

thus fix an f.a.q. standard. At the moment, a large number of people are not very happy about the fixing of an f.a.q. standard for oats, and that is the reason for the Bill. The clause then goes on to state—

(c) not less than fourteen per centum of the whole shall be prime oats, that is oats held on a two mm. sieve;

(d) not less than seventy-six per centum of the whole shall be grade oats, that is oats held on a 1.5 mm. sieve;

(e) not more than a total of ten per centum of the whole shall comprise tailing or screening oats (that is oats passing through a 1.5 mm. sieve) and foreign matter.

Sometimes one buys oats which are supposed to be f.a.q. standard but they are really only screenings, and one cannot do anything about it. I bought oats last year and I would have been ashamed to have grown them myself. Yet they were sold as f.a.q. standard! Having no official standard, I could not do anything about it and I had to buy them. The clause then states—

Provided that not more than four per centum of such ten per centum shall be foreign matter (foreign matter includes other cereals, oat husks and the like, weed seeds or uncultivated oats);

(f) not more than one-twentieth per centum of the whole, by weight, or five seeds per hundred grammes of the whole shall be spear-grass.

I have bought oats in the past from the Great Southern and about 25 per cent. has been spear-grass.

Hon. L. A. Logan: Not at Popanyinning.

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No, they came from below Popanyinning. Therefore I think it highly desirable that we should set up an f.a.q. standard. Oats are now grown more plentifully for sale than they were in the past owing to high oversea prices. This year we had a voluntary pool operating, and a great deal of oats went oversea last year. Probably, the exports oversea will increase compared with a year or so ago, and more oats will be sold. Personally, I am not keen about sending oats out of the country; I would sooner see them being used as fodder for sheep. However, the fact remains that oats have been sold, and I am certain that country members will agree with me when I say that this Bill is highly necessary. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

## ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. G. B. Wood—East): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.15 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.1 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 5th July, 1949.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.3 p.m., and read prayers.

## PRIVILEGE.

*Hon. F. J. S. Wise and "Daily News" publication.*

**HON. F. J. S. WISE** (Gascoyne) [4.32]: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I desire to draw your attention to certain matters. On Wednesday last when speaking to the third reading of the Building Operations and Building Materials Control Act Amendment (Continuance) Bill (No. 2) I made reference to a table of figures and some notes by Mr. Gregson, which had been supplied to the Minister for Housing and with which I later asked the Minister to supply me. I did not quote any of the figures. I merely drew attention to the statement in Mr. Gregson's submission to the Minister and the footnote to the figures which pointed to the serious errors which occurred in the figures. I have with me the copy, which I intend to submit to you, Mr. Speaker. In the "Daily News" of last Saturday in the column headed, "This Week in Parliament" occurred these words—

Wednesday was private members' day, but they did not get much of a look-in.

On the motion for the third reading of the Building Controls Bill (usually a formal matter) Opposition Leader Wise launched a bitter attack on the Minister for Housing, accusing him of attempting deliberately to mislead the House on the timber position. He quoted personal memoranda pencilled by Mr. McDonald on the papers he had made available to Mr. Wise.

The inference that could be drawn from a statement framed in that way would be that I had consciously used something personal of the Minister, something private of his, some of his personal notes. I wish to draw your attention to the fact that I not only did not do that, but that these notes did not contain any personal pencilled memoranda of the Minister's. They contained what I said they did. They contained pencilled marks with regard to the figures which the Minister used. Not any one of us in politics expects anything other than partisanship in newspaper comments and even from columnists, but we do expect that when such matters are quoted as actual happenings, the truth shall be stated. As far as I am concerned, this matter could be dealt with under Standing Order No. 142 and I think that, in these circumstances, I would request that you get the actual "Hansard"

proof, which will show that no word or letter has been altered, so that you may see whether there is any foundation whatever for this false statement.

