The only complaint to which attention has to be given is whether or not this department is raising more money than it needs for its own requirements; and on the statement of the Premier it definitely is, because he told the House, when he introduced his Budget, that these increased charges, together with increased assistance from the Commonwealth, were enabling him to have an improved budgetary position.

Well now! Is there any further room for argument? Does that not absolutely clinch the situation? Contrary to the law and at the expense of the ratepayers, the department is levying a tax or a charge to benefit the general revenue and to improve the budgetary position of the State, a thing it has no right to do.

What makes it ever so much worse is the fact that the Government is denying it is doing this, and it is trying to cover it up by the subterfuge of trying to blame the previous Government because there was some inconsistency in valuations in 13 districts. Did anyone ever hear such a puerile argument? A Government that has not got the strength to stand up to what it is doing, when it is deliberately using this department as a taxing measure, on its own admission, and it will not acknowledge the fact and take the consequences, is beneath contempt.

Mr. Fletcher: It will take the consequences.

Mr. TONKIN: I hope the House will wake up to itself and not allow this sort of thing to be put over. It should say to the Government, "If you are going deliberately to use the Water Supply Department in order to assist the revenue position, stand up like men and say so. If you don't intend to do that, then reduce the charges to the maximum level that you are entitled to levy to meet the requirements of the department under the Act and for no other purposes".

I cannot imagine the Government coming out of an argument in a worse position than this Government is doing in connection with this matter. Its only answer is to use its majority to get the House to agree to an amendment which is an assertion of an untruth, and which does nothing whatsoever to remedy a situation which the Government itself created.

Motion, as amended, put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—24.

Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. A. Manning
Mr. Brand	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Burt	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Cornell	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Craig	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Crommelin	Mr. O'Neil
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Owen
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Perkins
Dr. Henn	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Watts
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Wild
Mr. Mann	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller.)

Noes—22.

Mr. Andrew	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Brady	Mr. Moir
Mr. Curran	Mr. Norton
Mr. Evans	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Hall	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Heal	Mr. Toms
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. May

(Teller.)

Majority for—2.

Motion, as amended, thus passed.

COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL HOSTELS AUTHORITY BILL

Council's Message

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it insisted on its amendments Nos. 1 to 7.

House adjourned at 11.23 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 13th October, 1960

CONTENTS

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

MIDLAND JUNCTION WORKSHOPS

Works Programmes

1. The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY asked the Minister for Mines:
   (1) When will the 1961-62 works programme for the W.A.G.R. workshops be finalised?
   (2) Can it be reasonably expected that the 1961-62 programme will include a greater amount of new construction work than that contained in 1960-61?

   The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:
   (1) As the honourable member was advised on the 4th October, the details of the 1961-62 programme are at present being worked on to anticipate material and other requirements. Of necessity, these are preliminary programmes. The programme cannot be finalised until there is a reasonably assured figure for the 1961-62 funds. This must obviously be much closer to the end of this financial year.
   (2) No. The 1960-61 new construction programme for the workshops is higher than previous years. The final 1961-62 programme will be largely dependent on availability of finance, and the workshops 1960-61 performance.

SUNSET AND MT. HENRY HOMES

Waiting List and Cost of Maintaining Inmates

2. The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN asked the Minister for Mines:
   (1) What is the number of applicants on the waiting list for entry to—
      (a) Sunset; and
      (b) Mt. Henry?
   (2) What is the cost per week of maintaining each inmate at each of these institutions?

   The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:
   (1) (a) Ten hospital cases,
      (b) Three hundred—fifty of whom are urgent cases.
   (2) Sunset—£8 13s. per week, Mt. Henry—£10 2s. per week.

TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [2.35]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to effect a much-needed improvement in the business of secondhand-car dealing. Section 22AC of the principal Act requires all applicants for used-car dealer licences to enter into a bond or security to the extent of £3,000. Dealers generally, have been quite prepared to take out such bonds, but have run into difficulties quite frequently in obtaining appropriate cover. This has led to bonds being obtained under most unreasonable conditions, with the result that the provisions of this section are becoming increasingly unworkable and unsatisfactory.

The Commissioner of Police is of opinion that the bond requirement is no longer necessary as he considers there are satisfactory safeguards in the Act without this requirement. The proposed amendment to section 22AC provides, in paragraph (b) of the Bill, for the repeal of the relevant sections. Secondhand-car dealers are not at present required to keep a register in each branch or place of carrying on their business, but if there were a requirement in this respect it would greatly facilitate the speedy tracing of vehicles; and there is a provision in this Bill for the keeping of registers at all such premises.

Because of an amendment to the principal Act in 1958, there is a prohibition on the transfer of taxi plates. It is considered that as a result of this, some taxi owners are disposing of their vehicles for exorbitant prices, but are merely leasing the plates. This is a most undesirable feature of the business, and defeats the purpose of the Act.

The Bill introduces appropriate amendments to section 8 of the Act. It is most desirable that conditions of licensing be regulated and a penalty for non-observance provided. Facilities for the transfer in genuine cases of chronic illness or advancing years are being provided for. The Bill makes provision for additional powers to control the taxi business by means of regulation. Clause 8 of the Bill provides for special provisions, by regulation, for the control, operation, and movement in any prescribed area, of taxi cars generally. The Government has in mind the prevention of cruising. The cruising of taxis, particularly in the city areas, leads to congestion in traffic flow.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They assist the public by picking them up.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is so; but, by the same token, when streets are overcrowded with taxis to the extent that other traffic is impeded, it becomes difficult for all concerned. It is also difficult to arrive at a reasonable medium in these matters. It is proposed to establish single taxi stands in Hay Street, Murray Street, Wellington Street, and St. George's Terrace. Feeder ranks to be established on the outskirts will enable progressive takeover on these ranks as cars take off with fares. The proposed provisions regarding prevention of cruising and the introduction of single taxi stands will also be of direct benefit to owners in the matter of savings in running costs. The Taxi

Owners' Association has made representations for an increase in the flag-fall rate, and for a standard mileage rate.

The Government does not propose to agree to such increase because it would act harshly on short-distance passengers. The minimum rate of 1s. 6d. per mile with a maximum of 2s., is provided by regulation. It is agreed by the Government that a standard rate of 1s. 6d. per mile should operate.

Some members of the association would have the Government believe that the operation of taxis under the present conditions are quite unprofitable. Against this, we have the definite evidence that owners of taxis value their plates as high as £500 or £600. Such values would not be obtainable for an unprofitable business.

An increase in the price charged of 12s. per hour waiting time to 15s. is regarded as being quite reasonable when calculated on the basis of 3d. for each five minutes of waiting time. This waiting time shall not include, however, any accident or emergency or mechanical failure.

The nominal charge of 3s. is considered a very reasonable amount to pay in respect of a taxi which is engaged but not used. It is proposed to introduce a charge of 1s. to meet overheads and to cover dead running when a taxi is called by telephone or radio.

There is also envisaged a variation in the flat rate charge of 6d. for each 28 lb. of passenger's luggage and effects irrespective of the distance, to a charge of 6d. for each two miles for every 56 lb.

The Act contains at present no specific provision by which the installation of taximeters might be enforced. It is intended to gazette a regulation in this regard, and this necessitates the inclusion of this facility in the Act.

It is thought to be very undesirable that taxis should be used as a medium for exhibiting advertising matter, either internally or externally. The passing of this Bill would enable the prohibition or control of the carrying or exhibiting of notices, signs, posters, placards or advertisements in or on taxicars generally.

Patrons are entitled, when engaging a taxi, to be informed regarding charges and conditions of hire. This information should be readily available in printed form and not just by hearsay. It is proposed that taxi drivers be required to carry and produce any regulations for inspection by any person. The practical application of such requirement would force the taxi driver to produce, upon request, a booklet containing all the regulations pertaining to taxis. In order that production of this booklet may be facilitated, the Government is having existing regulations rewritten with a view to printing sufficient copies for such use.

I desire to make it clear that all of the provisions at present envisaged are not contained in the Bill specifically. They are contained in the over-all power sought in the proposed amendment to section 47 and set out in subparagraph (u). It is necessary to widen the regulation-making power to enable such regulations to be made. When the new regulations have been drafted and approved, they will of course be gazetted and laid on the Table of the House and will be open for the statutory period for disallowance by either House of Parliament.

Another important amendment increases the amount specifically provided for traffic lights and signs from £40,000 to £60,000 per annum.

