

all the appeals and keep reasonably up to date with them? I do not think so. It would be impracticable. Therefore, I lean to the existing arrangement, under which the local authority concerned constitutes its own appeal court. I know it has many weaknesses; but, at the same time, it does enable the appeals to be heard without undue delay which, I fear, may not be so in the case of a sole appeal court.

This measure is primarily one to be dealt with in committee. Therefore, I would only be delaying this House unduly if I spoke at length on the many points in the Bill. I will therefore reserve what I have to say for the Committee stage.

Hon. H. K. Watson: What about the basis of valuation?

Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I did mention that when speaking. Very briefly I said that in the case of valuations I did not see why the two existing systems should not both be included in the Bill, with the power for the council to select its method, either the unimproved value or the annual value basis; and, at the same time, provide for a change from one system to another should conditions in the future necessitate such a change.

With these remarks I will conclude. We will have considerable discussions in the Committee stage. I have already lodged quite a number of amendments which I propose to discuss then; and, no doubt, other members will, too. But I feel certain that from the Bill we have in front of us and from what will eventuate in the Committee stage we will ultimately produce a piece of legislation which will enable us to continue with a first-class system of local government in this State.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: By a brutal majority.

On motion by Hon. L. A. Logan, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.35 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 24th July, 1957.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.

WHOLEMILK INDUSTRY.

(a) *Tests and Research.*

Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Adverting to the answer to my question on Wednesday, the 17th July, regarding the number of producers who supplied milk below the required solids-not-fat standard, who are on irrigated properties, on what premise is the contention that there is a consistent relationship between the contents of fat and solids-not-fat occurring in milk?

(2) What research, if any, has been carried out in Western Australia into the problem of milk with a low solids-not-fat content?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The relationship between the contents of fat and solids-not-fat occurring in milk to which reference was made, is based on extensive research carried out in overseas countries as well as in Australia. The general finding has been that each increase of 1 per cent. in the fat content has been accompanied by an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the content of solids-not-fat.

Occasionally individual animals are found which do not fit this pattern.

(2) The results of completed research into the problem of milk with a low content of solids-not-fat were published in the Journal of the Department of Agriculture of Western Australia in March, 1949.

(b) *Qualifications of Inspectors, etc.*

Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What qualifications have Milk Board inspectors to advise farmers on questions relating to the improvement of the solids-not-fat content of milk?

(2) Are the inspectors instructed by the Department of Agriculture on the advice that should be given to farmers to improve the solids-not-fat content of milk?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) In addition to such qualifications as the Diploma in Dairying of the Muresk Agricultural College held by some inspectors, one of whom holds also the Diploma in Agriculture of the Muresk Agricultural College, inspectors of the Milk Board have extensive practical field experience and information gained as a result of numerous tests carried out over a lengthy period.

(2) No, but they are informed on departmental views.

(c) *Co-operation between Department and Milk Board.*

Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Is there full co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and the Milk Board on the problem of the quality of milk?

The MINISTER replied:

Yes. Advice is given when requested either by the Milk Board or the whole-milk producers.

GASCOYNE RESEARCH STATION.

Provision of Suitable Accommodation.

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

In view of the totally unsuitable type of house which has been built on the Gascoyne research station for its research

officers, what steps are being taken to make suitable accommodation available to them?

The MINISTER replied:

Of the last four cottages provided at the Gascoyne research station, two were designed by the architectural division, P.W.D., one is an early State Housing Commission type which has been considerably improved since erection, and the last is the latest State Housing Commission type which has proved quite satisfactory in the Carnarvon district. All of these buildings are regarded as suitable and satisfactory for general purposes.

Approval has been given to an additional bedroom on the house occupied by the regional adviser.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION ACT.

Proposed Legislation.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON asked the Premier:

(1) Does he intend to introduce legislation to amend Section 14 of the Parliamentary Superannuation Act for the purpose of giving effect to the principle that, irrespective of his future occupation, a member of Parliament who is forced to retire, or is defeated at the polls, is entitled to his normal superannuation benefits?

(2) If not, will he take steps to arrange that ex-members of Parliament in Government employment have their superannuation payments suspended until their period of such employment is ended?

The PREMIER replied:

Representations such as those contained in these questions have been made to the Government from more than one source in recent months. The matters dealt with in the questions are to receive Cabinet consideration at an early date.

ALBANY REGIONAL HOSPITAL.

Suitability of Foundations for Additions.

Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Health:

Will the foundations of the proposed regional hospital to be built at Albany be suitable to carry a multi-storied building, enabling it to be added to on some future occasion?

The MINISTER replied:

No, but the plans now being prepared will make provision for future hospital requirements.

STATE TRADING CONCERNS.

Amounts Paid in Rates and Land Tax.

Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

(1) What amounts were paid by the following State trading concerns—

State Saw Mills,
State Hotels,
State Brick Works,
State Engineering Works,

during the years ended the 30th June, 1956, and 1957, to—

(a) local governing bodies as (or in lieu of) rates, stating to which road board or municipality such amounts were paid;

(b) the Treasury in lieu of land tax?

(2) If none was paid, what amounts would be paid as land tax in this current year were the land used similarly by a private concern?

The MINISTER replied:

I would like to have this question postponed. I would also like to make this statement. It would facilitate the giving of answers to these questions if members would ascertain who are the Ministers concerned. In regard to these questions, three Ministers are involved and it would be advisable to direct the questions to the respective Ministers concerned instead of having one Minister reply on behalf of three other Ministers.

HEALTH.

(a) Financing Investigation of Drug-bearing Plants.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

How much money was allocated each year from 1943 to 1949 (inclusive) for the conduct of experiments and investigations of indigenous drug-bearing plants?

The MINISTER replied:

		Estimated £	Expended £
1942-43	....	....	Not recorded separately
1943-44	....	....
1944-45	....	500	288
1945-46	....	750	520
1946-47	....	750	740
1947-48	....	750	778
1948-49	....	750	648
1949-50	....	750	512

(b) Personnel of Anti-Cancer Council.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Health:

What are the names of the persons on the Anti-Cancer Council?

The MINISTER replied:

Dr. L. E. Le Souef, Dr. A. J. M. Nelson, Dr. M. E. Minchin, Dr. J. G. Hislop, Dr. H. C. Callagher, Dr. L. Henzell, Dr. W. S. Davidson, Professor R. E. J. ten Seldam, Professor C. W. D. Lewis, Professor C. J. B. Clews.

OLD MILL, SOUTH PERTH.

Offer to Maintain by Bernie's.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Works:

Has consideration been given to an offer by Bernie, of Mounts Bay-rd., to restore and maintain the Old Mill at South Perth, at his own expense, and to maintain lawns and gardens, and separately construct a coffee house for the use of tourists to the City of Perth?

The MINISTER replied:

There is no record of any direct approach having been made by Bernie's, Mounts Bay-rd., to interested Government departments on this matter.

ESPLANADE, SOUTH PERTH.

Level of Reclaimed Foreshore.

Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Works:

Is it the intention of the Public Works Department to raise the level of the reclaimed foreshore along the Esplanade, South Perth, between Queen-st. and Mends-st. jetty, in the same way as the area between Queen-st. and Mill point has recently been raised?

The MINISTER replied:

No.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

Noise from Black Swan Tea Rooms.

Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) Is he aware that residents in the vicinity of the new Black Swan tea rooms at the Zoological Gardens are being disturbed by the noise of people leaving the tea rooms in the early hours of Sunday mornings?

(2) Is there anything he can do to ensure that either the establishment closes at midnight, or that the noise—particularly in respect of shouting, horn tooting, engine revving, etc.—is reduced to a minimum?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) This matter will be taken up with the lessees of the Black Swan restaurant.

RAILWAYS.

(a) *Great Southern Line Commencement of Relaying, etc.*

Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) Will the relaying of the Great Southern railway line be commenced this financial year?

(2) If so, what sections are to be relayed, and which of the proposed sections will be commenced first?

(3) What will be the total mileage of relaying?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Spencers Brook-York section will be relaid this year followed by other sections in subsequent years.

(3) 17 miles 30 chains this year, ultimately 279 miles 71 chains.

(b) *Suspension of Week-end Special Hire Service.*

Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) Is it a fact that the Railway Department has suspended the week-end special hire service?

(2) Is it not a fact that this service was profitable?

(3) If the answers to Nos. (1) and (2) are in the affirmative, will not this profitable service be provided by other operators?

(4) Who was responsible for the suspension of this service?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

(1) No.

(2) Yes.

(3) and (4) Answered by No. (1).

(c) *Cancellation of Road Bus Service to Albany.*

Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) Is it intended to cancel the Railway road bus service to Albany?

(2) If so, why?

(3) Who is responsible for the decision to cancel this service?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

(1) No, but consideration is being given to a reduction to effect economy.

(2) and (3) Answered by No. (1).

(d) *Cocktail Bar, Commissioners' Block, Perth Railway Station.*

Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) Is it a fact that an elaborately furnished lounge and cocktail bar is installed in the commissioners' block at Perth railway station?

(2) If so—

- (a) what was the cost of installation and furnishing;
- (b) who authorised the expenditure;
- (c) who was responsible for ordering the bar and lounge;
- (d) (i) what is the monthly account for liquor; and
(ii) who pays the liquor account?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

(1) No. There is a small annexe which was furnished in keeping with the offices of the original members of the commission shortly after their appointments in 1949. The annexe, apart from chairs and a table, contains a three cubic feet refrigerator, a vitrolite topped cupboard and a hand wash basin. The main purpose of the room is for the reception of important visitors, as is the general practice of other railway systems.

(2) (a) Specific costs are not available as they were included in the total expenditure incurred in refurnishing the four offices occupied by the commission and the secretary for railways.

(b) and (c) The W.A. Government Railways Commission.

(d) (i) the accounts, which are audited, average £9 per month;

(ii) the Railway Department.

(e) Effect of Basic Wage Increase on Deficit.

Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) To what extent will the railway deficit of £7,300,000 estimated for 1957-58, be increased by the recent basic wage increase?

(2) What steps have been taken, or are contemplated, to offset the impact of this wage increase on railway finance?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

(1) £108,000.

(2) A substantial reduction in coal prices should be achieved as from about the middle of August.

Further savings in expenditure should be effected following the submission to the Government by Royal Commissioner Smith of a progress report covering the investigations carried out by him up to date.

(f) Rescission of Discontinuance Motion.

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Premier:

As the resolution to cease operation of 842 miles of railways passed by both Houses last December is, in view of the rescission of that resolution by the Legislative Council last Thursday, no longer

the agreed resolution of this Parliament, will he agree that the lines on which operations have ceased should be reopened for traffic and no further lines be suspended, pending the completion and consideration of the result of the overall inquiry into railway administration now taking place, or about to take place, and an investigation by a competent authority into each of the lines included in the resolution?

The PREMIER replied:

The action taken by the Government in closing railway lines has been taken in accordance with the resolution carried by both Houses of Parliament last year, when the matter was dealt with on a realistic basis and not on a party political basis.

A decision made by Parliament as a whole cannot be unmade by one House of the Parliament.

(g) Freight Charges, Pingrup to Bassendean and Fremantle.

Mr. NALDER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) What was the freight charge on 10 tons of superphosphate from Bassendean to Pingrup before rail closures?

(2) What is the freight charge on 10 tons of superphosphate from Bassendean to Pingrup under present transport arrangements?

(3) What was the freight charge on eight tons of bagged oats from Pingrup to Fremantle before rail closures?

(4) What is the freight charge on eight tons of bagged oats from Pingrup to Fremantle under the present transport arrangements?

(5) What was the freight charge on one ton of rabbit netting from Fremantle to Pingrup before rail closures?

(6) What is the freight charge on one ton of rabbit netting from Fremantle to Pingrup under present transport arrangements?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

(1) £26 17s. 5d.

(2) Under the present transport arrangements, the same amount.

(3) £22 0s. 3d.

(4) Under the present transport arrangements, the same amount.

(5) £8 2s. 9d.

(6) Conveyed by the Railway Department's rail and road service provided for general goods freighted at classifications "B" rate and higher, for the throughout journey the charge would be £8 16s. 4d.

EDUCATION.

(a) Karragullen School, Accommodation, etc.

Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Is he aware that the junior classroom at Karragullen, with normal accommodation for 12, is now occupied by 16 children and will be increased to 21 in the first term of 1958?

(2) Are additions contemplated to the existing school, or are new premises to be erected?

(3) If "Yes" is the answer to No. (2), on what site will the school be erected and when is work expected to commence?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) There are two classrooms which provide adequate accommodation for 74 children.

(2) No.

(3) See answer to No. (2).

(b) Domestic Science School, Bunbury, Equipment, etc.

Mr. ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Is he aware of the lack of equipment, and the poor and antiquated facilities provided at the domestic science centre, Stirling-st., Bunbury?

(2) In view of the ever-increasing number of children attending such centre, when will—

(a) modern equipment, such as electric irons, electric or gas stoves, electric washers or wringers, refrigerators, etc., be supplied?

(b) the bare kitchen floor boards be covered?

(c) a new and modern domestic science centre be provided and where exactly will such new centre be located?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) Provision of a new home science centre at Bunbury to be erected on the high school site is included on the department's building programme. The date of commencement is dependent on the availability of finance.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES.

Extension to Karragullen and Illawarra Orchard.

Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is the electricity supply to be extended to cover Karragullen and the Illawarra orchard this financial year?

(2) If so, when will this work be commenced?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) In approximately six months' time.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION.

Percentage of Rent Applied to Maintenance Fund, etc.

Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) What percentage of the rent is applied to the maintenance fund by the State Housing Commission for Commonwealth-State rental homes?

(2) What amount is now to the credit of this fund?

(3) What is the estimated annual expenditure on each home for maintenance?

(4) How many employees are engaged by the State Housing Commission on maintenance work?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) 1 per cent. of cost of house.

(2) £450,000.

(3) £25.

(4) 125 (plus workers employed by private contractors who carry out approximately 50 per cent. of the total maintenance programme).

MOTOR-VEHICLES.

Wharfage and Port Handling Charges.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What are the wharfage and port handling charges in relation to the export of motor-vehicles?

(2) What are the comparative charges in other States of Australia?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The wharfage and handling charges on motor-vehicles on wheels exported from the Port of Fremantle are:—

(a) Wharfage—£1 per ton.

(b) Handling Charges:

(i) Shipped over wharves, Fremantle Harbour Trust receiving and delivering:—
Weighing up to 1 ton gross—10s. each; exceeding 1 ton and not exceeding 3 tons gross—17s. each; exceeding 3 tons and not exceeding 5 tons gross—25s. each; exceeding 5 tons gross—35s. each.

(ii) Shipped direct ex railway wagons or other vehicles to ships' slings—6s. per ton.

(2) Melbourne—

(a) Wharfage—nil.

(b) Handling Charges—Handling performed by shipping companies and charges incorporated in freight charges.

Brisbane—**(a) Wharfage:**

(i) Coastal: Up to 2 tons—11s. 3d. each; 2 tons to 5 tons—22s. 6d. each; over 5 tons—45s. each.

