lifting the limit which it had previously imposed for special purposes. I have taken advantage of this opportunity to produce the letter which I previously agreed to do.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse) [1.30 a.m.]: In fairness to the Prime Minister, the position, as I know it, should be stated. At that time the Commonwealth Government was having difficulty in getting its loans fully subscribed and it therefore had no alternative but to readjust its loan programme to the States. Since then, however, there has been a better response and the loans have been more fully subscribed. Although the Minister for Works has read out that letter, if it is carefully analysed it will be seen that the Commonwealth at that time was forced to review the position, owing to the difficulty of getting its loans fully subscribed.

The Treasurer: No, the Commonwealth made its payments from its revenue.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—*Tramways and Ferries, £80,000; State Electricity Commission, £1,750,000; Public Works, £4,686,000; North-West, £1,020,000; Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage, £1,906,000; Mines, £142,000; State Housing Commission, £1,150,350; Agriculture, £190,000; Forests, £100,000; Other State Undertakings, £1,625,000; Sundries, £2,113,650—agreed to.*

This concluded the Loan Estimates for the year.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

BILL—APPROPRIATION.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

First Reading.

Introduced by the Treasurer and read a first time.

Second Reading.

THE TREASURER (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam) [1.35 a.m.] in moving the second reading said: The Appropriation Bill is a well-established institution in parliamentary affairs. Even if it were not so, the title of the Bill almost constitutes a second reading speech. In addition, there is the fact that it is now 25 minutes to 2 a.m. on Saturday, the 30th November, 1957.

However, I would point out that during this session Supply has been granted to a total of £39,000,000; £29,000,000 of that

amount having been voted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, £8,000,000 from the General Loan Fund and £2,000,000 from the Public Accounts for Advance to Treasurer. The estimate of expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the current financial year amounts to £58,562,984. Of that amount £12,069,820 is permanently appropriated by special Acts, leaving £46,493,164 still to be appropriated.

The expenditure under the various headings is set out in the Schedules and will be clearly followed by members. Portion of the Bill is for the purpose of approving of an expenditure of £931,294 from the Forests Improvement and Reforestation Fund, in accordance with the scheme of expenditure prepared under Section 41 of the Forests Act. This scheme was laid on the Table of the House earlier in the session and is that which requires the approval of Parliament. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILL—TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT (No. 3).

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendment made by the Assembly subject to a further amendment.

BILL—TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT (No. 4).

Returned from the Council with amendments.

BILL—LONG SERVICE LEAVE.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it insisted on its amendments.

BILL—EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

BILL—LOAN, £16,073,000.

Second Reading.

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate from the 10th October.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

**BILL—MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) ACT
AMENDMENT.**

Council's Amendments.

Schedule of two amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Minister for Health in charge of the Bill.

No. 1.

Clause 7, page 5—Delete all words after the word "Order" in line 24 down to and including the word "extinguished" in line 27 and substitute the following words:—"under subsection (5) hereof."

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: I have given consideration to both these amendments, and have discussed them with the Chief Secretary and the Leader of the Country Party and have now decided to agree to both. I therefore move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed, the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 2.

Clause 7, pages 5 and 6—Delete all words after the word "Order" in line 37 on page 5 to the end of the clause on page 6 and substitute the following:—

- (a) that the claimant commence legal proceedings for the purpose set out in subsection (2) of this section within such time as the Judge may nominate, if the Judge is of the opinion that no good reason exists why the claimant should not commence such proceedings within such time, or
- (b) adjourn such application for such period or indefinitely (with liberty to the Trust to apply) and on such terms and conditions as the Judge may deem necessary, or
- (c) make such other or further Order as he deems just or proper in the circumstances.

(6) On the hearing of any adjourned application the Judge shall have the same powers in regard thereto as are conferred on him under the previous subsection on an original application.

(7) Any Judge of the Supreme Court shall have power to extend the period fixed for the commencement of proceedings in any Order made under

the previous subsection at any time so long as an application for such extension is filed in the Supreme Court prior to the expiration of such period.

(8) On an Order being made under paragraph (a) of subsection (5) hereof, and proceedings not being commenced within the time specified in any such Order or any extension of such time granted under subsection (7) hereof then the claim of the claimant and any rights he may have in respect thereto against any insured person and against the Trust shall be forever barred and extinguished.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

**BILL—CHILD WELFARE ACT
AMENDMENT (No. 2).**

Council's Amendments.

Returned from the Council with a schedule of two amendments.

In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Minister for Child Welfare in charge of the Bill.

No. 1.

Clause 4, page 2, lines 32 and 33—Delete the words "Except to the extent mentioned in Subsection (3) of this section."

The MINISTER FOR CHILD WELFARE: The Legislative Council has moved two amendments to this Bill which were those discussed in Committee when the measure was before us previously. Members will recall that the Leader of the Country Party moved to delete Subclause (3) of Clause 4 which would have meant the deletion of a few words in Subclause (2). In order to facilitate the proceeding the hon. member agreed to withdraw his amendment on my undertaking that the required amendments would be made in another place. As can be seen by these two amendments, this has now been done. I therefore move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 2.

Clause 4, page 3—Delete Subsection (3) of proposed new Section 20A.

The MINISTER FOR CHILD WELFARE: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

BILL—TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT (No. 3).

Council's Message.

Message from the Council notifying that it had agreed to the Assembly's amendment subject to a further amendment, now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; Hon. A. F. Watts in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendment moved by the Assembly is as follows:—

Clause 2, lines 9 to 14, page 2—Delete paragraphs (b) and (c), to which the Council has moved the following amendment:—

Delete the paragraph designation (b) in the amendment.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to. When this matter was discussed here I advised the Minister for Transport that paragraph (b) had reference to paragraph (c) and therefore both were struck out. I later found that I was mistaken and that paragraph (b) had reference to paragraph (a) which was accepted by this Chamber. Therefore the Legislative Council is quite correct in seeking to delete paragraph (b) from the amendment made by this Chamber.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolution reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

MOTION—WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEME.

Implementation of Royal Commission's Recommendations.

Debate resumed from the 13th November on the following motion by Mr. Nalder:—

That in the opinion of this House the recommendations of the Honorary Royal Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the war service land settlement scheme in Western Australia, and to recommend such changes in procedures and methods as may seem desirable to ensure an early success of the scheme, should be given early effect to by the Government,

to which the Minister for Lands had moved an amendment to strike out the words—

given early effect by the Government.