Provision is made in the Bill for the acceptance in Western Australia of license certificates for vehicles licensed in other States, and *vice versa*, as *prima facie* proof of such licenses. Provision is also made for the stamping of a number on a vehicle chassis—particularly caravans and trailers —to prevent unlawful changing of plates. It is also proposed to dispense with the licensing of push cycles; and it will also be no longer necessary for W.A.G. plates to display a registration certificate. A clause has also been included to permit of the renewal of an extraordinary license.

On motion by The Hon. G. E. Jeffery, debate adjourned.

DAIRY CATTLE INDUSTRY COMPENSATION BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [2.44]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill proposes that a compensation fund be established for the purpose of paying compensation to the owners of diseased dairy cattle slaughtered as the result of compulsory testing for tuberculosis of cattle which are outside the whole-milk scheme. Members will, I think, recall several earlier but unsuccessful attempts to launch such a scheme through the introduction of enabling legislation.

Previous measures brought before the House provided for beef as well as dairy cattle being included under such scheme; and also the proposals put up included diseases other than tuberculosis. Each Bill in turn was withdrawn, apparently for the reason that the legislation proposed did not meet completely the requirements of the industry as a whole.

On this occasion, I am able to say that the butterfat producers' industry itself is requesting this legislation. Officers of the Department of Agriculture and representatives of the dairy section of the Farmers' Union have given much thought to the manner in which this problem

should be approached, and it is felt that the provisions of this Bill now meet the requirements of all concerned.

I might add, too, that the Commissioner of Public Health favours the testing of all herds with a view to removing what is at present a hazard to the health of the community. I desire to emphasise that the proposals will not apply to an owner of dairy cattle who holds a dairyman's license under the Milk Act.

The primary purpose of this legislation is to deal with tuberculosis, but actinomycosis is also mentioned. I had better give a definition of "actinomycosis." It is a parasitic infectious inoculable disease affecting cattle and hogs, and it is sometimes communicable to man; and it is caused by actinomyces bovis and species of nocardia. The jaw is most commonly involved although other organs and systems may be infected. The disease is characterised by the formation of slow growing granulomatous tumours, which usually suppurate a discharge of thick oily pus containing yellowish granules. It is commonly known as lumpy jaw, clyers, and wooden tongue.

Provision is made for other diseases to be declared by proclamation. I would remind members that a Bill was introduced in another place last session to include Western Australia in a compensation scheme on an Australia-wide basis to deal with any outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease which might eventuate.

Testing of dairy herds outside the province of the Milk Act is prompted at present through individual diseased animals being discovered from time to time. An animal may be condemned at an abattoir or the disease discovered by clinical observation. It may become known that a piggery is diseased, and this leads to the testing of the dairy herd supplying the skim milk to the piggery. There then follows a drive as a result of which whole herds have been decimated at great loss to individual farmers not covered by compensation. This position compares very unfavourably with the regular testing of wholemilk herds; and it must be remembered that, in many instances, animals culled from wholemilk herds as a result of these tests are replaced by cattle taken from untested butterfat areas.

It consequently follows that the testing scheme provided for in this Bill will assure a source of tuberculin-tested replacements for wholemilk producers. It would have this further advantage that the pig industry would receive additional protection, and there would be some added protection also in respect of beef carcases taken to abattoirs.

It is proposed to replace the present unsatisfactory spotting method, one might say, with a planned programme directed towards progressively testing 20,000 cattle annually. Funds for the payment of compensation would become available by the payment of a stamp duty at the rate of 2d. in the pound value of butterfat sold to registered dairy produce factories. Under present conditions, this is equal to three-tenths of one penny per pound weight. Basing the calculations on present production figures, producers would contribute £25,000. As the scheme would be subsidised on a pound for pound basis, the Government contribution would also be £25,000. The fund also would be credited with the salvage value of carcases, bringing in an estimated further £10,000, totalling in all £60,000 in the first 12 months.

Experience gained in the testing of cattle in the Pinjarra to Dardanup area, indicates that in the first 5 to 10 years of the scheme there would be 5 per cent. reactors. Compensation at the rate of £35 per head has been taken for calculation purposes; and, on this figure, an amount of £35,000 would be required, with an additional £5,000 to meet the cost of testing, transport, and administration. There will accordingly be a net balance of £20,000 in the fund at the end of the first year.

The provisions regarding the actual amount of compensation to be paid are similar to those under the Milk Act, which provide that the Minister shall, at least once annually, submit his recommendation to the Governor.

Similarly, as with the Milk Act, it is expected that after five years or so the incidence of tuberculosis will be greatly reduced, with a subsequent lessening in the amount of contributions required from both the dairyman and the Government. As I indicated earlier, the contributions to the fund are to be made by means of stamp duty.

This course is being followed to ensure that the contributions may not be declared an excise, otherwise the proposal might fall down on a legal basis, because it could be interpreted as contravening the Commonwealth Constitution. There is, accordingly, a complementary Bill to this Dairy Cattle Industry Compensation Bill, by which the Stamp Act will provide for a stamp duty of 2d. in the pound to be endorsed on any statement made in respect of the sale of butterfat; but that matter will be fully explained at the appropriate time.

The reason it is proposed that the Act shall come into force on a date to be proclaimed is to enable the necessary financial and staffing arrangements to be attended to. I would suggest that the passing of legislation dealing with this important matter, affecting as it does the health of the community, is long overdue, and I recommend the measure for the earnest consideration of all members.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [2.51]: I believe the butterfat-producing section of the dairy industry in this State will welcome this Bill. The dairy farmers have had testing schemes in the past, but they have not, as the Minister explained, had any scheme whereby they could have their cattle tested for T.B. We must remember that when a dairyman buys a cow he has no way of ascertaining whether or not it has T.B.; and I do not believe that anyone would welcome the knowledge that he had T.B. in his herd.

Speaking briefly on this measure, there is one aspect which I find intriguing, this being the estimated amount of £35 as compensation for a diseased animal. This amount would be far below that which would be required to replace a beast, because today the price of a dairy cow is around the £70 or £80 mark. Therefore this amount of £35 is only half the value which would be required to replace an animal.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are assuming the total destruction of the beast, are you?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Not entirely; because I understand from the Minister's speech that there would be a certain amount recovered from the carcase, and that this would go into the fund for compensation. But the dairy farmer will still receive only £35 for his animal. As the Minister has indicated that it is estimated there will be in the first year a surplus of £20,000, I believe the figure of £35 could be increased to approximately three quarters of the value of the beast; in other words, somewhere around £50 to £55, or even up to £60. The fund would still be solvent in spite of this extra amount being absorbed.

The butterfat-producing industry is not as remunerative as the wholemilk industry, and a dairy farmer would be harder put to find money for replacement than would a producer of wholemilk.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You would have to be consistent and raise the dairy section's compensation, too.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: That could be done; but when it is realised that one section of the industry is receiving a much greater income than is the other, I believe we could be a little inconsistent in this regard by favouring the butterfat producer against the wholemilk producer. As I say, the wholemilk producer is on what we might call the more remunerative side of the industry by virtue of the fact of his locality and the fact that in that locality he can obtain or has obtained a great advantage under the wholemilk Act.

I would like the Government to give consideration to increasing this figure of compensation because, having had some 15 years' experience in producing butterfat, I know the sort of life it is and what one has to face up to. The majority of these people would find it very hard to finance replacements if they had a number of reactors. I support the measure and hope that some amendment will be possible in Committee.

On motion by The Hon. J. G. Hislop, debate adjourned.

STAMP ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [2.57]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill proposes a small amendment to the Stamp Act; and of its nature it is complementary to the measure introduced earlier to enable the payment of compensation for diseased cattle which have been destroyed by official order.

The Bill makes provision for the payment of a stamp duty on the sale of butterfat. The amount is a fixed one, being 2d. in the pound value of butterfat sold. This amount is equal to three-tenths of a penny per pound weight of butterfat under existing circumstances. It has been estimated that this duty will be sufficient to provide the necessary funds for the carrying out of the requirements of the Dairy Cattle Industry Compensation Bill, 1960, together with a similar payment on a pound for pound basis into the fund by the Government. It is not intended that this figure of 2d. in the pound be a permanent levy.

The heaviest drain on the fund will be in the early years, but later on, when the great bulk of the diseased stock has been weeded out and slaughtered, the generally improved healthy condition of our herds will result in a much smaller amount of money being required to meet the compensation charges, and this will enable the amount of stamp duty to be reduced.