I would further ask you, Mr. Speaker, to examine this document from which the Minister did read and from which I subsequently quoted, and also to examine the statement in the "Daily News," because it may be that if an earnest attempt is made to correct the wrong impression and to overcome the wrong that has been done, that would be quite satisfactory. So far as I am concerned, I draw your attention to the matter. I would prefer on this occasion to be quite generous—in fact absolutely generous—to the extent that if the matter is retracted, I would be prepared and would prefer to say that it was an honest mistake.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray-Wellington) [4.39]: I would like to say a word or two on the matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the comment in the "Daily News." I feel it may have resulted from an interjection which I made, when the Minister for Housing was replying to the third reading debate and dealing with matters affecting housing. I notice that when the Minister was replying, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, "In the first instance, you detached the damaging contents." To that the Minister for Housing replied, "I do not think so." At that stage I interjected, "His pencilled notes are in the margin, and they were used." That may have given the reporter in the Press Gallery the impression that these notes were used. Reference was made to the notes by the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: There are no notes, you understand.

The PREMIER: Some reference was made to pencilled remarks, or something of the sort, in the margin. I can quite imagine that that might have given the writer in the Press Gallery the idea he gained that private notes were used. The writer of those notes has been reporting in this House ever since I entered it nearly 20 years ago, and I think members generally will agree that he has been fair in his criticism. At any rate, that is my opinion—

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Fairly one-sided.

The PREMIER: —and I cannot think that he set out on this occasion to do any personal injustice to the Leader of the Opposition. I rose to draw the attention of the House to the fact that I made the interjection that probably gave rise to the matter ventilated by the Leader of the Opposition.

**THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING** (Hon. R. R. McDonald—West Perth) [4.41]: I should like to repeat that, in what I said, I had no idea that I was otherwise than completely candid and gave the House all the information that it should receive. I have referred to Mr. Gregson since and ascertained that the reference by him to "serious error" in the figures applied to sleepers and in particular to comparatively recent years. My remarks related to sawn timber associated with housing, as to which I believe the figures were completely reliable. They were taken from the most authentic sources—

Hon. A. H. Panton: What has this to do with the argument before the Chair?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: —and I believe that, having regard to the references made by the Leader of the Opposition, they represented a fair portrayal of the position regarding such timber.

**HON. A. R. G. HAWKE** (Northam) [4.43]: The Premier was good enough to mention an interjection of mine in connection with this matter. All I desire to say is that the printing of the statement in the Press can have no other effect than to portray the Leader of the Opposition to the public as a person who is prepared to use for political purposes subject-matter that is the personal property of the Minister. In so doing, the "Daily News" and especially the writer of the column have done the Leader of the Opposition a most unjustified and most grievous wrong, because I am sure that no member of the House, not even the member for Middle Swan who appears to regard this matter as one for joking, would believe for a second that the Leader of the Opposition would be guilty of anything of the sort.

The very best of relationships have existed between all members of Parliament and all Governments and the Press and we would desire that state of affairs to continue. However, I should regard it as a duty of any

pressman who intended to publish a statement of the kind to confer with the Leader of the Opposition to ensure that the charge proposed to be published was in fact well based. That is the least the pressman concerned might have done. However, he did not do it, but submitted his subject-matter to the newspaper and it was published, and this, in my opinion, constitutes a very serious libel on the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will look into the matter.

#### CONDOLENCE—LETTER-IN-REPLY.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a letter from Mrs. Leahy as follows:

In reply to your letter of the 16th June, expressing the sincere resolution passed by the Assembly towards my late husband, I have to offer my very sincere appreciation. On behalf of my family, please accept our deepest gratitude for your kind remarks.

(Sgd.) S. LEAHY.

#### QUESTIONS.

##### POLICE.

*As to Cunderdin Station and Quarters.*

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE asked the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

Is it intended to make any alterations, or additions, to the Cunderdin police station and quarters?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING replied:

Not at present as it is not considered as urgent as other housing requirements.

##### TIMBER INDUSTRY.

(a) *As to Mill Production and Areas.*  
*Granted.*

Mr. REYNOLDS asked the Minister for Forests:

(1) When will Holyoake Mill go out of production?

(2) Where is it proposed to transfer the plant and personnel?

(3) Since March 1947, how many acres of (a) jarrah forest, (b) karri forest have been granted to—

(a) State Saw Mills;

(b) Millars' Timber and Trading Company;

(c) Bunning Bros.;

(d) Whittakers;

- (e) K. T. Company;  
 (f) Other firms?  
 (4) What was the production at Boddington Tanning Mills in—  
 (a) June, 1947;  
 (b) June, 1948;  
 (c) April, 1949?