Amendment (to strike out words) put and passed.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. E. K. Hoar—Warren) [2.0 a.m.]: I move an amendment—

That the words "considered by the Government with a view to their adoption where practicable" be inserted in lieu of the words struck out.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—on amendment) [2.1]: I oppose the amendment to insert the words. In doing so I shall make a few comments on the matters raised by the Minister in his contribution to the debate. He used every effort he could to convince this House that everything I said was nothing but untruths, that I had exaggerated the statements, and that they were not correct in any regard.

Every statement that I made I backed up with the report of the Honorary Royal Commission. I have again examined the report and I find that the statements which I made were correct. The Minister said that I belittled that report; I did nothing of the sort. Furthermore, he said that I criticised the move to alter the land settlement scheme as a developmental plan to a rehabilitation plan. I said nothing of the sort. I shall quote exactly what I said. On page 2838 of Hansard of the 6th November, 1957, I said the following:

With regard to the statement I quoted from the report, the commission has placed its finger on the reason for the switch from a rehabilitation scheme for ex-service men to a land development scheme. That point was raised in evidence by one of the witnesses who appeared before the commission. Personally, I have no disagreement with the idea.

Yet the Minister said I stated the opposite. I cannot understand the Minister, let alone any member of this House, getting up and trying to mislead the House in that way. He used the expression "The hon. member's jaundiced outlook on war service land settlement."

This House will agree that the whole of his speech was taken up in trying to depreciate every remark that I made. I know that members on this side of the House as well as those opposite will not fall for the statements of the Minister. He referred to many other matters, but he failed to comment on one which was very vital. The Minister did not refer to the fact that the war service land settlers' association had asked for a representative on the board of inquiry into any matter brought forward by the members. That was a very important point. The members of the association wanted to elect one of their own number to the board. I mentioned that in the course of my speech, but the Minister did not refer to it at all. It should have received every consideration from him.

I desire to make reference to one other matter which appears in the report of the Honorary Royal Commission. Although the Minister had previously been a member of a select committee inquiring into the war service land settlement scheme, and the report of the Honorary Royal Commission recommended many of the points mentioned in the report of the select committee, he did not implement those recommendations. I shall place before the House what the Honorary Royal Commission thought of the action of the Minister up to that stage. I do not want to be misquoted again by the Minister as having made exaggerations and given incorrect information to this House. I shall quote from p. 15 of the Honorary Royal Commission's report under the heading of "Conclusions."

The commission, after very serious consideration of the evidence submitted and after inspections were carried out, deemed it advisable—although it may be unorthodox—to invite the deputy chairman of the Land Settlement Board, Mr. A. R. Barrett, to accompany them on a tour of inspection and on to properties where, from the evidence submitted some value could be gained. The commission is of the opinion and has no doubt that the settlers will agree that many outstanding complaints have been or are in the course of being remedied as a result of this visit—

That proves without doubt that many of the complaints I made to this House in moving this motion were definitely genuine. Up to that time very little had been done about the recommendations. The report went on to say—

—and in view of this reference has not been made to each individual case submitted in evidence to the Commission, in this report.

It is recommended that Mr Barrett, in conjunction with Mr. Nicholls, or Mr. Lutz in conjunction with Mr. Bunce, re-read the whole of the evidence submitted by the settlers so that they will be in a position to check complaints made by individual settlers and where possible rectify any anomalies.

The commission is appreciative of the fact that certain recommendations which have been made in this report are at the present time in the process of being implemented by the W.S.L.S. Department and we have every reason to believe that the balance will also receive the utmost consideration.

I want to emphasise the next part of the report which is as follows:—

It is the intention of all three members of this commission to inspect, within the next 18 months, all the

areas visited by them whilst they were acting as a commission, to ascertain what improvements have been effected.

That answers all the complaints which I placed before this House. After taking all the evidence and issuing a report, the Honorary Royal Commission had some doubts as to whether its recommendations would be implemented, so it stated that within the next 18 months all the areas visited by the members at the time would be inspected again to ascertain if the Minister had carried out the recommendations. What I quoted from this report has some substance and proves that what I said was correct. I oppose the amendment because I consider it will render the motion ineffective.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—on amendment) [2.11 a.m.]: I join in opposing the amendment. The motion by the member for Katanning is a simple request to this House to put into effect the recommendations of the Honorary Royal Commission. The Minister has moved an amendment that those recommendations be implemented where practicable. I would ask: In whose opinion will the recommendations of the Honorary Royal Commission be put into effect where practicable? If agreed to, the department will be given a let-out. Anything it does not wish to implement, it will contend is impracticable. The amendment has no merit. I support the motion and will certainly vote against the amendment.

Amendment (to insert words) put and a division taken with the following result:—

| | | |
|------|-------|----|
| Ayes | ..... | 23 |
| Noes | ..... | 14 |

Majority for 9

Ayes.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Mr. Andrew | Mr. Lawrence |
| Mr. Brady | Mr. Marshall |
| Mr. Evans | Mr. Moir |
| Mr. Gaffy | Mr. Nulsen |
| Mr. Graham | Mr. O'Brien |
| Mr. Hawke | Mr. Potter |
| Mr. Heal | Mr. Rhatigan |
| Mr. W. Hegney | Mr. Rodoreda |
| Mr. Hoar | Mr. Sewell |
| Mr. Jamieson | Mr. Tonkin |
| Mr. Johnson | Mr. Norton |
| Mr. Lapham | |

(Teller.)

Noes.

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mr. Bovell | Mr. Nalder |
| Mr. Brand | Mr. Oldfield |
| Mr. Court | Mr. Owen |
| Mr. Cronmellin | Mr. Roberts |
| Mr. Grayden | Mr. Watts |
| Mr. Hearman | Mr. Wild |
| Mr. Hutchinson | Mr. I. Manning |

(Teller.)

Pairs.

| Ayes. | Noes. |
|-------------|------------------|
| Mr. May | Sir Ross McLarty |
| Mr. Hall | Mr. W. Manning |
| Mr. Kelly | Mr. Thorn |
| Mr. Sleeman | Mr. Cornell |
| Mr. Toms | Mr. Ackland |

Amendment thus passed.

Question put and passed; the motion, as amended, agreed to.