The reason that the levy is to be collected in this way is to ensure that it may not be declared an excise and, as such, contravene the Commonwealth Constitution. As previously mentioned, this enabling legislation is completely complementary to the Dairy Cattle Industry Compensation Bill; and it to this. It follows, accordingly, that one would not be operative without the other.

With regard to the query raised by Mr. Baxter during the debate on the previous Bill, I would like to tell him that the £35 was only estimated on a calculation basis to ascertain some idea of what revenue would be required to meet the expenditure. It may be that some owners will receive compensation of £50, while others will receive only £15. I do not know.

But, as I said, it is only on a calculation basis and has been agreed to by the particular section of the Farmer's Union.

The Government has agreed to pay on a pound for pound basis. The honourable member must realise that he will just not be able to increase the Government's contribution. I thought I had better remind him of that point before he attempted to place amendments on the notice paper.

In view of the fact that today the dairy farmer is entitled to no compensation at all and has to take the brunt of the loss himself, we think he will be quite happy to receive at least portion of the amount lost by destruction of a beast. After all, this is really only an insurance scheme. If he obtains £35 under this scheme whereas before he received nothing, he is doing all right. We will let the scheme work for a while.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He will have made a contribution under this scheme which he did not make before.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do not think we should increase the contribution he has to make, because the butterfat section of the community is not a very remunerative one. I feel that the amount he will pay under this Bill is the maximum he could pay. But at least it is some insurance, so that if his herd is affected by tuberculosis, and the cattle have to be destroyed, he will get some compensation. Today he gets nothing at all.

On motion by The Hon. H. C. Strickland, debate adjourned.

PLANT DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 12th October.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [3.1]: I obtained the adjournment of the debate so that I could have a look at the Act and give it some consideration before I made any comments on the Bill. I know that the fruitgrowers of the State will welcome this measure because they are particularly concerned about the incidence of fruitfly in orchards. Over the years we have found that the incidence of fruit fly in this State, rather than abating, has tended to increase; sometimes to alarming proportions. It seems that even with the latest scientific methods, and all the research that has been undertaken in this work, we have not yet been able to find a highly successful method of dealing with the problem.

One might give consideration to this matter by comparing our situation with that of the fruitgrowers in other States. In some instances there have been outbreaks of fruitfly in other States, but those States have been able to control them because of the stringent methods adopted. Here, however, no really stringent measures have been undertaken over the years; at least not the same sort of measures as have been adopted in South Australia, for instance. Because of the incidence of fruit fly we have not at any stage been able to introduce a fruit-canning industry into this State.

It seems a pity that we have to import canned fruit from the other States of Australia; whereas if we could grow fruit which we could guarantee was not affected by fruit fly, we would be able to establish our own fruit-canning industry. Unfortunately the department has said that the incidence of fruit fly is not as great or as alarming as people would have us believe. But when one moves around the fruit-growing areas and sees the fruit affected by fly, and discusses the matter with fruit producers, one becomes only too well aware of the alarming proportions to which the fruit-fly menace has grown in this State over the past five or six years.

Even with our contributory fruit-fly baiting schemes, and the spraying that has been done, we are in the unfortunate position that there are many backyard orchardists who do very little, and some nothing at all, to control fruit fly on their properties. I believe the time has long passed when particularly stringent measures should have been taken to deal with the matter. This Bill will not help to control fruit fly, but at least it will assist the producers in their approach to the problem and to the question of voluntary fruit-fly baiting schemes.

Whilst on this subject I would like to make reference to plant diseases in relation to trees imported into the State. A case was recently brought to my notice where a gentleman imported into this State from the Eastern States a certain type of olive tree called a verdilian olive, which bears fruit in its first year. The only known disease from which the olive tree can suffer is scale; but when those trees are brought to this State they are subjected to a very rigid form of treatment by the Department of Agriculture.

They are fumigated with cyanide and some other product, and the net result is that the roots dry up, the leaves become withered, and, when the trees are planted in the ground, the leaves all fall off. The result of this is that the olive trees are of no use at all for selling purposes during the first year. This means that anybody who brings them into the State must look after them for 12 months before they can be sold; in other words, it is a 12 months' loss to the owners of the trees. That has a considerable effect on what could be another industry in the State—the industry of olive production.

In the other States where the trees are obtainable, they are not subjected to such rigid fumigation methods as the trees are in this State. As a result, producers in the other States have a 12 months' lead in the

market; and if the policy is continued we will find that our producers will have missed the boat, as has happened in other matters, and the local market will be lost to the Eastern States. I know there are certain methods of treating trees for scale which are not injurious to the plants. Yet because our department has the idea in its head that the trees must be fumigated in this way, that policy is carried out. Apparently nothing can be done about the policy the department has adopted in reguard to this matter; and its officers are most adamant about it.

I believe there should be a little more elasticity with regard to these matters, and in instances such as I have quoted proper methods of treatment should be adopted instead of the stringent ones that are employed today. I support the Bill, and I know it will assist those in the fruit-growing industry.

THE HON. F. D. WILLMOTT (South-West) [3.7]: I, too, am very much in favour of this Bill. I think it will have the effect of saving money for the fruit-fly eradication fund where a compulsory baiting scheme has been inaugurated. As the Act stands, such a scheme could be discontinued suddenly; but this amendment will prevent that from happening. This will be the means of saving money which is at present being wasted.

In dealing with the matter of fruit fly on a previous occasion, I had something to say about what I thought would be beneficial in respect to the eradication of fly—by making the registration fee for backyard orchards a good deal higher than it is a present. Unfortunately, because of an amendment to the Act which altered the period of time for which an orchard could be registered, my idea would now be a good deal more difficult to put into operation. That amendment was made in 1956, and because of it a person can register his orchard for five years. My proposition, therefore, would be rather difficult to put into practice.

In connection with the fruit-fly menace and other diseases in orchards, I would like to make one other suggestion to which the Government might give consideration. I wish to deal with the case of an orchard which has been declared neglected. Under the Act, if an inspector considers an orchard neglected, he reports it to the Minister, and the Director of Agriculture has to certify that that orchard is a neglected orchard. That fact is then gazetted, and three months are allowed for the owner of the neglected orchard to carry out the work requested by the department to bring his orchard up to the required standard.

The difficulty with this method is that it is a bit cumbersome. What sometimes happens is that although an orchard is declared neglected, the owner of that orchard knows perfectly well that he has three months after gazettal of the orchard as a neglected orchard in which to carry out the necessary improvements. Actually, of course, the period of time runs into more than three months, because the inspector must report to the Minister, and the Director of Agriculture must certify the orchard as being neglected.

During that time, however, the disease is not only continuing in that spot, but is spreading; and the inspector can do nothing about it until three months have elapsed after the gazettal of the neglected orchard. The Government might give some consideration to lessening that period to, say, 21 days. It would then give the inspector a chance to compel the owner of the orchard to do something about its neglected condition. As I have said, a period of three months is too long, because in that time the disease spreads considerably, and the inspector is virtually powerless to do anything about it.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [3.12]: This question of fruit fly has always interested me. Some years ago I made a prolonged study of the matter, and gave the House the whole history of the life of the fruit fly. One thing that strikes me as a possibility in eradicating this disease is to look at the life cycle of the fly. At the moment, we see the fruit fly in the metropolitan area growing in all sorts of plants which at first we did not envisage would provide a site for these flies. It has been recorded that the fly lives in the seed pods which are allowed to remain on rose bushes; and they thrive in crab apples which now adorn various gardens. These plants provide a good home for the fruit fly.

If we were to adopt the radical principles adopted in South Australia in years gone by we would practically decimate all the backyard orchards in the metropolitan area. That radical step was taken at great cost by South Australia, and it proved very successful. Thinking the matter over I wonder whether that is entirely necessary. If the period between the lavae stage of the fly and the possible home site of the fly itself can be prolonged sufficiently, it is possible that the fly might die out. From what I can gather, it is the fig tree that acts as the host in the metropolitan area during the period of transition until the fruit becomes an area of attack. I wonder whether the department might not look at the question of condemning all fig trees in the metropolitan area as an initial step.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: What about the loquat trees?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: That would apply to any host trees at that particular time. If this could be done, and the period could be sufficiently prolonged we might prevent regeneration.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: It is difficult to assess that period, because it varies with the weather.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am merely putting forward the suggestion that by eradicating certain plants in the metropolitan area we would prolong the period. My recollection is that loquat trees bear fruit before fig trees. But if we take the host plant away for a sufficiently long period, it would prevent the regeneration of the pest. If that were done we could say to the people in the metropolitan area, "You must get rid of your fig trees or your loquat trees."