The MINISTER replied:

- (1) In three to four years' time.  
 (2) It is not definitely known as this will depend upon circumstances at the time of closing down. There is every possibility that the Holyoake plant and personnel will be absorbed within the sawmilling industry and by State Saw Mills.

- (3) (a) 10,900 acres jarrah and karri;  
 (b) 44,830 acres jarrah;  
 (c) 23,964 acres jarrah and wandoo;  
 (d) 66,300 acres jarrah and karri;  
 (e) Nil;  
 (f) 114,159 acres jarrah;  
       5,320 acres karri.

- (4) Information not available.

(b) *As to Mills and Staffing.*

Mr. REYNOLDS asked the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Is the progress of construction on the Shannon River Mill up to schedule?  
 (2) If not, why not?  
 (3) Is there any lack of engineering staff for the new mills?

- (4) How many displaced migrants were employed during the years ended June, 1947, 1948 and to May, 1949, on (a) State mills, (b) private mills?

- (5) Where does the department propose to obtain skilled and unskilled labour for the new mills?

The MINISTER replied:

- (1) No.  
 (2) Shortage of materials, particularly rails, and shortage of skilled labour.  
 (3) Generally speaking, no.  
 (4) The number of migrants placed with sawmills direct from reception camps was as follows:—

Period	State Sawmills	Private Mills
Year ended the 30th June, 1947	Nil	Nil
Year ended the 30th June, 1948	29	54
1/7/48 to 31/5/49	61	203

The figures quoted are initial placements only and do not include transfers from other employment to the timber industry.

- (5) The Forests Department is not responsible for finding labour for new mills.

## EDUCATION.

*As to Area Schools Opened and Contemplated.*

Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many area schools are there in Western Australia?  
 (2) When were these opened?  
 (3) At what centres?  
 (4) How many scholars are catered for at each?  
 (5) What other area schools are under consideration, or for which is approval anticipated in the near future, and at what centres?  
 (6) What is the anticipated and approved expenditure in each case?

The MINISTER replied:

- (1) It is presumed area schools of the Tasmanian pattern are referred to and there are none such in Western Australia.

- (2 to 6) Answered by No. 1.

## RAILWAYS.

*As to Dwellings for Fettlers and Platelayers.*

Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many dwellings have been erected in the past two years at country sidings for occupation by fettlers and platelayers?  
 (2) At what sidings or towns have these dwellings been erected, and what number at each?

The MINISTER replied:

- (1) No dwellings for occupation by fettlers and platelayers have been erected at country sidings by the State Housing Commission, but the Railway Department advise having erected 30 such dwellings during the past two years.

- (2) Dwellings have been erected at the following country sidings:—

Beacon 2, Bindi Bindi 2, Boddington 1, Bowelling 2, Dalwallinu 2, Duranillin 1, Dwellingup 2, Inglehope 1, Kent River 1, Kulja 1, Muradup 1, Manmanning 2, Nukarni 1, Parkerville 1, Southern Cross 2, Trayning 2, Warralackin 1, Woodanilling 1, Yellowdine 2, Yilliminning 2.

### TROLLEYBUSES.

*As to Perth Turn and Use of Skates.*

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

When is it anticipated that work will be—

(a) commenced;

(b) completed

to install trolleybus overhead wires along Wellington-street east and other streets in the locality to overcome the turning of Wembley trolleybuses at Perth station and to avoid the use of skates on trolleybuses running along Hay-street between the car barn and Perth Town Hall?

The MINISTER replied:

To obviate the turning of trolleybuses at the Perth Railway Station, work has commenced on the loop around Wellington Square and, subject to trolleybus overhead copper wire coming to hand, this work should be completed by the 30th November, 1949.

The work referred to as being undertaken in Wellington-street is in a small degree a contribution to the work necessary to cause trolleybuses to traverse Wellington-street in lieu of Hay-street, but completion is not expected until late in 1950 as the scheme is associated with the replacement of trams by trolleybuses in William-street.

### MAGISTRACY.

*As to Reduction and Transfer.*

Mr. McCULLOCH asked the Attorney General:

(1) What was the reason for recently reducing the number of magistrates on the Eastern Goldfields?