BILL—PUBLIC SERVICE.*Council's Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it insisted on its amendments.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

- 1, Housing Loan Guarantee.
With amendments.
- 2, Stamp Act Amendment.
Without amendment.

**BILL—TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT
(No. 4).***Council's Amendments.*

Schedule of 38 amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Minister for Transport in charge of the Bill.

No. 1.

Clause 4, page 3—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 8 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 13.

No. 2.

Clause 4, page 3, lines 14 and 15—Delete the words "or imprisonment not exceeding fifty days."

No. 3.

Clause 5, page 3—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 22 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 26.

No. 4.

Clause 6, page 3—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 33 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 37.

No. 5.

Clause 6, page 3—Delete the words "or imprisonment not exceeding twenty-five days" in lines 38 and 39.

No. 6.

Clause 9, page 4—Delete all words after the word "offence" in line 32 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 36.

No. 7.

Clause 11, pages 6 and 7—Delete all words after the word "offence" in line 38 on page 6 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 5 on page 7.

No. 8.

Clause 11, page 7—Delete the words "or imprisonment not exceeding fifty days" in lines 6 and 7.

No. 9.

Clause 12, page 7—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 13 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 17.

No. 10.

Clause 12, page 7, lines 17 and 18—Delete the words "or imprisonment not exceeding fifty days."

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I propose to accept all of these Council's amendments. The great majority of them deal with the question of penalties. The Council agreed that the suggestion of retrospectivity should be deleted; and in the majority of cases the penalty of imprisonment has been removed, leaving merely a more severe fine. Amendments Nos. 1 to 10 deal with these two principles. I move—

That the amendments be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

No. 11.

Clause 13, page 7, line 29—Delete the words "solely or mainly."

No. 12.

Clause 13, page 7, line 34—Add after the word "otherwise" the words "in excess of fifteen motor vehicles in any one year".

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: We in this Chamber toyed with the idea of providing that the sale of 10 or 12 vehicles would constitute the minimum number for registration, but the amendment we accepted was that a dealer was one dealing mainly or solely in used motor-vehicles. Subsequent discussions here showed that even firms selling hundreds of second-hand vehicles a month could be excluded because that might not be the main part of their business. The Legislative Council has agreed that a dealer shall be one who sells in excess of 15 motor-vehicles in any one year. That, I understand, is acceptable to the used-car dealers and the other organisations that support the amendment. I move—

That the amendments be agreed to.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The Minister said that this is acceptable to the used-car dealers. It should be acceptable to this Chamber. I would like the Minister to explain the point.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I indicated that the Legislative Council agreed unanimously that this should be so, and also that it was satisfactory to the organisations representing the people likely to be affected. In other words, I indicated that it was acceptable to everyone excluding apparently, the member for Mt. Lawley.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

No. 13.

Clause 17, page 14—Delete all the words from and including the word "whether" in line 23 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 27.

No. 14.

Clause 18, pages 14 and 15—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 35 on page 14 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 1 on page 15.

No. 15.

Clause 19, page 15—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 9 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 13.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: These amendments refer to retrospective application and imprisonment in certain cases. I move—

That the amendments be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

No. 16.

Clause 20, page 15—Delete all words after the word "amended" in line 15 down to and including the word "days" in line 24 and substitute the following:—

by deleting the passage "bodily injury is caused to any person or" in lines 2 and 3.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: This amendment has to do with penalties where persons do not report accidents. The Legislative Council has agreed that heavier penalties shall apply in the case of accidents involving bodily harm than will apply to accidents causing damage to property. In the latter event there shall be no question of imprisonment. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 17.

Clause 21, page 16, line 35—Delete the word "opinion" and substitute the word "finding."

No. 18.

Clause 21, page 17, line 15—Delete the word "estimate" and substitute the word "finding."

No. 19.

Clause 21, page 17, lines 32 and 33—Delete the words "and opinion."

No. 20.

Clause 21, page 17, line 37—Delete the word "opinion" and substitute the word "finding."

No. 21.

Clause 21, page 17, line 41—Delete the word "opinion" and substitute the word "finding."

No. 22.

Clause 21, page 18, lines 4, 9, 17 and 21—Delete the word "opinion" and substitute the word "finding."

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: The clause as relating to blood alcohol tests refers to the analyst's opinion. The amendments delete the reference to an opinion and provide for a finding. I move—

That the amendments be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

No. 23.

Clause 22, page 20—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 6 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 10.

No. 24.

Clause 22, page 20—Delete the words "or imprisonment not exceeding twenty-five days" in lines 11 and 12.

No. 25.

Clause 24, page 20—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 24 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 29.

No. 26.

Clause 24, page 20—Delete the words "or imprisonment not exceeding fifty days" in lines 30 and 31.

No. 27.

Clause 24, page 22—Delete the words "or imprisonment not exceeding fifty days" in lines 17 and 18.

No. 28.

Clause 26, page 24—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 5 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 9.

No. 29.

Clause 26, page 24—Delete the words "or imprisonment not exceeding twenty-five" days in lines 11 and 12.

No. 30.

Clause 27, page 24—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 28 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 31.

No. 31.

Clause 27, page 24—Delete the words "or imprisonment not exceeding twenty-five days" in lines 32 and 33.

No. 32.

Clause 30, page 26—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 31 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 35.

No. 33.

Clause 31, page 27—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 5 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 9.

No. 34.

Clause 33, page 27—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 29 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 33.

No. 35.

Clause 33, page 27—Delete the words "or imprisonment not exceeding fifty days" in lines 33 and 34.

No. 36.

Clause 35, page 28—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 14 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 18.

No. 37.

Clause 36, page 28—Delete all words from and including the word "whether" in line 26 down to and including the figures "1957" in line 30.

On motions by the Minister for Transport, the foregoing amendments were agreed to.

No. 38.

New clause—Insert the following to stand as Clause 20A:—

20A. The principal Act is amended by adding after Section 30 a section as follows:—

30A. Where, in the course of the use of any vehicle on a road, an accident occurs whereby bodily injury is caused to any person, the driver or person in charge of such vehicle shall (unless disabled by personal injury himself) report the accident forthwith to the officer in charge of the nearest police station or traffic inspector of the district of the nearest local authority:

Provided that it shall be a sufficient compliance with this section if a police officer or such traffic inspector attends at the scene of the accident and takes the necessary particulars of the accident.