One of the worst trees for attracting fruit fly is the flowering peach. The false peaches that grow on it certainly harbour the pest; but these trees come into flower quite early in the season, and they do not appear to be the same menace as do the fig trees and the loquat trees.

This might be a way of destroying the pest; because if the host plants in the metropolitan area were destroyed—at least one or two varieties—and the period sufficiently prolonged, there could be no regeneration. This would obviate the possibility of having to destroy all fruit trees. Whether this can be managed I do not know; but we must sooner or later endeavour to enter the canning trade, as I have mentioned here before. An attempt was made years ago. But it failed because it was said then that we were not growing the right type of fruit for canning.

There must be an immense market to the north of us, and also throughout the east, for canning; but the fruit must be of a good quality for canning. I do not know whether any member knows more about this matter than I do; but there is certainly one peach being canned in Australia at the moment which has all the other peaches miles behind it so far as canning quality is concerned. I refer to the Raggedy Ann peach. It is a delightful peach and makes one imagine it has been home preserved rather than taken from a tin. Yet I understand we do not grow that peach in this State.

The manner in which we are dealing with the fruit fly does not permit us to do much in this field, which is waiting for us. If some thought were given to the suggestion I have offered to eradicate the hosts that exist in the metropolitan area, so that the period would be delayed long enough to prevent the regeneration of the pest, I am sure some good would come of it. I certainly would be interested to know whether such method of control is possible.

THE HON. G. BENNETTS (South-East) [3.18]: To my way of thinking this control should not only take place in the metropolitan area. The fruit fly has been prominent in all parts of my electorate this year; it has been worse than ever before, and I am sure the Minister must have had a great deal of worry from the representations made by the local authorities on the goldfields last year in connection with it. I think it has been agreed that an officer should be stationed in Kalgoorlie for a period to investigate the trouble. I would say that the fig tree is one of the biggest offenders. One sees figs lying on the ground infested with fruit fly.

At the latter end of the grape season last year, I happened to be in Boulder where I visited a pensioner and saw more flies than I thought could possibly exist. They were hanging around the grapes in their thousands. I asked the person concerned if she knew that her grapes were covered in flies and she replied, "Mr. Bennetts, I cannot do anything about cutting them off. If anybody would cut them off for me that would be all right, and I would be very pleased." The lady said she had taken a few grapes off and buried them, but from what I saw it would have needed a good sized motor truck to take them all away.

At the back of my place a person has some fine trees. He grows beautiful peaches and nectarines. However, the whole of his peaches and nectarines were destroyed last year by fruit fly. This man baits his trees and spends quite a lot of time looking after them; but some people nearby neglect their trees.

I would say this: If trees are not baited they should be destroyed—they should be cut out immediately. That is the only way we will overcome fruit fly. I know quite a number of houses which are only rented; and the people concerned do not take much interest in the trees on the properties. When the fruit matures—and miserable fruit it is—the fruit fly immediately takes over; and none of these people worries about them.

There are not enough inspectors to go around to look at these things. In areas such as Norseman, Kalgoorlie, and Boulder there should be an inspector during the fruit season. As Mr. Willmott mentioned last time a similar Bill was before the House, we should perhaps pass legislation to increase the charge for registering fruit trees, as this may encourage people to do away with unwanted trees. Power should also be contained in the Act for infested trees to be destroyed if the people concerned take no action.

A son-in-law of mine had two nice nectarine trees and one peach tree. However, one of his neighbours had infested trees and all the fruit on my son-in-law's trees was spoilt. He immediately took the trees out and said it was no use worrying any further about having fruit trees. He put in two almond trees in their place.

I understand that in the South Australian Act provision is made enabling infested trees to be destroyed. I think provision is also made enabling all trees within a certain distance of infested trees

to be destroyed. I am not sure of this, but I think it is the position. I would not like to see a similar provision in our own Act, because it would cause hardship to the people who were looking after their trees. However, I agree with other members who have spoken this afternoon that there should be power in our Act for the compulsory removal of infested trees.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (West) [3.24]: I support this Bill, but I desire to offer some constructive criticism of it. In the main, I am going to deal with an abandoned orchard which is situated at approximately the 26-mile peg on the Albany Highway. This orchard was resumed when the catchment area for the Canning Dam was taken over; and I believe it has passed to the Agricultural Department which runs it mainly for the purpose of experimenting in connection with the eradication of diseases.

I have visited this property many times and have had many feeds of beautiful fruit. It is the practice of the Department of Agriculture to screen off two or three trees and display a notice to the effect that the trees are being treated with such and such a poison and that the fruit could be poisonous and injurious to health. However, the remainder of the trees on the property are not treated in any shape or form and they are literally infested with fruit fly. I refer particularly to the nectarine trees, a good variety of which is growing there—the Golden Mine variety. The peaches grown on that orchard are the best I have ever seen in Western Australia. However, if one picks them half ripe or three-quarters ripe, although they look quite sound, within several days they become practically decomposed as a result of fruit-fly infestation. That sort of thing is causing fruit fly to spread throughout the Armadale and Bedfordale areas, and perhaps the Roleystone area. The department selects a few trees, and the remainder are literally infested with fruit fly.

As far as the metropolitan area is concerned, much more control could be placed on the backyard orchardist. If one studies the habits of the fruit fly, one will find that on a hot day it cannot travel over a long distance. It can only fly a short distance without a drink. If the average backyard orchardist with a fig tree had sufficient bottles of bait in his tree he would find that the first thing a fruit fly did as it went from property to property would be to have a drink. Therefore, if sufficient poison is provided, it will be the end of the fruit fly.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Perhaps they should carry a waterbag.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They could get one from the Kalgoorlie express.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I think the main complaint in the metropolitan area is with respect to nectarines. I have never seen a nectarine tree in a backyard that has not been infested. I would say it is virtually impossible to have a clean nectarine tree in the metropolitan area. I think all members will agree that it takes a good orchardist to produce a nectarine clean enough to be placed on the market. I have never seen fruit produced within 100 miles of the metropolitan area that was absolutely free from fruit fly.

I have offered these comments: Firstly, in regard to the Department of Agriculture's land; and, secondly, about nectarines. I think fig trees can be controlled. They are a desirable fruit, and I would not like to see them banned. However, I would like to see more frequent prosecutions launched against offenders.

Dr. Hislop raised the important point of flowering shrubs. I have a beautiful flowering peach growing at my place, and I know that unless one goes to the trouble of completely stripping the tree of the dwarf fruit which appears in October or early November the tree is really a menace, and can be a hazard. I think that if the nectarine trees and the flowering peach trees were tackled first, we would do away with much of the fruit-fly infestation which is experienced. I support the Bill.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government—in reply) [3.30]: I appreciate the remarks made. It is obvious that all members are aware of the difficulty experienced in trying to control this pest, which is costing Western Australia a lot of money. Members' comments will be forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture who, I am sure, will pass them on to his departmental officers for consideration.

It would be much better to find some method of control without having to go to the trouble and cost of destroying these trees, because many people like to have one or two fruit trees in their backyards, despite the fact that they do not always produce fruit. I imagine that it might be possible for a pamphlet to be produced setting out the correct methods of dealing with the fruit fly, and the types of tree which are the hosts for the fruit fly. But even when people know which is the host tree, they do not appear to do much about it.

I think more publicity should be given to the correct type of bait to be used. At the moment people are getting to know a little more about this matter; and hardware stores and departmental stores are making a greater feature of what can be used for fruit-fly bait. Up to a few years ago, only a comparatively few people knew exactly what to buy. Today, with the ever-increasing demand for insecticides and garden sprays, and increasing knowledge of methods of combating the fruit fly, the public is becoming better informed.

I know that if, tomorrow, I went into a store and wanted to purchase fruit-fly bait, I would not know what to ask for; and a lot of people are in that same position. If the public can be informed on what to buy, what formula to use, and how to use it, I think the incidence of fruit fly would be reduced quite considerably.

Mention has been made of the South Australian scheme. South Australia did not overcome its fruit-fly problem altogether. Fruit fly has cost South Australia a lot of money, and the fly is still there.

I believe there was one factory in Western Australia which was forced to close down because it could not get sufficient supplies of fruit untainted by the fruit fly. This is a bad state of affairs, since we cannot afford to have such industries closing down. Members' remarks will be conveyed to the Minister; and I thank members for their contributions to this debate.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

COAL MINE WORKERS (PENSIONS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 12th October.