(2) Is he aware that many complaints were voiced by Justices of the Peace having to attend coroner's enquiries owing to lack of magistrates for some years on the Eastern Goldfields?

(3) Why was Mr. Harwood, who was a student of the Public Service, transferred in preference to Mr. Draper who was elevated to the Bench from the legal profession?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL replied:

(1) In order to meet the needs of the Public Service.

(2) No.

(3) Mr. Harwood's transfer involved temporary promotion. The transfer of Mr. Draper would have involved temporary demotion.

### COAL STRIKE.

*As to Standing-down of Employees.*

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is he aware the employees of Mundaring Weir have received notice of the termination of their employment?

(2) Is it not possible to employ these workers on other jobs pending power being available?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Approximately 50 men are so employed but the number will have to be reduced if the coal strike continues.

### TOBACCO.

*(a) As to Control and Distribution.*

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE asked the Premier:

(1) Has the Government yet made a decision as to whether legislation will be introduced to control the distribution of available supplies of tobacco and tobacco products?

(2) If not, when is a decision likely to be made?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) and (2) The Commonwealth Government relinquished control of tobacco rationing at the end of March, 1946, and control was assumed by the voluntary committee on the 1st April, 1946. Similar voluntary committees are operating in all States. The chairman of the committee advises that the committees are carrying on exactly on the same lines as under Commonwealth control.

At that time Mr. W. Luke, Chairman of the Tobacco Distribution Committee, made the following comment:—

On and after next Monday the distribution of tobacco will be solely in the hands of a trade committee known as the West Australian Tobacco Trade Distribution Committee, whose address is Box L. 916, G.P.O., Perth. From Monday onwards all inquiries should be directed to that address and not to the present Tobacco Distribution Committee. It is understood from the new committee that although official control will end tomorrow there will be no departure from the present system of rationing until sufficient stocks are available to meet all requirements.

It has been reported to me that the A.B.C. news service two or three months ago announced that the Prime Minister had been asked if he would consider the Commonwealth Government's taking over tobacco rationing. Mr. Chifley replied "No" and added a comment to the effect that he was satisfied with the manner in which it was being handled. This does not appear to have been published in the Press.

Soldiers' rations remain with the retailer irrespective of whether the soldier has removed to another locality or not. Soldiers who do remove frequently make arrangements for their quota to be picked up or to be forwarded by the retailer.

No legislation was considered necessary by the preceding State Government, and, as supplies are now greater, no legislation is at present contemplated although representations on certain aspects of the system are being considered.

(b) *As to Operations of Distribution Committee.*

Mr. ACKLAND (for Mr. Leslie) asked the Premier:

(1) As the answers to my questions regarding the composition and the activities of the Tobacco Distribution Committee in Western Australia failed to give any of the information sought, will he inform the House whether the specific information sought was denied to him and if so what reason was given for this and the evident desire on the part of the interests concerned to remain anonymous and to operate under the veil of such great secrecy?

(2) If no such reason was given, will he ascertain that reason from the interests concerned?

(3) Can he suggest any ulterior motive which may be responsible for the extremely unusual secrecy under which this committee

operates and the refusal to divulge the name of any person associated with the committee or the address where the committee transacts its business?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) The information was not denied to me.

(2) Answered by No. 1.

(3) No.

# NATIVE AFFAIRS.

(a) *As to Cosmo-Newbery, Munja and Madura Stations.*

Hon. A. A. M. COVERLEY asked the Minister for Native Affairs:

(1) Is it proposed to provide extra staff at Cosmo-Newbery and so build it up to a fully-equipped institution, and provide schooling as well?

(2) Is Munja native station to be handed over to Kunmunya Mission on terms substantially the same as proposed under the previous administration?

(3) Are there sufficient natives at Madura to justify the establishment of a mission? If so, do the numbers run into double figures?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) It is considered that an assistant superintendent, who will be bookkeeper and in charge of stores, should be appointed, preferably a married man whose wife could give elementary educational instruction to the children.

(2) No terms relating to transfer to Kunmunya Mission of control of Munja Station were, I believe, arranged with the mission during the last administration. The transfer since arranged is intended to meet the objective of securing an effective administration of Kunmunya and Munja and eliminating the expense of dual administrations.