Penalty—For a first offence, a fine not exceeding Twenty-five pounds; for any subsequent offence a fine not exceeding Fifty pounds.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: This is the second portion of the amendment relating to penalties involving injury to persons as against injury to property. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

BILL—HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE.*Council's Amendments.*

Schedule of 34 amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Minister for Housing in charge of the Bill.

No. 1.

Clause 3, page 2, line 22—Add after the word "instrument" the following definition:—

"Loan includes part of a loan."

No. 2.

Clause 3, page 2, line 41—Add after the word "sewerage" the following definitions:—

"part of any loan" means that part of the loan which is nominated by an institution as being in excess of the maximum load which it would normally advance on the relevant security; and "part of any purchase money" has a corresponding meaning;

"purchase money" includes part of purchase money.

No. 3.

Clause 5, page 4, line 22—Add after the word "loan" the words "or part of any loan."

No. 4.

Clause 5, page 4, line 23—Add after the word "loan" the words "or part of any loan."

No. 5.

Clause 5, page 4, line 26—Add after the word "price" the words "or part of any purchase price."

No. 6.

Clause 5, page 5, line 5—Add after the word "loan" the words "or part of any loan."

No. 7.

Clause 5, page 5, line 6—Add after the word "loan" the words "or part of any loan."

No. 8.

Clause 5, page 5, line 9—Add after the word "price" the words "or part of any purchase price."

No. 9.

Clause 6, page 5, line 17—Insert after the word "loan" the words "or part of any loan."

No. 10.

Clause 6, page 5, line 21—Insert after the word "money" the words "or part of any purchase money."

No. 11.

Clause 6, page 5, line 26—Insert after the word "loan" the words "or part of a loan."

No. 12.

Clause 6, page 5, line 27—Insert after the word "money" the words "or part of purchase money."

No. 13.

Clause 6, page 5, line 31—Add after the word "institution" the following words:—

Where the instrument of guarantee relates to part of a loan or of purchase money, it shall also contain such formula or other particulars and provisions as are agreed upon between the Minister and the approved institution for determining how or when the part so guaranteed shall be deemed to have been received in full by the approved institution.

No. 14.

Clause 6, page 5, line 34—Add after the word "loan" the words "or part of any loan."

No. 15.

Clause 6, page 5, line 36—Add after the word "money" the words "or part of any purchase money."

No. 16.

Clause 6, page 5, line 39—Add after the word "the" the words "whole of the."

No. 17.

Clause 6, page 5, line 40—Add after the word "amount" the words "of the loan, or the purchase money payable under the contract of sale and purchase."

No. 18.

Clause 6, page 6, line 3—Add after the word "the" the words "whole of the."

No. 19.

Clause 6, page 6, line 4—Add after the word "amount" the words "of the loan, or of the purchase money payable under the contract of sale and purchase."

No. 20.

Clause 6, page 6, line 7—Add after the word "the" the words "whole of the."

No. 21.

Clause 6, page 6, line 8—Add after the word "amount" the words "of the loan, or of the purchase money payable under the contract of sale and purchase."

No. 22.

Clause 6, page 7, line 13—Add after the word "loan" the words "or part of any loan."

No. 23.

Clause 6, page 7—Delete paragraph (a).

No. 24.

Clause 6, page 7, line 18—Add after the word "mortgage" the passage "unless the Minister consents to a greater rate of interest being payable under second mortgage."

No. 25.

Clause 7, page 7, line 35—Insert after the word "appointed" the words "or by any other valuer approved by the Minister."

No. 26.

Clause 8, page 8, line 17—Delete the word "every" and substitute the word "any."

No. 27.

Clause 8, page 8, line 17—Add after the word "repayment" the words "of any amount."

No. 28.

Clause 8, page 8, line 20—Delete the word "all" and substitute the word "any."

No. 29.

Clause 8, page 8, line 20—Add after the word "payment" the words "of any amount."

No. 30.

Clause 8, page 8, line 24—Add after the word "of" the words "that amount of."

No. 31.

Clause 8, page 8, line 24—Add after the word "loan" the words "payment of which is guaranteed."

No. 32.

Clause 8, page 8, line 25—Add after the word "of" the words "that amount of."

No. 33.

Clause 8, page 8, line 25—Add after the word "money" the words "repayment of which is guaranteed."

No. 34.

New clause—Add after Clause 5 a new clause to stand as Clause 6, as follows:—

6. In respect of any repayment or payment (as the case may be) which is guaranteed pursuant to the provisions of section six of this Act, the approved institution may, by written notice served on the Minister during any quarter, elect that the guarantee shall, as from the end of that quarter, cease to apply; and thereafter any such guarantee shall cease to apply to repayment of any such loan and payment of interest on any such loan and to payment of any such purchase money and interest payable on any such purchase money and the provisions of subsection (2) (b) of section eight of this Act shall cease to apply thereto.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Although there is a large number of amendments they all relate substantially to two matters only. The more important one is the proposal that the one quarter of 1 per cent. shall be payable not on the full loan but only on that portion between the normal percentage advanced by an institution and the excess percentage which it will be permitted to do if this Bill becomes law. Another minor amendment is

to enable the Minister to approve of valuers other than those set out in the Bill.

There is a further amendment that I have mentioned in this Chamber. When we made provision for second mortgages to be included as well as first mortgages, there was a proviso that the rate of interest was not to exceed that of the first mortgage. That appeared to be quite reasonable because there was no more risk attaching to the second mortgage than to the first—they are both subject to guarantee.

But on reflection it was realised that certain firms, banks, etc., grant concessions to their staff, and they may have a provision where they lend money to them at, say, 3 per cent. Obviously, it would be impossible to get a second mortgage at that low rate; and so this amendment empowers the Minister to approve of a second mortgage coming under the scheme at a rate in excess of the interest rate of the first mortgage, if the Minister feels that the circumstances warrant it.

Mr. Court: Are all the points covered? It seems to be very few for 34 amendments.

THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The majority of them are consequential.

Mr. Court: There are only the two principles?

THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING: And the minor one relating to the valuers. There is also a further one which is more or less an administrative matter and which I agreed to, although I do not think it is absolutely necessary, in consultation with the member of the Legislative Council who introduced it. It is a new clause. The Bill allows an institution at any time to depart from the scheme if it wishes, or in respect of any transaction, but apparently one hon. member was able to persuade the majority that this is some additional safeguard or assistance. I have no objection to it. I move—

That the amendments be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

Minister for Health and Local Government Bill Conference.

