

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 27th October, 1960

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

KALGOORLIE-BOULDER HOUSING

Inquiry into Demand for Purchase and Rental Homes

1. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:
 - (1) Has the State Housing Commission made a recent survey as to housing needs in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area?
 - (2) If not, will he receive an assurance that there is a great demand and need for purchase and rental homes in the above area, and instigate an on-the-spot inquiry by a commission officer?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) There are no current applications for State Housing Commission houses in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area. An investigation will be made.
2. *This question was postponed.*

SLEEPERS FOR RAILWAYS

DEPARTMENT

Tabling of Papers

3. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Railways:

Will he lay upon the Table of the House all papers dealing with the recent decision made in connection with the letting of contracts for the supply of sleepers to the Railways Department?

Mr. COURT replied:

No, as it is not the Tender Board policy for details of tenders other than the successful one to be made public. I am quite prepared to make the file available to the Leader of the Opposition for his personal perusal.

CARNARVON PRIMARY SCHOOL*Preparations for Erection*

4. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have any steps been taken by the Public Works Department to have the site for the new primary school at Carnarvon levelled and clayed? If not, when will this be done?
- (2) Will it be necessary to shift the water supply main to the town water reservoir before the ground can be levelled and the new school built?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No. This work will be included in the contract for the construction of the building, tenders for which will be called at the end of January, 1961.
- (2) No.

5 *This question was postponed.*

ALL-WEATHER ARTERIAL ROAD*Formation in Great Southern Area*

6. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) When is it expected that the arterial road running north from the Gnowangerup-Ongerup Road to the Katanning-Pingrup Road, will be completed as an all-weather road?
- (2) How many miles—
 - (a) have been formed;
 - (b) remain to be formed?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Early in 1963.
- (2) (a) 14 miles have been substantially formed.
- (b) 17 miles.

SILICOSIS*Date of Committee's Recommendations*

7. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Labour:

Further to the silicosis disability report under the Workers' Compensation Act, would he state on what date he was informed verbally of the committee's recommendations?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

Probably about last May; but as no record is kept of routine discussions between the Minister and the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board I cannot be more specific than this.

8. *This question was postponed.*

NAVIGATION LIGHTS*Fremantle to Shark Bay*

9. Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) How many lights on the coast between Fremantle and Shark Bay that could be used by the crew of boats for navigation are—
 - (a) controlled by the State Harbour and Light Department;
 - (b) controlled by the Commonwealth lighthouse service?
- (2) Is it considered that there are sufficient lights to guide small craft sailing between—
 - (a) Fremantle and Moore River;
 - (b) Moore River and Geraldton;
 - (c) Geraldton and Murchison River;
 - (d) Murchison River and Shark Bay?
- (3) Is it the intention of the Harbour and Light Department to install extra lights in the areas listed in No. (2) in view of recent tragedies and near tragedies in these areas?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) (a) Nil, if aids to navigation into ports and harbours are not included. [See also answer to No. (3).]
- (b) Four—comprising Jurien Bay, Point Moore (Geraldton), Shoal Point (North of Carnarvon), Cape Inscription (Dirk Hartog Island), with one more being established near the South Passage entrance to Shark Bay.
- (2) (a) to (d) No.
- (3) The State Government (Harbour and Light Department) is responsible for aids to navigation within ports and harbours, and it is the responsibility of the Commonwealth lighthouse service to provide navigational lights outside ports for coastal navigation.

Although it is not State Government responsibility, the provision of navigation lights on the Abrolhos Islands is under consideration.

EAST KIMBERLEY LEASES*Resumption from Absentee Landholders*

10. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has he yet made a decision to resume the land under lease to absentee holders in the East Kimberleys, and now being treated for soil erosion by Government officers?

Responsibility for Fencing and Re-grassing

- (2) Who will be responsible for the expenses, including fencing, in the effort to re-grass this valuable pastoral land?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) and (2) No decision has yet been reached.

OPEN-CUT MINING

Regulation of Operations

11. Mr. BURT asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

In view of increasing tonnages of mineral ores, other than gold or coal, produced in this State by the open-cut method of mining, does the department intend to introduce special regulations to cover mining operations in open-cuts?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

No. The operation of open-cut mining is considered to be satisfactorily covered by the present Mines Regulation Act. The Minister for Mines is prepared to consider any suggestions the honourable member may care to put forward.

WATER METERS: NEW INSTALLATIONS

Interest and Sinking Fund Payments

12. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the amount of interest and sinking fund payments which will have to be met out of revenue this financial year in connection with the loan expenditure involved in the installation of 5,385 meters?
- (2) Was this expenditure taken into consideration when the revenue estimates were prepared for presentation to Parliament?

Effect on Departmental Finances

- (3) Is it expected that because of interest and sinking fund payments to be made with respect to the installation of 5,385 meters the department will run into deficit this financial year?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Estimated £900.
(2) Yes.
(3) No.

CANNING RIVER DAMMING

Effect on Residents in Kent Street Weir Area

13. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Did he see in the *South-of-the-River Supplement of The West Australian* of the 19th October, 1960, the article headed "Board wants to Dam River in Summer"?
- (2) In view of his answer to part (3) of my question (No. 6 of Wednesday, the 28th September, 1960) would he further investigate this matter of the damming of the Canning River?
- (3) Would he give an assurance that those persons paying for water rights near the Kent Street weir will not be deprived of supply as was the case last summer?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The reinstallation of small checks, which were constructed with approval in the bed of the Canning River last summer, will again be considered in the light of prevailing circumstances this summer.
- (3) It is extremely doubtful that the settlers in question were deprived of natural supply last summer. If there is a shortage of natural supply for the settlers in question this summer, they will receive consideration if it is possible to release water from hills storages.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Warning Lights in Guildford-Midland Electorate

- 14A. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What are the requirements of the department to ensure the placing of warning lights at pedestrian crossings?
- (2) How many warning lights are in the Guildford-Midland electorate at pedestrian crossings?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) The Main Roads Department has no formal warrant for the placing of flashing warning lights at pedestrian crossings. The sole situation in which they have been placed at a pedestrian crossing is at the Hurlingham Hotel on Canning Highway, where, because of the road gradients, it is difficult to see the zebra markings; and it was considered, therefore, that an additional warning was desirable. Having regard to the more recent painting of zigzag warnings on the roadway at the Hurlingham Hotel,

it is doubtful whether the flashing lights have important value any more.

(2) None.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Number Between Guildford and Midland Junction

14B. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Transport:

Is he satisfied that accidents should continue at the present rate between Guildford and Midland Junction?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

No.

15. *This question was postponed.*

ALBANY STOCKYARDS

Modifications

16. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) In which year were stockyards erected by the W.A.G.R. adjacent to the goods sheds assembling yards at Albany?
- (2) Have there been any modifications to the stockyards since their erection?
- (3) If so, what were the modifications and when were they made?
- (4) Are watering facilities available in all stockpens, and does he consider them adequate to meet the demand?

Stock Handled from 1955 to 1960

- (5) Can he give the figures of all stock handled through the stockyards, and spur line adjacent to the stockyards, for the years 1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59, and 1959-60?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Stockyards were in existence at this site prior to 1911.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) In 1926 the yards were rebuilt and additional pens provided together with fixed race and water supply. In 1945 a cattle, pig, and lamb race was provided; and in 1958 a double-deck sheep and cattle race for handling to and from road transport vehicles was built.
- (4) Water services in these yards are in all stockpens and were put in order some two months ago. They are considered adequate for the amount of stock handled through the yards.
- (5) In addition to these yards there are other stockyards facilities at Albany but independent records

are not kept. However, the figures concerning all livestock forwarded from Albany as published in the annual report are as follows:—

Year ended 30th June	Horses	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
1956	17	61	1	677
1957	19	8	2	6,018
1958	16	77	39	2,420
1959	5	70	42	4,638
1960	11	9	70	68	3,255

The figures regarding livestock received at Albany are not readily available, but these can be extracted if desired.

17. *This question was postponed.*

FERRY TO SOUTH PERTH

Financial Position and Future Service

18. Mr. HEAL asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What has been the profit or loss on the ferry service between Barrack Street and Mends Street for the years 1957-58, 1958-59, and 1959-60?
- (2) Is it the intention of the M.T.T. to continue this service at the present schedule? If not, will the services be increased or decreased?
- (3) When the Key West project is completed, is there any possibility of any new services coming into operation?
- (4) Does the M.T.T. use the ferries for charter or tourist trips? If so, will the trust give consideration to increased advertising of these facilities with a view to increasing such services?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) 1957-58—£3,719 loss.
1958-59—£2,945 loss.
1959-60—£3,536 loss.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Any answer to this question at the present time would be pure conjecture.
- (4) Use of ferries in charter work is being closely examined by the M.T.T. and increased advertising of these facilities is not justified before this investigation is completed.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

WHEAT

Road Transport

1. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Transport:

In what year and under what contract or arrangements with Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. did the Government or the Transport Board accept responsibility for arranging the road transport of wheat?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for giving me a little time to obtain the answer to this question. The answer is as follows:—

No contractual arrangement has been made by the Government or the Transport Board with Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. regarding the transport of wheat. The first occasion on which the Transport Board arranged transport of wheat was in the 1935-36 season for the transport of wheat from Ravensthorpe to Hopetoun. This was in replacement of the rail service which had previously operated for a short period each year, and was subsequently discontinued permanently.

After the withdrawal of the State Shipping Service to Hopetoun at the end of February, 1938, grain has since been transported to Newdegate. For the 1938-39 season the Transport Board arranged wheat transport in the Lakes District resulting in a considerable reduction in the amount of subsidy which the Government had previously been paying when each individual farmer arranged his own transport.

Subsequently, the Transport Board has arranged wheat carting wherever required, but it is not bound by contract in any way by Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd.

STOCK AT ALBANY

Spur Line for Handling

2. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

Would he give consideration to the introduction of the spur line at Albany for the inward and outward handling of stock, as the advent of semi-trailers has created traffic congestion in the yards where they are now situated, thus causing hold-ups by the semi-trailers, both directly and indirectly? If he could give this matter consideration it would help to expedite the transport of stock at Albany.

Mr. COURT replied:

I will have the matter examined by the commissioner and his staff.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Protection for Children

3. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Transport:

As his replies to my questions of yesterday and today indicate that over 183 accidents have occurred on the Great Eastern Highway; that there are no pedestrian warning lights at any of the pedestrian crossings along the highway; and that he is not satisfied that the present accident rate should continue, could he give early consideration to some special provision being made at those pedestrian crossings which are used by children to go to school?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

If the member for Guildford-Midland or any other member would care to supply me with some details relating to such crossings, I would be only too pleased to have the matter examined.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2), £21,500,000

Standing Orders Suspension

On motion by Mr. Brand (Treasurer), resolved:

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees, and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day.

Message: Appropriation

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Committee of Supply

The House resolved into Committee of Supply, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [2.30]: I move—

That there be granted to Her Majesty on account of the services for the year ending the 30th June, 1961, a sum not exceeding £21,500,000.

MR. HAWKE (Northam) [2.31]: I have no desire to hold up the granting of this supply amounting in all to £21,500,000. However, I had hoped the Treasurer would give a lead to this House as to what might be done with the money. I hope he will do that later on.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): I suggest the Treasurer do that in the Committee of Ways and Means stage.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

In Committee of Ways and Means

The House resolved into Committee of Ways and Means, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [2.32]: I move—

That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the services of the year ending the 30th June, 1961, a sum not exceeding £17,000,000 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and £4,500,000 from the General Loan Fund.

This is the second Supply Bill for the year. Its passage will enable the Treasury to obtain the approval of Parliament to draw such moneys as are necessary to carry on the finances of the State until the Annual Estimates and the Loan Estimates are approved by Parliament.

A sum of £23,500,000 has already been granted for this financial year. It is made up as follows:—

Consolidated Revenue Fund	£17,000,000
General Loan Fund	4,500,000
Advance to Treasurer	2,000,000

For the three months ended the 30th September, 1960, expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund amounted to £16,703,287; and from the General Loan Fund, £3,021,321. The revenue collected during those three months amounted to £14,252,857, leaving a deficit in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of £2,450,430. The Government is now moving for this further Supply to enable the services of the State to be carried on until the Annual Estimates have been approved.

During the debate on the Supply Bill, the opportunity is generally taken by members to say a word or two on all sorts of matters. As we have the Annual Estimates before us, and as the Loan Estimates are still to be introduced, I suggest to members that they will have ample opportunity to raise points of parochial or State-wide interest in those debates. I hope this Supply Bill will not be held up to any extent.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

First Reading

In accordance with the foregoing resolution, Bill introduced and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [2.38]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I have already made, during the Committee of Ways and Means stage, whatever comments I intended to make.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

Third Reading

On motion by Mr. Brand (Treasurer), Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1960-1961*Message: Appropriation*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending that appropriations be made in accordance with the estimates of expenditure from the General Loan Fund for the year ending the 30th June, 1961.

In Committee

The House resolved into Committee to consider the Loan Estimates, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair.

Vote—Railways, £2,538,000:

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [2.43]: For this current year of 1960-61 the Commonwealth Government has agreed to support a total borrowing programme of £230,000,000 in comparison with £220,000,000 for 1959-60. It is of interest to note that in 1951-52 the approved borrowing programme was £225,000,000 and that for the first time in the intervening period of nine years the programme will exceed that figure. This is an illustration of the difficulties which have faced all States in financing their capital works programmes during a period of rising costs and growing demand for Government services.

It is no small wonder that successive Governments have experienced difficulty in coping with demands for the various services which it is expected to provide, and this state of affairs will continue until a substantial addition to the borrowing programme is forthcoming in the years which lie ahead. As I see the position our greatest problem will be to find the necessary capital for future development, and in this respect it is most unlikely that we will be able to obtain a greater share than at present of the total borrowing programme approved by the Loan Council with Commonwealth support. We can increase our share only at the expense of other States; and as each of them faces problems similar to our own, members can well understand their reluctance to agree to any reduction in their own percentage allocations.

One way that we can help ourselves is to keep down deficit funding operations which eat into our loan funds, and we must therefore pay due regard to the level of taxation and charges in the non-claimant States and also to the level of services in those States.

I do not propose to dwell on this subject, as I drew attention to recent deficit funding operations when presenting the revenue Budget for this year, and I am sure members fully appreciate the need to limit these operations in order to conserve our loan funds for capital purposes. Western Australia's share of the approved borrowing programme for this current year is £21,640,000, of which an amount of £3,000,000 has been allocated for Commonwealth-State housing projects. The balance of £18,640,000, together with £1,596,000 expected from loan repayments, will enable the programme of works contained in the Estimates to be carried out, and I will now proceed to give some details of this programme.

Railways

The amount expended from loan funds by the Railways Department during 1959-60 totalled £3,250,000. This expenditure was applied to the continuation and completion of works in progress and new works classified under the following broad headings:—

	£
Additions and improvements to opened railways	2,352,000
Rollingstock construction	752,000
Welshpool marshalling yard—land resumption	78,000
North Fremantle—interchange sidings	51,000
North Fremantle—new river bridge	17,000

The main items of the programme disbursement of the allocation of £2,538,000 for railway capital requirements during the current financial year is as follows:—

	£
Additions and improvements to opened railways—	
Relaying and ballasting	611,000
Renewal of track components, rails, sleepers, bridges, and culverts	743,000
Communications, signalling, and south-western railway centralised traffic control	105,000
Depot buildings and works	75,000
Water services, stockyards, weighbridges, and cranes	111,000
Per way machines, equipment and plant	41,000
Station yards and sidings	54,000
Station and administration buildings	78,000
Midland Junction Workshops—	
Rehabilitation of obsolete and depreciated equipment	60,000
Machinery and plant	49,000
Mechanical, civil engineering, and road services—	
Machinery and plant	193,000

	£
Rolling stock—	
Improvements to rolling stock	44,000
New locomotives	32,000
New wagon stock and refrigerated vans	74,000
New railways—	
Welshpool marshalling yards and connecting railway land resumption	68,000
North Fremantle—interchange sidings for harbour and wheat silo traffic	50,000
North Fremantle—new river bridge	85,000

These figures could give the impression that a decrease has been made in the amount available for capital purposes in the current year; but this is not so, as there is a substantial sum available for works in the rolling-stock replacement fund. Compared with last year's expenditure of £3,387,000 from both the Loan Fund and the rolling-stock replacement fund, the amount available to the department in the current year from both funds is £3,690,000.

The programme covering the proposed loan expenditure consists of projects which will provide the greatest advantage to railway economy by means of essential replacement of fully depreciated, obsolete, and worn-out assets and the introduction of improvements and additions to facilities to allow for more efficient and economical handling of traffic.

The proposed expenditure on permanent way structural and component renewals is the minimum requirement to maintain the track in a safe condition under normal speeds and loading. The nature and volume of this work are such that demands in future years will continue to absorb a substantial portion of the railway loan allocation.

These inescapable commitments necessarily restrict the amount of funds available which can be channelled towards increasing railway revenue earning potential. Nevertheless provision has been made for the acquisition of some modern handling equipment and the rearrangement of existing facilities where the need is greatest.

Provision is being made for equipment which will allow more efficient and expeditious handling of freight; that is to say, it will enable the Railways Department to give better and more acceptable service to individuals, to industry, to agriculture, and indeed to the whole State in the transport field.

Tramways and Ferries

Although the tramways and ferries undertakings have been absorbed by the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport

Trust, there remain certain liabilities which have to be met. One of these is the completion of the removal of old tramway tracks and the consequent restoration of the road surfaces. It is expected this work will be finished this year, and a provision of £20,000 has been made to meet the cost involved.

State Electricity Commission

The amount expended from the General Loan Fund during the year ended the 30th June, 1960, by the commission was £776,000. Of this sum £71,000 was expended on the change of frequency in the metropolitan area, and £705,000 on generation and distribution works. In addition to the amount drawn by the commission from the General Loan Fund, new funds obtained by means of subscribed loans totalled £960,000. During the year a loan of £800,000 fell due and was converted.

The major expenditure during the year ended the 30th June, 1960, was on the installation of generating plant at the Bunbury Power Station, where the third of the four 30,000 KW turbo alternators came into operation.

Throughout the metropolitan area the commission continued the erection of high and low tension mains.

Gas services were extended and improved throughout the suburbs, and included the completion of the high pressure main to the Subiaco-Nedlands area.

Throughout the country areas, the commission continued its policy of extending transmission lines and electricity services. The transmission line between Collie and Wagin was completed and the electricity undertaking at Wagin was taken over.

Anticipated expenditure for 1960-61 is £3,378,000, of which £500,000 will be provided from the General Loan Fund, £1,450,000 from subscribed loans, and £1,428,000 from the commission's own resources. Expenditure of £1,186,000 will be required to continue work on the Bunbury Power Station, the greater part of which will represent payments to contractors. The fourth and final unit at this station will be commissioned during the winter of 1961. It is proposed to call tenders for a new station to be erected on the Collie coalfield.

The erection of high and low tension mains is continuing in the metropolitan area, together with the construction of additional substation buildings with associated transformers and switchgear. Normal gas extensions in the suburbs will be made.