THE HON. E. M. DAVIES (West) [3.36]: The Bill before the House is a very small measure containing only three amendments. The amendment to section 7 of the Act is necessary because it refers specifically to the interpretation placed on the word "continuous." The reason for the amending Bill is to give justice to a former employee of the mines who worked continuously from 1914 to 1943, when he was involved in a serious accident—after having worked in the pits for 29 years. The severity of the accident reduced his capacity for normal work indefinitely; and he has, for years, endeavoured to regain reasonable health.

The compensation he received was used to provide the necessities of life; and he was eventually compelled to seek part-time employment cleaning railway barracks in the town in which he lived. This was a form of light employment of a duration of approximately three hours each day. The employee's health is nowhere near normal—he is turning 60 years of age—and he has now ceased to be employed.

His case came before the Arbitration Court, which ruled that because he had been in continuous employment for three years he was ineligible for a miner's pension. Nobody is complaining about that decision, because a tribunal can only give a decision in accordance with the Act.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: And in accordance with the interpretation, too.

The Hon. E. M. DAVIES: Yes. The man concerned felt his position very keenly in being denied his pension, particularly as he had worked in the pits for 29 years.

The other amendments refer to widows, and to the eligibility of mine workers for pension rights.

The case, to which I have referred, was brought to the attention of the Minister, who has been good enough to introduce this Bill in order to rectify the position. The man concerned has now reached the age of 60 years, and because he was in other employment continuously for three years there is, as the Act now stands, difficulty in granting him pension rights.

These amendments have been introduced by the Minister for Mines who, I understand, gave sympathetic consideration to the matters put before him. If the measure becomes law, it will rectify the present position and overcome an anomaly.

On motion by The Hon. F. D. Willmott, debate adjourned.

PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF WATERS BY OIL BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 12th October.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (West) [3.40]: I have had a glance through the Minister's notes, and I consider this is a most desirable measure; but, unfortunately, I do not think we will be able to have it enforced as we would wish.

The trouble which the measure seeks to overcome has been going on for years. In 1954 the first conference dealing with this matter was held, and 41 nations attended. But before ratification could be given to any scheme for the prevention of waste sludge and oils going into the sea, at least ten countries had to ratify the proposal, five of which had to have tanker tonnages greater than 500,000 tons.

Those who have already ratified the agreement, or have become signatories to it, are most responsible nations. The men in charge of ships that have come to Fremantle from those countries are very conscious of pollution, and take a good deal of trouble to prevent it. Yet we find that those in charge of ships which are on the registers of nations that are not signatories to the agreement, or that did not attend the conference—mainly Greek ships, and ships on the Panamanian, Liberian and Colombian registers; and some ships on registers of British possessions such as Hong Kong and Singapore—have very cosmopolitan crews that are not trained in the way that the crews of ships

from the Scandinavian and English-speaking countries are trained; and those people are not very conscious of their responsibilities.

Mostly those ships are owned by foreign interests, and they are registered in the various countries to which I have referred in order to dodge, mainly, insurance. The owners are not very reputable shipping companies. We have seen at Fremantle that these ships, when taking on bunkers, never bother to block their scuppers in the event of overflow through the coffer dams. Yet we find that the more responsible shipping companies go to the trouble of blocking their scuppers every time one of their ships takes on bunkers in Fremantle.

I can recall that in 1943 the *Panamanian* was in Fremantle Harbour. This vessel was on the Panamanian register, and her flag was a flag of convenience for the ship. At the time the *Panamanian* was in Fremantle, a lot of oil was floating on the harbour; although she was not the only ship that contributed to the oil that was there. This oil could have had disastrous effects on the port of Fremantle at the time because we were then in the throes of war, and ships were banked up two and three deep at every berth. Through a welding accident, and a lighted bag being thrown into the harbour, this large ship was extensively damaged and became a hazard. She had to remain at Fremantle for several years before she was completely refitted and able to sail from the harbour.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.2 p.m.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Prior to the tea suspension I was making the point that the principal cause of the *Panamanian* catching alight in Fremantle Harbour during wartime was oil pollution on the Swan River. The Fremantle Harbour Trust has gone to a great deal of expense to construct oil traps underneath the berths in Victoria Quay. As the name implies, their purpose is to trap any oil which may be inadvertently discharged by ships into the harbour. This precaution has cost the Harbour Trust many thousands of pounds, and when negligence in this regard has been proved, the masters of the vessels concerned have been consistently fined sums up to £100 for such negligence.

The policing of the harbour against oil pollution also entails a great deal of work inasmuch as the Fremantle Harbour Trust employs gangs of men—under very dangerous conditions at times—to skim the oil from the surface of the water where it lies in pockets in the harbour. The most vigilant people, in regard to the policing of the harbour and the Swan River against pollution by oil, are the waterside workers. They do not get much credit for what they do, but every time an oil leak occurs on any ship and it is found that the oil is polluting the harbour, the waterside workers bring it to the notice of the delegate on the ship who informs the authorities; and, as a result, steps are very smartly taken to prevent any further pollution of the harbour.

When I commenced my speech I said that the nations which are responsible are those which have all kinds of shipping registered in foreign ports. Their ships are the main offenders. The only way this Act could be policed efficiently would be to have this legislation placed on an international basis. The only way it could be made international would be to exert sufficient pressure on these foreign shipping companies to ensure that they did not offend. The notes of the Minister's speech, which I have here, state the following:—

> Those resolutions (which are appended as an annexure to this final Act) relate to:—

That reference is to the eight resolutions adopted by the conference which have been submitted to the Governments and other bodies for consideration and appropriate action. Continuing the quote—

> —the application of the principles of the convention so far as is reasonable and practicable to the ships to which the convention does not apply.

That is quite all right, but it is the shipping companies in those countries to which the convention does not apply that will prove to give the most trouble. They have been the main offenders in the past and they will continue to be the principal offenders in the future.

Mention has also been made about the pollution that occurs in Cockburn Sound around the oil refinery. However, I think the Kwinana oil refinery has lived up to its promise by doing everything possible to prevent oil pollution in Cockburn Sound. But it has been found that through natural leakage of oil from ships, fish caught in waters adjacent to the Kwinana refinery are inedible. Even a cat will not eat them. I have caught many thousands of skipjack and herring in those waters.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Thousands of dozens? That is not a fish story, is it?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No; it is not a fish story. Many hundreds of tons of herring have been caught in those waters in the past and have been sold at the fish markets or transported to Perth to be retailed in the city shops. However, any fish that are now caught in those waters are found to have a very strong taste of kerosene. The refinery does take every precaution possible, but natural seepage of oil from the tankers apparently does take place; and it has rendered fishing a useless pastime in those waters, and has caused professional fishermen to move to other parts.

It is realised that this measure is complementary legislation to that introduced this year in the Commonwealth Parliament. When all States of the Commonwealth ratify the agreement which is the subject of the Bill—I think all States should ratify it—we will become signatories in line with the other 14 nations that have already signified they will give the legislation their complete backing. I think this is a most desirable start, but more time and energy will have to be spent at international level to make the legislation completely and efficiently operative.

I support the Bill, and I trust that within a few years we will be able to feel the benefit of the legislation. One can readily realize how local authorities in this State will effect considerable savings if this legislation is instrumental in preventing the indiscriminate flushing of bilges and the washing out of deep tanks that takes place as soon as ships get beyond Rottnest. It is a very difficult problem to police, because ships can set sail at night and, under cover of darkness, flood their holds, or wash out their deep tanks. That this has been done is evident by oil patches appearing on the waters around our coast.

The only country which I think could give this legislation a good start is America. Perhaps the United States of America, as a result of tides washing the shores of that continent on both the Atlantic and the Pacific seaboards, has been the worst hit of all nations by oil pollution. I have read time and again of oil being carried by prevailing tides and winds thousands of miles to the shores of America. Yet up to date America has not been included in any measure that has become a statute to prevent oil pollution.

I give the Bill my full support, and I can only hope that within our lifetime we will see all nations become signatories to this pact; and I trust that it will prove to be of benefit to all countries of the world.

THE HON. E. M. DAVIES (West) [4.11]: I support the Bill. Oil pollution is a matter to which we must pay strict attention if we are to keep our harbours and beaches free of oil. I listened to the Minister's introduction of the measure, and to the contribution to the debate made by Mr. Ron Thompson. I am in full accord with that honourable member's remarks.