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement under privilege. It is in reference to an article in "The West Australian" headed, "M.L.C. is Surprised by Report." It goes on—

He was staggered by Justice Minister Nulsen's breach of secrecy over proceedings in the manager's conference on the Local Government Bill, R. C. Mattiske (Lib.), one of the Legislative Council managers, said yesterday.

Mr. Nalder: What paper is that?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH: This morning's—the 30th November, 1957. I should now like to quote Standing Order No. 256 on page 79, of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly. It reads—

In all cases of conference, the managers for the Legislative Assembly shall, when the conference has terminated, report their proceedings to the Legislative Assembly forthwith.

That is exactly what was done. No names were mentioned and it seems that the roosters are coming home to roost; the hon. member's conscience must be pricking him because of the stand he took on the Local Government Bill. There was no secret about it but no names were mentioned. There was no offence in the statement I made to this House in regard to the conference held on the Bill.

The Minister for Transport: He is young and inexperienced.

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH: I agree. Probably it was because of his inexperience. I feel sure that if he had more experience his stand would have been quite different at that conference.

MOTION—NATIVE WELFARE.

Commissioner's Annual Report and Select Committee's Objections.

Order of the Day read for the resumption of the debate from the 13th November on the following motion by Mr. Grayden:—

That in the opinion of this House, the annual report of the Commissioner for Native Welfare for the year ended 30th June, 1957, which was tabled on the 22nd October last, contains many inaccurate and misleading statements in respect of the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the conditions of aborigines in the Laverton-Warburton area and in respect of the controversy which the report caused and as the Commissioner's annual report, by presenting selected documents and in other ways, conveys a distorted account of happenings in the Warburton-Laverton area, the members of the Select Committee be authorised to prepare a reply to the offending sections of the report and such reply to be attached as an appendix to the annual report of the Commissioner.

to which Mr. Oldfield had moved an amendment to strike out all words after the word "area" in line 10.

Amendment put and passed; the motion as amended, agreed to.

MR. OLDFIELD: Mr. Speaker—

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member was too late in rising. I have declared the motion carried.

BILL—NATIVES STATUS AS CITIZENS.

In Committee.

Resumed from the previous day. Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Minister for Native Welfare in charge of the Bill.

Clause 13—Section 8 amended:

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported after the clause had been amended by striking out all words after the word "is" in line 18, page 5.

Mr. OLDFIELD: On behalf of the member for South Perth, I move an amendment—

That the word "repealed" be inserted in lieu of the word struck out.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|----|
| Ayes | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| Noes | .... | .... | .... | 18 |

| | | |
|------------------|------|---|
| Majority against | | 4 |
|------------------|------|---|

Ayes.

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mr. Bovell | Mr. Oldfield |
| Mr. Brand | Mr. Owen |
| Mr. Court | Mr. Roberts |
| Mr. Crommelin | Mr. Watts |
| Mr. Grayden | Mr. Wild |
| Mr. Hearman | Mr. I. Manning |
| Mr. Hutchinson | (Teller.) |
| Mr. Nalder | |

Noes.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Mr. Brady | Mr. Lapham |
| Mr. Evans | Mr. Lawrence |
| Mr. Gaffy | Mr. Marshall |
| Mr. Graham | Mr. Molr |
| Mr. Hawke | Mr. Nulsen |
| Mr. Heal | Mr. Potter |
| Mr. W. Hegney | Mr. Tonkin |
| Mr. Hoar | Mr. Norton |
| Mr. Jamieson | (Teller.) |
| Mr. Johnson | |

Pairs.

| Ayes. | Noes. |
|------------------|--------------|
| Sir Ross McLarty | Mr. May |
| Mr. W. Manning | Mr. Hall |
| Mr. Thorn | Mr. Kelly |
| Mr. Cornell | Mr. Sleeman |
| Mr. Ackland | Mr. Toms |
| Mr. Perkins | Mr. Rodoreda |
| Mr. Mann | Mr. O'Brien |

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause, as amended, put and negatived.

Clauses 14 to 25—agreed to.

Clause 26—Section 38 amended:

Mr. GRAYDEN: I move an amendment—

That the word "native" in line 3, page 7, be struck out with a view to inserting the word "protected native" in lieu.

If the amendment is carried, whenever we have a prisoner in Fremantle gaol the Commissioner of Native Welfare will be able to take him out and put him in some employment and rehabilitate him.

The MINISTER FOR NATIVE WELFARE: I think the hon. member is attempting to amend the wrong clause. I think he means to amend Clause 27.

Point of Order.

Mr. Bovell: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know how we are to proceed with this Bill. We are discussing it here and Parliament is supposed to adjourn very shortly. If the Minister is taking us for a ride, I strongly object to it.

The Minister for Native Welfare: If the member for Vasse would hold his counsel, we would be able to get through with the Bill.

Committee Resumed.

Mr. GRAYDEN: In view of what the Minister has said, I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 27—Section 39 amended:

Mr. GRAYDEN: I move an amendment—

That all the words after the word "adding" in line 9, down to and including the word "protected" in line 10, be struck out.

The MINISTER FOR NATIVE WELFARE: I do not think the hon. member will achieve his purpose with this amendment and if he leaves the matter with me, I will undertake to see that his wishes are met.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I appreciate that. I moved the amendment because I wanted those natives who are not protected natives to be given the opportunity of being rehabilitated. However, in view of the Minister's assurance, I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 28 to 39—agreed to.

Clause 40—Section 69 amended:

Mr. GRAYDEN: I move an amendment—

That paragraphs (a) and (b) in lines 6 to 10, page 9, be struck out.

I do so because I believe there are ample safeguards in the Child Welfare Act to deal with children as the Commissioner of Native Welfare may desire.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Mr. Chairman, you do not seem to have heard the member for Mt. Lawley and me call for a division.

The CHAIRMAN: There was only one voice.

Point of Order.

Mr. Grayden: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the reason I did not go into detail when moving this amendment was that the Minister for Native Welfare informed me that he would agree to my amendments.

The Minister for Native Welfare: Mr. Chairman, you did not hear me agree to this amendment.