In the country areas, the commission will continue to erect transmission lines and in the Great Southern area, the Katanning electricity undertaking will be acquired. Normal high and low tension services will be extended to domestic, industrial, and

rural consumers throughout the south-west and other country areas. The frequency change in the metropolitan area has now been completed.

Albany Harbour Works

The Engineering Division of the Public Works Department spent £2,158,000 in 1959-60 compared with a provision of £2,161,000 for this year. In 1959-60 a sum of £29,000 was spent on Albany Harbour works for the removal of rock patches and a further development of the No. 2 berth. A provision of £86,000 has been made in this year's programme, almost all of which will be spent on work associated with the transit shed and further rock dredging. It is anticipated that both the Transit Shed and the rock removal will be completed by about the middle of the 1961-62 financial year. This work will improve the harbour facilities at the port.

Bunbury Harbour Works.

A sum of £77,000 was spent in 1959-60 on the Bunbury Harbour works. The expenditure was mainly on renewals of the existing jetty structure and developmental dredging. This developmental dredging work provided a depth of water of 30 feet at the outer east and west berths, allowing use by vessels of 28 feet draft.

Provision of £182,000 has been made on this year's programme. The major item will be work on the breakwater as part of a three-year plan to complete it and extend the existing groyne with the object of eliminating, or substantially reducing, the movement of sand around the breakwater into the harbour, thereby reducing the very expensive annual maintenance dredging. Further developmental dredging and jetty renewals will be continued.

Country Areas and Town Water Supplies

On country areas and town water supplies, an amount of £1,344,000 was expended in 1959-60. A provision of £1,308,000 has been made for the current year. Included in this amount is a sum of £500,000 for further expenditure on the comprehensive water supply scheme. Although it is not possible to complete the current scheme this financial year, it is expected that it will be finally finished in time for water to be available throughout the whole area of the scheme during the summer of 1961-62.

The current scheme is divided into two parts—a northern section and a southern section. The expenditure for 1960-61 will be largely devoted to the northern section, which is fed from Mundaring Weir. It provides water for country towns and farmlands in the north-eastern agricultural area, and embraces approximately 4,000,000 acres.

The major items of expenditure for this year include additional pumping units at Mundaring and Cunderdin; completion of mains at Koorda, Yelbeni, Kokardine, and

South Doodlakine; reconditioning existing pipe systems and farmland reticulation at South Merredin, North Kellerberrin, North Booran, North Cunderdin, and South Doodlakine.

In addition it is planned to spend £452,000 on improvements to the goldfields water supply system. This provision covers enlargement and renovations to the main conduit, improvements and extensions in towns and expenditure in the Kalgoorlie district and on the Corrigin and Norseman town water supplies.

A sum of £356,000 has been provided for expenditure on various town water supplies. In all it is expected that 34 towns will benefit from this expenditure.

In 27 cases, the towns have existing schemes where extension is necessary to meet increasing demands. In some cases substantial sums are provided for towns such as Geraldton and Albany.

In the towns of Denmark and Port Denison, construction currently in progress is expected to be completed and schemes for Nannup and Greenbushes are to be commenced. Three minor schemes at Wubin, Borden and Ravensthorpe are likely to be completed this financial year.

Drainage and Irrigation

In 1959-60, a sum of £446,000 was spent on drainage and irrigation. This included £298,000 for the completion of the major construction work of raising the wall of the Wellington Dam—this work was officially opened just recently. An amount of £87,000 was spent on the enlargement of the Collie main channel, which, in conjunction with the completion of the dam, makes the Collie irrigation area safe from water shortage for many years.

This year £297,000 has been provided to cover further expenditure on the Collie main channel. It also includes an anticipated expenditure of £110,000 on the Logue Brook Dam. Last year £7,000 was spent on preliminary work prior to the construction of this new dam. It is necessary in order to supplement the existing supply to the Harvey irrigation area where restrictions have been unavoidable.

Harbours

It is proposed to spend £57,000 on the Geraldton Harbour works in 1960-61. A sum of £47,000 is for the fishing boat harbour and an amount of £10,000 for the diversion of an oil main. Some £8,000 is provided to investigate the ocean bed in the Esperance Harbour area near Dempster Head in order to ascertain the type of material which would be encountered at a depth of 32 feet. This work is necessary to prove the suitability of the location for a deep-water port. Provision has also been made to cover a programme of harbour improvements at Busselton.

It is proposed to undertake this year improvements to the Fremantle fishing boat harbour, the ocean foreshore at Cottesloe and Fremantle, and Swan River reclamation at South Perth. The further development of the fishing boat harbour will be of great assistance to fishermen and the industry as a whole.

Sewerage in Country Areas

The extension of sewerage in country towns is to continue, and expenditure of £90,000 for this purpose is proposed in 1960-61. The major portion of the allocation will be spent in Albany, Bunbury, Merredin, and Narrogin.

Public Works Department Programme

Under the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department the amounts provided for land, buildings, furniture, and equipment have been subdivided under separate items for schools, hospitals, police, native welfare, and other public buildings. In 1959-60 a total sum of £3,767,000 was spent on these works and it is proposed to allocate £4,405,000 in 1960-61.

A large programme of hospital, school, and other works was completed in 1959-60, and a further large programme of works is under construction. Major works under construction include new primary and junior high schools and additions to the Northam, Collie, Albany, Busselton, and Katanning High Schools, the Perth Modern School, and the new automotive trades school. Additions are also proposed to the Leederville Technical School, the dormitory block at the Narrogin Agricultural High School, and a number of primary and secondary schools.

Major hospital works under construction include the new regional hospital at Albany, extensive additions to Fremantle, King Edward Memorial, and Narrogin Hospitals, a new hospital at Osborne Park, a new building to house the linear accelerator, new X-ray laboratories, a new kitchen block at the Claremont Mental Hospital, and additions and improvements to country hospitals.

A further large programme of school works is to be undertaken during the present financial year including new high schools at Melville, Swanbourne, and Embleton. Additions are also to be made to Kalamunda, Hollywood, Belmont, Applecross, Bunbury, Bentley, Mt. Lawley, Scarborough, and Geraldton High Schools.

New hospital works to be commenced include new nurses' quarters for the Royal Perth Hospital, additions to the Perth Dental Hospital and the Government School of Nursing. Other work programmed embraces nurses' quarters and workshops at the Fremantle Hospital, nurses' quarters and additions to the maternity block at Kalgoorlie, and a new wing at the Swan Hospital.

It is expected that a commencement will be made with preliminary work for the first section of the new police headquarters and police courts at East Perth, whilst new police stations and quarters are to be erected at Kalamunda, Cannington, Hilton Park, Leederville, Merredin, and Corrigin. A new courthouse and police station is scheduled for Northampton.

Other works to be undertaken include the first section of a new Government Stores building at Wembley, and additions to the Kalgoorlie School of Mines and the remand home for the Child Welfare Department at Point Heathcote.

The implementation of the programme I have outlined will assist in meeting the school needs of the growing child population of the State and help to reduce the number of children per classroom.

North-West

In 1959-60, under the heading of Additions and Improvements to Jetties, Tramways and Rolling Stock, £123,000 was spent, mainly on the Port Hedland jetty and goods yard and the reconstruction of the old section of the Wyndham jetty. This latter item is one of the projects under the £5,000,000 northern development grant provided by the Commonwealth, and was approved by the Federal Treasurer on the basis of half the cost being met from the Commonwealth grant and half from State funds.

This year it is proposed to spend £166,000 on additions and improvements to north-west jetties. Major items include work on the Point Samson jetty and yard, Carnarvon flood protection, purchase of locomotives, a jetty fender at Onslow and the continuation of the work on the Wyndham jetty. These works are all essential to meet existing requirements in the north.

Irrigation works in the north-west cost £246,000 in 1959-60. This year it is proposed to spend £563,000 under this heading. Such a large increase only goes to indicate what terrific expenditure is involved in irrigation, particularly at places with problems such as exist in the north-west. An investigation is being made into the problem associated with the Gascoyne River irrigation, and provision to cover the cost is included under this item.

In 1959-60 work was commenced on the barrage to be constructed in the Fitzroy River. Its purpose is to divert water from the Fitzroy into Uralla Creek which feeds the irrigation area at Liveringa operated by Northern Development Pty. Ltd. As has been previously explained, the Government is committed under agreement to construct works to enable the company to irrigate this area for the production of rice and other crops. A sum of £201,000 is provided this year for works associated with the control of flood waters in the irrigation

area, and work on the barrage. The programme is well in hand and work necessary before the wet season commences should be completed in time.

The major increase in expenditure on irrigation in the North-West is associated with the Ord River diversion dam project. Members will recall that under the provisions of the Western Australian Grant (Northern Development) Act of 1958-59, the Commonwealth Government is making available £5,000,000 for the purpose of promoting development of the area in this State north of the 20th parallel of south latitude. The funds are to be employed on projects approved by the Federal Treasurer. To date the following projects have been approved:—

The construction of a deep-water port at Black Rocks.

Construction of a new berth at Wyndham jetty.

Reconstruction of the old section of Wyndham jetty.

Investigations in the Napier Broome Bay area.

A diversion dam scheme on the Ord River.

The final decision on the location of the deep-water port is under consideration and in the meantime no further work is being undertaken at Black Rocks.

The work at Wyndham jetty is well advanced; and as I previously explained, the cost of the reconstruction of the old section is being shared between the Commonwealth and the State.

A party has recently carried out investigations in the Napier Broome Bay area with a view to finding a suitable site to serve the North Kimberleys.

Contracts for various sections of the work for the Ord River diversion dam scheme have been let and work is proceeding. However, under the conditions approved by the Commonwealth for the expenditure of these funds, it is stipulated that the capital cost of permanent or temporary buildings, ancillary works, and items of plant which are not an integral part of the approved projects, cannot be charged to the Commonwealth grant.

In such a scheme as the Ord River diversion dam it is necessary to provide buildings for the accommodation of Public Works and Agricultural Department staff, and for the men employed on the construction. A rental will be paid for these buildings from Commonwealth funds during the construction period, but after the works are completed the buildings will serve other necessary accommodation requirements in the area.

In addition, the townsite of Kununurra is to be established and services such as light, power, and water are required. It is proposed to expend £320,000 in 1960-61 on these essential requirements.

A provision of £12,000 has been made for surveys and diamond drilling at the main storage dam site on the Ord River. The information to be obtained is necessary as a preliminary requirement for assessing the value of this site for a storage dam approximately 30 miles upstream of the diversion dam.

The sum of £28,000 is to be expended under the heading of Electricity for Government Buildings. The expenditure will cover the towns of Onslow, Roebourne, and Halls Creek.

In 1959-60, £130,000 was expended on water supplies in the North-West. This year £153,000 has been provided. The amount is to be spent on the water supplies at Carnarvon, Wittenoom, Port Hedland, Broome, and Derby.

It is expected that expenditure on school, hospital, police, native welfare, and other north-west public buildings will require £496,000 as compared with £228,000 spent in 1959-60.

North-West building works under construction include new schools at Port Hedland and Roebourne, extensive additions to the Carnarvon Hospital, and housing for Government personnel at various centres.

New north-west works to be implemented include a new school at Carnarvon; additions to Onslow School; additions to Derby, Port Hedland and Onslow Hospitals; a new police station at Port Hedland; a new hostel for natives at Onslow; new Government offices at Carnarvon; and further housing for Government personnel at various centres.

State Shipping Service

To meet contractual commitments on vessels already in service, and the instalments on the new vessel *m.v. Kangaroo* which is under construction, £369,000 has been provided for the State Shipping Service in 1960-61.

Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department

Provision has been made in this year's Estimates for £1,505,000 to be expended on metropolitan water supply undertakings, on which actual expenditure last year was £1,609,000.

Expenditure this year on the Serpentine project will amount to £700,000, which will enable the completion of the main dam and the commencement of the duplication of the trunk main. As you know, Mr. Chairman, the problem is not always the capacity of the dam, or the supply of water for it, but often our inability to provide sufficient tubing to bring the water down to the reservoirs.

Provision of £180,000 has been made for the continuation of construction of the Victoria Park-Mt. Eliza-Bold Park main. This main, which is a link between the

Serpentine trunk main and Mt. Eliza reservoir, will at a later date serve as the main inlet for the Bold Park reservoir, and the extension to be constructed in the current year will serve the rapidly expanding residential area of Floreat Park.

An amount of £135,000 has been included to enable construction to be commenced on a new service reservoir at Bold Park. Further suburban storage is necessary for the zone served from the Mt. Eliza reservoir, which cannot be enlarged; and the reservoir at Bold Park will serve that purpose, as well as providing storage close up to the areas of Floreat Park, Wembley Downs, including the Empire Games village, and South Scarborough.

The construction of feeder mains will absorb £57,000 and the areas in which these improvements will be undertaken include Greenmount, Belmont, and South Perth. In addition £22,000 has been provided for the sinking of an artesian bore at Yokine. The provision of £194,000 has been made for the extension of reticulation mains to serve new areas for improvements to existing water mains. A further sum of £125,000 has been included for expenditure on service connections and for the purchasing, and fixing, of water meters.

Sewerage Works

A total of £727,000 has been included in these Estimates for sewerage works, compared with an expenditure of £429,000 last year. It includes £290,000 for the completion in 1961 of the activated sludge treatment plant at the Subiaco treatment works. An amount of £280,000 is provided for increasing the capacity of the existing dual effluent and storm-water pipe between Subiaco and the beach. This expenditure will complete the work of increasing the pipeline's capacity for effluent discharge as far as the beach, and also provides for the installations necessary for permanent pumping from Subiaco treatment works, and interim pumping of effluent through the new ocean outfall.

The provision of £40,000 has been made for main sewer improvements, and for minor extensions of the reticulation system. A further £60,000 is required for the construction of sewerage facilities for the Empire Games village at Wembley Downs and a residential area along the Swan River between Mosman Bay and Chidley Point. The allocation for 1960-61 also includes the sum of £20,000 for increasing the capacity of the reticulation at Mounts Bay Road, Perth.

During the year ended the 30th June, 1960, an amount of £252,000 was spent on drainage. The allocation of £138,000 in the current Estimates will enable the continuation of the construction of main drains in the Bayswater, South Belmont, and Maylands-Inglewood areas.

Mines Department

The major work contemplated this year by the Mines Department will again be exploratory drilling. The programme will include the continuance of drilling at Ellarine Hills near Port Hedland, and the drilling of the iron deposit at Wilgie Mia near Cue for the purpose of proving the extent and value of the ore bodies. In addition, the department's test drilling in connection with the Ord River Dam project, together with the present programmes of water boring, and diamond drilling for gold, will continue.

Loans will be made to promising mines requiring assistance, and the scheme of assistance to approved prospectors will be continued. It is proposed to make alterations and improvements to the State batteries at Coolgardie, Leonora, and Yarri. Electrical wiring at various State batteries is to be renewed, and the work in connection with the Bamboo Creek water supply for the State battery will be completed. For these works £210,000 has been provided for 1960-61, which is an increase of £45,000 above last year's expenditure.

State Housing Commission

The State Housing Commission completed 362 purchase homes during the year ended the 30th June, 1960, whilst a further 321 were in varying stages of construction. It is anticipated that some 500 homes will be ready for occupation, plus 150 houses under construction at the close of this financial year. The Government is continuing its policy of encouraging home ownership, and has allocated £100,000 by way of assistance under section 60A of the Act which authorises the second mortgage scheme. The cost of land acquisition, development, and loans to local authorities is estimated at £280,000.

Department of Agriculture

Loan expenditure last year amounted to £207,000 of which the main item was £124,000 spent on the new buildings at South Perth. The three main blocks and ancillary buildings are now occupied and the administration block is under construction. It is hoped this will be occupied early in the New Year.

The balance of the funds available was spent on improvements to research stations, including the development of the research station at Badgingarra, and also the completion of a new block at Muresk College.

New work commenced during the year was the preliminary development of a centre to test the utilisation of ground water at Wiluna, and the regeneration of the Ord River area; and finance was provided for Northern Developments (Ord River) Pty. Ltd.

In 1960-61 the largest expenditure will again be on the South Perth buildings, for which £128,000 is provided which will go close to completion of the project.

Ord River regeneration, the Wiluna ground water project, and payments in accordance with the agreement to Northern Developments (Ord River) Pty. Ltd. will continue and the balance of the expenditure will be required for the continuing improvement of research stations. At Muresk the kitchen and dining room will be modernised to cope with increased numbers.

Department of Industrial Development

During the year 1959-60, an amount of £395,000 was expended on the resumption of land for industrial purposes, and for assistance to establish and expand industry. The main items of expenditure were—

	£
Purchase of Welshpool factory area	160,000
Advances and capital grant Richard Klinger Pty. Ltd.	132,000
Advances—A. & G. Anson Pty. Ltd.	44,000
Advances—Pearse Bros. Pty. Limited	17,000
Advance—Irwell Corporation Pty. Ltd.	13,000

An amount of £301,000 is provided for the financial year 1960-61. Of this amount approximately £60,000 will be expended on projects commenced and commitments entered into in the previous financial year. Further industries are being attracted to Western Australia; and while capital grants are generally not envisaged, assistance by way of loans will be made to attract desirable industries to establish ahead of schedule.

Particular attention will be given to decentralisation of industry. A special section has been established within the department to deal with this problem, and officers are now working on projects which have indicated potential.

There is no need to stress the fact that secondary industry must play an important part in the future development of Western Australia. We are very confident of great development in our manufacturing industries in the next decade. Particular attention must be given to the processing and export of goods produced from our own raw materials, thus opening up further markets for primary produce with benefit to all.

Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry

During 1959-60, an amount of £133,000 was spent on the completion of the extended plant. Works planned this year, for which £44,000 has been provided, cover minor improvements to the operating plant, and equipment, together with the provision of some amenities.

Fremantle Harbour Trust

In 1959-60, the Fremantle Harbour Trust expended £620,000 on the reconstruction of the north and south quays, including new

electrical lay-out, amenities, roads, railways, etc. An amount of £700,000 has been provided this year to enable the continuation of the quay reconstruction, which includes new passenger berth facilities.

Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust

Out of the 1959-60 allocation, the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust was able to commence the erection of the Kensington Street workshop and spent on it £100,000. It also purchased new rolling stock to the extent of £150,000. This current financial year the workshop will be completed and a commencement made on rebuilding the whole of the carbarn.

The Kensington Street workshop will give the trust a modern repair organisation which will assist greatly in endeavours to reduce cost. The demolition of the carbarn and erection of administrative buildings and traffic depot will greatly increase the efficiency of the undertaking. To finance this work, £360,000 is to be provided by the Estimates, and the trust proposes to raise £75,000 under its own borrowing powers.

Midland Junction Abattoir Board

The remodelling of the abattoir and saleyards at Midland Junction was continued in 1959-60 at a cost of £70,000. This programme has been spread over the years as it has not been possible to provide a sufficiently large annual allocation to carry out the work at a greater rate. However, the stage has been reached where it is necessary to increase the rate of expenditure in order to cater for the demand at the works.