A thought that has occurred to me is this: When this agreement is being drawn up, will any consideration be given to the question of ships blowing their tanks at sea? I think that is the term they use for this operation. I know that whilst ships are in harbour it is possible to exercise a certain degree of inspection to prevent oil pollution, but when ships are outside the three-mile limit it is not so easy; although I do not know whether, to any extent, they make a practice of blowing their tanks off the coast of Western Australia. If they do, one can readily understand why some of our beaches are polluted with oil slicks.

I realise, of course, that such a practice is very difficult to police and control. I do not know whether any consideration has been given to that aspect, but I feel sure that if ships have been blowing their tanks outside the three-mile limit, that is why some of our beaches have been polluted with oil in the past. I support the Bill.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines—in reply) [4.13]: I thank both Mr. Davies—who has just resumed his seat—and Mr. Ron Thompson for supporting the Bill. Both of those members have a particular interest in the Fremantle district and waterfront because those localities come within the province they represent. The measure represents a start to deal with a problem which has, as I remarked when I introduced the Bill, world-wide significance. Because oil pollution is a serious international problem, this convention was arranged.

Generally speaking, the comments made by Mr. Ron Thompson were in support of the Bill; and I do not think there is anything I can say in reply except to point out to him that the penalties provided for any breach of the clauses in the measure will be applied to the ships that berth at Fremantle Harbour, although it may be difficult to enforce them in the case of ships belonging to countries which are not signatories to the agreement.

Going through the notes of the conference I see that Greece was represented; but I also observe that Greece is not at present a signatory to the arrangement. In reply to the question raised by Mr. Davies about ships blowing their tanks out at sea, the Bill defines the area of water within the jurisdiction of this State, and the area beyond its jurisdiction. When any ship discharges oil within the area of our jurisdiction, it will be liable to the penalties prescribed in the Bill.

There is no need for me to say any more. If there are other points which members wish to deal with, I shall reply to them in the Committee stage. I thank the House for the support of this measure.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENTS (ORD RIVER) PTY. LTD. AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 12th October.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North) [4.20]: This Bill, in mere verbiage, seeks to ratify an agreement made between the Government and Northern Developments (Ord River) Pty. Ltd. which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Northern Developments Holdings Ltd. As a mere Act of ratification it goes without saying that Parliament would give unstinted approval. But the great possibilities that can arise from the effects of this agreement make it one which should be applauded by every Western Australian.

The construction of the conversion dam at Bandicoot Bar will enable sufficient water to be stored so that the experience and knowledge so far gained under research conditions will be put to practical use by this company. It means that we are developing from the point of potential to something factual; and that in turn means we will know clearly within the near future whether over the years there has been only conjecture over the possibilities of this area, or whether closer agricultural settlement is in the offing. Naturally one hopes that all the desires and ambitions which for so many years have been spoken and written about will in the next few years come to fruition.

The Government will find £100,000 over a three-year period. The company undertakes to experiment, and to practise farming on an area of not less than 2,000 acres.

Primarily the company has to ascertain what crops and pastures can be grown successfully, and whether they can be grown economically; the approximate sizes and locations of holdings where such development and growth can take place; what plant will be required for operation; whether, if we finish up with small holdings, major plant will have to be used on a pool basis, or whether individuals will work their own plant acquired with their own capital; the farming methods that will be most suitable, and whether they will be carried out with large machinery, or with machinery on a subcontract basis with the farmer attending merely to the growing of produce; the advantages and disadvantages of large holdings against small holdings, having regard to capital; all general factors that will help in development; and what field to enter into and explore for the benefit not only of the State but of the nation.

So it is that this particular company, through the person of Mr. Gorey, with regard to rice at least, has a big responsibility and a great opportunity. One can only wish it great success. The ultimate capital cost to the individual will, of course, be most important. I am sure the Government will watch closely the returns that will come forward with the passage of time, and that it will watch the relationship of capital cost to returns when the produce is ultimately sold.

I hope that the scheme, if it is practical at all, will become one where not only the rich get richer, but where people who have lived in that area all their lives and raised families will receive some priority in the allocation of the land; and where their sons and daughters will receive similar treatment, irrespective of whether or not they have big financial backing at the time the land is being thrown open.

A scheme such as this will, if it is successful, naturally attract untold applicants from all over the world. I hope we do not lose sight of the claims of the people who have lived in that area all their lives because without them the area would not have been kept open over the years, and this opportunity would not have been available to our country. The priority of production as listed is as follows:—

Rice
Cotton
Safflower
Linseed
Development of pastures

It is interesting to note that earlier this year in an article—the Minister for the North-West was frequently quoted in it—published in *The Sunday Times* on the Ord River dam possibilities, crop estimates were given from the Bandicoot Bar area. They were: rice—£550,000 a year; safflower —£800,000 a year; cotton—£1,600,000 a year; and sugar—£1,400,000 a year. It is noteworthy that sugar has been dropped from this agreement. That shows that even in this area there is nothing stable, concrete, or definite in respect to which any blueprint can be formulated for the future.

That also shows the great responsibility that must be taken and the great concentration that must be exercised in the initial works and onwards, because I feel success or failure lies definitely within the work of this company. There is little doubt that if failure were to be envisaged—if it were possible that the scheme was not practical—then it would take very many years before it would be rejuvenated.

I was interested to learn, when reading the Minister's speech, that he said when referring to development of pasture areas—

> The company is permitted, at its own cost and risk, to breed and run livestock on the farm area, and/or enter into contracts with third parties for, or in relation to, the development of lands outside the area of the pilot farm.

There is a provision, however, that the company shall not allow or suffer any such breeding or running of livestock or any such contract to operate to the detriment of the development of the pilot farm as contemplated by this agreement. This may be regarded as a special incentive, and it is certainly hoped it will encourage the company to come by further valuable information and experience which may be passed on to later settlers. The whole of the operations, including the running of stock, must be carried out in co-operation and under the supervision of the scientists from the research station and the officers of the Department of Agriculture.

Rental will be charged for the use of plant, equipment or machinery, covered by the agreement but used for purposes other than the farm project. There will be a particular advantage in this arrangement, as it is hoped that something verging on full-time use of equipment will be more economic than if its use were restricted entirely to the turning of the soil.

I believe that we could not spend money more advantageously than by concentrating it on the development of cattle production, because there will be a great future in this industry during the next 25 years in Western Australia, and in Australia as a whole. I do not intend to enlarge upon that subject, because it was covered at some length last night by Mr. Wise. I feel that the agreement will be very valuable to future progress, because obviously if we can more quickly raise bigger and better cattle, the realms of success become very much more probable; because the market is secure.

It is interesting to note that in the final scheme, the Ord River Dam will be 50 times greater than the total project of Bandicoot Bar at the moment. That is a terrific project. So great is the area to be developed that it will pass beyond the boundary of Western Australia into a considerable portion of the Northern Territory. Therefore, the Commonwealth Government, I should say, is automatically a partner in this development scheme and should be as interested in it as we are.

It is difficult to imagine the immensity of the project. I have here an article headed, "Flow In Ord To Equal Snowy," which contains the following:—

> The flow of water into the Ord River dam would be as big as the ultimate development of the Snowy Mountains project, P.W.D. Senior Design Engineer J. Lewis, said yesterday . . .
>
> The diversion dam, which was only one-fiftieth the size of the major Ord River dam in storage capacity, would trap slightly more water than was held in the Canning Dam.
>
> Floods on the Ord River had been measured at the rate of 1,000,000 cubic feet a second. Only three other dams in the world were known to have coped with floods of this magnitude.

That article illustrates the possibilities of the project. The horizon of our North is almost unlimited. Who knows what success will follow? Who knows what multiplication of population will occur; and with such population all the subsidiaries, including the building of towns and the provision of the necessary amenities which go with closer settlement?

I can only repeat that I wish the Government every success possible in connection with this agreement, and I wish the company similar success in its application to the problems it will face. I hope nothing untoward develops by way of pests or other nuisances—nothing which cannot be surmounted; and that the dream which has been in the minds of so many people, including myself since I was a child, will now be fulfilled.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines—in reply) [4.35]: From the response to the Bill it appears unnecessary for me to say very much in reply. It is indeed refreshing to be able to introduce a Bill of this importance and find it receives the praise and comment which has been forthcoming on this occasion. The speeches made last night by Mr. Strickland and Mr. Wise, and that made today by Mr. Willesee, were very acceptable. Of course, it is only to be expected that those three members would be more than normally interested in a project of this nature—although I know they are concerned with the State's welfare generally—because the project is to take place in the district they represent.