(ii) Overseas: Up to 3 tons—1s. 11d. per ton measurement; 3 tons to 5 tons—7s. 6d. per ton weight; 5 tons to 10 tons—9s. 10d. per ton weight; over 10 tons—15s. per ton weight; plus excess measurement over weight—1s. 11d. per ton.

(b) Handling Charges: Handling performed by shipping companies and charges incorporated in freight rates.

(c) Harbour Dues—5s. per ton measurement.

Adelaide—

(a) Wharfage—5s. 6d. per ton weight or measurement whichever is the greater.

(b) Handling Charges—Handling performed by shipping companies and charges incorporated in freight rates.

Hobart—

(a) Wharfage—8s. 4d. per ton less 20 per cent.

(b) Handling Charges—Handling performed by shipping companies and charges incorporated in freight rates.

Sydney—

Figures for Sydney not yet available and will be supplied when received.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.**Formation, Directors and Housing Allocations.**

Mr. ROBERTS asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) On what dates were the following building societies formed:—

(a) Northern Suburbs Building Society;

(b) Southern Suburbs Building Society?

(2) Who are the directors of each of the abovementioned societies?

(3) On what basis was the allocation of £40,000 made to each of the above societies from the grant of £600,000 made available to the State Housing Commission for distribution to building societies under the Commonwealth-State housing agreement?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Registration with the Registrar of Building Societies effected on the 8th April, 1957.

(2) (a) R. J. O'Connor (chairman), P. W. R. Travers-Drape, C. R. Hopkins.

(b) P. W. R. Travers-Drape (chairman), R. J. O'Connor, C. R. Hopkins.

(3) Each case is dealt with on its merits and amounts to be allocated are approved by the Commonwealth Minister for National Development. The Commonwealth Government favours co-operative building societies as against permanent profit making societies and is therefore anxious to encourage the formation of new co-operative building societies in all States. In New South Wales and Victoria allocations are made only to co-operative societies.

POLICE.**Claremont Police Station Improvements.**

Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Further to my question of the 18th September, 1956, is he aware that no improvements have been made as to accommodation at the Claremont police station?

(2) Is a new police station to be erected in Claremont?

(3) If so, where will the new station be located, and when will building commence?

(4) If erected, will it contain a traffic patrol section in addition to the usual requirements?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) In Stirling Highway on land now held by the Police Department.

(4) Not decided at present.

I might add that I understand the local governing body of the district has asked the Police Department to consider making an exchange of land, and this might delay the possible building.

COMPENSATION CLAIM.**Tabling of Mr. S. Garner's File.**

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON asked the Minister for Mines:

Will he lay on the Table of the House the file relating to the compensation claims of Mr. S. Garner, of 27 Florence-st., Cottesloe, who was recently employed at the Explosives Reserve, Woodman's Point?

The MINISTER replied:

Mr. S. Garner's personal file from the Mines Department is tabled herewith.

The file relating to the actual claim for compensation is a State Government Insurance Office file and is available for the hon. member's inspection at that office should he so desire.

(b) Tabling of State Insurance Office File.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON (without notice) asked the Minister for Education:

As the Minister for Mines has laid on the Table of the House the file relating to Mr. S. Garner of 27 Florence-st., Cottesloe, will he also lay on the Table of the House the file relating to this matter which is in the State Government Insurance Office?

The MINISTER replied:

Am I to understand that the hon. member is directing question 29 to me or something arising out of that question?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You handle the State Government Insurance Office?

The Minister: Yes.

The SPEAKER: The Minister handles it as the Minister for Labour.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: My question, in that case is directed to the Minister for Labour. There is a file in the State Government Insurance Office relating to the personal side of this matter and I ask the Minister to lay it on the Table of the House.

The MINISTER replied:

I will make a note of the question but at this stage I do not think I should commit myself. I will undertake to discuss the matter with the manager of the State Government Insurance Office and if there are no objections, the file will be laid on the Table of the House. If there are any objections, I will indicate to the hon. member that I am not prepared to table the file.

EGGS.

Singapore and Malayan Markets.

Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What proportion of the Singapore and Malayan egg market is supplied by Western Australia?

(2) Is this proportion increasing?

(3) (a) Has there been increased pressure in recent times from overseas countries and the Eastern States of Australia to capture the trade?

(b) If so, with what result?

(4) Has New South Wales or other States offered or agreed to supply eggs on a basis which would result in eggs being retailed in Singapore and Malaya approximately two weeks ahead of Western Australian eggs produced at the same times as the Eastern States eggs?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) 82.89 per cent. in 1954-55 and 80.52 per cent. in 1955-56.

(2) Proportion for 1956-57 is not available but total shipments increased from 1,072,050 dozen in 1955-56 to 1,270,320 dozen in 1956-57. The slight decrease in 1955-56 was mainly due to fall in local production when Singapore orders could not be met in full.

(3) (a) It is known that South Africa is definitely interested in the Malayan market and has, in fact, exported a small quantity of eggs to Singapore.

New South Wales appears to be the only other State in Australia at present trying to gain a foothold on the Singapore market.

(b) South Africa has good and regular shipping facilities, can compete with Australia regarding price, markets a good quality egg, but we believe at present cannot guarantee all the year round continuity of supply.

New South Wales has endeavoured during the past few months to break into the Singapore market and, according to Press reports, intends to supply "cartonné" eggs to the trade in Singapore. No reports have been received yet in Western Australia of any such shipments made.

(4) It is understood that such an offer was made by New South Wales to the Singapore trade, but whether that State could carry it out is questionable.

IRON ORE.

Transportation from Koolyanobbing to Railhead.

Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

As the transport of 1,000,000 tons over 2½ years represents approximately 1,100 tons per day, seven days per week over this period, what plan has been formulated by the Government for the transportation of the million tons of iron ore from Koolyanobbing to the railhead and the railhead to the port and the handling of the ore at the port, assuming the project to export this quantity of ore to Japan is proceeded with?

The MINISTER replied:

Crushed ore will be transported from Koolyanobbing to Southern Cross by road under contract, as at present.

It will then be railed to Fremantle by special ore trains, using end-tipping trucks, now in use, of which the W.A.G.R. has

ample numbers available. This aspect has been investigated by the W.A.G.R. and Wundowie board of management.

At Fremantle, the ore will be dumped into a stockpile using an end-tipping device, of a type currently in use at Wundowie which has received its ore in this way for some years.

The Fremantle Harbour Trust has prepared plans setting aside a special berth for bulk loading by conveyor belt from dump, direct into ship's hold. The plans of the Fremantle Harbour Trust were reported in some detail in the "Daily News" of the 14th June, 1957.

ROADS.

First-Class Road Connections, Great Southern.

Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has the Government a plan for the development of an enlarged system of first-class roads connecting in several places the South-West and Great Southern regions in the area south of the Bridgetown-Kojonup line?

(2) If so, where are the roads proposed and what approximate programme is envisaged?

(3) Is there in this plan a complementary system of connecting north-south roads between the South-Western and Albany Highways?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Development of the State as a whole requires that existing road systems between the South-West and the Great southern regions must be further developed before consideration can be given to an expanded system.

(2) and (3) Answered by No. (1).

EMPLOYMENT.

(a) Appreciation of Situation.

Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Labour:

(1) Has the Government made an up-to-date appreciation of the employment situation in this State?

(2) What does it anticipate will be the employment trend during each of the periods—

(a) July to December, 1957;

(b) January to June, 1958;

(c) July to December, 1958?

(3) What plans are there to stimulate employment?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service furnishes the Government with a weekly statement of the employment position.

(2) This information is not available and would depend largely on the answer to No. (3).

(3) Continuation of the policy of providing a maximum of employment from loan funds available and encouraging the establishment and expansion of industry. In addition, the Commonwealth Government is being requested to carry out works to the maximum extent in this State.

(b) Amplification of Answer.

Mr. COURT (without notice) asked the Minister for Labour:

Does the answer regarding the Government's appreciation of the employment situation mean that the State Government has no independent appreciation of its own of the employment position and prospects in Western Australia, because he referred solely to Commonwealth information?

The MINISTER replied:

I do not want to pass the buck to another Minister but there seems to be some misunderstanding. As Minister for Labour I deal with industrial matters. To show how people can get mixed up, some little time ago a lady rang me to tell me that she was having trouble—

Mr. Court: What trouble?

Hon. D. Brand: Labour trouble?

The MINISTER:—about getting admitted to the King Edward maternity hospital. She asked me as Minister for Labour to do what I could. I told her that I dealt exclusively with industrial relations. I am quite serious about this. In this particular case, as Minister for Labour, it is my duty to refer to industrial conditions and so forth in connection with Government employment. It is obvious that the questions set out by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition are such as to indicate that the Commonwealth Government controls the engagement of labour generally in the States and I have indicated that weekly statements are obtained by the State Department of Labour.

As far as the other part of the question is concerned—and here is the part where I say reference was made in the answer to the encouragement and establishment of industry—it is one for the Minister for Industrial Development. I have endeavoured to give a clear and concise outline of what the Government proposes to do without going into a mass of detail.

(c) Reference to Appropriate Minister.

Mr. COURT (without notice) asked the Premier:

It is quite obvious that I did not get very far with that question. I will now refer the matter to the Premier as the one supreme in the Cabinet and perhaps he will be able to inform me the Minister

to whom I should have referred my question, because it seems that the State Government has not much appreciation of its own employment situation in this State?

The PREMIER replied:

The member for Nedlands is quite wrong in concluding that I am supreme in Cabinet.

Mr. Court: I meant the senior man.

The PREMIER: A most distinguished member for Nedlands a few years ago said that the Premier of a State was only a leader among equals. I think he resigned from Cabinet at the time on that issue because the Premier of that day wanted to be supreme in the Cabinet.

Mr. Court: He still classed you as the leader.

The PREMIER: I notice the member for Murray nodding his head approvingly at my comments.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: The Premier of that day was supreme.

The PREMIER: In regard to the question of employment and unemployment in this State, I would say that the Government is making employment available to the absolute limit of its financial capacity. In fact, as the member for Nedlands knows, we are even mortgaging the future to a certain extent to make additional employment available.

With regard to the future trend, I would say that unemployment will probably increase a little from now until the end of August. Employment should then increase from the beginning of September until about the end of March, and one can only guess as to what might be ahead of us after that. And guess-work in these matters, although interesting and capable of bringing about a great deal of talk and speculation, does not get us very far. If the member for Nedlands and those associated with him on the Liberal Party Opposition benches will support the Government's policy to provide more employment instead of opposing it, then the employment trend in Western Australia in the foreseeable future will be undoubtedly in the right direction.

Hon. D. Brand: What policy?

IMMIGRATION.

Intake for 1956-57 and 1957-58.

Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) What was the net intake into Western Australia of migrants for the 12 months to the 30th June, 1957—

(a) of British origin;

(b) of other than British origin?

(2) What intake is proposed for the 12 months to the 30th June, 1958?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) (a) The number of migrants of British origin received into Western Australia for the twelve months ended the 30th June, 1957, under the assisted passage scheme, was 1,897.

(b) The number of migrants of other than British origin received into Western Australia during the twelve months ended the 30th June, 1957, was 588.

(2) Anticipated intake of British migrants under the assisted passage scheme during the twelve months to the 30th June, 1958, is 2,000.

At present the intake of foreign migrants is limited to those re-joining their families or those who have been specifically nominated.

ORCHARD REGISTRATION.

Revenue, Cost, etc.

Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What revenue is obtained from the annual licensing of orchards?

(2) What is the cost of collecting this fee?

(3) Why must it be done annually in the case of the few trees in private homes which at present require relicensing each year?

(4) What is the objection to a continuing licence which requires the owner to notify additions in excess of certain defined numbers, with possibly a check return form each seven years?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Registration fees collected during the year 1956-57 amounted to £10,947.

(2) The only additional labour employed is one clerk for a period of approximately six weeks, plus two temporary accounts officers.

Other expenses would include postage, stationery, the printing of orchard certificate books and application cards.

(3) Collection is done in accordance with the existing Act.

(4) Accounting difficulties and expense involved in maintaining many thousand accounts in suspense for small sums.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

Application of Proceeds from Sale of Whaling Station.

Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Fisheries:

Is he satisfied that the C.S.I.R.O. Fisheries Research Department is honouring the Federal Government's assurance at the time of the sale of the Australian Whaling Commission station that the profits derived therefrom would be used for extensive fisheries and oceanography researches, so far as Western Australia is concerned?

The MINISTER replied:

According to legal advice furnished to the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry, which administers the Fisheries Development Trust Account (i.e., the fund made up of moneys derived from the sale of the Australian Whaling Commission's assets), these moneys may be used solely for developmental purposes in waters outside the territorial limits of a State. The Commonwealth, it seems, may legally spend money on work in territorial waters only if it is in the nature of research.

The C.S.I.R.O. Division of Fisheries and Oceanography does not really enter the picture at all. It is concerned almost entirely with fundamental research, its charter supposedly not permitting it to enter the developmental field unless it be to solve some scientific problem related to development. The Commonwealth Fisheries Office, which forms a section of the Department of Primary Industry, is responsible for developmental activities.

Although Western Australia is the only one of the States at present engaged on developmental work in the fisheries, and despite the fact that the whole of the trust account was derived from Western Australian sources, legally Western Australia has no prior claim to preferential treatment. We have submitted a number of projects for consideration, but we have not yet had a reply. We are continuing to press for recognition.

FREMANTLE HARBOUR.

Construction of Overseas Terminal.

Hon. D. BRAND (without notice) asked the Minister for Works:

Can he give an approximate date as to when the construction of the overseas terminal at the Fremantle harbour will be made?

The MINISTER replied:

The Leader of the Opposition did not indicate whether he had in mind the commencement of the work or its completion. In the absence of that information, I could not hazard a guess.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Route of Narrogin-Katanning Pipeline.

Mr. NALDER (without notice) asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

On Thursday of last week, and yesterday, I asked some questions with reference to the route to be taken by the Narrogin-Katanning pipeline and inquired whether the information would be made public. I would now like to ask the Minister if he has any reason for not giving the details at this stage, in view of the fact that an officer of his department called on the Wagin Road Board last Friday and gave

details to that board of the route that would be followed by the pipeline as far as Lime Lake.

In his answer yesterday the Minister said that no details were finalised. Has the Minister any reason for not making that information available to the House? I ask this because the local governing bodies are extremely interested and in the interest of the ratepayers they should know the route which the pipeline will follow?