This year a sum of £120,000 has been provided to cover the completion of the mutton chillers, extensions to lairages for sheep and pigs, the installation of a new boiler, and the provision of amenities for slaughtermen. The first three items are both urgent and essential to meet the increased through-put. The last item is to relieve the present serious congestion in the main employees' amenities building.

Rural and Industries Bank

In 1959-60 a sum of £250,000 was made available to the R. & I. Bank as a part recoup of previous advances to Chamberlain Industries. This year it is proposed to provide £485,000 for the purpose of making a further recoup of £250,000 in connection with the Chamberlain Industries account, and £235,000 to cover the agreement by the previous Government to contribute towards the cost of the new R. & I. Bank building.

University of Western Australia

Under the States Grants (Universities) Act, the Commonwealth Government has undertaken to provide finance in conjunction with the State for specified building

projects at the University. In 1959-60, the State provided £153,000 for University capital purposes.

The arrangements under the States Grants expire on the 31st December, 1960. Currently, the recently-appointed Australian Universities Commission is completing recommendations to the Commonwealth Government to cover the period following the 31st December next. In the meantime, certain finance for University building purposes has been made available by the Commonwealth Government to cover the period from the 1st January, 1961, to the 30th June, 1961, pending the completion and determination of the Universities Commission's recommendations.

The sum of £361,000 included in these Estimates is to enable the State to attract the balance of the Commonwealth funds available under the States Grants and the interim arrangement. Both the Commonwealth and State funds thus made available to the University will be applied to the construction costs of the engineering school, the new buildings for chemistry, physics, and staff, and the conversion of existing buildings.

In addition, the £361,000 includes £35,000 to match an equal sum available to the University from non-Government sources. These funds are to be expended on additions to the University Institute of Agriculture building.

Western Australian Meat Export Works

The amount of £60,000 provided in 1960-61 will enable the works to complete the renovations and reconstruction commenced in 1958-59. As previously explained, this work was necessary to bring the standard of the works up to that required by the export licensing authority.

Western Australian Tourist Development Authority

The sum of £100,000 has been allotted to the Tourist Development Authority which was created by the Tourist Act of last year. This amount will be expended on tourist developmental work, and ordinary activities of the Tourist Bureau will be financed from Revenue. The Tourist Development Authority has instituted a scheme under which the authority subsidises tourist projects initiated by local or public authorities. The subsidy is on the basis of £2 from the authority for each £1 of local money.

All local authorities have been informed of the details of the scheme. Projects must be of a developmental character and of a standard which will reflect credit on the State. The type of activity for which subsidy will be provided includes beach development schemes, change rooms, toilet blocks, ablution blocks, and caravan parks. When applications for assistance are received by the authority, an inspection is

made and, if approved, the work is carried out by local authorities either through their own organisation or by tender.

So far, subsidy projects have been restricted to districts outside the metropolitan area, but this policy will be reconsidered at a later stage when the more urgent of the outstanding country works have been put in hand. Up to the present, projects to the value of approximately £42,000 have been approved, for which the Tourist Development Authority subsidy amounts to £28,000. Other applications have been received and are under consideration.

This is a most important aspect of the Government's policy to increase tourist activity in this State. One of the first requirements is to give tourists satisfactory facilities; and many of our tourist resorts can and will be made much more attractive as a result of this work.

Cockburn Cement Pty. Ltd.

Under the agreement entered into with this company, the Government has undertaken to advance £1,000,000. To date, £900,000 has been paid. Provision is made in the Estimates to advance the final £100,000 this year.

Loans and Grants to Local Authorities and Other Public Bodies

Provision of £546,000 has been made for loans and grants to various charitable bodies and other organisations. The largest single item included in this amount is £250,000 which is being made available towards the cost of construction of new buildings at Wembley Downs for Hale School. The new school will be ready for use when classes resume after the Christmas holidays. The existing buildings near the Observatory site will pass to the Government, and after some alteration will be available to the Education Department.

Grants towards the construction or extensions of various private hospitals will require £53,000. In the case of the Home of Peace, the Government is making available, over a period of three years, a total of £45,000 towards the cost of an additional ward and accommodation for staff. At the Alfred Carson Hospital in Claremont accommodation is to be increased from 37 beds to 61 beds at a total cost of £150,000. The Government will contribute £50,000 over two years, and the Lotteries Commission will provide an equal amount.

A new wing at the Hospital for the Aged Blind, costing £55,000, is being erected by the Braille Society. The Government contribution to this work is £25,000, which is being made available over two years; and a grant of £15,000 is expected from the Lotteries Commission. A scheme for the improvement of the facilities at Rottnest is being undertaken by the Board of Control. The sum of

£22,000 is included in this item for Government assistance for this project in 1960-61.

Allowance is also made for further assistance towards the provision of facilities in country towns. In particular, £38,000 has been set aside for grants towards the cost of conversion of country electricity undertakings; and £28,000 is provided to assist with the construction of swimming pools. The St. John Ambulance Association is active in extending its subcentres. It is expected that £10,000 will be required for this purpose during 1960-61.

The Salvation Army is to establish a rehabilitation centre for alcoholics at its Seaforth estate. The Government will meet two-thirds of the expenditure involved in conversion, repairs, renovations, and additions to existing buildings, subject to a maximum Government contribution of £35,000. The Salvation Army will contribute the balance of the capital cost and will be responsible for furnishings. It is considered that the Seaforth project will be a major step towards assisting many unfortunate persons to return to a useful and normal life and is a social service which is urgently needed in our community.

Rural and Industries Bank—Delegated Agencies

Of the provision under this heading, the sum of £267,000 is for meeting agreed reductions in guaranteed bank overdrafts on account of the Albany Superphosphate Works, Eastern Collieries Limited, and Great Western Consolidated. Provision is also made for advances under the Dairy Farms Improvement scheme and for Esperance Downs development.

Funding of Revenue Deficits

The latest year for which final determinations have been made in respect of the special grant recommended by the Commonwealth Grants Commission is 1958-59. In that year we had a published deficit of £1,685,000; and as the Commonwealth is only contributing £609,000 towards that deficit, we have been left with an amount of £1,076,000 to fund from loan moneys.

As an amount of £660,000 of last year's loan allocation was applied towards part extinguishment of the deficit for 1958-59, the balance of £416,000 must be met in this current year, and provision has been made accordingly. The use of over £1,000,000 of loan moneys to clear a revenue deficit for a single financial year imposes a heavy burden on our slender capital resources, and highlights the need to take action to prevent recurrence in the future. We could do a lot with even £500,000 in providing some services, such as water supply and education.

So that members may have a complete outline of the State's capital works programme, I will briefly indicate other

projects which are financed from other than the Loan Fund. I have already referred to the railway rolling stock replacement fund, the northern development grant and University finance. I would now like to provide some information in relation to housing finance and local borrowing activity.

Housing

At the commencement of my remarks I advised that an amount of £3,000,000 will be available in 1960-61 to this State for the purpose of the Commonwealth State Housing agreement. These funds are in addition to those made available for housing in these Estimates.

At the 30th June last the State Housing Commission had 370 houses under construction. These will be completed this year and further contracts for 725 housing units will be let. Of this new construction it is expected that 350 units will be completed this year. Land development and additions to existing properties will absorb £300,000. Under the terms of the current agreement the sum of £900,000 will be made available to building societies for the purpose of advances to home-builders.

Semi-Governmental and Local Authority Programmes

During the course of this survey I have mentioned borrowings by various authorities, such as the State Electricity Commission and the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust. Funds are to be raised by these concerns under the borrowing powers granted to them and are to be used for essential capital works which would otherwise require the use of State loan funds.

Each year the Australian Loan Council decides the total amount which may be raised by statutory bodies and fixes the terms and conditions under which the funds may be raised. For 1960-61 the Western Australian programme is fixed at £4,620,000. The borrowings are to be undertaken by local authorities and various other statutory bodies. The Government is giving every encouragement to these bodies to take full advantages of the authorisation provided.

Examples of the co-operation given are the existing schemes for providing septic tanks in schools and some country water supply and sewerage schemes. In these cases the Government has agreed to meet the repayments and interest charged on the loans raised by the local authorities for these works. We are very conscious of the pressing developmental needs of this State; and by making and encouraging the full use of every avenue of finance, we are seeking to meet as many of these essential demands as possible from the resources available.

I have endeavoured to give quite a lot of detail regarding the Loan Estimates. I think we found last year, and indeed in recent years, that Loan Estimates went

through without a great deal of explanation. Ministers did not have the opportunity to make any. As these debates fall towards the end of the session, Bills are often introduced in the dying hours and a reasonable opportunity is not given the House to at least know something about the details of the Loan Estimates. Whilst I hope that members will forgive my taking so long, I hope they will appreciate the details I have given today. I now submit the Estimates for the consideration of the Committee.

Progress reported, and leave granted to sit again.

DAIRY CATTLE INDUSTRY COMPENSATION BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 25th October.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [3.39]: In resuming the debate on this Bill, I hasten to say that I intend to oppose its passage. I do not think that will surprise the Minister. As mentioned by the member for Boulder, who spoke on this measure, it is similar in purpose to one introduced last year. That Bill was very strenuously opposed in this House. As far as I was concerned, it met a more favourable fate in another place, where it was defeated.

I intend to play my part on this occasion and trust that the pattern will be followed. That is, if the Bill is not lost in this House, I trust it will be defeated in another place. I regret that at this particular stage of my contribution to the debate the Minister for Labour is not present in the Chamber. Nevertheless, I would like to clear up the point that was raised during the debate on the measure similar to this last session. My remarks on that occasion appear on page 1970 of Vol. 2 of the 1959 *Parliamentary Debates*. The Chairman interrupted my speech with the following remark:—

I suggest that the honourable member keep to the Bill.

At that stage I was referring to the effect that the measure would have on the people in Kalgoorlie, which comes within my electorate. My answer to the Chairman was as follows:—

I am keeping to the Bill, Mr. Chairman. I am referring to the people in Kalgoorlie, and especially those in Lamington Heights who, in the heat of the summer months, are forced to use extra water to maintain their gardens. They will find that they will be burdened with an increase in their water rates.

The Chairman then said—

This Bill relates to the country areas water supply scheme and not to the Goldfields water supply scheme, and therefore I would ask the honourable member to keep to the Bill.

I replied—

Kalgoorlie is one of the towns concerned.

Mr. Perkins interjected—

No it's not! That is where you are wrong.

I think the matter has been cleared by the vocal revocation on my part now, but also by the answers given by the Minister to questions when he mentioned that the towns concerned were those between Parkerville and Kalgoorlie inclusive and that the people affected by the Bill would also include those living between Coolgardie and Norseman. For those reasons I am strongly opposed to this measure.

From the experience we have had in this Assembly, and from the information given to us this year in relation to the metropolitan water supply scheme, we find that the Government has arbitrarily introduced increases in water charges purely as a means of raising revenue; or, in other words, it has been purely a taxing measure on the part of the Government. That alone would be sufficient to justify opposition to this measure; because people, irrespective of where they reside, have to bear this added burden of taxation.

In saying this, I can deeply appreciate the sentiments of those members who represent metropolitan electorates, because there is no doubt that they must feel aggrieved by this measure. People throughout Australia are at present taxed by the Commonwealth Government and also the State Governments on beer, cigarettes, and bets, and this Government now wants to increase further the charges for water. In my opinion that is adding insult to injury.

I have a still stronger reason for opposing the Bill; namely, the hardship it will cause to the people living in my electorate. I know that there are members in this Assembly who represent areas other than Kalgoorlie and who are quite capable of speaking for themselves in regard to the harsh effect of this measure. However, I am concerned only with the effect it will have on the people in my electorate and I hope I will not be accused of being parochial: it is just that I do not want to encroach on another member's territory.

This Bill, which will impose an added burden on country people, is unfair, unjust, and inappropriate. Further, it will impose a burden which will not be borne by any other section of the community, but will be carried by those people who can ill afford to bear it. When a Bill similar to this was before the House last session, the member for Boulder spoke in

a dynamic and dramatic manner on the way it was received by the people on the goldfields.

In fact, the *Kalgoorlie Miner* saw fit—much to the surprise of the Government—to publish a strongly-worded editorial expressing its opposition to the Bill and regretting the action of the Government. At the time, the member for Boulder pointed out that the general pattern of that newspaper's leading articles indicated that it had a high opinion of the Government.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

Mr. EVANS: In the past, this Government has been held in very high regard by the *Kalgoorlie Miner*. But when that newspaper came out with an editorial criticising the Government in no uncertain manner for its cavalier action in attempting to increase the water rates in goldfields towns, together with the other towns mentioned, it saw fit to break with its tradition of praising the Government, and criticised it under the heading, "How to Lose Friends".

I trust that the words of the *Kalgoorlie Miner* will help to influence certain people—with all due apologies to the late Dale Carnegie. I do not intend to read the whole of that editorial, although I have it before me. I am prepared to table it. The contents have already been incorporated in *Hansard*, because it was read out the other evening by the member for Boulder.

I shall, however, read the opening passage, and also what I might term the concluding passage. The first states—

The Government will lose many of its friends on these goldfields following its decision to increase by 50 per cent. the water rates for consumers in certain country districts drawing on what used to be known as the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme.

The editorial went on to say that this increase would be a severe blow to the majority of local residents—not a minority or some of them—particularly pensioners, and those who owned their homes but who were struggling to pay their way. The editorial stated further, and these words are of some importance and should have some persuasive influence on the Government, bearing in mind the tenor and nature of the Government's policy—

It will certainly be felt by business houses in the district which are already heavily rated with no chance of using their allowance of water.

Such were the words of the *Kalgoorlie Miner* addressed to the Government under the heading of "How to Lose Friends".

I am sure the Government is aware of the attitude of that newspaper which on this occasion most certainly did convey

the opinion of the majority of the people in Kalgoorlie and Boulder. I repeat "on this occasion." I do this so that the Government will not be deluded into thinking that every editorial appearing in that newspaper, patting the Government on the back, represents the opinion of the people of Kalgoorlie and Boulder; but on this occasion the *Kalgoorlie Miner* did represent the majority view.

Mr. Nulsen: I agree entirely with the editorial.

Mr. EVANS: The member for Boulder mentioned the purpose behind one clause in this Bill which seeks to delete certain words. Its passage would have the effect of making the rate 3s. in the pound on the annual rental value in the towns affected. The honourable member went on to say that the people of the goldfields could not be certain of the action of the Government. They could even be afraid that in due course—irrespective of the fate of this Bill—the Government would ensure that a new rating system would be struck on the goldfields, and new valuations arrived at.

It is quite easy to understand that it was with some trepidation that the people of my electorate read about the introduction of this Bill, after its dramatic failure in the Legislative Assembly in 1959. On that occasion the Bill received poetic justice. On the present occasion the people of the goldfields were surprised to find that the Government, within such a short time of the defeat of the previous measure, had introduced another measure, after the voice of the people had been heard. I trust that a similar fate will meet the Bill on this occasion.

I emphasise again the point that such a heavy increase being imposed on the people of the goldfields in particular will be an unbearable burden to those who are least able to bear any increased costs. We were confronted with the news in yesterday's paper that the basic wage of this State has been increased, as a result of an increase in the cost-of-living index. Members will not be surprised to learn that the basic wage applicable to the goldfields is still the lowest of any in this State, despite the fact that on the previous adjustment the increase for the goldfields was the highest of any for the State. Taking the overall position, the basic wage for the goldfields is still the lowest of any applicable in this State.

An increase in the basic wage will confer no benefit on people who at present have difficulty in paying their way. I refer particularly to pensioners and to people on fixed incomes. An increase in the basic wage becomes a burden to them, when price rises follow the increase. Those people are now confronted with an increase of 50 per cent. in their water rates.

I remember well the outburst which occurred in Subiaco recently when there was an increase in metropolitan water charges. Those charges were increased by nowhere near 50 per cent., but still they were unjust. The proposed increase for the goldfields towns and other country towns along the line is utterly unjust.

The Minister for Water Supplies is aware of the way of life of the people on the goldfields, as he lived in Norseman for some years and visited the goldfields quite often. I am therefore surprised to find that he not only agrees to the Bill, but is also piloting it through this House.

I want to emphasise one further point in relation to the Bill; that is, that the Government has not shown us that increased charges are either desirable or necessary for the maintenance of the country areas water supply scheme. We are therefore drawn to conclude, in line with the words of the Premier when speaking on the increase in metropolitan water charges, that the increase is just another means of taxation.

I trust that on this occasion members from country districts—in particular Country Party members—will stand up for their rights and express the views held by the people they represent—the people living in towns between Parkerville and Kalgoorlie. I do not intend to name them, because they are well known. Members are competent, capable, and—I hope—sincere enough to express the views of the people they represent, and to show the hostility which those people have towards the Bill.

I do not intend to delay the House any longer, but members will not be surprised, because of what I have said, to know that my voice will be with the "Noes" when the vote is taken; and when a division is taken, I will be voting in the negative.

MR. KELLY (Merredin-Yilgarn) [4.15]: As would be expected, I strongly oppose this Bill. I feel that the Minister has failed to offer any convincing arguments for its justification. The only attempt he made to justify it was when he stated that it was necessary in the interests of uniformity. It is sheer nonsense to submit that argument, because we know that there are a thousand and one circumstances where no move has been made towards uniformity.

If the Minister had been honest he would have stated that this was purely a taxation measure, and he would have asked the House to agree to it on that ground. Instead of that, however, he has endeavoured to camouflage it and make it look respectable, if that is possible.

The effect of the measure is to place a burden on specific groups of people, all those groups being in country areas as provided for in the Bill. It is a totally unjust measure when we take into consideration the majority of places and

people who will be affected. The pensioners, householders, and all business people in the towns covered by this measure, will be affected.

We find that no matter how we view this Bill, it represents a 50 per cent. increase on the rating that now applies in these various places. The areas covered by the Bill are very extensive. Amongst them are all towns on the main line between Perth and Kalgoorlie. As we know, that embraces a number of places, including quite a few for which I am the parliamentary representative. The Bill also embraces Toodyay and Irishtown, Spencers Brook, Beverley, Boulder, and Norseman, some of these towns being represented by the member for Avon Valley.

I am interested in a number of them for two reasons: Firstly, because of the contact I have had with many of the people in them; secondly, because of the fact that many of them are within the goldmining district, including Bullfinch, Marvel Loch, and Westonia. Then there are a number of other towns I am interested in, including Shackleton, Belka, Nukarni, Nokaning, and others which will be affected by this high rating. I think that one town, Bruce Rock—which will be considerably affected by this obnoxious amendment to the Act—is in the constituency of the Minister for Transport.

The further we delve into this matter the harder it is to assess how far-reaching a Bill of this kind could be and what its ultimate effect would be if passed. A distinct hardship will undoubtedly be placed on many towns which perhaps contain only a small store and possibly a hotel and two or three other premises. These people are already paying a fairly high rate for their water. In regard to the goldmining centres, we must realise it is already very difficult to maintain a measure of stability; and this Bill will be yet another stab at that industry which, for a number of years has been struggling very badly. In some places at present the struggle is acute.