Mr. Grayden: I do not propose to remain in this Chamber; I shall walk out. The Minister came to me here and told me he would agree to both my amendments and that is why I did not pursue them. I will leave the Chamber.

Committee Resumed.

Mr. OLDFIELD: I move an amendment—

That paragraph (d), in lines 14 to 16, page 9, be struck out.

The Premier: Any reason?

Mr. OLDFIELD: Yes, because I heard the Minister say to the member for South Perth that he was going to agree to the amendments. Those were the very words. That is the reason I am moving it and for no other. I am not going to give the Committee any other reason. Last night this was the very principle which the Committee endorsed in a division. This amendment is consequential. Last night I pointed out that Clause 40 dealt with Section 69; and dealt with the very principle which this Committee then decided. I tell the Premier that that is why I am moving this amendment instead of the member for South Perth.

3 a.m.

The MINISTER FOR NATIVE WELFARE: There could have been some misunderstanding, but not so far as I am concerned. Last night the member for South Perth was occupied elsewhere and the member for Mt. Lawley pointed out to me that he was going to move three amendments on behalf of the member for South Perth and desired to know my reactions. I said in each case I would oppose them. Two dealt with native children and the other with natives in gaol.

Tonight, immediately after the first division took place, I went over to the member for South Perth and said that I would support the amendment in regard to the natives in gaol. In regard to this particular amendment, the member for South Perth moved that paragraphs (a)

and (b) be deleted. You, Mr. Chairman, took a vote, and there was one vote "for" and one vote "against". That is where the trouble has arisen. Paragraph (d), which the member for Mt. Lawley is now dealing with, was not under discussion with the member for South Perth last night or in the conversation I had with him a few minutes ago.

Mr. OLDFIELD: This amendment deals with the same principle as was agreed to last night, as to what shall obtain with respect to the native children. If we do not delete this paragraph, we are going contrary to the principles the Committee decided last evening. We cannot do one thing one night, and a different thing the next night.

The MINISTER FOR NATIVE WELFARE: Last night we dealt with Clause 13, which dealt with Section 8 in the Native Welfare Act. I was trying to provide that native children be dealt with by the Commissioner of Native Welfare. The Committee, against my wishes, carried the clause, and decided that the commissioner would not have jurisdiction over protected children. What the member for Mt. Lawley has said is quite right. The paragraph now in the clause will allow the commissioner to make regulations to deal with protected children. I feel the Committee made a mistake last night in taking these powers away from the Commissioner of Native Welfare. He has had the power since 1905. If he is not given that power under this Bill, I understand that under the Child Welfare Act, he would be able to obtain the same power.

Mr. OLDFIELD: If this paragraph remains in the Bill, the Governor will be able to make regulations prescribing the conditions under which any native child or protected native may be apprenticed or placed in service with suitable persons, and also regulations enabling the commissioner to control not only protected native children, but other native children, who are supposed to be born equal under this Bill.

Mr. Lawrence: How were you born?

Mr. OLDFIELD: How would the member for South Fremantle like his children to be declared?

Mr. Lawrence: I do not think the hon. member knows when he was born.

Mr. OLDFIELD: If the paragraph stays in the Bill, the adults will be given status on the one hand and it will be removed from the children on the other. I will leave the matter to the Committee.

Mr. GRAYDEN: In regard to the Minister's explanation concerning paragraphs (a) and (b), the Minister came to me on this side and said he would agree to their deletion. I therefore moved that they be

deleted, and sat down. However, the amendment was opposed. The Minister has explained his point of view and I think the Committee will agree there has been a misunderstanding.

The Labour Government does not want this amendment in the Act. Every member of the Committee knows that yesterday the Commissioner of Native Welfare told us this particular provision was not in the Act. The Government obviously does not want it in the Act. Why does it now insist on it going into the Act, when the children of native parents in this State are going to be penalised as a consequence? We cannot go beyond that argument. What the commissioner had to say last night, I have recorded on tape and the Minister's comments are recorded in Hansard.

Are we going to ensure that all the children of native parents, whether protected or otherwise, are going to be sent into institutions at the whim of any one of these 75 departmental officers, because that is what would apply? The commissioner acts on the recommendation of his officers. What would be the reaction of the Premier if someone wanted to place a child of his in an institution. He would simply brush the suggestion aside. The same applies to the Minister for Works, but he would probably knock the individual's head completely off, because he is a decisive man. A committee of the United Nations after exhaustive scientific tests decided there was no difference in intelligence between the various races of the world, including our aborigines. There are geniuses amongst these people, just as there are in any other race.

The CHAIRMAN: Can the hon. member link this up with the Bill?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I am linking it with something much more important. Are about 25,000 children in this State to have their lives affected by a misunderstanding? How can we have these two provisions reconsidered? Would the Minister agree to them being taken out in another place?

I will now mention something that I hate to mention but I feel, now, that I have to, because there are 75 native welfare officers spread throughout the State and some of them are responsible for huge areas, as regards the welfare of the natives. They have power to take children from their parents and put them into institutions. There were 26 dismissals from the department last year and similar numbers in previous years.

When recently a party from the Native Welfare Department went to the Ernabella mission, just across the border, it submitted a glowing report which is on the Table of the House, yet three weeks later 20 native children died of disease brought

on by malnutrition, but one of the missionaries at that time did this: He was having sexual relations with 10 top girls in the mission and with the 11 most advanced girls in the native camp. There is a man who was highly respected and who had been there for 22 years!

I understand that 22 years ago there was a similar incident but it was passed over and no action was taken. They discovered recently, however, that this was going on and they obtained statutory declarations from the 21 girls concerned. This man had his wife and four children living with him at the mission. What sort of outlook could those girls possibly have? That was a missionary, and we have 75 native welfare officers and with the number of dismissals from time to time, we must get some no-hopers there. Are they to be given virtually the power of life and death over these people? We read in the "Daily News" recently of a native woman in the Port Hedland hospital who pined because she was separated from her child and because they thought she would die, they sent the baby down to her and she recovered quickly.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's time has expired.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 41 and 42—agreed to.

Clause 43—Section 15 amended:

Mr. I. W. MANNING: This clause requires some explanation as it concerns an amendment to the Constitution Act.

Mr. Grayden: I want to tell you, Mr. Minister for Native Welfare, that you are just an animal.