The MINISTER replied:

It seems to me that the member for Katanning and I must be at cross purposes. There is no intention whatever to withhold any information that the hon. member may be seeking. I am under the impression that I supplied to him all the precise information relative to his question that I have in my possession. I was very careful to discuss these questions with the Chief Engineer of the department and he has advised me along the lines which I gave the hon. member. If the member for Katanning wants some specific information which has not yet been supplied, and which he believes I am in a position to give, and if he places the question on the notice paper, I will do my best to answer it.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Seventh Day—Conclusion.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. OLDFIELD (Mt. Lawley) [5.7]: I have one or two matters of a rather parochial nature to touch on before I proceed to discuss affairs of State generally. Firstly, I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister for Works an approach made some time ago regarding the deferment of water rates for the widows of Government superannuated employees. It would be necessary for a Bill to be introduced to amend the existing legislation, and I feel that something in this direction would be much appreciated; it is certainly warranted. It would not cost anything because in the case of these deferments, the rates would be attributable to the estate of the widows.

This privilege is extended to aged pensioners, even to those aged pensioner couples who are in receipt of both superannuation and pension up to the maximum permissible allowance of £15 a week in the aggregate. Yet in the case of the widow of a superannuated Government employee, we find that it is necessary for her to pay these rates because she happens to have built up assets as a result of her husband having been a senior Government employee. Apart from water rates, she has, of course, to pay all other rates. I suggest that early consideration be given to the people in that category being granted a deferment in the payment of these rates.

Another urgent matter relative to the electorate of Mt. Lawley is one concerning drainage in the Morley Park and Bedford Park areas. Last week the Minister indicated that in the latter half of this financial year work would commence on this undertaking, and it would be spread over a period of several years depending on the availability of loan funds. I would strongly urge the departments concerned—and after all it is the departmental chiefs who make recommendations to the Ministers—that they do not worry only with their own departments but that they have a look at what their policy at times might mean to other departments.

I direct my remarks now to the Water Supply Department with particular reference to the use it makes of loan funds for drainage. It seems to be the policy of the department to prefer to go into the newer and undeveloped areas rather than to provide this facility to those already developed to some extent. In the Morley Park and Bedford Park area the respective road boards have already provided roads and in some cases footpaths. The State Electricity Commission—a Government instrumentality—has already provided power throughout the area, and the Water Supply Department has already provided water services.

If the drainage scheme to be commenced later this year is speeded up, it will release almost 2,000 acres of land for building purposes, most of which has been subdivided and most of which is served by roads, power and water. If, on the other hand, the department prefers to go into undeveloped areas and provide drainage facilities, it will naturally be faced with further expenditure in the provision of water supplies, electricity, roads and footpaths and other services.

The next matter on which I wish to touch may be considered by some to be wasting the time of the House but I think it is important to many people. I refer to the use of the Beaufort-st. bridge at peak periods. I now direct my remarks to the Minister for Transport. At peak periods the Police Department has seen fit for many years to place a constable on the bridge, and his duty is to prevent vehicles from making a right-hand turn into Bridge-st. and thence on to Stirling-st. That would seem to be a very good idea until we have a look at the situation and see what the position really is at that corner.

The policeman standing on the Beaufort-st. bridge directs all the traffic to the north-eastern suburbs along Beaufort-st. and consequently on to the Beaufort-James-st intersection, where there is another policeman who permits the traffic to make a right-hand turn. Sixty per cent. of the traffic using the Beaufort-st. bridge normally turns into Bridge-st. and then travels along Stirling-st., so this means that, as a result of the policy that now

exists, instead of 40 per cent of the traffic flowing along Beaufort-st., we have 100 per cent. of the traffic going along that street, and being permitted to turn right into James-st.

As a result of this, the traffic is banked up along Beaufort-st., even as far back as Wellington-st., and the trams do nothing to help allay the congestion; indeed, they make the position a lot worse. So it will be seen at a glance that because there are no right-hand turns permitted at the Beaufort-st. bridge, all the north-east bound traffic along Beaufort-st. from the James-st. intersection back to Wellington-st. must be banked up to enable vehicles to make a right-hand turn into James-st., and this is not eased until the traffic at that intersection moves on.

I suggest that the policeman at the Beaufort-st. bridge be instructed to direct the traffic and when he can see the way is clear, to allow vehicles desirous of making a right-hand turn to do so in order to get rid of the traffic jam at the intersection of James and Beaufort-sts. This would even alleviate to a large extent the traffic jam at the Wellington-st. intersection by clearing the Beaufort-st. bridge traffic much sooner. There is nothing more of a parochial nature on which I wish to touch.

One matter which has exercised my mind for a long time is that Western Australia, and even Australia as a whole, has been missing out on the Singapore market for many years. The member for Beeloo touched on that phase last evening, and the member for Dale asked a question about the respective egg markets this afternoon. I had an opportunity to speak to the late Mr. McDermott some 12 months ago. He had been a most successful businessman in Singapore. He made nearly £1,000,000 in 20 years of trading at that centre through the import of condensed milk into Singapore to supply the needs of that city, the Malayan Peninsula and also the islands surrounding Singapore.

The Minister for Works: He must have made a pretty big profit margin.

Mr. OLDFIELD: That might appear to be a big profit margin at first sight until we realise the extent of the trade in condensed milk. The population of this State passed the half million mark only during the last ten years and some do not seem to realise the demands of teeming millions of people. If we recognise the fact that no dairy farming is carried on in the Far East—Singapore, the Malayan Peninsula and Indonesia—and the whole of their milk requirements must be supplied in the form of condensed milk, and when we realise that millions of people have to be supplied, a profit of 5s. for a 4-dozen case of condensed milk would make an importer a millionaire in a short time.

Mr. McDermott informed me that the needs of Singapore alone were 400,000 cases per month. Out of that quantity per month, the Australian production enjoys less than 25 per cent. Australia exports over 1,000,000 cases of condensed milk to Singapore each year. This represents a little in excess of 90,000 cases per month. Western Australia exports 107,000 cases to the Singapore market, or something slightly in excess of 10 per cent, of the Australian total. But it must be recognised that Australia, the nearest dairying producing country, enjoys less than 25 per cent. of the total requirements of that area. When it is realised that the needs of Singapore and Malaya alone, apart from Indonesia, are something in excess of 4,000,000 cases of condensed milk per year, a person making even 2s. a case will not take long to become very wealthy if he is able to obtain a fair slice of the market.

I give these figures to show that if Western Australia could double its production of condensed milk—the State's production is 190,000 cases per annum, of which 107,000 cases, or 60 per cent. of the production, is exported to Singapore—and sent the increase to Singapore and Malaya, it would increase the return to this State from £500,000 to £1,500,000 from that source. Such increased production would not even make a dint in that market.

The Minister for Health: Could this State obtain that trade if it had the supplies?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I am unable to ascertain that. I am given to understand that the State could step up its production if it could get an increased market. Australia has met stiff competition, mainly as regards price, from South Africa, Holland, Denmark and even certain centres of South America. But the market is there and this State enjoys the advantage of freight and also the advantage of closer contact with those people.

With regard to fresh vegetables, once again the island of Singapore and the Malayan Peninsula are not vegetable-growing areas, excepting perhaps for certain tropical fruits and vegetables. Our vegetables are in great demand there. The following figures, although not reflecting credit on Australia but reflecting some credit on Western Australia, show that the value of the total Australian export last year of fresh vegetables to Singapore was £134,000, and Western Australia enjoyed almost 100 per cent. of that trade or £132,000. That was the export to Singapore alone, not including the Malayan Peninsula. The Australian total of fresh fruit exported to Singapore was £665,000 and Western Australia's share was about 66 per cent. or £450,000.

My informant pointed out to me that the trouble with the Singapore fruit and vegetable market was that the Chinese millionaire traders monopolise the control

of the cool stores. They import only from markets in Australia through their agents during glut periods. The produce is taken to Singapore in refrigerated ships, placed in cool storage in Singapore and is only released intermittently so as to create a shortage. In other words, when they are able to buy fruit and vegetables from Western Australia or the eastern seaboard, they are reluctant to do so except when they can enjoy high profits from the transaction.

I am also given to understand that there are some 30,000 barrowmen and hawkers trading in the streets of Singapore. That is their method of trading. The population of Singapore and the adjacent States is upwards of 3,000,000; so 30,000 barrowmen is an infinitesimal number. The people are concentrated in a radius of about three miles. It is suggested that private enterprise in the State, Government enterprise or a combination of both, should attempt to obtain premises adjacent to the wharf in Singapore—a store-room would suffice and there is no need for cool storage.

There is plenty of refrigerated space in the ships trading between Fremantle and Singapore and fruit and vegetables from this State could be sent to Singapore and auctioned at those premises. If that were to come about, the fruit and vegetables would be sold as fast as they came off the ship to meet the demand by the 30,000 barrowmen who are unable to get sufficient to satisfy the needs of their customers. When we examine the figure of 30,000 hawkers in a concentrated area of three miles radius, even if only 1 per cent. were to attend the auction, it would represent 300 bidders.

If 10 per cent. of the barrowmen attended the auction there would be 3,000 of them clamouring for what would come out of the refrigerated ships. If we could set up an organisation in the port of Singapore to handle the produce along those lines, we would undoubtedly increase the export of fruit and vegetables from this State, in the case of vegetables from the existing figure of £132,000 to £1,000,000 or more, and in the case of fruit from £450,000 to between £1,000,000 and £2,000,000.

The Minister for Police: Have not the producers their own agents in Singapore?

Mr. OLDFIELD: The producers in this State have no agents in Singapore. The merchants in Singapore have their agents here. They buy our produce at certain times of the year and place it in cool storage. The Chinese millionaire monopolists of this trade create a shortage, and release the produce in dribs so as to keep the price high. They play the market with this imported produce. Western Australia would do very well with a free auction in Singapore.

To overcome this state of affairs which has existed for so long in Singapore, and as a result of which the primary producers here have suffered, I would not suggest the appointment of a trade commissioner or agent general in that city, because when such an appointment is made, the officer feels that he is a civil servant and that his job is to attend social functions and cocktail parties, civil receptions and similar functions. I would like the Government to co-operate with interested parties who desire to exploit the Singapore market, mainly by making Singapore the clearing house for that area. I would suggest that the Government appoint a man with experience, energy and enthusiasm, to this position. It need not be a Government appointment. It could be worked on a commission basis, on a percentage of the sales under which he could even earn between £10,000 and £20,000 a year for himself.

The Minister for Police: How could he overcome the auctioning system that goes on in Singapore?

Mr. OLDFIELD: There is no auction system at present. I am suggesting that the Government or interested parties should set up an organisation in Singapore and obtain the requisite premises, say, a shed or pavilion, in which to hold auctions. It need not be a big place because as fast as the produce arrives it will be sold. At present there is no auction and the Singapore merchants buy from this State; the produce is shipped in refrigerated space and placed in cool storage in Singapore. It is then released on their own terms and price to the barrowmen and shops. It is a case of take it or leave it. I hope the Minister will understand that it is not a case of the producers here having agents in Singapore, although they may say that. The people here are really agents for the Singapore merchants.

The Minister for Police: I was informed that they hold an auction there of primary products.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The gentleman who gave me my information is now deceased. He was a successful man in that area for many years. He pointed out to me what went on. An auction of sorts might be held by putting up a limited quantity at a time, but there is no free auction. I would like to see Western Australia getting a fair share of the Singapore market. Australia has not anywhere near what it should have, and possibly we could be at fault because ours is the nearest market and we have the most frequent direct shipping service. If our existing shipping service is not sufficient, it might be worth while—if the scheme were a success and a trade agent were appointed—to charter refrigerated ships to operate on that run in order to remove from our market surplus fruit and vegetables. Similarly I feel that

the condensed milk market should be exploited because, if we doubled our present production and sent the lot to Singapore, it would hardly be noticed on that market.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse) [5.31]: I want to make one comment, and that is in regard to the curtailment of spur school bus services. Earlier in the session I asked a question regarding the saving of cost to the Government in connection with the suspension of these services, and the Minister said it was expected that a saving of £50,000 would be effected through the rationalisation of bus spur routes. I intend to bring to the notice of the House what I regard as a tragic case associated with the curtailment of services.

For the past three months I have been in communication with the Minister for Education in regard to two handicapped children in the Witchcliffe area who have been unable to attend school on account of physical disabilities. The father of these children—who saw active service in 1939-45 war—wrote to me recently and said—

I am sending a doctor's certificate from our local doctor referring to our children and their inability to walk the necessary distance. I would like to ask you to present it to the Minister, and if he will not see reason, then perhaps you could get the case printed in the "Weekend Mail" for us. Then at least some people will realise just how the people in the country are being treated by the Government.

We approached the headmaster at the school again. He gave us his word he would write to the Education Department again. But up to date we have heard nothing, and our children are still away from school (nearly three months now).

I am returning your letter as requested, and I would like to ask you to return the doctor's certificate to me when you have finished with it.

That relates to previous correspondence that had passed between the parents and myself.

I sent that medical certificate to the Minister for Education, feeling that sympathetic consideration would be given at least to a special case. The medical certificate is on the official notepaper of Dr. J. W. Barrett and Dr. J. S. Wilson of Margaret River. It is dated the 11th June, 1957, and it reads as follows:—

To whom it may concern. This is to certify that Carol Walliss is not fit to walk from home to the bus stop, a distance of 1½ miles, and back again, due to a congenital abnormality of her right hip joint. Laurie Walliss, in my opinion, should not walk this distance either, due to a congenital abnormality of his heart.

That is signed by J. W. Barrett. I sent that certificate to the Minister for Education and his reply, addressed to me, was as follows:—

In reply to your letter of the 1st July enclosing medical certificate concerning the Walliss children of Witchcliffe, I have to advise that the department had previously given consideration to the question of allowing spurs for special local conditions and for compassionate reasons. However, so many applicants quote grounds that, in their opinion, merit special consideration that efforts to reduce expenditure would be jeopardised if all requests were granted.

I regret therefore that I am unable to accede to your request.

The medical certificate is returned as desired.

I feel that the Minister should have given consideration to this special case, in view of the certificate of a reputable medical officer in the Margaret River district. If he was not satisfied, he should have had the medical officer associated with the department go to the district and check the medical certificate of the resident doctor there.

This Government is neglecting the people in the far distant areas, and it is time it realised its responsibilities to those who are endeavouring to pioneer and develop the outback districts of this State. I feel, too, that any children who are physically handicapped should be given every practical encouragement to attend school so as to receive an education in subjects that will enable them to overcome their physical handicaps. I am very sore indeed about the attitude of the Minister in having just wiped off this case, which I have persisted in bringing before his notice for three months.

What are these children to do? Are they to stay out there with their physical handicaps and be denied the opportunities of a reasonable education? I ask the Minister to give further consideration to this matter. I consider that if a motion were submitted to this Parliament, members would at least realise the need for some consideration being given to physically handicapped children in outback districts whose parents are struggling to develop those areas and to earn a living for themselves and their children.

Last evening the member for Bunbury quoted figures from a reply to a question that had been given by the Minister for Education concerning expenditure on high schools. My arithmetic does not exactly coincide with that of the member for Bunbury. My calculation is that an amount of £2,151,690 was expended on high schools in the past two years in the metropolitan area.

The Minister for Education: Because there was very little between 1947-48 and 1953.