If the Minister had a spark of decency in him he would withdraw this Bill because of the distinct disadvantage its passage would have on places similar to those I have mentioned, where every added impost helps to undermine employment. I have in mind particularly the employees of Great Western Consolidated.

There are 400 or 500 people depending on that mine, which is experiencing a particularly difficult struggle for survival. The employees naturally become jittery because there is no guarantee that their jobs will last for any length of time or that they will have a continuity of employment. Now they will find that the one small amenity which they cherish—that of a water supply at a reasonable figure—is to have a further 50 per cent. impost placed upon it.

Nearly every person on the goldfields is a married man whose wife and family obtain a great deal of enjoyment and relaxation from the growing of flowers and vegetables; and in some cases a few fruit trees; and almost always, a little lawn. This Bill, if passed, will strike a blow at those people because of the higher tax they will have to pay, and will have a detrimental effect on those who are at the moment trying to make up their minds whether they are going to stay where they are or move to some other area.

The passage of the Bill would also make it difficult for the mines to retain suitable employees; and, in addition, it would bring about a state of unrest in the minds of many people employed in those areas. No matter how we look at it, we realise that a 50 per cent. rise is being imposed.

Mr. Perkins: It is not a 50 per cent. rise.

Mr. KELLY: Of course it is! The Minister for Transport is sticking his neck out now. He does not know anything about the subject. The amount is to be increased from 2s. to 3s.

Mr. Perkins: That is not 50 per cent.

Mr. Hawke: What is it then?

Mr. KELLY: What percentage would the Minister make it? That is not only a fact, but it is the maximum amount which can be imposed.

Mr. Perkins: You are not allowing for the excess water. You know it will not make much difference to the actual amounts the people will pay.

Mr. KELLY: The Minister for Transport has been talking such a lot of nonsense for so long in recent times that he cannot stop, and is continuing now to talk of something which does not really concern him.

I was endeavouring to point out that in these hot areas, conditions are not the best at any time; and we should not strike blows at the individuals affected under this Bill, because undoubtedly an additional burden will be placed on them. I think that most of us would recognise the fact that already, to some degree, these people are under-privileged as far as amenities are concerned; but there is a great deal of pride taken in the civic gardens, which are well looked after. All the available water is used to keep them in order.

I am not saying that the effect of this Bill will be to deprive these people of that amenity, because it will not; but it will have a tendency to reduce the amount of interest shown in gardens both in the homes and in the towns.

The Minister should study the effect this Bill will have on businessmen in these towns. I have in mind particularly those in Merredin, where some little time ago the previous Government was approached to subsidise the installation of a sewerage

system. The matters which transpired in regard to that approach are more or less past history; but the point I want to emphasise is that when that system was first mooted, the Government's contribution was insufficient to give the desired relief. Consequently, the new Government was approached, whereupon some bright spark in the department devised a system of supposed help, whereby it took back from the people more than it gave them.

Immediately there was some likelihood of a grant being made, valuations in Merredin were raised by 50 per cent. to 70 per cent. Therefore, when the rate notices began to arrive, the people realised that the Government had not been as generous as they had at first thought. One of the hotelkeepers with whom I discussed the matter informed me that under the recently-compiled revaluation, his rate had risen from £120 to £400 a year.

That is a tremendous amount of money; and that was only one person. Many business people have been affected in a similar way. Members can see the difficulty that will follow the acceptance of a measure of this kind. To increase the rating at this stage would be nothing short of criminal.

No words I could put together could more justly describe the position than for me to say that what is proposed is not wanted in this State; and it is something that the Minister, who was rebuffed on the previous occasion, should not have brought here again. Instead of bringing this proposition forward under the camouflage of uniformity, in an endeavour to raise more funds from a taxation angle, the Minister should never have brought the Bill before the House a second time. I strongly oppose the measure.

MR. NULSEN (Eyre) [4.31]: I echo the remarks of my goldfields colleagues from Boulder, Kalgoorlie, and Merredin-Yilgarn. This tax, generally speaking, is an unjust one on the people concerned, especially those on the goldfields. The town of Coolgardie, and a few other such places, are just hanging on. This extra tax—the increase of 50 per cent. in water rates—is a tremendous increase.

Mr. Bovell: Are not a number of centres paying 3s.?

Mr. NULSEN: They may be, but why raise the rate so drastically as to force people who are struggling in many of the goldfields—they are hanging on by the skin of their teeth—to pay so much?

Mr. W. Hegney: That is the Government's decentralisation policy.

Mr. NULSEN: I do not know about that.

Mr. Watts: It would be very nice if we could have an electricity charge of 4d. in one area and 3d. in another. We would be full of complaints then.

Mr. NULSEN: We have to look after our own electorates. No-one knows the conditions on the goldfields better than does the Minister for Water Supplies. He knows the conditions under which many of the people labour. As a matter of fact, water at Norseman costs much more than it should because, in the first instance, the engineers demanded that their views should be carried out. I objected as soon as I found out that we were to have a 10-inch main from Coolgardie to Spargoville and an 8-inch main from there on. As the Minister knows, booster pumps have been installed, and the cost of water at Norseman has been increased; and now the rates are to be increased a further 50 per cent. This latest charge is very hard on the people in the towns I represent.

The residents on the goldfields are entitled to their lawns; they require water just as much as we do in the metropolitan area. Water is very important; it comes next to air in order of importance; we cannot live without water, irrespective of what we pay for it.

The *Kalgoorlie Miner* has expressed its views on this proposition; and it is anything but a Labor paper. The *Kalgoorlie Miner's* view is impartial and just: it feels that the people on the goldfields are being penalised; and I agree with that newspaper's leading article, because it strongly opposes this increase.

I could tell members quite a lot of the things that I think the goldfields people are entitled to—lawns, vegetables, fruit, flowers, and so on; but if the rate for water is to be increased as is suggested, it will take people all their time to use the water to which they will be entitled. Those who are in any way extravagant in their use of excess water will find the cost beyond their pockets.

The members who have spoken have put up a good case, and they have been fair. I know the Minister understands the position; and I am perfectly satisfied that if he were in my place, or that of any other goldfields member, he would probably be more ardent in his protests against the increase, especially as it applies to the goldfields. We are only speaking for the goldfields—the district we represent. I strongly oppose the increase.

MR. WILD (Dale—Minister for Water Supplies—in reply) [4.35]: I thank the four goldfields members who have spoken to the Bill—but not in support of it, of course. I suppose that if I represented a goldfields electorate I would speak in exactly the same vein. I have knowledge of the conditions under which the people on the goldfields work and live. I think, however, that this is one of those instances of a person being on the inside and looking out. In such circumstances one has

to disregard most of the sentiments that have been expressed, and do what one thinks is best in the interests of the State.

I want to reply to one or two of the observations that have been made. Last evening the member for Boulder quoted two sets of figures referred to in the debate last year when I indicated that the increased cost to the department would be £50,000 odd, whilst the figure quoted in another place was £30,000. The reason for that is that in answer to a question—I did not say what the increased revenue would be—it was stated that the increase would be £50,000. But because of the additional excess water used, a certain amount is lost, so that the real revenue was in the order of £30,000; and that was the answer given in another place.

It is difficult to justify one town being on 2s. whilst another town, alongside, is on 3s. In the electorate of my colleague, the Minister for Transport, the figure of 3s. applies to Bruce Rock; whereas the amount of 2s. applies to Belka, which is not much more than a stone's throw away.

When we look at the list we can see the towns that have been on the early rate, and the towns which have been added in the last three or four years, and which are on the maximum rate of 3s. So we have the anomaly of a large number of towns being on the old rate, and the new towns that are connected to the scheme immediately going on to the higher rate of 3s.

It is pertinent to add that in this instance I, as a Minister, have to do something that neither I nor anyone else likes doing—provide for extra costs for individuals and industry. But when we look at the goldfields water supply scheme, we can see that in the last financial year the estimated deficiency was £721,000. This was made up with an income of £436,000 and operating costs of £739,000, leaving a deficit on operating of £303,000. To this amount must be added bad debts, stores, superannuation and interest amounting to £258,000, and depreciation of £139,000, making the estimated deficit of £721,000.

Whilst no one likes to draw comparisons, when we look at what it costs to pump water to Kalgoorlie we find that it costs more than 10s. a thousand gallons and it costs 6s. more than that to pump water to the district represented by the member for Eyre. When we are supplying a service costing from 10s. to 16s. per thousand gallons, it is difficult to reconcile that cost with a charge of only 2s. a thousand gallons.

Mr. Evans: The Minister must agree that the rate for excess water varies, too.

Mr. WILD: I quite agree that if there is one industry at the moment which is in difficulties it is the goldmining industry; and I would be the last one who would wish to add another impost to that industry unless it were absolutely necessary.

I know that the previous Minister, when he sat behind the ministerial desk, was forced—or at least I hope he was—to think of the State as a whole and not a particular district or industry.

We tried to do something about the position last year, but some members in another place thought we should not have this money. It is my responsibility to try to get even this small crumb to help the finances of the department when we have such a large deficit. We should do all we can to iron out the anomalies that exist between these towns, and at the same time the revenue derived through this measure will go some little way towards overcoming this colossal deficit.

I know that as yet the Grants Commission has not taken exception to the State's actions in this matter, but I am advised by officers in the department—and this also happened during the time the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was Minister—that when they appeared before the Grants Commission to give evidence they were given a grilling on this particular aspect. They were asked, "Why is it that you have not got your rates comparable?"; and in addition, "Why aren't they higher?"

While as yet no imposition has been placed upon the State because of that, it is the considered opinion of these officers, particularly in view of the attitude of Sir Alexander Reid, the Western Australian representative, on the last occasion they appeared before the Grants Commission, it is inevitable that the State will be penalised in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. Nulsen: My sore point has always been that the main from Coolgardie to Norseman was not bigger. It should have been a 12-inch main, which we advocated. Now we are being penalised for it.

Mr. WILD: That is so. I would point out also that if a countryman's rates were £12 per annum, and he used 100,000 gallons of water each year, he would receive 60,000 gallons because of the payment of his rates and the extra 40,000 gallons would cost him a further £8, making a total of £20 for the year. If the rates are increased from 2s. to 3s. it will mean an increase in rates to £18 per annum, for which he will get 90,000 gallons of water, and the 10,000 gallons excess will only cost him a further £2 and his total will still be £20.

Mr. Evans: What about the people with small holdings—the pensioners and people on fixed incomes who do not use that much water?

Mr. WILD: Does the honourable member know that in Kalgoorlie there are over 300 people who are claiming pensioners' exemptions?

Mr. Evans: And you will get a lot more if this Bill goes through.

Mr. WILD: They have a right under the Act to claim an exemption. I can only repeat that this is one of those unfortunate things we have to face up to because of rising costs. Whilst we do not like doing it, it is an inevitable step and somebody has to try to get a little more money into the department to try to overcome this colossal deficit of £721,000 with which we were faced last year. I hope members will agree to the second reading.

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

Ayes—25.

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

Noes—22.

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

(Teller.)

Majority for—3.

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. Crommelin) in the Chair; Mr. Wild (Minister for Water Supplies) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3—Section 65 amended:

Mr. EVANS: I cannot let this opportunity pass without once again expressing my opposition to this legislation which will increase the rates in certain country towns, including Kalgoorlie, from 2s. to 3s. on the annual rental value—an increase of 50 per cent. In his reply the Minister mentioned an isolated case whereby a person could gain by the increase; that is, by means of excess water. However, I am speaking on behalf of the majority of people who would never use all the water they pay for, but who are going to be asked to pay a 50 per cent. increase in their charges. Even business people, who are regarded as being friends of the Government, would use very little water on the premises occupied by them; but they, too, will be obliged to pay a 50 per cent. increase in their water rates.

I raise this protest on behalf of those people who are on fixed incomes, including pensioners. The Minister said that there

were 300 people listed who have claimed exemption from paying rates. It is therefore obvious that the purpose of the Government in encouraging people to pay their rates as they fall due will be defeated, because more people will be claiming exemption from the payment of rates after this Bill becomes law. As a result, this money will not be made available to the Government until these people die and probate is declared. I oppose the clause.

Mr. MOIR: I, too, strongly oppose this clause. The Minister quoted figures on the assessment of the loss on this pipeline, but he was discreetly silent about the fact that, for many years, the charges for water imposed on those people living in the agricultural areas have remained static. Evidently, the Government has not seen fit to increase the rates on those people.

Mr. Watts: At least they are uniform now.

Mr. MOIR: I can well imagine the cheap rate that is being paid for water by the people in the agricultural areas who are connected to the pipeline. I object to the people on the goldfields subsidising the water charges of those living in the Great Southern, thus enabling them to be supplied with cheap water. I have no objection to the people in those parts being supplied with cheap water; in fact, that is welcomed. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that the comprehensive water supply scheme in the agricultural areas has been extended time and time again; in fact, so much so that duplication of the pipeline is contemplated in order to supply all the consumers of water who live in the vicinity of the pipeline.

Inevitably the cost of maintenance on the pipeline that serves those parts must increase, but it will be debited against the water supply scheme as a whole. It therefore appears to me that if that trend is to continue and the Government adopts the same attitude by granting cheap water to the people in the agricultural districts, but still continues to make further calls on the people on the goldfields to make up some of the losses that are being incurred on this scheme, greater hardship will be imposed on the goldfields people.

Surely the water supply scheme can be regarded as a national undertaking and some concession can be made by the Government to the people who dwell in outback parts! A great deal is heard about decentralisation to encourage people to remain in the outback, but in the short time this Government has been in office it has done many things to make the lot of those people much harder. We have only to look at the savage increases in the freight charges that were imposed by this Government.

Mr. Brand: Do you think the increase in freight charges that your Government imposed was savage?

Mr. MOIR: The Premier refers to an increase in freight rates imposed by a previous Government; but I am dealing with the increase in freight charges made by his Government, because the members of his Government during the elections said that they would not do this and would not do that. They said they were going to reduce charges and improve conditions for the people.

Mr. Hawke: That is what the present Premier said all right! He said that charges and taxes had reached breaking point.

Mr. MOIR: No-one was louder in his condemnation of the Labor Government than the present Premier when legislation was introduced to increase charges on anything at all. However, here he is now trying to compare the two sets of circumstances.

Mr. Brand: I thought it was a fair comparison.

Mr. MOIR: If the Premier wants to make comparisons, I would point out that the previous Government did not hand out large sums of money to its supporters as this Government is doing.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Crommelin): I think the honourable member is getting away from the clause. We are discussing water rates.

Mr. MOIR: Yes; and I am talking about money, too, Mr. Deputy Chairman; and this Government is using water as a means to obtain additional revenue. Members can clearly recall that a short time ago the Government introduced a Bill to increase water charges in the metropolitan area, and the Premier himself admitted that he would obtain increased revenue from those charges.

The increased charges proposed by this Bill will represent only a preliminary step, because the next move by the Government will be to have revaluations made in those towns; and, following that, we do not know what charges will be imposed. A 50 per cent. increase in water rates is severe enough, but one can almost take it for granted that this increase will be followed by revaluations which will mean considerably higher charges imposed on the people in the towns concerned.

Mr. NULSEN: I, too, believe that some consideration should be given to the fact that this is a goldfields water scheme. Water was first pumped through to Kalgoorlie about the 3rd January, 1898, when Sir John Forrest opened the scheme. At that time the scheme was paid for by the people of Western Australia and, apart from those at Northam, there were no farming interests beyond that town. Now that the people have paid for that goldfields water supply scheme, the Government is asking those on the goldfields to assist the farmers in the agricultural areas

of the State—people who are quite able to pay for the cost of the pipeline that is serving the areas in which they reside.

Nobody can deny that when the goldfields water scheme was first introduced it was one of the greatest schemes in the world, and placed Sir John Forrest as one of the ablest of men. We are duplicating that line, not because there is not sufficient water to go through the pipes that were first laid, but for the purpose of feeding the agricultural areas. I admit that farmers are among the most important of people; they are primary producers. But so are the people on the goldfields. People on the goldfields made a wonderful contribution to the State in the early days, and the population was doubled, and even trebled, in a few years as a result of the pioneering of that area.

The first scheme was opened in 1903. How many farmers, other than a few around Northam were thought of in those days? Even though the goldfields people are still battling along, we find they are now asked to make an equal contribution with those in the farming areas between them and the extra pipeline. I do not think that is quite fair, in spite of the importance of the farming community.

I know the Minister is aware of the importance of water, and that he is also aware that the goldfields scheme has been established for many years; and I am sure he will agree that the proposition in the Bill is not altogether fair. The people on the goldfields should not be penalised to that extent.

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

Ayes—25.

Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. A. Manning
Mr. Brand	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Burt	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Cornell	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Court	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Craig	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Owen
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Hearman	Mr. Roberts
Dr. Henn	Mr. Watts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Wild
Mr. Lewis	Mr. I. W. Manning
Mr. Mann	(Teller.)

Noes—21.

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

(Teller.)

Majority for—4.

Clause thus passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

MR. WILD (Dale—Minister for Water Supplies) [5.8]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

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

Ayes—25.

Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. A. Manning
Mr. Brand	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Burt	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Cornell	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Court	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Craig	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Crommellin	Mr. Owen
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Roberts
Dr. Henn	Mr. Watts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Wild
Mr. Lewis	Mr. I. W. Manning
Mr. Mann	(Teller.)

Noes—21.

Mr. Andrew	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Brady	Mr. Moir
Mr. Curran	Mr. Norton
Mr. Evans	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Hall	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Heal	Mr. Toms
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. May
Mr. W. Hegney	(Teller.)

Majority for—4.

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

MARRIED PERSONS (SUMMARY RELIEF) BILL

In Committee

Resumed from the 20th October. The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Watts (Attorney-General) in charge of the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported after clause 4 had been agreed to.

Clause 5—Interpretation:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 3, lines 24 and 25—Delete the words “and the intention of reinstating” and substitute the words “together with the reinstatement of”.

This part of the clause refers to the definition of “condonation”, which reads as follows:—

means forgiveness of the party at fault by the wronged party, with a full knowledge of the circumstances and the intention of reinstating that party.

If the amendment is agreed to this passage will read as follows:—

means forgiveness of the party at fault by the wronged party, with a full knowledge of the circumstances together with the reinstatement of that party.

This Bill has been referred to various interested parties, and the amendments they proposed were quite considerable. It is thought that those amendments should be made to the Bill.

Mr. NULSEN: I want to speak on the amendments on the notice paper generally. I have perused the Bill and the amendments, and I agree that they are desirable. This is a very good Bill and ought to improve the relationship between unhappily-married couples. The parties to a marriage will be able to discuss their misunderstandings with the assistance of a magistrate. As a result, there will be a better understanding and a happier relationship.

A person defaulting in payment of maintenance can be imprisoned only once. All the provisions in the Bill are commendable, and the amendments will make the Bill even better. I am voicing only my own opinion when I say this.