The Minister for Native Welfare: You do not want to get upset about these things.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for South Perth must keep order.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: The Bill seeks to give the whole native population citizenship rights, except those declared protected natives, who have the rights taken from them. I understood the Minister to say that the protected natives would be those who did not understand the obligations of citizenship.

The MINISTER FOR NATIVE WELFARE: The intention is to give all natives citizenship rights, whether they can read or not, or whether they are blind or dumb. To qualify as an elector a person must do certain things such as residing in an area for a certain time and therefore a nomadic native would not qualify. The general intention is that all natives will automatically become entitled to citizenship.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I think the term "protected native" should be removed because the natives to be declared protected

would be those not in a position to vote, who would not understand what it was all about.

Mr. Lawrence: You vote Liberal, and would not know.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: It is beyond commonsense to give all natives a vote.

Mr. Lawrence: Are you afraid they will vote Labour?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: We are not concerned with that, but natives who do not understand what it is all about, should not be enrolled. I think the words I have mentioned should be struck out.

Clause put and passed.

Progress reported.

BILL—MATRIMONIAL CAUSES AND PERSONAL STATUS CODE AMENDMENT.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

BILL—TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Council's Amendment.

Returned from the Council with an amendment.

In Committee.

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The Council's amendment is as follows:—

Clause 2—Add after the word "structure" in line 25, page 2, the following proviso:—

Provided that such approval shall not be necessary to any instrument of lease wherein a proviso is inserted that no option of purchase of the land comprised in the lease has been granted or taken and that no such option will be granted by the lessor to the lessee or any other person during the term of the said lease and that no consideration in respect of the land has passed between the parties to the lease other than the rental reserved in the lease.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This is an amendment which the member for Dale was desirous of moving in this Chamber when the Bill was under discussion here and, as a matter of expediency, I suggested that, as I did not have any objection to the amendment, I would ask the

Minister in charge of the Bill in another place to move it in that Chamber. That was done and the amendment is now before us.

The amendment will not exclude the particular transaction which the amending Bill sought to prevent. It will mean that a fewer number of leases will require to be submitted through the Town Planning Board than would otherwise be the case. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolution reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

The SPEAKER: I will suspend the sitting until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 3.35 to 4.17 a.m.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

1, Appropriation.

2, Loan, £16,073,000.

Without amendment.

CLOSE OF SESSION.

Complimentary Remarks.

THE PREMIER: The session for this year is about to end, but before it does I would like on behalf of the Ministers and the members on this side of the House to express thanks to you, Mr. Speaker, for the able manner in which you have presided over the affairs of the House during the session. The same appreciation is offered to the Chairman of Committees, the member for Boulder, the new Chairman, the member for Geraldton, and to those who at any time during the session have been acting Chairman of Committees.

To the Clerks, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and all the other officers of the House I offer our thanks and gratitude. They have assisted the affairs of the House to run smoothly and efficiently. I extend our thanks to the Leader of the Hansard staff and those who work with him; to the Controller, Mr. Burton and all of his staff; and even to our friends the reporters.

With respect to the Press reporters I think we should say that they have done a very good and very fair job. If, at times, the reports of parliamentary proceedings are not reproduced in the Press in a fair and reasonable way, I am sure that it is not the fault of the reporters themselves but probably is the fault of the many higher-ups in the newspaper world who never come to Parliament and consequently are not aware of the atmosphere here. Nor are they aware of the sincere and

conscientious efforts which are put forward, at least most of the time, by each member of the House.

The session has been heavy. We started a month earlier than usual. We have had some late sittings, but looking back over the session we might feel that the early start was worth while. Even if we do not think that now, I am sure we will during December when we will have a great deal more freedom than we would have had if the session had started a month later and continued on for perhaps three weeks or a month longer. It seems to me that if we can avoid sittings in December, an early start is worth while and some late sittings towards the end of the session—including this one, if it can be called an all-nighter—are also worth while.

The legislation approved by Parliament during the year will, I think, confer substantial benefits on the community generally. The Government would have wished that some measures which were defeated would have been accepted by Parliament. However, we accept the decision that was made by Parliament in respect of each defeated measure with a feeling that what we have attempted and failed to achieve this session, we will also attempt again at a later period.

I wish to express my special thanks to the Deputy Premier, the Ministers on this side of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and those who sit with him, and the Leader of the Country Party and those who are with him in this House, and also to the two Independents who sit on the other side of the Chamber. There have been a few bubbles in the debates held during this session but I think any unbiased observer, had he been able to sit here during the session, would agree that, by and large, the session was conducted without much bitterness or untoward incident, and I think he would agree also that, by and large, each member of the House made a worthwhile contribution to the affairs of Parliament during this session.

It is a little early to offer seasonal greetings to members. However, the opportunity to do that will come again at our Christmas party and possibly at other times before Christmas, and so I conclude by again expressing my thanks, appreciation and the gratitude that I have mentioned during this short talk.

HON. D. BRAND: I join the Premier in the general sentiments he has expressed, firstly to you, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the duties you have performed in controlling the House and, secondly, in regard to the impartial way you have dealt with the problems that have arisen from time to time. To the Clerks and all

those associated with the organisation of the House and the conduct of Parliament, we express our appreciation for their co-operation and help. As the Premier has said, it has been quite a heavy session. I think we listed about 102 or 103 Bills, and I feel that that must be getting near the record.

Even though we started a month earlier, it seems to me that in the time we have been sitting here we have passed the hours and used them to the maximum. At this stage I would like to say a word of farewell to the Minister for Lands, the member for Warren, Hon. E. K. Hoar. As has already been advised, he has been appointed by the Government to take up the position of Agent General and whilst the date of his departure appears to be a matter of secrecy, I hope that we on this side of the House will readily understand the reticence that is being shown in that regard. However, time will tell. We shall know when he will arrive in England because I should say that certain other announcements will follow simultaneously in Western Australia.

We hope that the member for Warren and his good lady, Mrs. Hoar, will quickly settle down in England and that he will soon assume the responsibility that he has undertaken. Fortunately, the Minister knows all about the Old Country and therefore he should know his way around. On the other hand, he is fully appreciative of the problems in this State and its basic needs. We wish him good health and whilst he retains good health, I know he will do all he can for Western Australia.