Mr. BOVELL: I do not deny the children in the metropolitan area the educational facilities they require, but I would point out that in the same period an amount of only £130,236 was expended in country areas. Both of the high schools concerned in that expenditure—those at Manjimup and Merredin—are now, I understand, being used, and the children of those districts are receiving the benefit. I was pleased to note, too, that in reply to the same question the Minister said, in regard to the Busselton high school, that it is hoped that the erection of the school will be commenced during this financial year, but it is not possible to give the estimated expenditure at the present time.

For the past two years the Minister has indicated that a commencement would be made on a new high school at Busselton, but owing to the lack of finance—and this is his reason—it has been delayed. I would ask the Minister to persevere in his endeavours to secure the necessary finance and to have this high school commenced without further delay.

The Minister for Education: You have my reassurance.

Mr. BOVELL: I thank the Minister very much indeed! Mention was made of the proposed new high school at Busselton in the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the first session of this Parliament, and again in the Speech of His Excellency the Governor at the opening of this session. I believe—and I emphasise this point again—that education is most important if our children are to take their place in the world today, and I do not think that the children of the far-distant places of this great State should be penalised in any way whatsoever. Every endeavour should be made to give them equal educational opportunities with children in the metropolitan area.

The Minister for Education: Every effort is being made.

MR. RHATIGAN (Kimberley) [5.44]: I desire to say a few words about the North-West, particularly the Kimberley area. Recently there has been quite a lot of publicity in the Press concerning the Kimberley district, and the Press is to be commended on the publication of most interesting articles on the North. By this means the public can be educated concerning the potentialities of the northern portion of our State.

Undoubtedly huge sums of money are required to develop that vast area. There are miles and miles of beautiful black-soil plains which are hardly stocked at all. In most instances the country is very sparsely stocked, and that is due to the

million-acre properties, particularly those belonging to absentee owners, who are most reluctant to put very much back into their properties, except sufficient to keep them going. There is seldom a complete drought in that country as generally a few inches of rain fall each year, but the exceptionally dry 1952 season compelled the owners of these vast properties to provide water in outback places where previously they had not done so. Owing to the river frontages being completely eaten out they were compelled to put down bores in the more remote virgin country.

The Department of Agriculture is to be commended on the work its officers are doing in assisting to bring back into production the country that was eaten out. Experiments are proceeding all over the Kimberleys at present in this regard and I am happy to be able to say that the pastoralists are co-operating with the departmental officers. I believe it was in 1885 or 1886 that the first cattle were brought to the Kimberleys by the McDonnells and Duracks and on the majority of stations very little developmental work has been done since then apart from bare necessities, and in this regard I blame particularly the absentee owners.

If taxation concessions were granted to the North by the Commonwealth Government, that would be one sure means of populating that part of the State, but raising the concession from £120 per year in Zone A to £180 is nothing but an insult to the people living in that country. If the Prime Minister took a trip through the northern part of Australia, I am sure he would realise the necessity for the Commonwealth to spend huge sums of money in that portion of Australia on schemes like that for the Ord River dam or other minor schemes such as damming the rivers around Fitzroy, which would be on a small scale compared with the Ord River project.

People in the North cannot understand the increases in the basic wage in view of the fact that the last increase in the metropolitan area was 3s. 11d., bringing the total for males to £13 12s. 6d. a week, as against the position in the Goldfields, which includes the North, and where the increase was 1s. 3d., bringing the total to £13 7s. 10d. I would point out also that State rental home rentals vary from £3 14s. to £5 per week and as an increase has recently taken effect in regard to fares and freights, the cost of living in the North has risen. I believe the only way to overcome the difficulties of that part of the State would be to make a separate zone of the North for the purpose of arriving at an equitable basic wage, because the cost of living is very high there.

I would also draw attention to the fact that the unfortunate pensioner, wherever he may be, is in a precarious position. I know that is so all over Australia and possibly all over the world, but the pensioner

in the northern part of this State is worse off than those anywhere else. I have here a list of prices sent to me recently by a pensioner residing at Hall's Creek. It shows bread at 2s. per loaf—he does not give the weight of the loaf so I imagine it is the ordinary loaf of bread—butter 6s. per lb., tea 8s. per lb., sugar 1s. 2d. per lb., dried fruits 5s. 9d. per lb., potatoes 17s. 6d. a stone, onions 2s. per lb., Sunshine milk 4s. 3d. per small tin, coffee 16s. per lb., self-raising flour 9s. for a 7-lb. bag, and tomatoes 4s. 3d. per lb.

Since that list was sent to me there has been an increase in freights which must have had the effect of raising those prices still further. If the Commonwealth Government has any sense of justice, it should increase the rate of pension for the few pensioners in the North by an amount such as is allowed to Commonwealth civil servants there, over and above their ordinary wage, as a district allowance. The pensioner has to live in that area and must purchase his commodities on the same market as everyone else and I repeat that the cost of living is higher in the North than anywhere else in Western Australia.

I congratulate the Government on the provisions made in regard to its various instrumentalities in the North. I realise that more would have been done had funds been available, but I would call attention to the necessity, firstly, for the provision of a new school at Wyndham. The present building is some 50 years old and the timber in it is completely dry-rotted. The structure remains standing only by virtue of the galvanised iron on it or, as was said in the Press following the big blow at Broome, it is probably kept standing simply by the white ants holding their hands together to save it from collapsing. I trust the Minister for Education will provide Wyndham with a new school as soon as possible.

The hospital at Derby is in a deplorable condition, but the Minister has promised that repairs and renovations will be carried out. The hospital was originally built for five beds, but the average is now 30. The flying doctor service to that part of the State is based on Derby and covers a very large area, with the result that patients are brought from all over the Kimberleys to Derby as well as from Yampi Sound whenever there is a serious case there. Therefore additional hospital accommodation is required, because Yampi has a population of about 180, including children, and women about to be confined come to Derby, where the maternity section of the hospital urgently requires attention.

Another urgent matter is the provision of a court house at Derby. At present the court there is held in the police office which is a very small room and not at all private, so I trust that the Minister will do his best to assist in that regard also.

I congratulate the Minister for the North-West and Supply and Shipping on the provision of the new ship, the "Koojarra," and also the other new vessel the "Koolania" which is to be available in a few months time. The air conditioning on the "Koojarra" is far from satisfactory in the summer time, but I am informed that the trouble could be overcome by the provision of fans.

A factor that should be taken into consideration in the designing of these ships is that provision should be made for children. There is no provision on the "Koojarra" for children and on the trip I made on that vessel there were 33 children on board, 18 of them under the age of 18 months, and members can imagine what the mothers went through trying to keep their children occupied in a very confined space. If a playroom of some description could be provided when designing these vessels, the position would be greatly improved.

I wish now to deal briefly with the Tourist Bureau. In conversation with tourists on State ships, I have been informed that they are unable to obtain any information regarding the North from the Government Tourist Bureau in Perth and I do not think that shows a very progressive spirit on the part of that department. Surely a pamphlet could be issued showing the potentialities and facts of interest in regard to the ports and the North generally! In the old days on the State ships there appeared, on the back of the menu, the day before reaching a port, a short resume of matters of interest concerning that port and that provided a certain amount of information for all who were desirous of knowing something about that part of the State. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (Hon. L. F. Kelly—Merredin-Yilgarn) [5.55]: Several members of the Opposition have taken the opportunity during this debate to make some rather wide of the mark statements regarding the industrial development of Western Australia and most of them have taken the opportunity also to point out that no major industry has been brought to Western Australia since the establishment of Kwinana. To some extent that is true, but I believe all who have spoken would be generous enough to concede that it is not every day that it is possible to bring to this State, with its limited population, an industry such as that at Kwinana.

We must not forget that—while not deprecating at all the efforts of the present Leader of the Opposition and his immediately responsible officer, Mr. Dumas—there were many favourable circumstances surrounding the coming of that industry to Western Australia, and it was

largely due to that fact that the firm concerned eventually established itself at Kwinana.

Hon. D. Brand: Had we not gone after them, they would not have come here.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: That is correct, and I do not wish to detract at all from that fact, but had we not been so favourably circumstanced, even if the hon. member had sent a contingent after them, he still would not have achieved what was accomplished.

Hon. D. Brand: Would the Minister tell us what effort has been made to get any particular industry now established in the Eastern States to come here?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I would counter that question by asking the Leader of the Opposition whether he has in mind any particular industry, because although there has been some criticism, there has been nothing constructive said by the Leader of the Opposition or others who have spoken from that side of the House as to what steps should have been taken by the Department of Industrial Development.

Hon. D. Brand: We have read of so many industries going to Victoria and South Australia that I have been wondering what effort was being made to get them to come here.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I have yet to know of those industries. Following the return of the Premier of Victoria from America I heard that he had had great success and had done certain things in the U.S.A. I followed within a few days of his trip and I think that from the time he left Victoria until he returned to that State, something like 21 days elapsed. He made great play on the fact that he had engagements and gave interviews at breakfast and at morning and afternoon tea and spoke over t.v. several times—in fact, he had a triumphal march through the United States—and came home with a bag full of industries, but I ask the Leader of the Opposition to indicate a single industry that has come to Victoria as the result of that trip.

The rumour has been bandied about quite a lot that Victoria is anticipating that new industries will be established in that State and I quite believe that, in the future, the Premier of Victoria will be able to enumerate some of those industries that have established themselves in that State as a result of his very smart trip across not only the United States of America, but also parts of Europe.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: In the last two years Victoria has experienced record industrial expansion.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I intend to quote to the House, especially for the information of the hon. member, some

figures in regard to the expansion of industries in Western Australia. I would point out that we are not achieving this on a population of 2,000,000 people, but on a population of only 600,000. It is all very well for members to speak in generalities and say that pastures further afield are greener than ours, but it is necessary that we should get down to facts.

Hon. D. Brand: I will get the names of those industries which have not come here, but which have established themselves in Victoria.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I will be glad if the Leader of the Opposition will do that. However, if he had come out into the open, he would have already told me of the industries he had in mind so that we could have taken some steps to encourage them to come here.

Hon. D. Brand: That is the Government's job.

Mr. Lawrence: If the hon. member had the welfare of the State at heart, he would have given the names of those firms to the Minister long ago.

Hon. D. Brand: I thought that was what the Department of Industrial Development was for, but if it will do any good, I will supply the names of such firms to the Minister in the future.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The member for South Fremantle seems to have put the case very well. I thought it was the desire of the Leader of the Opposition to help establish industries in this State. I can recall, time and again, instances where I discussed matters with him that were worth investigation and he was big enough to have some inquiry made into them. If I have failed to grasp any opportunity to encourage any industry to establish itself in this State, or even if the officers of my department have failed to do so, I hope that I will be big enough to investigate any future suggestion from any hon. member that an industry should be approached to establish itself in Western Australia.

Of course, it is very easy to be airy about this, that and the other and to convey a wrong impression. If any criticism is to be offered, let it be constructive. It is very easy to find fault. I suppose there is not a member in this Chamber concerning whom some of his constituents have not found fault. I suppose I could go a bit further and find fault with some of the members who are sitting on the opposite benches, and, no doubt, members of the Opposition could look over here and find fault with some of us. If we are desirous of bettering the industrial position in this State, however, it is essential that criticism of a constructive nature should be put forward.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Your unfair trading legislation has frightened industry away from this State. That is one of the greatest factors against encouraging industry to Western Australia.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That legislation has not frightened industry away at all. In due course I will show the hon. member how industry in this State has expanded. I will ask this: What value can be calibrated as having come to this State as a result of a major outlay of £5,000,000? Because that is what it cost to bring the Anglo-Iranian Oil Refinery to Kwinana. I would also point out that this Government is not handling the huge amount of money that was handled by the previous Government.

Hon. D. Brand: Of course you are!

The MINISTER FOR MINES: We are not doing anything of the kind, and the Leader of the Opposition knows it. Time and again, when the end of the financial year was reached, the Government of which the Leader of the Opposition was a member, was struggling to know how to spend the capital that had been made available to it.

Hon. D. Brand: That was contrary to the statement made by the Minister for Works who talked about all the commitments.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That was in the final stages of the McLarty-Watts Government when it got hopelessly into debt. Not up to its neck, but beyond it.

Hon. D. Brand: What about the £1,000,000 you paid to the Old Country in deferred payments as at the 30th June?

Mr. I. W. Manning: There were not too many deferred payments.

Hon. D. Brand: There was a sum of £226,000 in England.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Mines is speaking.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I thought the Leader of the Opposition had the floor! Let us take our minds back to that period when the State was making quite a degree of noticeable industrial expansion. There was a terrific lag on account of the war, but that is being overtaken. At the time industry was making no progress whatsoever, but now many industries have been duplicated, especially during the past five or six years.

In 1953 tremendous enthusiasm was created in this State over the finding of oil and, because of the possibilities at that time, it looked as though oil would be discovered in commercial quantities. Those were the developments that were inciting the business people, not only in Australia but also in other parts of the world, to turn their attention to this State.

Hon. D. Brand: That was in your time, not mine.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No, I am speaking of 1953. Had oil been discovered in quantities sufficient to establish an organisation similar to those that have been established in other countries, the situation in this State would have been entirely different. There would have been terrific expansion, perhaps unjustifiably so in many instances, but there would have been great prospects for the future.

Hon. D. Brand: What is the prospect of finding oil now?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: My fingers are still crossed and without being over-optimistic, I would say that much of the teething period is being experienced by the companies at the present time and eventually they will obtain the key to the finding of oil in Western Australia. There is no doubt that it was a miracle that oil was struck in the first hole that was drilled in this State.

Mr. Roberts: In Victoria and South Australia no oil has been struck but there has been colossal industrial expansion.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is because of the markets that are available to those States. The hon. member will admit that, surely.

Mr. Court: But it is only proportionate. We have cut our migration intake whereas those States have continued to absorb the migration rate for the Commonwealth.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is a different point altogether.

Mr. Court: It is directly related, however, to the degree of employment. One cannot be divorced from the other. Our capacity to absorb migrants is related to our capacity to expand employment.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Only recently I read where there is quite a lot of unemployment in States other than ours.

Mr. Court: But our proportion is the greatest.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There are 20,000 people unemployed in Australia at the present time and the figure for Western Australia is 2,400. In proportion, the unemployment figures might be the same as in other States.

Mr. Court: But this State's rate of unemployment is the worst in Australia.

Mr. Lawrence: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I cannot hear what the Minister is saying.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for South Fremantle is quite in order in rising to his feet and making this protest as a member of this Assembly so that he may be enabled to hear the debate. I would ask members to permit the Minister to

continue with his speech without interruption. One interjection at a time is bad enough, but when there are several, it is impossible to hear the Minister. I have sat in the back benches myself and on many occasions I have had difficulty in hearing the speaker who had the floor. I would therefore ask members to keep order and permit the Minister to continue his speech without any further interruption.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that your remarks are warranted. I think it is entirely unfair to say that there has been a lack of industrial progress—that is the term that has been used by one or two members—in this State. An analysis of the progress of industrial development, showing where this development has been registered and where consolidation has been effected in industry, should be made, because expansion and consolidation of industry are vitally important. We do not want to have in this State a great number of industries that are not likely to survive or which are just struggling through and calling upon the Government for assistance, simply because we are prepared to introduce new industries in counter to those already in existence. If this were done, it would merely embarrass still further those industries which a population of 600,000 only can support. I think that is a very important factor. There has been excellent development in the past four years. For instance, new factory buildings, to the value of £4,000,000 have been erected in Western Australia.