Mr. WATTS: I thank the honourable member for the remarks he has made. The fairly substantial number of amendments arose out of my insistence that Parliament should see the Bill first, before the interested organisations. The result is that we had to bring down the Bill as we saw fit and accept their amendments afterwards.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 3, line 28—Delete the word “matrimonial” and substitute the word “marital”.

The term “matrimonial offence” occurs three or four times. The definition of the offence on page 4 of the Bill is “marital offence”. It is desired to adhere to the latter term throughout.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 3, line 30—Delete the word “matrimonial” and substitute the word “marital”.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 3, line 34—Delete the words “ceases to constitute” and substitute the words “does not amount to”.

I think this amendment will be quite clear to members if they read the definition of “condonation”. The words contained in the amendment are better phraseology.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 3, line 37—Delete the word “matrimonial” and substitute the word “marital”.

This amendment is purely consequential.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 5, line 31—Add at the end of paragraph (a) the word “and”.

This amendment is to fit in with the amendments that are to follow and also to join up with the remainder of the clauses which are left in.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 5, lines 32 to 40—Delete paragraph (b).

Members will recall that I expressed the intention at the second reading stage to delete this clause, and I explained the reasons therefor. So at this stage I will not repeat those reasons.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 6, lines 1 to 7—Delete subclause (3).

This amendment is consequential on one which has been carried and was also explained at the second reading.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 6, line 8—Delete the subclause designation (4) and substitute the paragraph designation (b).

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 6—Court:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 6, line 32—Add after the word “transacted” the words, “, except where accommodation is available to the court, in some other part of the building.”

Magistrates in certain places have pointed out that there are available rooms in addition to the court that is being used for petty sessional purposes that could be used for the purposes of this Act and not contradict the provisions of clause 6.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 7—Constitution of Court:

Mr. TOMS: Clause 7 of this Bill sets out that the constitution of a court shall be a stipendiary magistrate and one justice of the peace. Subclause (2) states that notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the court shall be constituted by a stipendiary magistrate—and then it goes on to give the instances. Clause 8 of the Bill reads as follows:—

Where a Stipendiary Magistrate and a Justice of the Peace exercising jurisdiction under this Act disagree, the decision of the former shall prevail and be the decision of the court.

In the Justices Act, section 31, the following words appear:—

the whole of the hearing and determination.

That is in respect of the constitution of the court. In the Married Women's Protection Act, section 4, the wording is—

shall join in the hearing of the application and the making of the order.

In the Interstate Maintenance Recovery Act can be found the following words:—

may be heard and determined in a court of summary jurisdiction.

Perhaps the justice of the peace who is on the bench with a magistrate need not be asked to give an opinion. It may be argued that this is covered under clause 10, and perhaps the Attorney-General could give me an assurance to that effect. Although they may be superfluous, I feel that the words “of hearing and determining” should be included. Clause 8 does give the magistrate the final say, but the inclusion of the words I have suggested would at least make it clear that in the constitution of the court, the justice of the peace should have something to say in regard to determination.

Mr. WATTS: I can say quite definitely that, except in the cases covered at the top of page 7, with which I will deal in a moment, the court cannot sit unless there is present throughout the hearing a stipendiary magistrate and one justice of the peace.

Mr. TOMS: There is no mention of that fact.

Mr. WATTS: There is no doubt about it though. It is the same as in regard to this Assembly. It is not constituted unless the Chairman or Speaker is in the Chair.

Mr. TOMS: But under clause 8—

Mr. WATTS: That is only a question of whose verdict will prevail in the event of a disagreement. They both have to be present during a sitting; otherwise the court is not properly constituted. The exceptions, of course, are quite clear to the honourable member. Paragraph (b) is inserted because of difficulties in interstate cases, and to cover the provisions of the Commonwealth Judiciary Act. Paragraph (c) has been included to provide for when the application is not one which deals with those matters covered by clause 9.

We have adhered to the provision that the court is not constituted unless a magistrate and a justice of the peace are present, because it has been the practice for so long and we were not prepared to depart from it. It is true that the existing Married Women's Protection Act in effect provides that if the magistrate and justice of the peace disagree the whole thing falls down, and the provisions of clause 8 have been inserted to avoid that difficulty. Otherwise, the honourable member may rest assured that except in the cases referred to at the top of page 7,

the court cannot be constituted and cannot proceed with matters under clause 9 without the presence of a justice of the peace and a magistrate.

Mr. TOMS: What I am asking the Attorney-General to do is to give me an assurance that the justice of the peace will at least be considered and spoken to by the magistrate in making the determination. We could have the magistrate and justice of the peace present, but the magistrate need not even discuss the matter before making his determination.

Mr. WATTS: That cannot be done. They cannot disagree until they have discussed the matter between themselves.

Mr. TOMS: It is only when they disagree that the magistrate's decision prevails.

Mr. WATTS: Exactly. Obviously they cannot discover they disagree unless they discuss the matter. I would say to the honourable member definitely that he need not fear this matter at all.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 8—Decision of magistrate to prevail:

Mr. BRADY: I would like to know whether the Attorney-General considers that this is the fairest way of dealing with these cases. Has thought been given to the possibility of the case being heard before another justice of the peace and magistrate? Within the last 24 hours I have had to deal with the case of a woman who has been before a similar court to that which we are discussing. In her opinion, and mine, everything pointed to the fact that she would win the case, but she lost it. She asked her solicitor to appeal, but he said there could be no appeal. It would make members almost cry to hear of the privations that woman has experienced in the last few months because of these circumstances.

I was wondering whether, instead of the system proposed under this Bill, a further court comprising another justice and another magistrate could hear the case, because a person would feel more satisfied if it were known that two courts had made the same decision. Has any consideration been given to that aspect? As a justice of the peace, I have had the experience of sitting on the bench with a magistrate. I disagreed with a decision; and instead of dismissing the case, the magistrate agreed to have it heard by another magistrate, whereupon my point of view was upheld. I feel that the same opportunity should be given under this Bill.

Mr. WATTS: I would be very sorry to include such a provision in this Bill, because it could result in repetition. Apart from the unwisdom of it, I would point out to the honourable member that this

Bill is full of rights of appeal, including many which would be less expensive than the suggestion of the honourable member.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 9 put and passed.

Clause 10—Relief:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 10, line 29—Insert after the word "child" the words "of the family."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 11 put and passed.

Clause 12—Interim orders:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 12, line 10—Insert before the word "then" the words "and cohabitation between the parties to the marriage has ceased."

It was suggested that the powers contained in this clause should not be exercised unless cohabitation between the parties to the marriage had ceased.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 12, line 10—Delete the word "proper."

I think members will agree that as the clause reads this word is redundant.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 12, lines 17 and 18—Delete the words "mentioned in subsection (1) of section ten of this Act" and substitute the words "for maintenance or for access to a child of the family."

It is felt that as the Bill now stands the making of a separate provision in an interim order might have the effect of nullifying the grounds for desertion. It is only immediate assistance which the clause seeks to provide.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 12, line 20—Add after the word "child" the words "of the family."

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 12, line 26—Add after the word "to" the words "the terms of."

This amendment is sought because it is consequential on the first amendment moved in relation to this clause.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 12, lines 26 and 27—Delete the words "for maintenance" and substitute the words "in that order."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 13—Suspension of orders:

Mr. WATTS: I wish to point out that reference on the notice paper to line 24 of clause 12 is a typographical error. I move an amendment—

Page 14, line 24—Insert after the word "order" the words "or such further period as the court having regard to any special circumstances may determine."

The amendment applies to clause 13. This amendment is being made at the request of the Child Welfare Department, which has supplied some cogent reasons as to why it should be agreed to. For the following reasons it is felt that the limitation of one month is inappropriate:—

- (a) It may be that the court will be satisfied, on the hearing of the application, that the complainant has in fact not had the means to pay for a period in excess of one month.
- (b) That the delay in the application was not occasioned simply by the fact that the person concerned "just didn't bother to apply."
- (c) It may take longer than one month to have the person in whose favour the order for maintenance was made, located and brought before the court.

For those reasons I think the amendment should be agreed to.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 14—Variation of orders:

Mr. WATTS: The next amendment is similar to one or two that have already been agreed to. I move an amendment—

Page 14, line 27—Insert after the word "child" the words "of the family."

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 15, line 8—Delete the words "in proper case."

It is considered that the use of the words "in proper case" are not well advised, and that the matter should be left to the court in any case, if it feels it is warranted, to direct that the variation shall operate, and that there should not be a restraint, which might be the effect of the use of the words I have mentioned. I think the Law Society recommended the amendment, and I ask that it be agreed to.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 15—Discharge of orders:

Mr. WATTS: The amendment I am about to move, and the two following amendments, are virtually if not entirely

consequential upon those which have already been agreed to. I move an amendment—

Page 16, line 20—Insert after the word "child" the words "of the family."

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move that the clause be further amended as follows:—

Page 16:

Lines 20 and 21—Delete the words "in proper case."

Line 25—Delete the words "in proper case."

Amendments put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave granted to sit again at a later stage of the sitting.

(Continued on Page 2215.)

**LOTTERIES (CONTROL) ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary) [5.58]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is quite a small Bill and one which should have an easy passage through this Chamber and through another place. The sole amendment is to substitute for the words "in Commonwealth Inscribed Stock in its name" the words "in its name in Commonwealth Inscribed Stock or in any security if the repayment of the moneys thereby secured is guaranteed by the Crown in right of the State."

The Lotteries Commission has found in the past that on occasions when it has had money to be invested under the terms of the Act, it has perforce had to invest it in Commonwealth inscribed stock. The commission felt that this was inappropriate and too narrow, and that there should be in the Act a provision that the commission could invest moneys in loans raised by governmental or semi-governmental authorities. So the sole purpose of this Bill is to permit the Lotteries Commission, should the occasion arise, to invest moneys in loans raised within this State.

I point out that as the Act stands at present, if the Lotteries Commission desires to invest £100,000, it must invest it in Commonwealth inscribed stock. Of this £100,000 invested in Commonwealth loans, the State can recoup only about 10 per cent. when it is returned by way of loan to this State. If this amendment is made to the parent Act, the £100,000 could be used entirely within the boundaries of our own State. For example, it could be used by the State Electricity Commission to carry out its works.

Mr. W. Hegney: And by the totalisator agency board.

Mr. Brand: Anywhere we desire.

Mr. Brady: Or the Midland Junction Abattoir.

Mr. Brand: We could use it in many places.

Mr. Watts: The State Electricity Commission looks most likely to me.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: So long as semi-governmental authorities do not try to persuade the Lotteries Commission to invest too much of its money in their works to the detriment of other organisations such as hospitals and charitable bodies, it would be quite possible for the commission to invest its money with certain bodies. I refer the House to subsection (2) of section 9 of the principal Act, which reads as follows:—

The balance remaining after deduction of the expenses referred to in paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of this section and payment of the prize moneys shall, together with the amount of any unclaimed prizes and all other moneys received by the Commission under the provisions of this Act or otherwise, be paid by the Commission to a special bank account in its name or invested in Commonwealth Inscribed Stock in its name and thereafter the amounts standing to the credit of the account may from time to time with the approval and consent of the Minister be applied by the Commission to any charitable purpose or in the purchase, acquisition, maintenance and improvements of lands and buildings for the purposes of this Act.

At present, the Lotteries Commission does invest money in various ways in various bank accounts against the time when it may be required. On occasions, however, it feels it is necessary to invest money and, of course, it must invest it in Commonwealth inscribed stock.

Mr. W. Hegney: That provision was inserted in the Act prior to the State Electricity Commission being established.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: That is so. Times have changed, and we would be extremely foolish if we did not avail ourselves of the opportunity to invest in our own State.

Mr. Cornell: Why not go all the way and transfer its account to the Rural and Industries Bank?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There are various amounts already held in the Rural and Industries Bank for the Lotteries Commission. The Lotteries Commission has substantial sums lodged with that bank as security against commitments which it must meet from time to time.

Mr. W. Hegney: And it is a socialistic institution, don't forget!

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: As I said earlier, I consider that this is a Bill that should be assured of a speedy passage through this House.

On motion by Mr. W. Hegney, debate adjourned.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Fisheries) [6.6]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The introduction of this Bill is brought about by the Government's desire to assist, as far as possible, by means of amending legislation, the conserving of crayfishing along our coastline; and to protect the real interests of thousands of people who are dependent on the industry for their livelihood. Already the Government has shown that it appreciates the need for practical assistance to be granted to the fishing industry in this State. As members may have heard, this afternoon the Premier quoted instances of how the Government had commenced to assist the fishing industry by constructing fishing harbours in Fremantle and Geraldton, and thus, in a practical way, bringing some stability and security to the fishing fleet and, of course, to the men who serve in the fleet.

This Bill, however, is an attempt to assist the industry in the legislative field. The crayfish industry is a particularly important one in the economy of our State. On the basis of value of production, it is at least one of the most important of our State's primary industries. By far the major section of the fishing industry is that represented by the crayfisheries. Last year the production of these crayfisheries amounted to approximately 9,000 tons, and in round figures this might be valued at £3,000,000.

Crayfish exported as tails from this State brought into the Commonwealth some 6,000,000 American dollars in 1959-60. I would point out that this figure is in excess of 80 per cent. of the total Australian output.

Mr. Fletcher: What percentage was that?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Approximately 80 per cent. of the crayfish produced in Australia comes from this State. It is interesting to note very nearly 1,000 fishermen derive the whole, or the major part of their income from crayfishing, and employment is found for perhaps another 500 persons in processing, packing and otherwise preparing the catch for market; servicing vessels and engines; and so on.

Sir Ross McLarty: That is within the Commonwealth.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: No; that is within the State.

Mr. Brand: And it is seasonal work for a number of people.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: That is so, but many of the full-time crayfishermen find their time fully occupied in the off season in preparing for the next season's

operations. It will be seen, therefore, that our crayfisheries play a leading role in the economy of the State. A city like Fremantle and a town like Geraldton owe much to the industry for the relatively high level of prosperity that each of those places enjoys.

I think it might be appropriate at this juncture if I were to give a few facts about the industry itself, and also about the history of the industry, as a knowledge of those facts and of that history may help to make members more receptive to the legal phraseology of the Bill with which we have to deal.

Frequently legal phraseology can be misunderstood, misrepresented, and misconstrued; and, accordingly, I will attempt now to clothe this legal phraseology with some background of information that might prove of value to members generally. The great expansion of the crayfisheries is a post-war development. In pre-war years small fisheries existed in close proximity to Fremantle and Geraldton. The craft in those days—the very great majority powered by sail only—were just not capable of exploiting, economically, the more distant grounds; and even if they had been able to do so, the local population could not have absorbed any great quantity of crayfish. In consequence the crayfisheries were of minor importance only. There was virtually no export market at all.

During the war years a demand arose for luxury lines as a diet variant for the troops; and at times these diet variants acted as morale builders for those troops. Crayfish was one of the commodities selected for this purpose, and canning was the method decided on to get it to the services in a convenient form. A disused cannery at Geraldton which had failed some years previously, was promptly brought into commission again, and provision was made for the exemption from compulsory war service of experienced and efficient crayfishermen to produce for the cannery.

Shortly after the war ended, and wartime demands for canned crays ceased, buyers from the United States started to come into Western Australia looking for additional sources of supply of cray tails. Hitherto the United States of America, which in the immediate post-war years was experiencing an almost unprecedented wave of prosperity, had been securing its crayfish requirements from Cuba, South Africa, and other places. But the demand in the United States far outstripped the supply; and that is why so many buyers came to this State. Large orders were placed for the local product at previously unheard-of prices, and fishermen were able to improve their craft, and their range of activity, by installing engine power.

In the interval since 1947, when these new markets were created, the annual catch has increased tenfold, and the number of crayfishermen has quadrupled. At

the present time, because of the strained relations between Cuba and the United States of America, there has been a further lift in the market for crays.

Mr. Cornell: It is likely that they wanted our red crays.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I think the demand for our red crayfish did increase! So it might be said that it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good; because of the strained relations between these two countries the result has been a buoyancy in the price offered for our cray tails.

In an attempt to control the industry, very stringent regulations were adopted, when this industry got its break and began to grow quickly. Certain classes of vessels were restricted in their operation, the crayfishing areas were divided into two zones by the 30th parallel of latitude, and fishermen engaged in catching crays in one zone were not permitted to operate in the other. Apart from this, seasons for fishing were opened for only a few months in each year.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 till 7.30 p.m.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Before tea I sketched a brief history of the growth of the crayfish industry in this State, and I mentioned that in more recent times quite stringent regulations were adopted to bring about a form of stability and control in the industry. It was necessary, at the same time, to augment the Fisheries Department's fleet with a number of sea-going patrol craft, as the department had to ensure that the new regulations did not become a dead letter.

The great majority of fishermen, being right-thinking men, have supported the department's management policy to the hilt. They appreciate the need for conservation measures, and are very strongly opposed to illegal practices which, if allowed to go unchecked, could have the effect of depleting a most valuable industry indeed. In effect, it means that the way of life and the very livelihood of thousands of people engaged in the industry will be endangered if nothing is done.

Unfortunately, there are a number of irresponsible types who have drifted into the industry. These people are in the industry to make what they can out of it without any thought for the future. Many of them have little or no regard for the harm they do to the crayfish industry by their practice of taking undersized crays, or by the more serious offence of stripping female crays of their berries. Beyond the investment of a few pounds, many of these operators have done nothing whatever as a contribution to the industry. They have only taken something out of the industry.

Sir Ross McLarty: Can they catch crayfish without a license?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: No. Crayfish can be caught commercially only by those who hold a professional fisherman's license.

The people to whom I am referring—and who may be referred to as the no-hopers of the industry—exist in the main by taking undersized crays. That is how they get what they term their margin.

There are many outlets for the sale of undersized crays, because unscrupulous buyers are prepared to accept such crays. Other people are prepared to accept undersized crays because they think they taste sweeter than the fully-grown crays. Others accept them because they think it is a clever thing to do.

At this juncture I make an appeal to the public and urge people to refrain from buying undersized crays or dealing in them, for the sake of the industry. What goes on in the trade in undersized crays is virtually a form of smuggling. It hits right at the heart of the industry and it will bring about the premature end of a valuable industry to this State. If we point out to the people that by accepting undersized crays they are jeopardising the industry, a greater sense of responsibility may be shown by these operators.

Mr. Rowberry: How would they jeopardise the industry?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: By taking undersized crays and by the practice of stripping female crays of their berries, or by fishing out of season and thus depleting the number of crays.

Mr. Sewell: Far too much of that goes on.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: That is correct. As the honourable member well knows, the reputable fishermen are very much against the practices I have mentioned, because they realise how these practices will affect their industry. Many thousands of undersized crayfish are sold to the public and disposed of in various ways along the stretch of coastline between say, Mandurah and Geraldton. We have many access roads into various sections of the coastline; and, at night, cars and trucks pick up special loads of undersized crays. These are sold to hotels, in bars, or in alleyways.

This practice is very dangerous to the future of the crayfish industry. It would require an army of inspectors to eradicate the practice. The practice of stripping female crays of their eggs or berries is the most harmful and most stupid of all. There are provisions in the Bill which, if passed, will make it very difficult for people who engage in these practices. Unfortunately they are becoming more common.