I have not congratulated the newly-appointed Chairman of Committees, Mr. Sewell, who is a neighbour of mine in the constituency of Geraldton. I now take the opportunity of expressing my congratulations and those of my colleagues to him on his recent appointment. Although he had to travel over a bumpy track tonight, I think it has been a pipe-opener for him for next session. To the Deputy Chairmen of Committees, and to the newly appointed Minister we offer our congratulations and wish them all the best for the future.

I would like to express to the House and to the staff my thanks for the help and co-operation which it has been my privilege to enjoy in this, my first year as Leader of the Opposition. I think the co-operation that has been rendered by the Opposition has been as good as could be expected. We have endeavoured to bring this session to a satisfactory conclusion. I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and my colleagues for their assistance and their help during the year and I also express my good wishes to the Leader of the Country Party and his colleagues, and to the two Independents.

As the Premier has said, it is a little early yet to be wishing you, Sir, and the members of this House a merry Christmas. However, we will have an opportunity of meeting again at Parliament House in the near future at a party and there we might express our gratitude for the extra miles travelled by the members of staff who come under the Controller of the House and all of those who make life here much easier and happier for each one of us.

HON. A. F. WATTS: My sentiments are to thank you, Sir, very much. I think you have been a very good Speaker. We have no legitimate complaints and that is a matter which we ought to appreciate. I would like to thank the Premier and the Ministers of the Government for the reasonable way in which they have dealt with the business of this session, and my colleagues for the way in which they have supported me. As for the Deputy Leader of the Country Party and my colleagues, it is quite clear what I think of them. They have done everything that can be expected of them, and my friends on the cross back benches can, I think, be included in that category.

We are well served in this Parliament as you have observed. We are extremely fortunate in the staff both inside the House, if I might put it that way, and outside in the other parts of the building where we do so many things, including the taking of refreshments. All those have served us extremely well and have been models of courtesy. Broadly speaking, I do not suppose there can be a better collection of people occupying such positions, whether high or low that can be found anywhere else in Australia.

I would like to say a word or two about the Agent General-elect. He has been here a fairly long time. Some of us have known him for quite a while, so we can say we will miss him. Whether we will like to see his successor better than we like to see him is a matter on which I make no prophecy. I do say this; we wish him in all sincerity a very successful term of office in the Old Country.

In conclusion, I would like to say to everyone that I hope we shall be able to take the opportunity before Christmas of wishing everyone here a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year, and, what is more, seeing the new year is a prosperous one for this country.

THE SPEAKER: The Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Country Party and all members of the House, on behalf of the officers of the Assembly and all those associated with carrying on the business of Parliament I wish

to say that we appreciate the very kindly sentiments that have been expressed. There is no question that they do an excellent job. They have been very helpful to me since I have attained the office of Speaker. That has made my duty seem light indeed.

To the members generally I express my personal thanks on behalf of myself, the Chairman of Committees, the former Chairman of Committees and the deputies for the way in which members have comported themselves. At all times they have maintained the highest traditions of this free Assembly by conforming to the rules of the House, by observing the decorum and prestige which is necessary for carrying on the business of Parliament.

At no time has any member attempted to defy my ruling. Because of that fact, my task has been made very pleasant. I would be extremely sorry if at any time in the future I find it necessary to exercise any authority in my ruling. While a good deal of criticism takes place at times, members have always been aware of their duties. They have been elected to this Parliament to represent the people of their electorates. It is my duty as Speaker for the time being of this Assembly to preserve the rights and privileges of all members, not only the Ministers but the back benchers, and to ensure that they get the opportunity under the Standing Orders to represent the viewpoint of their electors.

My duty has been a very pleasant one indeed. I hope that the tradition which has been carried on in the past two years, so far as I am concerned, will be continued in the future. I am grateful to all members. I thank them for their co-operation. Perhaps it is too early but I take this opportunity of wishing all members and their families a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We hope that with the inauguration of the new year which is within reach, our State will advance and progress to higher things.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: Mr. Speaker, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Country Party and members, I thank you all very much indeed for the expressions of goodwill and best wishes extended to me in my very important job in England. In expressing those views it is possibly the only time in 14 years that a speech of mine in this House will not be subjected to the close scrutiny of members with the object of knocking my legs from under me. I have not regretted that because the average sittings of Parliament, with the exception of special occasions where matters of policy are involved, are conducted in a friendly spirit and one of compromise. That is very good indeed and very necessary in our way of government.

I have often thought that our Parliament here, which is the offshoot of the Mother of Parliaments, follows the same tradition. The latter came through many trials and tribulations right from the Cromwellian period until this century when Mrs. Pankhurst rode to the House and declared, "We women want what men have. It may not be very much but we want it." That has been going on all through the years one way or another. I agree that the atmosphere here in this House, which consists of 50 members, is totally different to that of the Mother of Parliaments with 700 odd members, many of whom have been there for years and have not been known to speak. All the members representing the various constituencies come here with the sincere desire to do something for the State.

Seeing that we are getting very close to Christmas I sincerely hope that members will remain in their present places for a long time to come. I would like to thank the staff of the Assembly very much for their courtesy, kindness and ready assistance during all the years that I have been in Parliament. Often one gets into trouble and one finds difficulty in following the procedure. I would like to thank the Hansard staff. Sometimes one wonders how they are able to take down some of the things that I have said. I am certain that on many occasions my speeches were not as good as they have been reported.

The same thanks go to all officers, whoever they may be, assisting in the work of Parliament. It has been a real pleasure and privilege for me to be here for 14 years. I know I am going to miss the friendships that one must make in a gathering such as this. New members can

hardly bear to wait till they are able to take their seats and having done so their first three-year term passes so quickly that they wonder what has happened that they should so soon have to face their electors again.

Sometimes they have a feeling of frustration and are not able to grasp what is required in Parliament, but after a while they settle down. I really believe that we all receive something of great value to ourselves as individuals as the result of meeting so many people of different opinions, and through having to iron out those differences by ordinary debate. So I thank very much those members who have spoken and those who, I know, supported the remarks in silence.

I consider it a great honour to be selected by the Government to go back to the country from which I came and there, as Agent General, to represent Western Australia. I do not look upon this as an easy job at all and members can rest assured that I shall do nothing which will lower the prestige of this wonderful State of ours. I will do everything possible to further its increasing development and advancement.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL

THE PREMIER (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn to a date to be fixed by Mr. Speaker.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.42 a.m. (Saturday).