Mr. Roberts: New industries?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes, many of them are and some of them are expanded industries. The expansion of existing industries is equally as important as is the establishment of new industries as I pointed out a while ago. We cannot lose sight of that aspect. Of course, it can be said that quite a few of these industries have not, perhaps, been assisted by the Government. I would point out that they may not have been assisted with cash, but they have been given very material help in regard to the obtaining of sites, in securing amenities, and obtaining technical advice from our departmental officers who are in the position to give it. Also, in many other ways the Government is repeatedly called upon to assist industry.

Although many of these industries were not new, quite a few industrial establishments have been expanded. For instance, Felton, Grimwade & Bickford, a firm which has been established in this State for many years, has expanded its operations because the opportunity was ripe.

Hon. D. Brand: It would expand in any case as the State grows, would it not? A firm such as that would naturally have to expand its business.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Definitely, but the population is not expanding that fast.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Oh, yes!

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Oh, no! In 11 years only 100,000 people have come to Western Australia.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: We were taking them in at a greater rate than any other State of the Commonwealth.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Only comparatively.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That's it!

The MINISTER FOR MINES: But the migration rate of the other States equalled ours or was perhaps a little under.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I cannot understand it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Of course, the hon. member cannot.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Our migration rate has been proportionate with that of the other States.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: New industry has not expanded at the same rate. If we expand industry by 20 per cent. we expand some industries but not all. For example, Brisbane & Wunderlich Ltd. made extensions to its porcelain works. An entirely new industry, dealing with reinforcing steel, was established by Kresst Industries Pty. Ltd. The firm of Arcus Metal Products entered into the production of domestic refrigerators and many other household appliances. That also was an entirely new industry that was established in this State.

A new porcelain enamelling plant has been erected by Metters Ltd. and is now in production. The Berger group of companies has also erected a new paint factory. Because of the State's expansion, Lindberg, Foster, Hart Pty. Ltd., an entirely new firm that manufactures refrigerators, has seen fit to grasp the opportunity to establish a branch in this State regardless of the fact that Arcus Metal Products Ltd., an entirely new concern, had gone into production only a few months previously. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition would know quite a lot about Steel Furniture Pty. Ltd., which is an entirely new industry.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Prior to the tea suspension I made mention of some of the new industries. I do not propose to refer to a full list of all new industries, but I feel some other names should give an indication of the amount of progress being made; if not in a major sense, then in an important sense. There have been of recent times two new cement lime brick producing manufacturers who have gone into production.

Hon. D. Brand: Are cement lime products selling well as compared with others?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes, very well, and giving no anxiety at all. It was a field that had to be more or less developed as it went along, and the results have been very satisfactory. At least we do not hear much by way of unsatisfactory conditions. A firm commenced manufacturing steel windows. It is not a big concern, but is playing quite an important part in the general set-up of the State. Pope Engineering Pty. Ltd., as members will know, came here and first of all acquired the Beaufort Engineering Works, which was not a progressive firm. Pope's expanded its works and finally opened a new plant. The member for Bunbury will recall that we opened a small woollen and textile mill in that centre.

Joyce Bros. went in for major improvements and as a result have been able to put out a better product and they are doing quite a good job in the State. There are a number of smaller firms which are playing an important part in expansion, because they represent industries not already catered for. They cater for something specialised. It is difficult for some of these industries to become established without the Government's being prepared to help materially. The Department of Industrial Development, over the last few years, has assisted, as I said, very materially financially, when we take into consideration the amount of money available for these advances.

In 1953-54, £1,000,000 of State money went into industry generally. In 1954-55 the advances approached £750,000 while in the following year they were well over £1,000,000. Finally, in 1956-57, the amount was £500,000. That is the total liability, as far as Western Australia is concerned, in these industries, plus an amount lent by the previous Government, approaching £3,000,000. The figure is now over £6,000,000. In other words, the amount that has been expended has been more than doubled since the present Government came into office, and, during this period, the net value of increased production is over £20,000,000. Many industries have been examined, and many have been encouraged by the offer of financial assistance or by help promised in regard to enabling them to commence by making land available and providing general amenities.

There are other industries which we are keen to see established, but they are not prepared to come to Western Australia at the present time because they have already become firmly established in the Eastern States. These manufacturing concerns have not gone in recently, but have been there for some years. They are manufacturing concerns which are capable of absorbing the Western Australian market. One very notable instance is that of tyre manufacture. Tyres in Western Australia are quite a big sales medium and if one

company could get the lot, it might be somewhere near worth while, but when these sales are split between three or four major companies, each with its own clientele firmly fixed, we have to realise that it is not a very encouraging possibility for any one firm to come here and endeavour to capture the whole of the market.

There are various other concerns. Plastics have been thoroughly examined and some people have been interested in coming here for the purpose of establishing a plastics industry, but again the market is not ready to absorb this product at the present time because of importations, which will continue to further reduce the possibilities of a plastics industry starting. We are not in a position where our own by-products are sufficient to enable the industry to start and have a reasonable chance of survival. The possibility of titanium dioxide production has also been investigated.

Members will realise that the matter of coal utilisation has had a great amount of attention from the Government for quite a long period of years, and I propose to show a little later the amount of capital that is being expended in an endeavour to bring about a greater utilisation of coal on a better basis. Various chemical products such as chlorine, urea, and sulphur have also had a lot of attention and endeavours have been made to explore the possibility of some firms engaging in manufactures of that kind in Western Australia.

The Government is endeavouring to assist such firms as Plaistowes. For a long time we have had, in Western Australia, the experience of importing a tremendous amount of canned fruit and canned goods generally and it has been shown that on occasions when a manufacturing concern has endeavoured to start in Western Australia—I have in mind Mumzone—either by an influx of imports from the Eastern States of those particular lines or because of the inability of the Western Australian growing-section to supply the right type of varieties, the canning industry has not flourished over the years. However, at the present time, it appears we are likely to have Plaistowes coming in on a very satisfactory scale. Its potentials are many.

I could go on enumerating firms for some time. We have been in touch with many British firms, and have been in constant contact with the German firm of Krupps in regard to coal and iron ore, and the possibility of commencing an industry of sizable proportions in these commodities. We have done a tremendous amount in endeavouring to interest United Kingdom rubber firms to come to the West. Many members will have read of the possibility of Laporte Chemicals coming to this State. Negotiations are in progress at the present time to interest people concerned to embark upon an industry based on the recovery of salt from

the Port Gregory area. Several Australian firms have been interested to a point, and then have faded out of the picture. At the present time, a French firm is very keen and some progress is being made.

The Government's responsibility, apart from the introduction of new industries, is, as I said earlier, to keep established industry in a healthy state and that, of course, is a continuing responsibility for this Government or any other Government. In recent times the Government has, with some success, launched a preference for local manufacture campaign and it can be said to the credit of the people of Western Australia and very many of the traders that they have wholeheartedly co-operated, and the sale of local products today is very much greater. One large trader of the metropolitan area showed me his display in connection with the products of the Albany Woollen Mills. He told me that the Albany mills were now his second best account. Therefore, it can be seen that a great deal is being achieved by fostering local industry. We have embarked on an extensive public campaign covering radio, Press and films.

I shall now deal with another remark made by the Leader of the Opposition which again, I say, was without foundation. I think his remark was in mild criticism—probably very mild. It was in regard to the North-West and minerals in that part of the State. I immediately obtained the figures in connection with that phase and found that in recent times the Government has loaned money to a number of small investors. They are certainly small investors, but they are also very important ones. During this period, the Government has advanced roughly £50,000 to people wanting machinery, and they are being assisted with transport and in other ways. We have given bank guarantees to an amount of £12,500, and £50,000 to people wanting machinery and working capital, and they are being assisted with transport and in other ways. We have given bank guarantees to an amount of £12,500, and £50,000 has been spent on the diamond drilling programme in the North-West. There is a regional geographical survey and it has been going on for some time. It is now in its second year, which is part of a three-year programme.

Hon. D. Brand: Do you not think that if some arrangement were made with large companies similar to that made with the oil companies for exploration by larger industry, it would have satisfactory results, by getting a more thorough investigation by people with the necessary equipment and capital, provided you gave them a large area as some incentive?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In Western Australia at present there are a number of companies. I think the Leader of the Opposition is speaking of oil companies. These companies have huge

amounts of Western Australian money—the money of small investors—and they are doing nothing for themselves. I know of one firm whose capital was subscribed by about 15,000 people. This company is holding over £600,000, but it is doing very little with the money in the way of oil search in Western Australia. It has not even put down one drill hole. But I do know that it has wasted a lot of Western Australian capital.

I came in contact with a man at Roebourne and I remarked on the nice and efficient-looking equipment he had. He had a well set-up truck with every amenity. He did not know who I was. I asked him what he was doing. He said, "I have been here for two or three months. I am supposed to be looking for oil." I said, "That is very interesting. How are you getting on?" He said, "If they left me alone, I might do some good, but after I have been out in the hills for a month, they bring me back to the coast. Now I am shuttle-cocking from one place to another. I go from Wyndham to Onslow according to the instructions from head office. My job consists of being sent from one point to another and told to await further instructions. After I have been at a place for two or three days, I am sent a wire and told to proceed to some other part." This is the type of thing that the Leader of the Opposition is saying we should be spending more money on.

Hon. D. Brand: I never said anything of the kind.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: That is what the hon. member implied. My point is this, and I think it is logical: If the company has as much money as it has, it is time it did a little for itself in the way of getting better equipment; or in doing something with the shareholders' money. We are not supposed to be doing this sort of thing.

This does not come under the Mines Department, but it was part of the geological set-up. When Carnarvon was in trouble over water we were asked to send a geologist there to find out what could be attempted in an endeavour to give Carnarvon and the planters on the Gascoyne a better water supply. The geologist, after looking through the district very thoroughly, came to the conclusion that underground water was not of much value; that bores would not get the district very far. He returned to Perth and recommended that a clay plug be put across the Gascoyne River. An amount of £25,000 was expended, and from appearances it could be a success. We are hoping it will be.

The oil companies have been given assistance, not by the provision of money direct, but in many other ways. Right throughout the present exploration activities of the Wapet Co., the present Government has, through various departments, assisted materially. The company has been helpful in regard to supplying most amenities themselves. They have done a very

good job, but they have been the means of continual revenue going from the Government, whether it be from the Public Works Department, the North-West Department, or some other department. They have been assisted materially. This is all part of the set-up in the minerals position. The same thing applies in regard to blue asbestos. The Government has had a continuing interest in blue asbestos. Altogether, a lot of money has been spent on minerals in the North-West.

I come back to my original remark that I think the criticism of the Leader of the Opposition in this regard was totally unfounded. I mentioned a moment ago that the Government had done a lot in regard to coal; in endeavouring to find an alternate use for coal and in a by-products examination and in various other ways. This has been done in an endeavour to step up the quantity of coal used in the State. This, too, has some relationship to industrial development.

The Fuel Technology Division comes under the Mines Department directly. The outlay to date on coal examination and on the various methods adopted in an endeavour to make, successfully, briquettes, or to coke Collie coal is £107,000. In addition, the Bureau of Research has spent £64,000, making a total of £170,000 odd. Under the research side of the Fuel Technology Division, we have examined very fully the gasification and briquetting of Collie coal. A slight departure from coal is sawdust firing. This method of firing has gained some importance, and something is likely to be achieved here.

Mr. Roberts: What is the latest information in regard to the gasification and coking of Collie coal?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: The latest information we have is that the pilot plant can satisfactorily produce briquettes. They have been used in industry and have proved satisfactory. We are not, however, satisfied that the economics of the industry are sound.

Mr. May: You are referring to coke briquettes.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. We do know that we can successfully make briquettes. We can get the fibre, timber and all the rest of it that goes to the making of a coke briquette. The Government has taken a further step in this industry; it is getting a report from Lurgi's of Germany, the firm which was instrumental in setting up a similar type of factory in the Eastern States where the briquette is produced from coal of a lesser quality than that which we have at Collie. We are hoping that by October the economics of the position will have been thoroughly examined by Lurgi's and that the blueprints and general recommendations will be available to the Government.

We have heard a lot recently regarding the charcoal iron industry and I think that all the members who spoke, even the member for Blackwood, waxed enthusiastic, and displayed a lot of knowledge in regard to what was happening over charcoal iron. Again I think a lot of the controversy in the House was on unsound lines. It certainly occurred without much knowledge of what was taking place. I suppose members might be justified in asking for more information than they have been given. To some extent they could be right, but I point out that the whole possibility of the establishment of a charcoal iron industry in the South-West is based on the Government's ability to get an export licence from the Commonwealth. So, what has transpired to date can only be tentative until such time as the Commonwealth decides to make up its mind to grant the export licence.

I think there was some expression of fear as to the depletion of iron ore reserves. Both the member for Blackwood and the Leader of the Opposition mentioned this matter. Again I say there is little need for anxiety on this score. It was rather illuminating to hear the Leader of the Opposition waxing so enthusiastic and commenting critically on the future of the iron ore reserves when, during the period his party was in office, he not only frittered away the advantages we had with our raw material at Yampi Sound and Cockatoo Island, but gave it away to the tune of 120,000,000 tons, or better, above highwater mark.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: In the knowledge that it was to be used in Australia.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member was apparently not possessed of these high ideals in those times but was quite happy to take this asset from posterity. Frequently in the House I hear how we are going to help posterity, but members opposite did not think of that in those times when we were giving away posterity's inheritance.

Hon. D. Brand: Were we right or wrong, if you can export some now?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The member for Murray acted in good faith in his own way, but can it bear examination? What has B.H.P. done for Western Australia? The hon. member gave to that organisation 120,000,000 tons of iron ore.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It has given cheap steel.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That company has fewer employees in Western Australia than Wundowie with its small-scale production; and we have no possibility of getting an integrated steel industry from B.H.P. and that is not withstanding the fact that we gave this iron ore to them; we shovelled it to them with two hands.

Mr. Roberts: Do you want B.H.P. to expand in this State?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I want to see a steel industry expand, but it will not be expanded by B.H.P.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: It will not be under anyone else.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is interesting to hear the hon. member's views on it. The first thing that those in control of every steel industry that I approached in America, said was, "Your Government has already given away its major bargaining stick." In other words, I visited several steel industries in America in an endeavour to bring an integrated steel industry here, and the first thing I was told was that we had nothing to offer.

Hon. D. Brand: Didn't we argue that there were substantial reserves at Koolyanobbing; and were we not right? We must have been seeing that you are going to sell some to Japan.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member kept back a very small deposit compared with what he gave away.