Under the existing laws, departmental inspectors have great difficulty in sheeting home charges of dealing in undersized crays or stripping female crayfish. Firstly, it is almost impossible, without seeing a man actually catch a certain fish, or without being able to prove that a given

fisherman consigned the fish for sale, for an inspector to link up a specific fisherman with fish he may have seized.

Mr. Tonkin: You want to get a few ideas from the Minister for totalisators.

Mr. Heal: He is going to do wonders.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I think the honourable member is referring to a matter that has no bearing on this whatsoever.

Mr. Tonkin: Any policeman can arrest on suspicion.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There is no need to try to make a point regarding other legislation at the present time. This difficulty that faces departmental officers gives rise to much malpractice in regard to the stripping of crays; and, generally speaking, in regard to dealing with undersized crays.

Secondly, the existing penalties under the Act are no real deterrent; and because of this, the future of the industry can be placed in jeopardy. A bag of crayfish today is worth nearly £15—undersized crays are not quite so valuable—so it does not take a man long to make up a fine of £5 or even £10 which he has to pay if a court awards a penalty against him.

So the two main problems appear to be: firstly, the identification of a fisherman as the consignor of illegal crays or the identification of undersized crays as consigned by a certain fisherman; and, secondly, ridiculously low penalties. This Bill is placed before members in an attempt to remedy those defects.

It proposes penalties more in line with current money values—penalties which will act as a deterrent—and so far as dealing in female crayfish in spawn or “stripping” females is concerned, power is being sought to require the court, in addition to imposing a pecuniary penalty, to suspend the offending fisherman’s license for three months in the case of the first offence, and six months for a second or subsequent offence.

Another important point which needs tidying up in the Act is the fact that the term “crayfish tail” is not defined; and, with the advent of freezer boats, there is now a necessity to define that term in order that there may be prosecutions of offenders. So the term “crayfish tail” at present has no legal standing, inasmuch as it is not the tail of the fish at all, but the abdomen.

The Bill, therefore, inserts in the parent Act an appropriate definition. It also proposes special provisions relating to the minimum legal length and weight of crayfish tails; and it confers on inspectors the power to seize undersized or underweight tails. At the present time, there is a doubt whether tails may be dealt with adequately under the present law. It is thought that they might possibly be able

to be dealt with, but this amendment will close the loophole and put the position beyond doubt.

One important provision in the Bill is that which assists in the identification of fish consigned, or delivered, or transported, or in the possession of any person. Provision is made for the labelling of all containers in which fish are packed, and making it an offence to deal with fish in any way unless they are in a properly-labelled container. Power is given to an inspector to seize fish in an unlabelled, or incorrectly labelled container; and evidence that a label bearing the name and address of any person is attached to any bag, box, etc., containing fish will be *prima facie* evidence that that person consigned or delivered that fish.

Provision is made that minimum penalties prescribed in the Bill will be irreducible regardless of any provisions of any other Act. There are two other smaller amendments of the parent Act which are of a machinery nature only. One is to simplify the procedure for altering the minimum legal length of any fish. At the present time, if there is any change to the schedule in regard to the minimum size of fish of any sort, whether they be crayfish or not, it is necessary to publish the whole schedule in the *Government Gazette* instead of merely publishing the amendment. The amendment contained in this Bill will obviate the necessity for publishing the whole schedule. The other small amendment is to prescribe the method to be used in measuring fish.

In conclusion, it might be again pointed out that the sole purpose of the legislation is to provide a better means of conserving this, the most valuable of our fisheries in Western Australia. The implementation of the amended Act will, it is believed, ensure that the future of the fishery is not prejudiced by deliberate attempts to circumvent measures designed to keep the fishery in a productive state in perpetuity. I think this is a responsibility we owe, not only to the operatives of the crayfish industry at the present time, but to those who will follow on in the industry in the years to come. It is, indeed, a responsibility we owe to the State as a whole.

On motion by Mr. Sewell, debate adjourned.

Message: Appropriation

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

MARRIED PERSONS (SUMMARY RELIEF) BILL

In Committee

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting. The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Watts (Attorney-General) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 15—Discharge of orders (partly considered):

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that the clause, as amended, be agreed to.

Mr. WATTS: The clause as at present worded has been strongly criticised with, I think, some justification, on the ground that in effect it says that a resumption of cohabitation is a resumption of cohabitation. I therefore move an amendment—

Page 17, lines 1 to 8—Delete subclause (5) and substitute the following:—

(5) If the parties to the marriage reside in the same household for a continuous period of one month or more and one of those parties effectively maintains the other of them or they both make an effective contribution to their joint maintenance, during that period, that circumstance is *prima facie* evidence of the intention of the parties voluntarily to resume cohabitation.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. EVANS: I would like your guidance, Mr. Chairman. I have on the notice paper an amendment containing the word "matrimonial," but I have noticed that the Attorney-General has moved amendments in other clauses to alter this word to "marital." Would I be in order in moving the amendment as it is printed, and then substituting the word "marital"?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): The honourable member may move the amendment as he desires it to read.

Mr. EVANS: And not as it is printed on the notice paper?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): That is so.

Mr. EVANS: When speaking on the second reading debate, I gave reasons for my proposed amendment; and, as the Attorney-General has had an opportunity to study it, I will say no more. I move an amendment—

Page 17—Insert after subclause (5) in lines 1 to 8 the following to stand as subclause (6):—

(6) Where the parties to a marriage, subsequent to the making of an order relieving either of them from the obligation of cohabiting with the other, have voluntarily resumed cohabitation and such order has not been discharged, it shall not affect any proceedings between them in respect of a later marital offence, but shall upon due proof of resumption of cohabitation as aforesaid, be deemed to have lapsed as from the date of such resumption.

Mr. WATTS: I am sorry that I cannot accept this amendment. To begin with, so far as it includes the words "it shall not

affect any proceedings between them in respect of a later marital offence" it is clearly repugnant to the provisions of the Commonwealth legislation on this matter which will shortly come into operation. That legislation will govern the whole question of marital proceedings in every State, and therefore it is impossible for the Government to accept the phrase which I have quoted. Of course, without that phrase, the subclause would be valueless. I think even the member for Kalgoorlie realises that difficulty and that I am compelled to reject his amendment on that ground alone. There are other reasons for its rejection, but that one is sufficient.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause, as previously amended, put and passed.

Clause 16 put and passed.

Clause 17—Court may make alternative orders:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 17, line 20—Delete the words "in proper case."

This amendment is the same as has been made in other clauses.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 18 put and passed.

Clause 19—Powers of the court with regard to custody:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 18, line 11—Add after the word "marriage" the words ", or commit the child to the care of the Child Welfare Department, until the child attains the age of eighteen years or for any lesser period."

As will be observed, paragraph (b) refers to "including an order placing the child in the custody of a person other than a party to the marriage." It is true that "a person" includes a corporation, but it has been brought to our notice that neither the Child Welfare Department nor the director is a corporate body and therefore the use of the word "person" could not apply to the Child Welfare Department as such. It is consequently necessary to provide specifically for the committal of the child, where desirable, to the care of the Child Welfare Department.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 18, line 21—Insert after the word "child" the words "of the family".

This is an amendment similar to several which have already been passed.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 20 put and passed.

Clause 21—Effect of separation order:

Mr. WATTS: This is a very important amendment. It is proposed to substitute for the clause as printed in the Bill the new clause which appears on the notice paper. The difficulty I find in moving this amendment at this stage is that I cannot contrive to leave in words in the clause. I fear it will have to be dealt with as a new clause at the end of the Committee stage.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): That is correct.

Clause put and negatived.

Clause 22—Enforcement of orders:

Mr. WATTS: This is a substantial amendment. The proposed new clause which appears on the notice paper does not alter what was intended by the original clause. But two or three things have been pointed out in regard to it. One is that the clause as printed does not fully give effect to the requirements of reducing the maximum imprisonment on default to three months. That has been clarified in the proposed new clause. I feel also that the situation is probably the same in regard to this clause, unless I move to strike out all words after the word "where". Is that in order?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Yes.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 19, line 1—Delete all words after the word "where" down to and including the word "default" in line 11, page 20.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move—

That the following be substituted for the words deleted:

any order contains a provision for maintenance or a provision for the payment of costs, the order shall direct the manner of enforcement of that provision, on default of payment, as provided by the Justices Act, 1902, and any person entitled to receive payment under a provision of the order may, without prejudice to the right conferred by subsection (3) of this section, enforce payment in that manner; but, for the purposes of this subsection—

- (a) the proviso to subsection (2a) of section one hundred and fifty-five of that Act does not apply; and
- (b) subsection (1) of section one hundred and sixty-seven of that Act shall be read and construed as though the words "three months," were substituted for the words "six months," in that subsection.

(2) Where a person is imprisoned by operation of the Justices Act, 1902, under subsection (1) of this section—

- (a) the operation of any maintenance provision contained in the order by virtue of which he is imprisoned is, except for any period of imprisonment on remand under section twenty-six of this Act, suspended during the continuance of that imprisonment;
- (b) that imprisonment does not operate as a satisfaction or extinguishment of any amount of which payment is in default; but that person shall not again be imprisoned, by operation of that Act, for the same default or be thereby imprisoned for any other default made prior to the issue of the warrant under which he is then imprisoned;
- (c) any default of payment occurring after the termination of that imprisonment is, for the purposes of this section, a fresh default; and
- (d) if that imprisonment is being served under more than one warrant, those warrants shall, for the purposes of the imprisonment, take effect cumulatively, but not for any period exceeding three months.

(3) Without prejudice to the right conferred by subsection (1) of this section, any person entitled, under a provision of an order, to receive payment of any amount of which payment is in default may register that order and file proof of that amount, in the manner prescribed by the rules, in any Local Court having jurisdiction within the district where the defaulting party is residing; and payment of that amount and the amount of any fees payable on registration of the order and filing of the proof may thereupon be enforced under part VIII of the Local Courts Act, 1904, in the same manner as if the sum of those amounts were the amount of a judgment of the Local Court.

(4) Any process of execution or enforcement issued under the provisions of this section ceases to be of effect, upon the subsequent issue of any process of execution or enforcement in respect of, or partly in respect of, or which takes into account, the same default as the former process.

That clause merely proposes to place in clearer language the intentions of the original clause which was subject to some criticism by the Law Society on account of the drafting; and it was agreed that it should be redrafted in order that there might not be any possibility in future of those criticisms being effective.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 23—Disobedience of an order:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 20, line 18—Add after the word “child” the words “of the family.”

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 20, line 27—Add after the word “child” the words “of the family.”

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 20, line 28—Delete the word “any” and substitute the word “the.”

The clause will then refer to “the” child and not any child.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 24:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 21, line 1—Delete the words “in proper case.”

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 25 to 35 put and passed.

Clause 36—Fresh evidence:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 30, line 15—Delete the word “any”.

This is regarded as a drafting error.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 37 to 43 put and passed.

Clause 44—Joinder of parties:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 33, line 14—Add after the words “be given,” the words “subject to, and”.

It is thought that there would be certain instances where it might be undesirable to give notice; for example, the person concerned might not be *compos mentis*, and the rules would provide under what circumstances that should be done. It is desired, rather than to make it mandatory, as it appears in the present clause, that it should be subject to and in the manner prescribed by the rules.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 45 to 48 put and passed.

Clause 49—Procedure generally:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 36, line 38—Add after the word "Act" the words "but the provisions of section fifty-one of that Act do not apply to applications made under section nine, fourteen or sixteen of this Act."

It is quite easy to understand why the provisions of section 51 of the Justices Act should be excluded from these clauses; because that section of the Justices Act imposes a limit of six months in respect of proceedings being taken. Such limit is not imposed in all cases in this Bill, and therefore the provisions of section 51 must be subject to the provisions of the Bill with which we are now dealing.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 50 to 52 put and passed.

Clause 53—Rules:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 38, line 7—Add after the word "procedure" the words "and the venue of the hearing of applications".

It is desired to be able to make rules for the venue of the hearing of applications. Members will have noted certain earlier provisions in the Bill which make specific reference to places where the applications shall not be heard, and it is desired to make rules in regard to where they can be heard in order to carry out the provisions of the Bill.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 54 put and passed.

New clause 21:

Mr. WATTS: I wish to add a new clause to take the place of clause 21 which was struck out. I pointed out the other day that if this Bill made provision that an order made under it had the effect of a decree of judicial separation, it is virtually certain that other provisions applying to judicial separations, and covered by the Matrimonial Causes Act of the Commonwealth when it comes into operation, would apply to the parties who had obtained an order under this measure.

One of those, as I indicated, was the position that the wife, for example, having obtained a judicial separation, or an order equivalent to it, if that were the position under this Bill, would, under the law to which I have referred, be in the position that she could not claim in her husband's intestacy, although if he had made a will she would be in a position, other things being satisfactory, to make application under the Testator's Family Maintenance Act, and obtain an order in the nature of a codicil to his will.

So it has been decided, for that reason and others that I can mention if desired, to do away with the provision that an order under this Act shall have the effect of a decree of judicial separation in order, it is anticipated, to escape from the possibility of the effect of the Matrimonial Causes Act to which I have just referred. Therefore I move an amendment—

Page 18—Insert after clause 20, in lines 25 to 31, the following to stand as clause 21:—

21. An order containing a provision for separation, while relieving the complainant of the obligation to cohabit with the other party to the marriage, does not otherwise affect the marriage or the status, rights and obligations of the parties to the marriage, except that—

(a) while a provision for separation is in operation either party to the marriage may bring proceedings in contract or in tort against the other party; and

(b) where upon, or in consequence of, the making of a provision for separation, a husband is required by a provision for maintenance to pay maintenance to his wife and the maintenance is not duly paid, the husband is liable for necessities supplied for the wife's use,

and a provision for separation does not prevent a wife from joining in the exercise of any power given to herself and her husband jointly.

The last few words, of course, are the same as those in the original provision. It will be quite clear to members, I think, that my reference last week was that the innocent party to proceedings of this nature particularly should not be the person who is deprived of the right to claim—if in the case of a woman—on the intestacy of her husband.

I quoted, with commendation, I think, all the observations made in the *University Annual Law Review* of December, 1959, in which there was considerable criticism, particularly in regard to the position of innocent parties under the Matrimonial Causes Act provisions. It is true that under our own Act—now shortly coming to an end—dealing with matrimonial causes, there has been a somewhat similar effect to that proposition under the Commonwealth Matrimonial Causes Act. We believe that the innocent party should not

be allowed to suffer in that manner in obtaining the order under the provision with which we are now dealing. I would like to make it perfectly clear that the clause I have moved does not provide alone in favour of the innocent party, but provides in favour of both parties, whether innocent or not. That will be the effect of the provision of this new clause, if agreed to.

New clause put and passed.

Schedule put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported with amendments and the report adopted.

VETERINARY SURGEONS BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 20th October.

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [8.25]: This Bill seeks to repeal, re-enact, and consolidate certain Acts regulating the practice of veterinary surgery. The Acts which will be repealed by the Bill, if it is passed, will be those which were enacted in 1911 and 1923. I have said in this House previously that if anything is worth expressing, it should be expressed in straightforward and simple language; and a perusal of the Acts which this Bill seeks to repeal will bear out that contention. It is gratifying to read them and note how clearly the draftsmen in those times were able to express themselves without ambiguity, without the use of legal jargon, with a lack of stupidity, and without what is referred to in certain quarters as "baffle gab."

I am able to say that the Bill has followed, by and large, the same pattern as the Acts it seeks to repeal and replace because even I was able to understand the Bill on my first reading of it. This measure is clear and concise, and is a pleasure to study. It has for its purpose the regulating of the practice of veterinary surgery in this State; and if it is successful in making it possible for more veterinary surgeons to practise in the country instead of congregating in Perth as they largely do at present, it will have achieved its purpose. I point out that according to the answer given by the Minister to the member for Moore yesterday, 11 of the 20 veterinary surgeons practising in this State are stationed in Perth.

Within a 60-mile radius of Manjimup there are approximately 169,000 head of cattle, both dairy and beef; 611,019 sheep and lambs; and 14,500 pigs. In addition to that stock there must be a fairly large number of horses and ponies within the same radius of Manjimup, because it is noticed that at certain agricultural shows many horses and ponies are exhibited; and, further, that at the various rodeos and

sporting events held throughout the south-west a great number of horses are required for the contestants.

However, within the same area there is only one veterinary surgeon and one person working on a veterinary permit. Therefore, if the Bill makes it possible for more qualified people to go to the country to look after our livestock as they should be looked after, it will serve a useful purpose.

The Bill also seeks to constitute a board of five members. This is exactly the same number of personnel as that which formed the board constituted under the old Act. However, there is a difference. There are four different types of persons to be appointed to the board. The relevant clause says the board shall consist of five members who shall be appointed by the Governor and who shall be—

- (a) the person holding the office of Chief Veterinary Surgeon in the Government department known as the Department of Agriculture;
- (b) two persons who are registered veterinary surgeons and who shall be elected at such time and in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, to be members, by the persons who are so registered.

That means that two persons will be elected who shall be registered veterinary surgeons and practitioners in the State. In addition there shall be one who shall be nominated in writing to be a member by the Western Australian division of the body known as the Australian Veterinary Association, and who shall be a registered veterinary surgeon.

This leaves me in a bit of doubt. Here we have three persons with exactly the same qualifications, and I cannot understand why they should not each be elected from the Australian Veterinary Association. It is possible, of course, that the two members who are to be elected—those mentioned in paragraph (b) above—need not be members of the Veterinary Association, or need not be members of their appropriate union or association; and, because of that, they would not be eligible to be elected under paragraph (c) of clause 5. Paragraph (d) provides that one person shall be nominated in writing by the Minister. There is no mention as to what the qualification of the person nominated by the Minister shall be, but I imagine that he would probably be a member of a stock-breeders' association, or a farmer. I shall be glad if the Minister will enlighten us as to what the qualifications of this person shall be.

It could be said that the board is heavily loaded on the side of the veterinary surgeons. I see no reason why it should not be so loaded; because, after all, the decisions of the board will largely depend upon the knowledge and science it is administering. It could be asserted that the board

should be constituted of, say, two farmers and two veterinary surgeons, because the board in its administration and deliberations must have special knowledge of a special science. So, as I have said, I have no objection to the loading of the constitution of the board in favour of certain people.

Further in the Bill provision is made for the meetings of the board, and the relevant clause states—

(1) Meetings of the Board shall be held at such times and places as the Board from time to time appoints.

(2) The chairman of the Board, or a majority of the members, may at any time call a special meeting of the board.

(3) The chairman of the Board or the Registrar shall call a special meeting of the Board whenever he is requested so to do by a written requisition under the hands of the majority of the members.

It does not make clear whether the majority of the members mentioned in this clause are members registered as veterinary surgeons or practitioners, or whether it is just a majority of the board, because subclause (2) of clause 12 states—

The chairman of the Board, or a majority of the members, may at any time call a special meeting of the Board.

Then it says later “by a written requisition under the hands of the majority of the members.” However, I daresay the Minister will be able to explain that.