This is the second land settlement Bill which we have considered in the last 24 hours, and with which I have had the privilege to be associated. Last night I introduced a measure dealing with the renegotiation and rearrangement of the Esperance lands where, over a period of time, some 2,000,000 acres will be brought into production. Then, today, in connection with this Bill, it is envisaged that a large area will be irrigated and brought into production.

I think it is fair to say that although Allen Chase was not successful in his operations at Esperance Plains, he did assist in focusing a great deal of interest on that locality; and if he did no more than that, he at least made a contribution to Western Australia. However, the circumstances are different in this case, because the Government has fortunately been able to negotiate an agreement which involves the Gorey family, which is well experienced in the matter of farming and the type of undertaking in which it will be called upon to participate in the North-West of the State.

I thank the three members who have spoken on this measure and bestowed good wishes upon the agreement and the signatories thereof. We can now only hope that success will follow. I am sure that Mr. Wise, who has known the North all his life and spent many years in the service of the State, is very pleased with the introduction of this legislation. As a matter of fact, he said so himself; and I thank him for the contribution he made.

It appears that at present a great deal of attention is being focused upon the North, and I feel sure that in the immediate future this interest will grow. I hope that in my own small way I shall be able to make a contribution to the development of the North; and this will be possible if the Commonwealth Government lets go its tenacious clutch on the iron ore. If we could get that from the North-West, material assistance would be afforded the developmental programmes envisaged.

Mr. Wise suggested that the Government should send overseas young engineers from the Public Works Department; and I am pleased to be able to tell him that this has already been arranged. The engineers of the Public Works Department who are associated with the Ord River scheme fully appreciate the erosion and silting problem of the Ord River system, and an assessment has been made of the quantity of silt movement during a recent heavy rainfall year.

At present two engineers of the Hydraulic Engineer's Branch of the department are visiting India and Pakistan with the main object of examining the problem of silt movement and flood control in their irrigation and water-storage areas. The two officers are Mr. D. Bryden, B.E., A.M.I.E. (Aust.), Principal Assistant, Irrigation and Drainage; and Mr. J. G. Lewis, B.E., M.Sc. (Eng.), D.I.C., A.M.I.E. (Aust.), Senior Engineer, Investigation and Design. Both these men are young, Mr. Lewis being 35 years of age. Unfortunately, I am unaware of Mr. Bryden's age.

Mr. Lewis will be attending the conference on large dams to be held in Italy next year, and will also attend a conference in Paris immediately afterwards. The problems in Cambridge Gulf through silting are appreciated, and re-sounding of substantial areas has only recently been completed. I thought I would mention these facts because I knew Mr. Wise would be happy to know that the department had already taken action along the lines he suggested.

I think it unnecessary for me to make further comment on the Bill which consists of only two clauses and the schedule, which is the agreement.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL

In Committee

Resumed from the 12th October. The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. W. R. Hall) in the Chair; The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN (The Hon. W. R. Hall): Progress was reported after clause 244 had been agreed to.

Clause 245—Swimming pools:

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I move an amendment—

> Page 210, lines 17 to 21—Delete paragraph (d).

This paragraph prescribes the maximum charges which may be imposed for admission to, use of, and service rendered in connection with the conducting of public swimming pools. I feel it is not the function of a local authority to act as a price-control authority. Clause 442 deals with the construction and control of public swimming pools by local authorities. By that clause the local authorities would have the power to fix the charges for their own swimming pools; but so far as swimming pools erected by private individuals, syndicates, or companies are concerned, the owners should have the right of saying what the admission charges shall be.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If we look at clause 442 we find no reference to prices. That clause deals only with the provision of swimming pools. This clause will give the local authority by-law-making power to fix a maximum charge. I contend that it should remain in the Bill. Every swimming pool in country districts today is controlled and operated by a local authority.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: How many private swimming pools are there in the State?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There is one at Eric Smart's, and there is one at the Guildford Grammar School. There would be a few of them, but they would not be affected by this. I hope the Committee will leave the clause as it stands.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I hope the clause remains unaltered. Even if a private pool were built, it would be with the sanction and complete knowledge of the local authority, and I feel sure a fair price would be arrived at.

In most cases the local authority and the Government meet the costs in the initial stages; and the fixing of a fee is almost the direct responsibility of the local authority. If the amendment were agreed to, it would be of advantage only to an individual who built a swimming pool. It would create a doubt about the

right of the local authority to do anything about its own swimming pool. I think the provision should be left as it is.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: Although at present there may not be any private swimming pools available to the public, that is not to say we should not make provision for them if they are erected in the future. We all realise that in recent years the public has become more conscious of the necessity to provide swimming facilities throughout the State, particularly in the country areas; and I feel that encouragement rather than discouragement should be given to private persons to install such facilities.

We know that at present various local authorities are being subsidised by the Government; but I feel that if any private individual or organisation is prepared to establish, as a trading undertaking, a pool, at no cost whatever to the Government or the local authority, he should be given encouragement.

Only a few years ago the late Mr. Alver, after a trip to England, was charged with the idea that it would be very beneficial to have a public swimming pool at Scarborough. His plans to have a sea-water pool, incorporating an aquarium, established on the foreshore at Scarborough were advanced to a reasonably mature stage. His idea was that in Western Australia greater interest should be taken in the sport of swimming; and he felt that if we had a swimming pool of that nature at Scarborough, it would encourage our youth to take an interest in the sport not only in the summer but also in the winter months with a view to their being trained to a sufficient standard to be able to take part in British Empire and Olympic games.

I think his idea was a good one, but unfortunately it was killed through a lack of finance. His ideas were shelved, and ultimately he was transferred to Cottesloe, and later died.

So far as swimimng pools constructed by local authorities are concerned, paragraph (f) of clause 442 surely covers the charging of admission fees. If it does not, we can alter the clause to cover that position. The clause under discussion covers swimming pools which may be erected by private individuals or companies.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Take Fonty's pool.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: Yes; at Manjimup. That is a case in point. If he decides that in order to maintain the area, he is going to make a certain admission charge, I think he is the one to determine what it shall be. If the public think the charge is too high they will not go to the pool. Surely it is not the function of the local authority in that area to say that he can charge a certain figure. I think the request is a reasonable one, and I hope the Committee will agree to it.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 246—Tennis courts, etc.:

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Can the Minister tell me what is the logic in giving power to make charges in regard to swimming pools and not tennis courts, when they are both a method of recreation?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Shortly, most tennis clubs conduct their own affairs, whereas swimming pools are under the control of the local authority itself.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 247 to 313 put and passed.

Clause 314—Council may assign a number to each house on lot:

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: Again I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the numbering of lots, particularly in the metropolitan area. I hope some action can be taken through the local authorities to ensure uniformity of numbering of houses throughout the metropolitan area. At present there is great difficulty in trying to locate certain places. The cost would not be great to have some type of lettering which would be easily distinguishable by night as well as by day. If this could be done it would serve a very useful purpose in the community.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The previous provision referred to the numbering of houses, but this provision gives the right to ensure that lots are also numbered. It will ensure continuity of numbering of vacant blocks. I appreciate the difficulty in some areas where numbering is not done as it should be; and I can assure Mr. Mattiske that I will ask the local authorities to carry out the requirements in this clause.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 315 to 431 put and passed.

Clause 432—Declaration of referees:

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I move an amendment—

> Page 357, line 33—Add after the word "justice" the words "of the peace."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 433—By-laws:

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I move an amendment—

> Page 359, lines 7 to 14—Delete all words after the word "building" down to and including the word "feet."

The reason for this amendment is that I received a request for an alteration of ceiling heights from 9 ft. to 8 ft. This may seem revolutionary. As far as I was concerned it did seem revolutionary when I

first received the request. However, an extensive investigation was carried out by a committee comprising Mr. Clare (Principal Architect), Mr. Leighton (Hobbs, Winning & Leighton), Mr. Bracks (Chairman, Melville Road Board and also Chairman, Local Government Association), Mr. Sloan (Building Surveyor, Perth City Council), and officers of my department. They were satisfied that it was not only an Australian-wide trend, but a world-wide trend, and that no ill-effects had been experienced in those places which had reduced ceiling heights to 8 ft. I think South Australia is the only other State in Australia which does not provide for an 8 ft. ceiling height. I think the ceiling height in that State is 8 ft. 6 in.