Hon. D. Brand: What is the deposit at Koolyanobbing?

Mr. Roberts: What are the respective deposits?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There are 120,000,000 tons above high water level.

Hon. D. Brand: What about Koolyanobbing?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: There would be about 70,000,000 tons there.

Hon. D. Brand: Above the ground.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Above water level. That is not all. There is more iron in the Yampi-Cockatoo area which is not above water level. There is still plenty more there, but it was given away by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Roberts: To Australians.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: More than 120,000,000 tons was given away for 6d. a ton. If we have it for another 50 years, we will get £3,000,000 for it. The present Government, by selling iron ore to Japan, or any other nation, will receive £6,000,000 for 1,000,000 tons—not 120,000,000 tons.

The Minister for Transport: I bet B.H.P. put into the party funds, solidly.

Hon. D. Brand: I bet the union members at Wundowie have put into party funds, too.

The Minister for Transport: I hope so.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Leader of the Opposition can draw a red herring over the whole situation.

Hon. D. Brand: If we have not iron ore reserves, why are we selling it to Japan?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is a matter of 1,000,000 tons, not 120,000,000 tons.

Hon. D. Brand: Why are we selling any if we have not sufficient reserves?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: We have reserves, but not a major reserve like the Leader of the Opposition gave away during his period of office. The hon. gentleman cannot get out of this, no matter what he says or from what angle he approaches it. He will, in the eyes of posterity, never live down what he did.

The Minister for Transport: 6d. a ton!

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Leader of the Opposition wants 5s. each way.

Hon. D. Brand: No, he does not.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. During the course of his remarks he said, "Not opposed to the charcoal iron industry." Not much; dear, oh dear! Then he said, "Doubtful about reserves of iron ore." Yet he is now trying to tell us we have plenty.

Hon. D. Brand: I am not opposed to a charcoal iron industry being set up; but not by the State.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Leader of the Opposition said he was doubtful about the reserves of iron ore, and he remarked that the expenditure on the charcoal iron industry was not justified. He feels the Commonwealth Government is justified in refusing an export licence. We must not go ahead or sell 1,000,000 tons out of about 218,000,000 tons in various parts of Western Australia; and the majority of it is of a grade that would be satisfactory to put into a foundry, if necessary. He also said that he felt that the Commonwealth Government was justified in refusing an export licence. He must know something that we do not know yet; we do not know whether the export licence has been refused. To go a little further, in the Press this morning the Chamber of Commerce had something to say and, of course, it was all in favour of the Liberal Party. Naturally it is the headquarters of the Liberal Party.

Mr. May: It is the backbone of the Liberal Party.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That chamber says that it would be delighted to see a successful charcoal iron industry established in the South West, but not by the Government. I suggest they would be quite happy to establish an industry under their own steam under certain circumstances because the spokesman goes on to say that he believes that ample money would be found by free enterprise

for industry in this State, provided—and then he goes on to lay down certain provisions. Let us see what sum of money has come in from free enterprise up to date.

Mr. Heal: The cost of living is going up.

Hon. D. Brand: Why?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Let us look at the position at Collie where free enterprise is functioning under three separate headings. The previous Government gave them £1,250,000. What for? Is it the function of the Government to give successful private enterprise millions of pounds, or does private enterprise justify its existence by doing something for itself?

Hon. D. Brand: You gave Chamberlains a couple of million pounds—and they were not very successful.

Mr. Roberts: On the 25th October last—

The SPEAKER: Order! Members must keep order.

Mr. Roberts: On the 25th October last—

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Minister to resume his seat please. Members must please keep order. After all, the Minister is making a speech and there are far too many interjections; that applies to both sides of the House and so far as I am concerned, I will not allow so many interjections. One at a time is all right, but a dozen at a time is not fair to the speaker. Every member is entitled to put his case before this Assembly and, so far as I am concerned, I will not allow so many interjections at once. I repeat, this applies to members on both sides.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am a bit like a yo-yo, getting up and down so often.

The SPEAKER: The Minister may resume his speech.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Chamber of Commerce was quite happy about establishing a charcoal iron industry in this State so long as the Government would give free enterprise proper encouragement. They go on to say that if there was a satisfactory guarantee that the industry would be given freedom from unnecessary Government interference, the industry could be established. It was quite unnecessary—absolutely unnecessary—for any person to make a comment of that kind. There has been no shackling or interference with private enterprise. We cannot get them to move on anything unless they get 25 to 30 per cent. profit out of it. They are not interested in the State; they are interested only in what money they can get out of it.

Hon. D. Brand: Does that apply to all private enterprise?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is all very well for private enterprise to talk like that. They will carry on only so long as the Government carries out all their experimental work; so long as the Government does all the costly work, they will come into it, providing that they get enough out of it. We have the same position with coal too. As I said a few moments ago, a large sum of money has been spent by Governments, over a period of years, on the research into coal generally.

There is one Australian firm whose representatives were in my office the other day. The first thing they said to me was, "We will come in, but how much will you give us?" They were not putting in any money of their own; they were not prepared to invest their own money in research but they wanted the Government to do all that sort of work—it would have cost about £250,000. No one can tell me anything about what people like that will do. The previous Government was prepared to do the work for them.

Hon. D. Brand: What about your Government running Chamberlains?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Chamberlains have done a fine job. Every member of the Country Party will agree that the machinery turned out by Chamberlains is very good and has been of tremendous assistance to the farming industry. Every member of the farming community is proud of what Chamberlains have achieved. It might have cost a lot of money, but the Government established that industry because it was necessary and results, over a period of years, show that it has meant a good deal to Western Australia.

Hon. D. Brand: It is very good machinery, but £3,000,000 is a bit too much on the debit side.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is a bit much but, after all, the State got more from it than we did from the 120,000,000 tons of ore sold to B.H.P. for 6d. a ton.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: What about the Willcock Government? A lot was said about the export of iron ore in those days.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I would not know much about that because it was so long ago. But if the ex-Leader of the Liberal Party says something, it must be fairly right!

Mr. Roberts: On the 25th October last the Premier indicated, in answer to a question I asked, that the export of iron ore was totally prohibited by the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. May: Who is making the speech?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is so; does the hon. member know why its export is prohibited? If he has a little knowledge in this regard, it will not do him

any harm. The Commonwealth Government is behind the prohibition order because it is trying to protect B.H.P. That Government does not want any opposition to B.H.P. and that is why there is an embargo on the export of iron ore. Why is there not an embargo on ilmenite or on all the other minerals which are sent out of this country? There is no need to ask permission to send those minerals out of the country. No licence is necessary. I know why the Commonwealth Government insists on a licence for the export of iron ore; B.H.P. must be protected.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Why stop at 1,000,000 tons, if you think like that?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not think we should stop at that figure; but 1,000,000 tons is a good start for the establishment of an industry. If we can sell 1,000,000 tons for £6,000,000, as against 120,000,000 tons for £3,000,000, it is sound business.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You do not want to keep any reserves here?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You want to sell another 1,000,000 tons and so get rid of our reserves.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: As regards our reserves, a little information might be useful to the hon. member. There are 92,000,000 tons at Koolan Island and it is 67 per cent. iron. At Cockatoo Island there are 16,600,000 tons, after B.H.P. has taken nearly 10,000,000 tons from the island, and the percentage of iron is 69. There are also the deposits at Wilgie Mia, where there are 70,000,000 tons, and the average content of metallic iron is about 63 per cent. varying down to as low as 50 per cent. There are the Mt. Hale deposits, 1,250,000 tons, Mt. Gould, 14,000,000, and an unknown quantity at Mt. Stuart. We have never had sufficient capital—and I suppose the same could be said of previous Governments—to examine fully the deposits at that field or some of the other iron ore deposits in Western Australia.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned Talling Range where there are 3,500,000 tons with an average content of 64 per cent. There is a deposit at Gabanintha, 200,000 tons—a very small deposit—and a deposit at Mt. Gibson of 2,250,000 tons. I know the area around Mt. Caudan, where there is a deposit of iron ore. I have been there on a number of occasions and although it is a large deposit, its quantity is unknown and it could be 50,000,000 tons or 5,000,000. There is certainly a lot of high-grade ore in this State, and we have not depleted those deposits to any extent at all. Also, the iron ore which is sold, if it can be sold to Japan, will not be given away. I give an assurance to the Opposition that while this Government is in power, no iron ore deposits will be given away.

Mr. O'Brien: Hear, hear!

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: There are a number of other deposits in this State and no one knows where half of them are. So to sell a million tons for £6,000,000 is not very much; and it is not much to ask the Commonwealth Government or any other Government for a licence to do that.

Mr. Ackland: Will that be £6,000,000 net or at Fremantle on board the ships?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I am speaking of the revenue that will come to Western Australia now as a result of the sale of 1,000,000 tons of iron ore. The result of selling 120,000,000 tons at 6d. a ton is £3,000,000 spread over 150 years, 80 years or some other number of years. But the total we will get as a result of that sale will be only £3,000,000, whereas for the sale of only 1,000,000 tons we are getting double that sum now.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: A very vital point is that we are getting cheap steel from B.H.P.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: The rest of the world is getting cheap steel from them. B.H.P. cannot manufacture sufficient steel for Australia's needs; yet they have enough to export. Why? Because the export price of the steel is much higher than the local price and it does not matter a hang to them what Australia does about its steel.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What have you got against B.H.P.?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I have a lot of time for B.H.P.; but members opposite are holding them up for their achievements, whereas I have told the House the position which obtains in regard to steel. I know that B.H.P. has done a tremendous amount of good. I also know that the firm was given 120,000,000 tons of iron ore for 6d. a ton. It is of no use members opposite looking at me like that because, despite what they might say, I have not been anywhere tonight.

THE SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member's time has expired.

On motion by the Minister for Transport, time extended.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I will now pass on to something a little less controversial and I should like to discuss a number of things about my trip to the United States last year.

Hon. D. Brand: Before you go on, tell us how much land you gave away to the Chase Syndicate at a give-away price. Also, how much did the rolling mill cost?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: The Minister for Agriculture will have something to say about the Chase Syndicate. However, I would say that I have known more land to be given away by the previous Government and at no better price.

Hon. D. Brand: To whom?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: It was not for a big scheme like this one is.

Hon. D. Brand: To whom?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: To friends of the Opposition. Before those unruly interjections, I was about to say how much I appreciated the Government's action and also the support that I have been given from time to time by the Opposition regarding my trip to the United States last year. Most members will know that the main idea of my going to the United States was to make inquiries about oil and to endeavour to find out where we were heading in regard to the search for oil in this State.

Most of my time on the trip was devoted to the question of oil and we wanted to know a lot more than we already knew about it. Had oil been struck in commercial quantities in this State, we wanted to get some idea of the experience of other countries. Had we not done that, we would have had to rely on a hit or miss policy in framing any legislation. Even though we might have had an Act to cover what we thought would be necessary in the event of striking oil in commercial quantities, it might not have proved effective and we thought it necessary to see at first hand what was being done in an oil-producing country.

We also wanted to find out the first things we ought to do for the establishment of oil centres, the general handling of the product, the research that would be necessary and the question of conservation, which has loomed so large in both the United States and Canada. The question of issuing and handling titles, the general management and agreement between company and Government were all undoubtedly an enigma and one that even the departmental officers had very few answers to. Accordingly, the trip was largely centred around the oil industry in general. At some time I would like to give the House an idea of just what the oil industry really could mean to this country, and what it has meant to other countries. I would like to take members through the many experiences that it was my privilege and pleasure to have. At this stage, however, I should rather give some idea in a sketchy manner of the features and matters with which I was faced, and the experiences through which I passed.

Perhaps ranking second on the list would have been an endeavour to induce American capital into Western Australian industry. I know that in this regard a tremendous amount of goodwill has been built up and a lot of interest has been created in the innumerable possibilities that exist in Western Australia. I spoke earlier of the integrated steel industry. The answer, however, was exactly the same in each of the several foundries that I visited.

Two of the main foundries, namely, Kaisers and the Republic, after quite a lot of consideration—and I might say that both those firms had a brochure setting out Western Australia's potential in regard to supplies of raw materials, lime and other ingredients necessary for the setting up of an integrated steel industry—said that, on present figures, an integrated steel industry in Western Australia would not be justified. That was the answer I received at every interview.

In the first instance this related to outlay. But one of the encouraging features was that the Republic Foundry said that at the present time their hands were too fully tied anyway. Firstly, they said we did not have the potential and then they said they would be interested in buying every ton of iron ore we could supply at a very substantial figure, but they would want it in its raw state. They would have been quite happy to take the entire supply of Western Australia's iron ore.

They intimated that to commence an integrated steel industry in this State would call for a minimum outlay of roughly £10,000,000 and to justify putting in £10,000,000 worth of equipment in the establishment of that industry, they would want at least 2,000,000 tons per year output. When we examine Australia's position, we find that this year, for the first time in the history of B.H.P.—of whom we have said so much this evening—that firm is expecting to reach a 3,000,000 tons output; whereas the Republic people say that 2,000,000 tons would be a minimum to make the proposition a payable one.

The managing director went on further to say that their hands were tied until 1960, but after that they would be interested in coming and having a look at Australia and particularly—since we have the major deposits—they would be interested in Western Australia. He said, "You can understand why we are not interested at this stage," and added that at the present time the American output was roughly 350,000,000 tons. He went on to say that as a firm and organisation, they had 11 factories, one of which at that time was a 34,000,000 tons a year production factory.

He said that because there was so much business offering at their backdoor, they were not interested at present in our proposition. He felt sure that I would understand why, particularly when he added that they were putting 500,000,000 dollars into expanding their present factory. If members cared to work that out, they would find that an equivalent of £250,000,000 is going into expanding their factory with a view to furthering their steel output.

Hon. D. Brand: You will have to hurry or you will sell all we have to Japan.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not think that 1,000,000 tons, or even 5,000,000 or 10,000,000 tons would deplete our supplies; it would not affect the overall position here. It is only a matter of 1,000,000 tons and no more.

Hon. D. Brand: It is a bad precedent.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I do not know whether the hon. member wants to draw me back to the subject, but if he would like me to give him a bit more about iron ore, I would be happy to do so.

The Minister for Transport: He got a big enough belting a few minutes ago.

Hon. D. Brand: Said the Minister for Transport stroking his head!

The MINISTER FOR MINES: One of the major industries that must come here sooner or later is the tyre industry. Here again the total consumption for Western Australia is below the requirements. I had an opportunity of discussing this very fully with both the Goodyear people and the Firestone company and inquired as to the possibility of their becoming established in this State. The Firestone Tyre Co. admit freely that in the period shortly after the war—and that was when the hon. member was in office on this side of the House—had they been given any encouragement, they would have established an industry in Western Australia, because there was a growing need for a greater supply of tyres. We were not getting our supplies from the Eastern States, and the need definitely existed. But because the Firestone people got the cold shoulder, they went to Manila and established themselves there. But they would be rather happy some time to claim some of Western Australia's trade.