Attached to this clause we find a penalty of £10. It merely says, “Penalty Ten Pounds.” It does not say, however, that the chairman of the board shall be liable to a penalty of £10 if he fails to comply with the written request of members; though it could very well mean that.

I say that, because in the Traffic Act, for instance, there is a requirement for a traffic inspector to show his authority to any person who demands it from him. I think the same applies in the Police Act; and failure to produce the authority in question makes the officer liable to a penalty of £10. So I hope the Minister will clear this matter up when he replies. Perhaps he might tell us whether it is a penalty for failure to comply with subclause (3) of clause 12, by whom the penalty is to be imposed, and for what.

The clause which deals with the qualifications of people who are to be eligible for registration provides—

(1) Every person is entitled to be registered under this Act who proves to the satisfaction of the Board that he—

(a) has attained the age of twenty-one years;

(b) is a person of good fame and character;

(c) (i) holds a degree, diploma or license of competency in veterinary science from the University of Sydney, Melbourne, or of Queensland (or some other university, college or institution recognised by the Board) or is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Great Britain.

It is interesting to note that in the original Act of 1911 that was the only qualification necessary—that he should be a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Great Britain. This would directly imply that there are no institutions in Western Australia which provide training in veterinary science. Since the Act was founded on the Victorian Act, it would seem that there was none there, either.

The next subparagraph provides that a person is entitled to be registered under the Act if he—

has passed through a regularly graded course of study in veterinary science of four or more years' duration at a university, college or institution recognised by the Board other than those specifically referred to in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

The words to which I take exception are, “has passed through a regularly graded course of study . . . of four or more years' duration.” This implies that all a person must do is to go to a college for four years; and, though he may fail to obtain his degree, at the end of that time he would still be eligible to be registered as a veterinary surgeon.

I suggest to the Minister that this could either be amended in Committee, or made very much clearer by alteration in another place. Instead of the words “has passed through,” we could perhaps have such words as, “has passed the prescribed examinations after a regularly graded course of study”; or, alternatively, we could substitute the words, “has qualified for a degree after study for four or five years.”

The Minister said that unfortunately from a professional point of view many people do not realise that to become a qualified veterinary surgeon it is necessary to undertake a five-year course at a university and obtain the necessary degree. It appears that this qualification has been omitted from clause 20 (c) (ii). To make this part of the clause clear the wording should be re-examined, and the clause should be amended in another place to remove the ambiguity therein.

It is provided in the Bill that three members of the board shall form a quorum; and that the chairman, or the vice-chairman in the absence of the chairman, shall have a deliberative vote; and in

the event of an equality of votes, a casting vote. That provision states that all questions shall be deemed by a majority of votes of members present and voting. I do not understand the wording of this provision, which is clause 15 (c) on page 7. Does it mean deemed to be passed, or deemed to be approved or deemed to be disapproved?

I may be casting a stone in still waters when I say I approve of the provision to give the chairman or the vice-chairman a deliberative vote as well as a casting vote. I have known from my own experience that such a provision has worked very effectively in some organisations. The voting on a question before the board referred to in this legislation may be equal, with the inclusion of the chairman's deliberative vote. For that reason he should also have a casting vote; otherwise the question would not be resolved. Why should the question be resolved in the negative if there is an equality of votes? Some people contend that the *status quo* should remain when there is an equality of votes.

On principle I object to any person having two votes at an election; but I will not object to a qualified person being able to exercise a casting vote for an organisation in the way he thinks best. If the chairman or vice-chairman did not have a casting vote under this legislation there could be a stalemate. We have to realise that questions brought before a board of this description will not be dealt with emotionally, but will be resolved with logic and reason. Because I feel sure that anyone who has the character and knowledge to become the chairman of a board of this kind will, in his wisdom, cast his vote in the proper manner, I am in favour of the provision.

Mostly stalemates occur when a progressive motion is put before an organisation. There is the stick-in-the-mud type who will always bring forward reasons to defeat a motion. If the question is to be resolved, it should be capable of being resolved either way. If the chairman has a deliberative vote only, the question would not be resolved should there be an equality of votes.

I have studied the Bill carefully. Other than the points to which I have made reference, I have no objection to the measure. Under the Bill it is proposed to increase the penalties very steeply. I refer to clause 26 (1) which prescribes a penalty of £100. Under the parent Act the penalties prescribed range from £5 to £20. Clause 30 of the Bill contains the general penalty. It states that any person committing an offence against the provisions of the Act is liable to the penalty mentioned as the punishment for the offence; or, if a penalty is not expressly mentioned, to a penalty not exceeding £50. However, if we increase the penalties proportionately

we find the general penalty works out to £60, which is £10 over the figure mentioned in the Bill.

We should realise that penalties are prescribed in legislation not for the purpose of deriving revenue for the organisation or the Government, but as deterrents. The best way to escape a penalty is to avoid doing any act which will incur the penalty. Although in Committee there may be further discussion on the steep increase of the penalty from £20 to £100, personally I have an open mind about the matter.

I am pleased to see a provision in the Bill to enable those who hold a current permit under the Act to continue practising, provided there is no qualified veterinary surgeon within 30 miles of their residences. I am referring to people who can do all the acts of a veterinary surgeon, but who cannot call themselves veterinary surgeons. This is quite a good provision. I think that in the Bill these people are called "permit-holders" or "veterinary practitioners." In the old days they used to be called "horse doctors"—the fellows who used to get a pipe and blow into the horse's mouth. What happened when the horse blew first I will leave to the imagination of members.

I have a dear old friend who acted as a farrier for the 15th Light Horse in the first World War. He has been working under a permit since then, and he has been of inestimable value to the people of Manjimup. Although he is now near the end of his years and is in ill-health, he does occasionally find time and energy to practise the art which he has built up by practical knowledge and practical usage. I commend the Bill to the House.

MR. KELLY (Merredin-Yilgarn) [8.53]: I do not know of any profession that has been more completely short of practitioners in Western Australia than the profession of veterinary surgery. Over the years there has always been great difficulty in obtaining people who were sufficiently interested to carry out the duties of a veterinary surgeon. During the war period the ranks were considerably depleted; and even the low average that had been maintained up to the 1914-18 war, and for quite some time afterwards, was inadequate. It was difficult to get promising young men to take on the profession. So anything this Bill will do to bring the position up to date and encourage more students to qualify for this profession will undoubtedly be a decided improvement.

This Bill largely replaces the original Act. It is moulded closely on the lines of the original Act; and whilst the Act itself has not come into a great deal of use over the years, it is nevertheless a precaution and should be kept up to date. It is necessary that unqualified persons do not carry out veterinary work. I know

it has been the practice over a period of years for many unqualified people, because of the shortage of veterinary surgeons, to relieve disease and ailments in stock. That was particularly so in the earlier period when horses were the chief form of farm traction. However, in more recent times veterinary work has switched to other stock.

One of the difficulties throughout the years has been the inability to obtain sufficient registered qualified men. Many people who are not qualified to practise have, in a number of cases, proved very useful. There have been, nevertheless, cases where people who were not registered and not fully qualified have been in serious trouble because of the methods they have adopted in treating shock.

The new composition of the board, as envisaged in the Bill, will be an improvement because it will have the effect of replacing one layman with a man representing the profession. That man would be qualified; and his knowledge would be of great benefit to the board. I think, too, it is very essential that an up-to-date record be kept of those people who are practising, or who could at any particular time be brought into the field of practice because of some special necessity.

I have no objection to the Bill. As far as I am concerned no malpractices or difficulties could arise. If the amendments contained in the Bill succeed in attracting good types of men to study veterinary surgery—particularly men from the Eastern States—the Bill will have achieved a most important function.

It is essential in these times, when various conditions have permitted new types of ailments to enter the agricultural world generally, that we should not have a dearth of veterinary surgeons, as has been the case in past years. We should have a sufficient number of men who can give the requisite attention when and where it is desired—and give this attention in a qualified manner.

I do not think the fines envisaged are too high. Anybody who contravenes a measure of this kind by setting himself up as an expert or a qualified man, is a danger to stockowners and should undoubtedly be stopped from practising. As we have found in many other cases, the only way to stop people of that kind from practising is to make the fine high enough to be a deterrent rather than its being so low as to represent the mere paying of a fee. I give my full support to the measure.

MR. LEWIS (Moore) [8.59]: I desire to make a brief contribution to this debate. Over the years, protests, demands, and requests by organised farmers have been made regarding the dearth in the supply of veterinary surgeons; and those

farmers have asked the various Governments to encourage, so far as it has been within their power, the training of extra veterinary students to become veterinary surgeons. I do not know that the Bill in itself does anything to relieve that shortage; but from my reading of it, it is at least designed to regularise those who have already become qualified.

In response to questions I asked yesterday, I ascertained that there were 21 veterinary surgeons in this State and four permit-holders—that is, permit-holders under the Veterinary Surgeons Act. Of those 21 registered veterinary surgeons, only one practises north of the eastern goldfields railway line; and of the four permit-holders, two practise north of the eastern goldfields railway line. Of the veterinary surgeons practising north of the line, one resides in Geraldton; and of the two permit-holders, one resides at Moora and one at Wyalkatchem. The others are spread from the eastern goldfields railway line southwards.

Mr. Nalder: What about the number in the metropolitan area?

Mr. LEWIS: Of the 21 veterinary surgeons, 12 are located in Perth, one at Northam, one at Pinjarra, one at Harvey, one at Bunbury, and one at Busselton. There are two attached to the Agricultural Department at Bunbury, and one attached to the department at Manjimup. Of the four permit-holders, one is situated at Margaret River, and another at Kalgoorlie. It will be realised, therefore, that the great majority of the veterinary surgeons are in the south-west. I have no complaints to make about that, and I do appreciate that the work of a veterinary surgeon has changed somewhat over the years.

Some 30 or 40 years ago, veterinary surgeons in country districts probably spent the greater part of their time attending to farm horses; and I well remember that in the districts where I farmed, that work was done, not by registered veterinary surgeons—because there were not any—but by veterinary practitioners or permit-holders; and they did a very good job.

I am thinking particularly today of a permit-holder who resides at Moora. He is the only permit-holder between Perth and Geraldton; and he has been practising at Moora for the last 30 years, in which time he has given universal satisfaction. I think the fact that he is still in business, after being 30 years in the one district, is a tribute to the satisfaction he has given throughout the district. Otherwise, no doubt he would have put the shutters up long ago.

My interpretation of the Bill is that a board will be established to register veterinary surgeons. The man who is merely a permit-holder but who has been practising so satisfactorily for such a long time, is not provided for in the Bill. Therefore

I propose during the Committee stage to move an amendment to clause 20 in order to allow the permit-holders to continue to practise. Subclause (3) (a) of clause 20 enables permit-holders to practise so long as a registered veterinary surgeon does not reside within 30 miles of the place in which the permit-holder lives. I think it would be grossly unfair for a permit-holder who has given so many years' satisfaction in a district to find that because a registered veterinary surgeon came to live in the town—in this case we will say Moora—he would automatically have to go out of business.

Mr. W. Hegney: You have something there.

Mr. LEWIS: The Bill even goes further than that, because it states that if a permit-holder desires to practise within 30 miles of the place where a veterinary surgeon resides, he cannot. This means that if a registered veterinary surgeon went to live at Dalwallinu, and the permit-holder now at Moora was called to Miling to attend an animal—which he often is—because Miling is within 30 miles radially, I take it, of Dalwallinu the permit-holder would not be able to perform that service. I think that would be grossly unfair.

I would have no objection whatever to allowing a registered veterinary surgeon—in fact I think we should encourage them to register, train, and practise—to take up a practice in Moora; but I believe he should take up that practice in open competition with the man already there. If the newcomer can give greater satisfaction than the permit-holder, that is too bad for the permit-holder. But I do think they should both be allowed to practise, instead of the permit-holder being compelled to cease operations because of an amendment to the Act.

Mr. J. Hegney drew attention to the state of the House.

Bells rung and a quorum formed.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not propose to add much more. It is the aspect to which I have referred about which I am particularly concerned. In clause 25, paragraph (2), something else will have to be added, because it states that nothing in this Act prohibits the performance and giving for reward of any veterinary service, operation, or advice by any person, if and so long as no registered veterinary surgeon resides and practises veterinary science within 30 miles of the place where such service, operation, or advice is performed or given. I believe that the clause should be amended to include a permit-holder. Generally speaking, I support the Bill.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture—in reply) [9.8]: I wish to thank members for their support of this measure. I stated during my introductory speech that it was the desire of

the association that this Act be brought up to date as, except for a slight amendment in 1923, it is the same as when first passed in 1911.

The points raised by members have been noted, and in Committee I will be prepared to discuss those matters. There are some suggestions made by the member for Warren and the member for Moore with which I feel I can agree, and therefore I will leave further comment until the Committee stage.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 11 put and passed.

Clause 12—Ordinary and special meetings of the Board:

Mr. NALDER: The member for Warren desired some clarification of this clause. I suggest that the reading of the clause is reasonably clear. Subclause (2) says that the chairman of the board, or a majority of the members, may at any time call a special meeting of the board. Subclause (3) says that the chairman of the board or the registrar shall—that is the difference between the two subclauses—call a meeting of the board whenever he is requested to do so in writing, or by a written requisition under the hands of the majority of the members.

If the members of the board cannot get permission from the chairman to call a special meeting they can call on the registrar, and the registrar can then—because he has a written requisition under the hands of the majority of the members—hold such a meeting. The penalty here is tied up with clause 29. If the honourable member looks at that clause, he will find that it deals with offences; and any offence under this Act, where it is not especially mentioned, carries a penalty not exceeding £50. However, in the clause with which we are dealing the penalty is set down as £10. I hope that explanation will satisfy the honourable member.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am unable to follow the Minister's reasoning when he tries to compare the clause under discussion with clause 29. Clause 29 reads—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order! The honourable member cannot read clause 29.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Clause 29 implies that if a person attempts something which the Act prohibits him from doing there is a general penalty of £50.

Mr. Nalder: I think you have to read it in conjunction with clause 30.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The clause under discussion deals with failure to do something one is required to do. As I said during the

second reading debate, if a public officer is called upon by the public to do a certain thing and he fails to do it, he is liable to a penalty. There is a section in the Traffic Act which says that a traffic inspector shall produce his authority if called upon to do so. Failure to do so renders him liable to a penalty of £10.

I object to the ambiguity of this clause. The chairman or the registrar could be a pigheaded sort of person and say, "I am not going to call this meeting." However, if he does that he will be liable to a penalty of £10. Why not make this fact clear? Why not say that failure to comply with the provisions of this section will render a person liable to a penalty of £10?

Mr. Nalder: If you think it necessary, I will pay some attention to it.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I think it would eliminate any ambiguity.

Mr. Nalder: Then move accordingly.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I move an amendment—

Page 6, line 17—Add after the word "members" the words "Failure to comply with the provisions of this section".

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The penalty of £10 would apply only to something which either the chairman or the registrar refused to do in accordance with subclause (3). Subclause (2) says that the chairman of the board may call a special meeting. Subclause (3) says that the chairman of the board or the registrar shall call a special meeting of the board whenever he is requested to do so by a written requisition under the hands of the majority of the members; and the penalty is £10. Later on in this Bill there are provisions for penalties up to £100 for offences against the Act. I presume that penalty could be imposed only by a court of law.

If there were a breach of the Act requisite legal action would have to be taken. But who will take the initiative to bring the registrar or the chairman before the court or the board so that a penalty can be imposed? Would they be subjected to having the hearing before a magistrate, in the ordinary courts of law, or would the penalty be imposed at a meeting of the board?

Mr. NALDER: Of course, members of the board would not be in a position to impose a fine on the chairman or the registrar. The matter would have to go before a court to decide and the maximum penalty would be £10. The court might decide that the fine should be only £5. The board could not impose any penalty.

Mr. W. Hegney: But a member of the board would have to take the initiative?

Mr. NALDER: Yes.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 13 and 14 put and passed.

Clause 15—Meetings of board:

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Even if I were the only member to enter a protest against the provisions of this clause, I would still vote against it. The member for Warren said that he was in favour of the clause because the chairman would be a competent and intelligent person who would exercise a deliberative vote and a casting vote in the interests of the Act. Yet when we were dealing with clause 12 he said the chairman could be a pigheaded sort of person. He cannot have it both ways. I have no quarrel with the member for Warren, but I do protest against this provision in the Bill.

The board will be constituted of five members, including the chairman: and three, or a majority of members, will constitute a quorum. All matters placed before a board should be decided by a majority; and if all members are not present at a meeting, and there is an equality of votes, the question should be resolved in the negative because it is not a majority vote. The matter could then be referred to a further meeting at which all members were present and could then be decided by a majority vote. Because I believe it is undemocratic, and the Act could be administered equally as effectively by the chairman having either a deliberative or a casting vote, instead of two votes, I move an amendment—

Page 7, lines 5 to 7—Delete all words after the word "vote" down to and including the word "vote."

Mr. NALDER: I oppose the amendment. It is likely that this board will not have regular meetings, and frequently decisions will have to be reached when there is no regular meeting. In those circumstances it is only right that the chairman should have a casting vote as well. That is why the provision has been inserted in the Bill. I hope the Committee will not agree to the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Mr. ROWBERRY: No mention has been made of one of the queries I raised during the second reading debate in regard to paragraph (c). The use of the word "deemed" does not make sense. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary* gives the meaning of the word "deem" as: "Believe, consider, judge." In my opinion, the word is either a misprint or else some words have been omitted. If we accept the meaning of the word "deemed" as "judged," it would mean the judging of the beauty of something or the quality of something. I do not think the word is used in its proper sense in this clause.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): I do not think anything can be done about it at this stage. It would appear that the word should be "determined." No doubt

the Minister will make a note of it and have any mistake corrected in another place.

Mr. NALDER: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 16 to 19 put and passed.

Clause 20—Qualifications and registration:

Mr. ROWBERRY: The provisions in subparagraphs (iii) of paragraph (c) on page 10 do not meet the requirements of the Bill, especially as the Minister has stated that to obtain the necessary degree requires four or five years' study at the University. This subparagraph makes no mention of any qualification or the obtaining of a degree at the end of the course of study. I suggest that the Minister should either amend this clause or have it recast before the Bill is sent to another place, because the wording of the subparagraph could mean that a person could enter the University and come out without any qualifications whatsoever.

Mr. NALDER: Personally, I think the clause is reasonably clear; but to meet the point raised by the member for Warren I will promise to have the matter looked at; and if any improvement can be made in the wording, it will be done before the Bill is sent to another place.

Mr. LEWIS: I move an amendment—

Page 11, lines 9 to 13—Delete all words after the word "advice" down to and including the word "given".

As it stands, the clause would enable a permit-holder to practise only so long as a registered veterinary surgeon did not reside and practice within 30 miles. I think that is totally unfair to a permit-holder, and the deletion of these words would have the effect of allowing a permit-holder to operate without this condition being imposed on him.