Certain conditions will be laid down. Where the roof has an angle of less than 15 degrees—or something similar—the ceiling must be insulated with at least 2 in. of insulating slag. I believe that in New South Wales consideration is being given to doing away with insulation as it is regarded as unnecessary. I repeat that when this request was first made to me I was rather loth to accept it as I thought it rather revolutionary.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I think you were right the first time, too.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I have spoken to people who have lived in homes with 8 ft. ceilings and they say it is only a matter of getting used to them. I think the whole thing is psychological.

The Hon. E. M. DAVIES: It is quite true, as pointed out by the Minister, that there has been a tendency over a period of years to reduce ceiling heights. As a matter of fact, I understand a minimum ceiling height of 8 ft. has been permissible in Queensland for quite a long period. I do not like an 8 ft. ceiling myself; and I think the only persons likely to build an 8 ft. ceiling would be those who were building flats. I think it is quite true that once one becomes accustomed to the lower ceiling, it is hardly noticeable.

In Fremantle we have some buildings that were erected by the State Housing Commission when the housing problem was very acute, where the ceiling height is 8 ft. 3 in. At that time the commission had a quantity of 8 ft. timber, and it erected these buildings after receiving permission. The 8 ft. 3 in. ceiling was brought about by the plate being 2 in. thick and checked out a half inch for the receiving of the studs. In the Municipality of Fremantle the minimum ceiling height at present is 9 ft. 6 in.—and personally I think that is low enough As I understand the position, this amendment will give permission to erect a ceiling of 8 ft.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It is a minimum.

The Hon. E. M. DAVIES: People will not be required to build with an 8 ft. ceiling; they will be able to please themselves. Personally, I think they would be extremely foolish to do so as they would take away value from their property. I support the amendment, seeing that people can please themselves as to what ceiling height they have.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Minister mentioned the psychological aspect of not liking an 8 ft. ceiling. I was under the impression that a permissible ceiling height was connected with health —so many cubic feet per person. I wonder whether the minister has consulted the Public Health Department in connection with this matter.

The Seamen's Award lays down that crew quarters must contain so many cubic feet of air space per crew member. The average height of Australians is increasing each year. I do not know how many years it will take Australians to reach a height of 8 ft. but in recent years a number of people have reached 7 ft. One has only to attend football and basketball games to appreciate this fact.

The Hon. E. M. Davies: You are no pygmy!

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: No. I am wondering whether all these matters have been considered by the Minister.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Irrespective of the height of a ceiling, any room has to comply with the health regulations so far as cubic air space is concerned. The health problem was considered, and reports were received from the Eastern States. These reports indicated that the proposed provisions would not be detrimental to health.

I should point out that a room has to be sufficiently air conditioned—ventilation has to be correct; and lighting has to be correct. These conditions have to be taken into account before any premises can have an 8 ft. ceiling; and these conditions will be laid down in the uniform building by-laws.

The Hon. E. M. DAVIES: The Health Act provides for 500 cubic feet of air for each adult person. If the height of the ceiling is going to be lowered, the floor area would have to be increased accordingly. Previously, a ceiling height of 10 ft. 6 in. was recognised; and ventilators were usually installed in the walls of a room. With the reduction in ceiling height, ventilators are to be installed in the corners of ceilings. There will therefore be adequate circulation of air. Personally, I would not like a house with an 8 ft. ceiling. However, the Bill will enable people to have such a ceiling, but the Health Act must be complied with.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I would like to ask the Minister whether a person who wishes to erect an 8 ft. ceiling has to apply to the local authority for permission to do so.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Before any permission can be given, plans and specifications have to be submitted; and the ordinary conditions of the building by-laws have to be complied with. A bedroom measuring 15 ft. by 12 ft., with an 8 ft. ceiling, would have a cubic air content of 1,440 cubic feet, which would be sufficient for three persons.

Scientific examination has shown that there is a lot of dead air under ceilings. This dead air is eliminated with proper air conditioning and correct ventilation.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: The Building Research Division of the C.S.I.R.O. has in recent years conducted experiments into this matter, and its reports have indicated that where ceilings are above a certain height, there is a certain amount of dead air that does not circulate. Provided wall openings are of a certain size, the division has proved that the circulation of air can be very much better with low ceilings than with high ceilings.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: A minimum height of 8 ft. is to be provided. How is this going to be laid down? By regulation?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It will be in the uniform building by-laws.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: With other members, I think that 8 ft. is rather low. There are instances where ventilators have been installed in ceilings, but where, because of the draught these ventilators have been covered up. Dead air is therefore created. I would remind members that the door height of any room is 6 ft. 8 in., except for the entrance to a house which is 6 ft. 10 in. It is very seldom that people have to enter a door that is less than 6 ft. 8 in. in height. I think this height is low enough. It is appreciated that a person cannot erect a verandah on premises with a ceiling height of 8 ft.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 434 to 446 put and passed.

Clause 447—Council regarded as owner of streets, etc., and unfenced land abutting:

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: In considering this matter, I think we are cutting into another clause, namely, clause 449. Section 5 of the Cattle Trespass, Fencing and Impounding Act states—

> If any entire horse, ass, or bull above the age of one year shall be found trespassing without a keeper on any land, the owner of such land may castrate such cattle if unbranded, and if the owner thereof be unknown.

I cannot find this same provision contained in the Local Government Bill. I consider the provision is necessary in agricultural districts.

We find later on in the same Act that where it is not possible to impound trespassing animals, and where the owner cannot be found, a justice of the peace may order their destruction. These provisions remove the danger element; and I think they should be embodied in this measure.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I cannot answer Mr. Loton on that point. Clause 447 is exactly the same as section 243 of the Municipal Corporations Act. Does the honourable member think there is something missing?

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Yes; I think section 5 of the Cattle Trespass, Fencing and Impounding Act has been overlooked. Under the present set-up the Local Government Bill has almost taken the place of that Act.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I move—

> That further consideration of the clause be postponed.

Motion put and passed; the clause postponed.

Clauses 448 to 466 put and passed.

Clause 467—Duty and responsibility of poundkeeper:

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: If the Minister considers it necessary to insert another clause, will it be done at this stage, or will we have to recommit the Bill? Perhaps it would be better to report progress in order that we may insert the clause now.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do not think there will be much trouble in recommitting the Bill if a new clause has to be inserted.

The CHAIRMAN (The Hon. W. R. Hall): A new clause can be inserted only after we have completed the Bill.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 468 to 473 put and passed.

Clause 474—Proceedings prior to sale of unclaimed cattle:

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I move an amendment—

> Page 384, line 7—Insert after the word "justice" the words "of the peace."

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I move an amendment—

> Page 384, line 25—Insert after the word "justice" the words "of the peace."

Point of Order

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I would like you, Sir, to inform the Committee whether these amendment will mean the reprinting of the clause; and whether the reprinting will impose a charge upon the Crown?

The CHAIRMAN (The Hon. W. R. Hall): Yes; the same as an amendment to any other Bill makes a charge.

Committee Resumed

Amendment put and passed.

On motions by the Hon. R. C. Mattiske, clause further amended as follows:—

Page 385, line 17—Insert after the word "justice" the words "of the peace."

Page 386, line 22—Insert after the word "justice" the words "of the peace."

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 475—Justice may order unsold cattle to be destroyed:

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I move an amendment—

Page 386, line 26—Insert after the word "justice" the words "of the peace."

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I point out that the word "justice" appears in line 1 of the next page of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN (The Hon. W. R. Hall): That refers to the justice mentioned in subclause (1), which has just been amended.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 476 and 477 put and passed.

Clause 478—Authority for destruction of injured, diseased, or dying cattle impounded:

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I move an amendment—

Page 387, line 29—Insert after the word "justice" the words "of the peace."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 479 to 529 put and passed.

Clause 530—Other powers of expenditure of municipal fund:

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I move an amendment—

Page 430, line 24—Delete the word "extend" and substitute the word "expend."

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Could we ask Mr. Mattiske to explain the difference in meaning between the two words?

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 531 put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave granted to sit again.

House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 13th October, 1960

CONTENTS

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

COLLIE COAL QUOTAS

Personal Explanation: Attitude of Mining Unions

MR. MAY (Collie) [2.15]: I desire to make a personal explanation in regard to a statement appearing on page 14 of today's issue of *The West Australian*. I will quote the paragraph, which reads—

> When Mr. May asked why the unions had not been consulted before the coal quotas were decided, Mr. Brand said it was the Government which must decide in these matters and not the union.