Hon. D. Brand: Would the Minister be frank enough to have a look at a certain file regarding Olympia tyres and see what approaches have been made to get them here?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I would not know what was on the files; there was certainly nothing on the files relative to Kwinana, it was all very hush, hush! So I don't think anything would be gained by looking at the files.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It does not compare with the Chase Syndicate agreement.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That will be something of which Western Australia will be very proud, even if the members of the Liberal and Country League are not. It was my pleasing duty to come into contact with these people in the very early part of my stay in the States. At that time they were not very keen on coming to Western Australia. They were making all sorts of inquiries. They had been given particulars from the Lands Department and had received reports from various officers concerning the potential at Esperance. They also had been given information by Hon. F. J. S. Wise, and although they had all that, at that stage they did not quite know what was ahead of them nor did they know quite what the Western Australian Government was prepared to do for them.

I was lucky enough to be authorised to speak on behalf of the Government of this State and to give the principals of the Chase Syndicate the assurance they needed. I was also able to put them right on matters on which they had only a hazy outline. I was able to meet many of the potential shareholders of the Chase Syndicate also. At that time this syndicate was interested in Humpty Doo, but only as a small body. The number of shareholders in the syndicate has increased considerably since their establishment at Esperance and it is pleasing to realise that among those shareholders are many important people, people of considerable substance who are prepared to advance very fully a project similar to that at Esperance.

Mr. Cornell: Is not your Firestone friend in the Chase Syndicate?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: He is chairman of directors of Firestone and he is also interested in the Douglas aircraft organisation, and in the Republic steel industry. I met the principals of all those firms during the course of my trip, and I would add that the gentlemen under discussion take a very active interest in these matters.

Hon. D. Brand: Will the Minister lay on the Table of the House the file showing the approaches made to the Firestone people?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I have already told the Leader of the Opposition that I do not think that anything of any importance ever went on the files at that time. They probably kept these things in their heads and hoped that the wind would blow the right way. It would have blown the right way had the matters been handled properly.

The question of minerals generally also received consideration. The marketing of minerals from Western Australia has been a difficult proposition for some time, and we were never quite certain of our markets. In going out after an all-out expansion in the production of a particular mineral we were never quite certain of getting a market when it was produced. We had the spectacle of people engaged in mineral recovery getting dumps alongside them, and then finding that the bottom had dropped out of the market. We had to investigate why this was happening in an endeavour to build up a better understanding between the purchasing end and the production end. Because of this, plain speaking was very necessary.

Mr. Nalder: That does not only happen in mining.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I agree; it happens in many other matters. But we also had an opportunity of going fully into the question of blue asbestos as taken

by John Manville of New York. The industry, as we know it at present, is on the up and up. If action was to be taken in this direction there were many pitfalls that had to be avoided, and I am glad to say that it is now possible to avoid those pitfalls. As a result, the asbestos industry will benefit considerably.

The development of gold and minerals generally received a full coverage during my entire trip. Gold is one of those metals which is not produced in any great quantity in the United States. Canada's production is a bit higher. Most of the gold-producing towns in the United States are now tourist resorts, and that, of course, gives me an idea with regard to some of our own goldmining towns that have been disbanded, and I wonder whether they could not be made into tourist resorts. The difference is that the majority of those gold-producing areas in the United States are within easy access of large towns and well-made roads.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There is also some scenery to go with it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is so because most of the goldmining areas in the States are either in the Sierras or in the Rocky Mountains.

The export of fish products is not being undertaken by us at present. Because of the demand which apparently exists, and of which we did not know very much, the possibility of our going into this industry is very great. Many calls are made on the available fish products in the United States. One of the uses to which fish meal is put is in the rearing of minks so as to keep the Hollywood stars in mink coats. The demand for fish food is very considerable. On returning to Western Australia and looking into the possibilities in this regard, I can say that several firms, knowing the possibilities that exist along the Western Australian coast, are looking into this industry. I am happy to say that at the moment a syndicate is being formed, and it will enter this industry shortly.

The tuna industry in the United States has grown to tremendous proportions. There is an indication at present that the popularity of tuna is on the wane because of the high price. Again, the American Government had to take action to restrict the amount of imports of tuna. Apparently, the Japanese had been flooding the American market with canned tuna. Whilst the American public is keen on tuna and dishes prepared from it figure largely on the menu, they are not prepared to pay high prices for it. The Japanese thought they could export a certain amount into the United States by cutting the price and so obtain a market which up to that time had not existed for them. The American authorities stepped in and placed an embargo on canned fish of any kind going into the country and they would accept only tuna in the round.

Prior to this position being reached, one of the great tuna companies decided to come to Western Australia and bring a 500-ton clipper to explore our waters for tuna. The company was prepared to come here at a figure possibly resulting in a loss of anything up to £50,000 to the State. Its offer was to bring a tuna clipper that would take 500 tons worth, roughly about £100,000, but the trip out and back and the cost of processing would amount to £150,000. With market variation and lack of buoyancy in the tuna industry generally, together with the fact that there are between 450 and 500 tuna clippers laid up in San Diego, that venture is rather remote for the present.

Many smaller industries were examined, some as a result of intercession before leaving this State and others that came within purview during the trip. One interesting industry on the verge of coming here is known as "Renew-it." It is a company very firmly established in New York which manufactures what might be most easily described as a substance for face lifting of old buildings. Of course, it is in use on a large scale also in new buildings, but its prime use is in bringing back to some form of life the old buildings which abound in many places. We have many such here. This particular substance puts a completely new face on a building. It is quick in reacting.

It has advantages from our point of view in that the main raw materials used are asbestos and vermiculite in particular, and also several others to a lesser degree. The fact is that the major ingredients can be produced in Western Australia. This company has arranged for a trial shipment to be sent here. We have already received a shipment of 350 gallons. Several buildings have been treated with this substance and they are standing up quite well to the weather.

The cost of this ingredient is slightly higher than paint but it has a definite finish and it carries a guarantee for 10 years, a guarantee which cannot be given with any paint. It has been used to bring from a very dilapidated appearance old buildings into really presentable and good looking ones. I have seen many public buildings and private homes treated with the substance. This company is very keen to establish itself here. There is no reason why within a few months it should not be on its way to establishment.

One very interesting sidelight was a visit to the Dal Chemical Industries. This company is also very interested in by-product production in Western Australia, particularly in regard to plastics. To give some idea of the immensity of this organisation, its works are established right on the sea coast. The company has diverted the sea so that the water runs through the middle of its buildings. It is extracting

from the sea itself 20 per cent. of all the raw materials used. Various methods are used to get the extracts from the sea.

Pithane is a coal product and it forms roughly 30 per cent. of the materials used. The balance of 50 per cent. of the materials is obtained from the residue from the sulphur fields. Sulphur is recovered by forcing boiling water into the ground, mixing it with the sulphur and forcing the sulphur up. It is retained in receiving ponds. This process is something entirely new and it would take quite a lot of explaining. Dal Chemical Industries employs 6,000 men. It is a tremendous undertaking. Its products are very highly regarded in the United States. One member of that industry has expressed his intention of coming out here within 18 months, that is, about 12 months from now. He is very keen as a private individual, not as a member of Dal Chemical Industry, to establish this industry in Western Australia.

We had many opportunities to investigate the coal industry. It was done mainly with the idea of seeing the by-products rather than the actual use of coal, although the revolution which has taken place in the coal industry in that country needs to be perceived to be believed. In the past few years this industry has been on the decline. It had an original production of 450,000,000 tons a year but that had gone back to 320,000,000. This reduction gave great concern.

America is expanding very fast industrially. Wherever one goes new industries are being established. Their activities branch out into very many new spheres. Science is bringing forward quite an influx of new and previously entirely unknown industries. Because of this expansion of industry, the coal industry has come back to its own to some extent. At present it looks like recovering completely and even advancing further than it has done in the past, the reason being that when the use of coal was on the decline many factories purchased coal mines. Now they have established organisations and manufacturing concerns right over the coal supply itself, and they are producing the whole of their power from this unmined coal. Thus the use of coal has recovered quite considerably. In the last year, ended December, it has gone from 320,000,000 tons until now it is approaching the 500,000,000 ton mark. It is remarkable that of this amount of coal, almost 100,000,000 tons are being exported to Britain and other countries.

Great strides, too, have been made in the recovery of by-products. The coal handled in America is almost entirely, if not entirely, bituminous coal and not sub-bituminous coal such as we have in Collie. The group I got most information from was a firm called Koppers Company, which besides manufacturing, recovers tar from coal. In turn, this firm farms the tar out to other firms and the residue

is broken up so that it comes under different headings and finally is used for the manufacture of plastics, xylene and other solvents. They get many other things from their coal, such as synthetic resins, perfumes, explosives, printing ink, lacquers, varnishes, enamels and dyestuffs.

All these things are by-products of coal, and of course there is a huge recovery—roughly about 35 gallons per ton—of coal-tar from the coal. These by-products are tremendously important. Koppers are not hopeful that we would establish an industry of anything like the value that an industry has when it deals with the tar produced from a bituminous coal. But they do say there is a possibility of our obtaining ammonia in large quantities for fertiliser. This factor is receiving attention.

There are many other aspects, but I know my time is just about up. On some future occasion I shall have the opportunity of enlightening the House on specific matters, and I shall be quite happy to do so.

MR. MAY (Collic) [8.41]: In view of the fact that the remarks made by the Minister for Mines ruffled the smooth waters of the Chamber for some time, I propose to be the hero and, if possible, calm them down.

I feel I should say something in regard to the opening of Parliament. Some two years ago, and prior to that time, I was critical of the situation that we as members of this Chamber were forced to undergo when called to another Chamber to listen to the Governor's Speech. Consequently I feel it is only fair now that I should compliment those people—in particular the controller of the House—in regard to the accommodation that has been provided for members of this Chamber when they are called to another place.

Furthermore I also wish to take this opportunity of expressing my congratulations to the new Leader of the Opposition. I feel he is suitable for and adaptable to the job, and I hope he will remain in the position for many years.

Mr. Roberts: He will be vacating it in 1959 and going to the other side.

Mr. MAY: Likewise I offer my congratulations to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. At the same time I regret that the member for Murray, who was our Premier during some of the eleven years that I have been in Parliament, and with whom I crossed swords on many occasions—probably we both enjoyed it—has now, on account of ill-health, felt compelled to step down. Now that he has taken this step I hope he will gain the benefit of it. I am sure he will give his successor every

support in regard to the opposition that we as a Government on this side may expect.

Pretty well the whole of the State was covered in the matters referred to in the Governor's Speech. I feel that members should try to make themselves acquainted with most concerns that are operating in the State; we should endeavour to make ourselves acquainted with most of what is going on. Above all things I, coming from an industrial centre, want to make some comments in regard to the rural activities of the State. Each and every one of us should be interested in the prospects for the coming season so that we can at least give due and perhaps favourable consideration to the requirements of any industry, whether it be primary or secondary, in the State. I refer particularly to wheat, sheep, dairying and fruit. The prospects for the State at present are very good.

Mr. Nalder: Especially the wool market.

Mr. MAY: From all reports, and from my personal observations, it seems that although the season commenced very late, timely rains have come in most places without undue floods. I know, as the member for Moore could say, that some parts of the State have been washed out, but speaking generally the State as a whole is enjoying a good season, although somewhat late. The only hope I can express is that, as a result of the rains coming fairly late, the State may be blessed with some later rains towards the end of the season. It is then, when the wheat is coming into flower, that we need rain. Let us all hope that in the interests of the State we shall be blessed with sufficient rain to bring the wheat crop to the stage we would like.

I realise that the farmers had a long dry summer, and it was anticipated it would affect the lambing season; in fact it affected many of the sheep before the lambing took place. But I fail to find reports of any great losses being sustained as a result of the long dry summer.

I do not say this in any derogatory sense, but I believe that the wheat farmers of Australia are fortunate in being guaranteed at least the cost of production for their wheat. I often wonder how many other industries would like to be placed in the happy position where they would be assured, by Commonwealth Government subsidy, of the cost of production. I am happy to know that the Commonwealth Government can adopt that attitude towards farmers but; in return, I feel that it is up to the farmers of this State to give some recognition of what is being done for them, and particularly through the railways. I do not say that with the idea of creating some friction with any member—and particularly my friend from Moora—because I know how he feels; but if those living in the outback,

and particularly the farmers, would use the railways more and make any complaints to the proper quarter, I feel sure that with the willingness of the Government and the co-operation of the farmers a great deal could be achieved. In that way I think the farmers could be given satisfaction so long as they continue to use the railways. I know there are arguments as to why the farmers do not use the railways, and there are also many arguments as to why they should.

Mr. Ackland: Have you ever taken a complaint to the railway commissioners?

Mr. MAY: I did not mean to upset the member for Moore; but I am saying that if we rise above our own petty selfishness in regard to such matters, we will be able to overcome the present difficulties, and all the strife that is being stirred up in relation to railway matters will be eliminated. This can be achieved providing we do not simply blame the other fellow. However, I do not wish to dwell on that subject—

Mr. Ackland: Tell us a little bit more about the Commonwealth Government guaranteeing the price of wheat.

Mr. MAY: I am going to make this speech in my own way in spite of any other member in this Chamber.

Mr. Ackland: Tell us how much the Commonwealth Government has contributed to the guaranteed price.

Mr. MAY: I was not speaking of that aspect of the question, but said that the Commonwealth Government guaranteed the farmers in this State the cost of production of their wheat; and neither the hon. member nor any other member here can deny that. I did not say that the Commonwealth Government paid anything towards the guarantee, but that the Government guarantees the price; and the hon. member knows that as well as I do.

Mr. Ackland: It is out of the farmers' own contribution.

Mr. MAY: The hon. member has enjoyed that privilege ever since it was brought into being.

Mr. Ackland: Yes, out of the money I paid into it.

Mr. MAY: And the member for Moore is sitting back today very comfortably as a result of that guarantee. However, I did not intend to start an argument; but the hon. member persists, every time I rise to speak, in catching me on the wrong foot. I do not intend, from now on, to be caught on the wrong foot even by the member for Moore.

Mr. Ackland: If your statements were factual no one would interject.

Mr. MAY: Should I sit down, Mr. Speaker, while members interject? I am glad to say that the coming season shows every sign of being a satisfactory one; and I understand that in most country centres

the water supplies have been successfully replenished, which is a good thing for the State as a whole. Although some of the catchments have not received as much rain as we would have liked, I think the position is good in most instances. I understand that in the South-West the grass and clover have come on very well, and no doubt the whole State will benefit as a result of the promising conditions in our cattle and wholemilk industries.

I will touch next on the changing conditions in the world and the way in which those changes must affect this State, and indeed all other States and countries. Although we have a department in this State which deals with industry generally, I do not think that nearly enough research is being done to allow us to keep pace with modern trends in both primary and secondary industry. The Minister for Industrial Development told us tonight about what is being done elsewhere; but I repeat that added research should be constantly undertaken to deal with the problems that are arising, particularly in regard to secondary industry.