Mr. NALDER: I have no objection to the amendment and deletion of the words, because I do not think it would have much effect after a period of years. As the honourable member has mentioned, there are only four permit-holders remaining in this State. If the Bill is passed, the Veterinary Surgeons Board will not register any permit-holders in the future.

Mr. ROWBERRY: It should not be forgotten that the man mentioned by the member for Moore could have qualified as a veterinary surgeon under the provisions of the subclause immediately preceding the one with which we are now dealing. Section 21, referred to in that subclause, reads as follows:—

Where at the passing of this Act any person practises and has continuously for not less than five years before the passing of this Act practised veterinary surgery—

If that man had been practising for that number of years, as the member for Moore has said, he could have been registered as a veterinary practitioner. However, I have no objection to the deletion of the words.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 21—Application for registration:

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Subclause (4) of this clause requires that every veterinary surgeon, on changing his place of business, shall give notice of this fact by post to the registrar. This means that a record will be kept of where each veterinary surgeon is located. I realise that a veterinary surgeon will go where he obtains the most business. He is not directed where to go.

I wonder whether the Minister could explain to the Committee why there are 11 veterinary surgeons, out of a total of 20 practising in this State, who are residing in Perth. That seems to be a large number when, in many parts of the country, the services of a veterinary surgeon cannot be obtained.

The other point I raise is that in the Great Southern there is no veterinary surgeon at all. I notice, however, that there is a registered veterinary surgeon in Bunbury, while at the same time the Department of Agriculture provides a veterinary surgeon in that town. If there is to be a departmental veterinary surgeon situated in any town, it should be in a town where there is no such officer. I have in mind particularly the Great Southern. We find, however, that the department provides a veterinary surgeon in a town which already has one. It provides a similar facility in Busselton, 30 miles away; and one is also provided in Harvey. Apart from this we find a permit-holder at Margaret River. Accordingly I think the department might reconsider this matter, and see whether a departmental veterinary surgeon cannot be provided in those districts which are not already catered for.

Mr. NALDER: First I would say I would not like to hazard a guess as to why there are 11 veterinary surgeons in Perth. If we could question them they would probably give us the answer. There is no doubt that a definite requirement exists for veterinary surgeons in many parts of the State; but as other speakers have emphasised, the passing of this legislation will not necessarily help to bring more of these officers to the State. For a long time this has presented a problem, not only to the present Minister for Agriculture, but to past Ministers for Agriculture in various Governments. It is one of those problems that seem to be with us; and I can assure the Committee that the Government is endeavouring to do all it can to encourage young men to follow this profession. So interested is the Government in this matter, that some consideration is being given at the moment to see whether ways and means

cannot be found to encourage young men to study this science, because of the definite need for veterinary surgeons in Western Australia.

I might suggest that the reason for placing a veterinary officer from the department at Bunbury is that this is a very big dairy centre. As members know, this session we have endeavoured to assist the dairy section of the agricultural industry by allowing compensation to be paid for dairy cattle affected by T.B.; and to discover cattle affected by T.B. it is necessary to have a veterinary officer. There is a very lucrative opening for a qualified veterinary officer in the south-west.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 22 to 24 put and passed.

Clause 25—Prohibition of unregistered persons from recovering fees:

Mr. LEWIS: I move an amendment—

Page 16, line 16—Insert after the word "surgeon" the following words:—

"or any person who immediately before the coming into operation of this Act held a current permit under the Veterinary Surgeons Act Amendment Act, 1923."

I move this amendment because, in clause 20, we provide for persons who could operate; and we have enabled the holders of a current permit to operate without restriction. If we leave subclause (2) of clause 25 as it is printed, we will undo some of our work. If in addition to a registered veterinary surgeon we also provide for a permit-holder, then the clause will enable any person to give service, or advice, provided no registered veterinary surgeon or permit-holder resides and practises, and so on.

Mr. NALDER: If my interpretation of this is correct, I think it is reasonably clear, and I have no objection to the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 26 to 31 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported with amendments and the report adopted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL

Council's Amendments

Schedule of 27 amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Perkins (Minister for Labour) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The Council's amendments are as follows:—

No. 1.

Clause 12, page 27, line 37—Add after the word "district" the words "if union of those municipalities has been recommended by the Local Government Boundaries Commission appointed under subsection (6) of this section."

No. 2.

Clause 92, page 94, line 27—Add after the word "election" the words "or at any other election held by that Council on the same day."

No. 3.

Clause 101, page 102, lines 13 and 14—Delete the words "Where there are more than two candidates for election to fill a vacancy the" and substitute the word "The."

No. 4.

Clause 101, page 102, line 19—Delete the word "The" and substitute the words "Where there are more than two candidates for election to fill a vacancy the."

No. 5.

Clause 146, page 139, line 27—Delete the words "fifty yards" and substitute the words "twenty feet."

No. 6.

Clause 146, page 139, line 30—Delete the word "Fifty" and substitute the word "Twenty."

No. 7.

Clause 198, page 178—Add at the end of the clause the following proviso:—

Provided that nothing in this section shall empower a council to prohibit the continuance of brickmaking which is being carried on at the commencement of this Act, unless the person carrying on such brickmaking is paid reasonable compensation in such amount as the council and such person agree upon, or failing agreement in such amount as is awarded by a single assessor in case the parties agree upon one, otherwise by two assessors, one to be appointed by each party.

No. 8.

Clause 212, page 184, line 4—Insert before the word "firewood" the prefix "(a)."

No. 9.

Clause 212, page 184, line 5—Insert before the word "firewood" the prefix "(b)."

- No. 10. Clause 212, page 184, line 6—
Insert before the word "timber" the prefix "(c)."
- No. 11. Clause 212, page 184, line 7—
Insert before the word "timber" the prefix "(d)."
- No. 12. Clause 212, page 184, line 8—
Insert before the word "junk" the prefix "(e)."
- No. 13. Clause 212, page 184—Add the following proviso—
Provided that nothing in this section shall empower a council to prohibit the continuance of the above enterprises (c) and (d) which are being carried on at the commencement of this Act, unless the person, or persons, carrying on such enterprises is paid reasonable compensation in such amount as the council and such person, or persons, agree upon, or failing agreement in such amount as is awarded by a single assessor in case the parties agree upon one, otherwise by two assessors, one to be appointed by each party.
- No. 14. Clause 217, page 186, line 19—
Delete the word "retailers" and substitute the words "the medium of a shop."
- No. 15. Clause 235, page 200, line 24—
Add after paragraph (c) the following:—
; or
(d) requiring, as an alternative to payment into such a fund an applicant for a license to give to the council a bond, with or without sureties, in such sum as the council deems sufficient to ensure that the person carrying on an extractive industry will himself carry out, or cause to be carried out, such restoration and reinstatement work as is agreed upon between the council and the applicant on the granting of the license, and providing, in the case of default by the applicant in so carrying out the work or so causing it to be carried out, for forfeiture of the bond and payment of the sum therein referred to to the council, and empowering the council to apply that amount, or so much of that amount as is required, to carry out the work.
- No. 16. Clause 241, page 202, lines 29 to 31—Delete paragraph (b).
- No. 17. Clause 433, page 359—Delete all words after the word "building" in line 7 down to and including the word "feet" in line 14.
- No. 18. Clause 460, page 376—Add after subclause (4) a new subclause to stand as subclause (5) as follows:—
(5) If any entire horse, ass, or bull above the age of one year shall be found trespassing without a keeper on any land, the owner of such land may castrate such cattle if unbranded, and if the owner thereof be unknown.
(a) In every case where any cattle shall have been castrated in accordance with the foregoing provisions, no compensation shall be given to the owner of such cattle for such castration.
(b) The above enactments shall be cumulative, and not be a bar to any claim for any compensation for damage or to any penalty which may have accrued by reason of such trespass, unless such compensation shall have been claimed before a Justice of the Peace at the time of making the complaint therefor, or assessed on the hearing of such complaint.
- No. 19. Clause 530, page 430, line 24—
Delete the word "extend" and substitute the word "expend."
- No. 20. Clause 533, page 438, lines 5 to 8—Delete all the words after the word "less" in line 5 down to the end of the paragraph and substitute the words "forty pounds per centum to cover rates, repairs, insurance and other out-goings."
- No. 21. Clause 548, page 455, line 18—
Delete the word "three" and substitute the word "two."
- No. 22. Clause 548, page 455, line 19—
Delete the word "ten" and substitute the word "seven."

No. 23.

Clause 548, page 455, line 25—Delete the word "two" and substitute the word "one."

No. 24.

Clause 548, page 455, line 26—Delete the word "seven" and substitute the word "five."

No. 25.

Clause 650, page 530, line 16—Delete the word "proof" first occurring and substitute the word "evidence."

No. 26.

Clause 650, page 530—Delete paragraphs (f) and (g).

No. 27.

New clause, page 362—Add after clause 433 a new clause to stand as clause 433A as follows:—

Governor empowered may—

to make uniform general by-laws.

433A. (1) The Governor

(a) make and publish in the *Gazette* uniform general by-laws for all or any of the purposes for which by-laws may be made by a Council under this Part;

(b) by order declare that all or any such uniform general by-laws as are specified in the order shall apply to the whole or any portion of a district so specified;

(c) by subsequent order declare that all or any such uniform general by-laws as are specified in the order shall cease to apply to the whole or any portion of a district so specified.

(2) Where the Governor so declares that any uniform general by-law shall apply in the whole or any portion of a district, the by-law shall until it ceases to apply have the same force and effect in the district or portion of the district as if it were made under this Part by the council of the district in which or in portion of which it is so declared to apply.

(3) Where and to the extent that there is inconsistency between the provisions of a uniform general by-law having force and effect under this section and a by-law made by a council under this Part, the former provisions prevail.

(4) A council may enforce any uniform general by-law that is made and has effect pursuant to this section in its

district or portion of its district in the same manner as it may enforce a by-law made by it under this Part.

Mr. PERKINS: There are 27 amendments before us from the Council. Several of them seek to implement the promises I made to members in this Chamber when the Bill was dealt with in Committee. Others are consequential amendments, and the remainder are amendments made by members in another place to which I believe there is no objection. If it is the desire of members, I propose to move that all the amendments be agreed to.

Mr. NULSEN: I have examined these amendments and have given them every consideration. Speaking for myself—I do not know what my colleagues on this side of the Chamber think about them—I have no objection to any of them. In my view the Bill should be passed with these amendments. Even if to some extent there are defects in the Bill, the provisions could be given a trial of one or two years to determine whether or not there is any necessity to amend the Act.

Mr. PERKINS: I move—

That the amendments Nos. 1 to 27 be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee

Resumed from the 6th October. The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 5—Section 21A added:

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported on the clause after Mr. O'Neil had moved the following amendment:—

Page 3, line 33—Add after the word "or" the words "in any school grounds, within any city, town or townsite; or"

Mr. O'NEIL: The purpose of the amendment is to include schoolgrounds in the places where dogs are prohibited without being leashed. Members are aware that packs of dogs can become not only a nuisance in schoolgrounds, but also a danger to children. A group of children playing together seem to attract packs of dogs. I have had personal experience of packs of dogs entering schoolgrounds, transgressing on the verandahs and eating the lunches of the children.

This amendment was moved in haste. The repetition of the words "within any city, town or townsite" may have the effect of excluding some schools which do not come within any city, town or townsite. If members fear that the repetition of those words will exclude any school in

their district from being covered, I have no objection to removing the words "within any city, town or townsite" from my amendment. The sole purpose of the amendment is to make it incumbent upon owners of dogs to restrain them from becoming a nuisance in schoolgrounds.

Mr. BRADY: There are two matters I would like to clear up in connection with this clause. When the clause was before a previous Committee I asked the Minister why it was in its present form. The Minister said he wanted to know what was agitating the mind of the member for Guildford-Midland; but before the member for Guildford-Midland could reply, the member for Moore moved that a certain word be inserted. That stymied me at the time, and I could not get the information from the Minister that I wanted.

I would like to know why dogs used for droving purposes are exempt under this clause, yet people who have dogs on beaches are to be fined. Invariably dogs follow children to school; and many times they follow people to picture theatres, churches, and recreation grounds. The provisions in this clause may be a hardship on parents. I am not prepared to see parents fined simply because their kiddies have a dog which follows them to school. I hope the inclusion of these words will not be agreed to.

Amendment put and passed.

Mr. LEWIS: I move an amendment—

Page 3, line 34—Insert after the word "is" the word "being."

I see no justification for anyone who owns a working dog, whether a cattle dog or a sheep dog, being permitted, without any penalty, to allow that dog to stray on any beach unless the dog is actually being used for the droving of stock.

Mr. PERKINS: I agree with this amendment and I think it will satisfy the member for Guildford-Midland. I feel this word will definitely tighten up the clause.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 6 to 8 put and passed.

Clause 9—Third Schedule amended:

Mr. LEWIS: I notice that in the schedule the fee for every dog is 10s. while the fee for every bitch is £1 1s. These days guineas are used only by stud breeders and professional men. It seems to me a retrograde step to charge a guinea for a dog license. I think the fee should be £1. This would be cheaper to the person concerned and it would be more economical to deal with because no change would be involved. Guineas are harder to handle, and I do not see any logical reason why the fee should not be £1.

Mr. Brand: From a Treasury angle, 1s. covers the overhead.

Mr. LEWIS: If that is so, I wonder why something is not done to increase the fee for a dog to 10s. 6d.

Mr. Rowberry: Why not 10s. 11d.?

Mr. PERKINS: I have to admit I cannot give any valid reason for this fee being £1 1s. If members have strong feelings about it, I will not argue over 1s. It will not affect the finances of the Government; it will only affect local authorities. It is with them that members will be in trouble.

Mr. LEWIS: I move an amendment—

Page 5, line 19—Delete the figure "1" in the second column and substitute the figure "0."

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported with amendments and the report adopted.

Third Reading

On motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Transport), Bill read a third time, and returned to the Council with amendments.

STATE FORESTS

To Revoke Dedication

Debate resumed from the 20th October on the following motion by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands):—

That the proposal for the partial revocation of State Forests Nos. 4, 21, 24, 27, 28, 30, 42, 47, 51, 52, 53, and 63 laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly by command of His Excellency the Governor on Wednesday, the 19th October, 1960, be carried out.

MR. KELLY (Merredin-Yilgarn) [10.13]: This motion is one similar to those which are introduced in the closing days of the session and covers an accumulation of land matters particularly in regard to throwing certain areas open for selection. Sometimes this type of legislation deals with the closing of right-of-ways and various other like matters.

On this occasion it provides for the partial revocation of 694 acres of State forests; and in that regard it is slightly different from the usual motions, because it specifically details only land that has been released from the State forest areas.

There are 12 different areas involved: and I notice that there is one for recreational purposes, one for railway use, one for exchange for a piece of land which will be more useful to the department—and, incidentally, the exchange will be beneficial to the landholder—one for a road board depot, six for private use, and two the use of which has not been given.

I am in complete accord with the policy of disposing of these small areas of land which lie idle in different parts of the State, whether they are part of a forest or any other departmental holding, because I feel that in Western Australia we have too much land tied up which could be put to good use. Therefore legislation of this kind certainly has my full approval.

I notice that in the majority of cases these areas are described as being either poor forest land or poorly-timbered land. I feel that a little more explanation might be helpful. When I had the honour to be the Minister introducing this type of legislation, I submitted the information given to me at the time, but I realise now that a little more detail would be very helpful. Perhaps this has not been forthcoming in the past because such legislation has not been introduced until the dying hours of the session. However, on this occasion the Minister has seen fit to submit the motion a number of weeks before the close of the session, and I think this is quite an advantage.

I feel that a little more information would be useful, and there are just one or two points I would like to raise. I may have the wrong conception; but I did notice that area No. 7 is described as being poor forest land, and yet it is stated as being near Bow River, which is in close proximity to the Valley of the Giants, which many of us have visited. Of course it could be that the area is sufficiently far removed from the valley to have very little millable timber on it. However, as it is in close proximity to the Valley of the Giants I feel that some explanation should be forthcoming in regard to this area.

The only other area about which I would like some information is No. 10. This is described as 23 acres of poorly-timbered country which has been cleared in error by an adjoining landholder. It could not be poorly-timbered land if it has been cleared in error. I would like to have the assurance of the Minister that, although there may be a legitimate explanation in this instance, it will not be accepted as a principle that any land cleared in error may be automatically applied for by and granted to the adjoining landholder at a later stage. I believe that if this principle were adopted it would be dangerous.

On this occasion I feel there was a legitimate reason for the clearing of the land. But I would like the Minister to give some indication as to why this has occurred in this instance, and an assurance that it will not be a principle which will be adopted on many occasions. I support the measure.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Forests—in reply) [10.20]: I thank the member for Merredin-Yilgarn for his comments. I might point out that he may be confusing this measure with the road closure measure and the Reserves Bill which will be introduced later in the session. This is a Bill which I have introduced as Minister for Forests and not as Minister for Lands.

The honourable member referred to area No. 7 which he says is described as 50 acres of poor forest applied for by an adjoining landholder, and is in the vicinity of what is known as the Valley of the Giants. I have not made a personal inspection of

this area, but the comment I have here is from the Deputy Conservator of Forests; and the officers of the department are very closely attentive to their duties in regard to the release of any dedicated State forests. I can accept without reservation his comment that it is a poorly-timbered area and is no longer required for State forest purposes. The officers of the Forests Department are keen protectors of dedicated State forests and it is unlikely that the department would recommend to me, as it has done, the excision of this area, if that were not warranted.

With regard to area No. 10—which is an area of 23 acres cleared in error by an adjoining landholder—evidently it was poorly-timbered land before it was cleared, according to the comments of the Deputy Conservator of Forests. The conservator has been overseas for some months attending a world conference, at which he was one of the Australian representatives.

I am confident that in view of the recommendations and comments of the Deputy Conservator of Forests these areas can be excised from State forests in the best interests of the State; that they can be better utilised for agricultural or other projects. I repeat that I am confident it is in the best interests of the State that this motion should be agreed to.

Mr. Kelly: What about the clearing of this land in error?

Mr. BOVELL: I have no details in regard to that. However, I will make some further inquiries. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, in his comments, uses the words "poorly-timbered land"; and I am quite sure that had there been any desecration of valuable State forests a report would have been issued to me to that effect by the Conservator of Forests. To the best of my knowledge and belief, no such report has been submitted to me; and I am satisfied that it is in the best interests of all that this land be made available to the adjoining landholder.

Mr. Kelly: Would you tell us why it is that a person clears land in error and subsequently is given that land? Is that going to be the practice?

Mr. BOVELL: It is not general policy. However, mistakes are inadvertently made in every sphere of life, and I have no doubt that mistakes have even been made in this august Assembly. It was evidently a genuine mistake; and I have no hesitation in recommending that the House agree to this excision because I can only repeat that had there been any untoward action by this adjoining landholder a special report would have been submitted to me by the Conservator of Forests—because the Forests Department is a great protector of our dedicated State forests.

Question put and passed.

On motion by **Mr. Bovell** (Minister for Forests), resolution transmitted to the Council and its concurrence desired therein.

House adjourned at 12.25 p.m.