Without wishing to be parochial—one can only speak of an industry with which one is conversant—I will now refer to the coal industry, in which there has been a great deal of evolution in the last few years. I was glad to hear the Minister's remarks tonight, and to learn that something may be done to find new uses for the coal which represents one of the State's greatest assets. I do not think any Government, irrespective of its political colour, could fail to realise what a wonderful asset this State has in its coal; and if that coal is no longer to be used for the purposes to which we have become accustomed, every effort should be made by way of research to find other uses for it. Over the last three years coal consumption in Western Australia dropped by 20 per cent. The highest output of coal ever achieved in this State was just over 1,000,000 tons per year, but that has dropped now to 800,000 tons—a fall, as I said, of 20 per cent.

Some concern has been expressed by members opposite with regard to coal prices in this State and tenders for coal. It is obvious, in view of the fact that the State's consumption of coal has fallen by 20 per cent., that something had to be done with regard to the employees in the coal industry. We cannot go on losing production and still maintain the same number of employees in industry; and in this regard the Government has done a wonderful job, inasmuch as, with coal production reduced by 20 per cent., the number of employees in the industry has been reduced by 25 per cent. That has been brought about without causing any undue unemployment and without any great upheaval in the industry.

Over the last two or three years certain individuals have been worrying about the price of coal and have been wondering

what was likely to happen. But the change was already taking place quietly and efficiently, and without causing any disturbance in the industry in this State. Because of the way it has dealt with the situation over the last two or three years, and for what it has achieved, the Government is to be complimented.

I feel sure that in the near future some benefit will be derived as a result of the readjustment of the price of coal in the State. Obviously we could not expect the consumption of coal to continue on the same basis as was the case when everybody wanted coal. At that time there was no alternative fuel, and consequently the price of coal rose. We knew, without anybody telling us, that the price of coal had to come down; in fairness to private consumers, as well as to the S.E.C. and the railways, the price of coal had to be adjusted. I feel certain that very soon some amicable arrangement will be made between the coal companies and the Government; and a price, satisfactory to all concerned, will be fixed.

It is rather interesting to look at the price of fuel oil, which has been the chief competitor of coal in this State. In Sydney the price per ton of fuel oil at present, on a delivery basis, is £16 14s. 6d.; the same price obtains in Melbourne; and in Adelaide, it is £16 7s. I have not the figure for Western Australia; but in spite of the fact that we have an oil refinery at Kwinana, on the seaboard of the State, fuel oil produced in Kwinana can be purchased in Adelaide at £2 a ton cheaper than it can be bought in this State. Is that fair to the people of Western Australia?

The amount of coal equivalent in heating value to one ton of fuel oil would cost on the average, delivered in Sydney, £7 9s.; in Melbourne, £11 16s.; and in Adelaide, £10 14s. I have with me a booklet entitled, "Facts and Figures, No. 53," which states—

Thus, on a comparison with the list price of fuel oil, it was twice the cost of small coal in Sydney, and 50 per cent. higher than the delivered cost of New South Wales coal in Melbourne and Adelaide. However, the list price of fuel oil differs, sometimes appreciably, from the price that may be charged under competitive conditions. Rebates of varying amounts are usually granted to purchasers of substantial quantities, and special prices for both coal and oil apply to large public utilities.

It might be all right for the people at Kwinana to sell oil in Adelaide at £2 per ton cheaper than it can be sold in Perth, to meet business competition, but it is not fair to our people when we realise the great effort and sacrifices that were made, because £2,500,000 per annum of loan money from this State went towards the establishment of Kwinana. I will not

forget the agreement that was drawn up by the McLarty-Watts Government. This State was deprived of £10,000,000 to £12,000,000—money which could have been used for the building of schools, hospitals and so on.

The least the people at Kwinana could have done was to say to the people of this State, "You helped us to establish ourselves in this State, and we will give you the benefit of the oil refined in this State and give it to you at a price equivalent to that charged to other States." Instead of that, people here are charged £2 per ton more than the price in Adelaide. Yet members opposite squealed about the unfair trading legislation.

Mr. Roberts: Not squealed—objected.

Mr. MAY: If there is unfair trading, why should it not be revealed? If any concern in this State knows that it is dealing fairly and squarely with the people, it has nothing to fear under the Act which was passed last year, and which I hope will be continued this year. All the squealing that went on was just so much humbug.

Hon. D. Brand: That applies to the unionists under the industrial legislation.

Mr. MAY: I know the hon. member will draw his red herrings across the trail. I am not interested in red herrings; I am giving members the facts.

Hon. D. Brand: There is very little difference at times.

Mr. Roberts: You want to watch out, or Mr. Hepplewaite will write to you again.

Mr. MAY: We always expect some inane remark from the member for Bunbury.

The Minister for Transport: And we always get it.

Mr. Roberts: You were talking about unfair trading and you had a lot to say about Mr. Hepplewaite last year.

Mr. MAY: What I said about him was quite true.

Mr. Hearman: No.

Mr. Roberts: Read his reply.

Mr. MAY: It is in Hansard if the hon. member wants to read it.

Mr. Roberts: No; I am talking of his reply.

Mr. MAY: Yes; I am talking of his reply too.

Mr. Hearman: Not all of it.

Mr. MAY: I do not think Hansard would print what I have to say about him; but what I said was perfectly true.

Mr. Roberts: In your opinion.

Mr. MAY: The speech made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was sent to Mr. Hepplewaite for publication throughout Australia. It was an effort to raise public opinion against the legislation whilst it was going through Parliament.

Mr. Roberts: Have you proof of that?

Mr. MAY: Of course I have! One has only to study what he sent back. It was almost a replica of what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said.

Mr. Hearman: That is not true.

Mr. Johnson: They read the same fairy stories.

Hon. D. Brand: They do not bother to read what you have to say.

Mr. MAY: The Leader of the Opposition is carrying on a private conversation with the member for Leederville. But there is no reason for anybody to fear the unfair trading legislation unless he is dealing unfairly with the public. The intention of the Act was to see that the public got a fair deal and fair value for the money they paid for an article. Any trader in this State, including the member for Bunbury, has nothing to fear if he is trading fairly.

Mr. Roberts: I have nothing to fear.

Mr. MAY: Now, tear into that one!

Mr. Roberts: I have nothing to fear, but I would like to hear the definition of the word "unfair".

Mr. MAY: The member for Bunbury is feeling very shaky indeed. However, no one desires to continue in that strain. I was giving a rough resumé of the situation regarding the coal industry in this State at the time those members rudely interrupted me. It is very difficult at times not to respond to some of the interjections they make. As a matter of fact, I think they enjoy making them and hearing my replies, as you do yourself, Mr. Speaker.

The present Government is to be complimented on the way it has handled the developments in the coalmining industry, because they could have presented a very serious situation in this State. In the last year or two, many people who have had the opportunities presented to them have left the industry to take up other positions, but the Government has now given the residents of Collie and those engaged in the industry a new feeling of security.

In conclusion, I would say that the Government also has the situation in hand so far as a ruling price for coal is concerned, and in the near future it will announce the result of the negotiations that have been proceeding on this question. As I said earlier in the evening, I did not intend to speak on coal tonight, but I felt that I should do so after hearing the remarks made by the Minister for Industrial Development in regard to the establishment of new industries in this State, particularly those that are bound up with the development of the coalmining industry.

Question put and passed; the Address adopted.

BILL—LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 1).

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (Hon. E. Nulsen—Eyre) [9.13] in moving the second reading said: This is just a small Bill; and it is a very agreeable measure, because by means of it we are going to try to assist the office of the Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitor in a sense by placing it on the same basis as the office of the State Crown Solicitor in regard to articulated clerks.

The Bill has been prepared as the result of a request from Commonwealth authorities and relates to the office of the Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitor in this State. The proposed amendment concerns that part in the principal Act which deals with articulated clerks. Under the Act, the State Crown Solicitor is enabled to enter into articles of clerkship with members of his staff, but the Commonwealth counterpart in this State is unable to do so. The Commonwealth office has experienced some difficulty on this account, inasmuch as it has had some adverse effect on the recruitment of staff.

The Prime Minister's Department wrote to the Premier saying it would be appreciated if the State Government would agree to an amendment to place the Deputy Crown Solicitor for the Commonwealth in at least the same position as the State Crown Solicitor. This amendment, however, would not remove all the difficulties, from the Commonwealth's point of view. The section in the Act goes on to say that a practitioner must have been admitted to the Supreme Court of the State for two years at least before entering into articles.

Although it is customary for each Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitor to seek admission to practise in the State of his appointment, even though he has previously been admitted to practice in another State, a successor in office appointed from another State could not grant articles until after he had been admitted to practice in Western Australia for at least two years. As there is a six months' residential qualification before admission, there would be a period of at least 2½ years after appointment during which existing articles could not be assigned and new articles could not be entered into.

I am informed that it is virtually impossible for a person to be appointed as Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitor without having been admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of one of the States or in the High Court of Australia for at least two years prior to his appointment. The Solicitor General discussed the matter with the President of the Law Society and a Queen's Counsel, who often acts as chairman of the Barristers' Board, and it was felt that approval could be given to these requests. Members will realise that the

Bill merely seeks to assist the office of the Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitor, and I do not see any reason why we should not agree to it and put the Commonwealth office on exactly the same basis as the office of the State Crown Solicitor. Therefore, I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. A. F. WATTS (Stirling) [9.18]: I propose to have a few words to say on the second reading of the Bill, and I am going to suggest to the Minister that he does not take it into the Committee stage tonight. I agree with all the Minister has said. As a result of the Minister's condescension, I was aware of the contents of the Bill two or three days ago; and in general, it is quite unobjectionable.

In Western Australia, in addition to the ordinary practitioner who takes articulated clerks, there has been a special provision in the Act which enables the Crown Solicitor in this State to take articulated clerks presumably to the ultimate benefit of the Crown Law office, or at least to some extent. Within the limits to which it has been practised, that scheme has worked quite well.

In more recent times, of course, the Commonwealth has imported into Western Australia a Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitor, and that officer has been functioning here, through the medium of various people, from time to time over quite a period of years. However, he has not been in the same position as his counterpart in the State Crown Law office. He has not been able to take into his office, for the purpose of assisting—and at the same time fulfilling the provisions of the Legal Practitioners Act—articulated clerks; and he should be in a position to do that. It seems to me to be a perfectly reasonable proposition that the Commonwealth should be in the same position as is the Crown Law Department under Western Australia law, a position in which the department has been for many years.

I have no objection to the principle contained in the Bill; but nobody can be articulated to a practitioner who has not been in practice under Western Australian law for at least two years. I think there is a very sound reason for that. It is all very well to have passed the examinations that have been set, and which have to be passed, whether, through the university or by some other means; but if one has not been in actual practice after having passed those examinations, in my view one is not in a position satisfactorily to take an articulated clerk and to help him in his training in the law, because the training he requires, particularly in these days, is on the practical side and not on what I might call the academic side. I do not think we should depart from that.

While it may be assumed that the Deputy Crown Solicitor sent over here from time to time by the Commonwealth has probably had to do a considerable amount of practice before he came here—otherwise he would not be appointed to the position—there is no guarantee of it; and I think it should be insisted upon.

I would like to provide for an amendment to say that the Deputy Crown Solicitor in question, before he took an articulated clerk in Western Australia had had at least two years' practice. I think it is a very proper amendment to go into the Bill. As I have already said, I think there are sound reasons for adhering to that principle; and I would ask the Minister to allow the Committee stage of the Bill to be dealt with later—say, after this week—so that a suitable amendment can be provided for this purpose. I support the second reading.

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (Hon. E. Nulsen—Eyre—in reply) [9.25]: I have no objection to the proposed amendment. I have made inquiries concerning the position, and it is true that a person could qualify academically by means of examination and yet have had no practice. On the other hand, this matter of practice has, I think, been discussed by the Crown Solicitor, and also by the Barristers' Board; and on no occasion have they found that a Deputy Crown Solicitor has not had at least five, six, seven or possibly 15 years of practice before he gets to that position. So there is not much fear from the point of view of his having a lack of practice.

On the other hand, it is possible that a solicitor could be appointed even although he has not had the necessary two years practice. I agree with the Leader of the Country Party that he would not be qualified unless he had had practical experience. One may learn all there is to know about the theory of cricket, or some other game, but unless one has had practice, one is not likely to be a great success. I think the same thing applies in the case of legal practitioners. However, as I have said, I have no objection to the proposed amendment.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

BILLS (23)—FIRST READING.

- 1, State Transport Co-ordination Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Minister for Transport.

- 2, Agriculture Protection Board Act Amendment.

- 3, Bees Act Amendment.

- 4, Bee Industry Compensation Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Premier (for the Minister for Agriculture).

- 5, Dairy Cattle Improvement Act Repeal.

Introduced by the Minister for Agriculture.

6, Fremantle Prison Site Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Premier (for the Minister for Lands).

7, Occupational Therapists.

8, Health Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Minister for Health.

9, Stipendiary Magistrates.

10, Justices Act Amendment.

11, Local Courts Act Amendment.

12, Licensing Act Amendment.

13, Companies Act Amendment.

14, Land Agents.

15, Bills of Sale Act Amendment.

16, Electoral Act Amendment.

17, Juries.

Introduced by the Minister for Justice.

18, Agent General Act Amendment.

19, Public Service.

Introduced by the Premier.

20, Bank Holidays Act Amendment.

21, Hire Purchase Agreements.

22, Credit-Sales Agreements.

Introduced by Mr. Johnson.

23, Traffic Act Amendment.

Introduced by Mr. Hearman.

House adjourned at 9.45 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, 25th July, 1957.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.

PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

Dismissal of Principal Warder Thorne.

Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH asked the Chief Secretary:

Will he table a Crown Law opinion on the following matters:—

- (1) Was it required by law that Louis Thorne should be dismissed as principal Warder at Fremantle Gaol because of his refusal, on account of his conscientious beliefs, to continue membership of the Western Australian Gaol Officers' Union of Workers, Fremantle, in view of the provisions of Clause 19 of the Gaol Officers' Agreement, 1955, which only requires a worker to apply for membership in the union but not to continue such membership?
- (2) If the dismissal was not required by law—
 - (a) could Thorne claim reinstatement in his former position?
 - (b) could the Court of Arbitration order his reinstatement?
- (3) If the answer to No. (2) (a) is "Yes," to what wages compensation or damages is Thorne entitled and who is liable to pay them?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

I am tabling a copy of an opinion obtained from the Solicitor General.

EDUCATION.

Improvement of North Kalgoorlie Schoolgrounds.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Has a decision been reached on improvements to the grounds of the North Kalgoorlie school?
- (2) If not, when will a decision be made?
- (3) If a decision has been made, will he state details of the work proposed to be done?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) No. Strong representations in this connection have been made by the parliamentary representatives concerned, and they will be advised immediately any decision is made.

(2) As soon as possible.

(3) See No. (1).