(3) It is considered that there is a sufficient number of natives in this area to be served by this mission, which has only recently commenced, and the superintendent of the mission has reported to the Department of Native Affairs that he has information that a number of natives are on the way to the mission from the Trans.-line and other northern areas.

(b) *As to Petrol and Children at Settlements.*

Hon. A. A. M. COVERLEY asked the Minister for Native Affairs:

(1) What amount of petrol was issued for use at the Moore River and Carrolup native settlements respectively for the months of January, February, March, April, May, 1949?

(2) What are the number and ages of children transferred or intended to be transferred from Moore River Settlement to Carrolup for educational purposes?

(3) On whose recommendation is this transfer to take place?

The MINISTER replied:

(1)		Moore River. Carrolup.	
		gals.	gals.
January	..	184	132
February	..	184	132
March	..	220	132
April	..	364	132
May	..	216	185

The amount of petrol allowed to these settlements and other Government departments is determined by a special Government committee functioning for that purpose. In the month of April additional petrol was authorised to enable the transport of materials being used in improving and extending building installations at Moore River, and in the month of May additional petrol was authorised for the same purpose at Carrolup Settlement.

(2) No transfer of children from Moore River Settlement to Carrolup has yet been arranged.

(3) Transfers of children from Moore River will be determined by the Commissioner of Native Affairs and, where the Education Department is involved, in consultation with and with the approval of the Director of Education.

(c) *As to Transfers from Moore River Settlement.*

Hon. A. A. M. COVERLEY asked the Minister for Native Affairs:

(1) Is it intended to carry out the previous administration's decision to secure a new settlement in the wheatbelt for the children and better class natives at present at Moore River, or is it proposed to transfer them all to Carrolup?

(2) If the latter is intended, is the Government aware of the health risk in sending Moore River and Northam natives to the colder climate of Carrolup?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The matter of the acquisition of a property in the wheatbelt for a new settlement has been deferred for the time being, as the provision of the considerable quantity of piping, galvanised iron and other building materials necessary to establish such an institution would at present represent an appreciable withdrawal from the needs of the general housing programme.

Carrolup Settlement already has a nucleus of buildings and other installations and the intention is that provision should be made there for such children as may be suitably transferred from the Moore River Settlement.

(2) It is not considered that the climate of Carrolup would be unfavourable to children transferred from Moore River.

(d) *As to Treatment of T.B. Natives.*

Hon. A. A. M. COVERLEY asked the Minister for Native Affairs:

(1) Is the decision to treat T.B. patients at Moore River due—

(a) to their refusal to stay at Woolooloo?

(b) the refusal of Woolooloo to treat natives?

(2) If so, what assurance is there to believe that the natives will stay at Moore River, or is it proposed to treat them under detention?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) There has been no decision to treat T.B. patients at Moore River. In the event of its being found desirable to provide special accommodation for T.B. natives, it is intended, in association with the Department of Public Health, to examine the suitability of Moore River Settlement as a site for an institution for the treatment of such natives.

(2) The suitability of Moore River from the point of view of the inclination of natives suffering from tuberculosis will be examined when the matter of further facilities for the treatment of such natives is being determined.

# POTATO TRUST FUND.

## *As to Revenue and Expenditure.*

Mr. HOAR asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) How much money has been collected under the Potato Industry Trust Fund Act?

(2) How much has been expended in accordance with the Act in—

(a) administration;

(b) research into diseases affecting the production of potatoes?

(c) any other?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) £2,388 0s. 7d.

(2) (a) £32 8s.

(b) Nil. Four power dusting machines have been ordered at a total cost of £100. These will be used for the control of potato moth.

(c) £1,365 5s. 2d.

Of this amount the sum of £1,350 19s. 11d. has been paid to or on behalf of the Potato Growers' Association of W.A.

Under the Act there is power for financial assistance to be given to the Potato Growers' Association.

The estimated expenditure for the year was £1,600 and all zones were agreeable to the rate of expenditure.

This involves the payment of a full time secretary and running an office, also delegate and zone expenditure.

# STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION.

## *As to Stocks of Cables, etc.*

Hon. J. T. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has the State Electricity Commission sufficient electric cables in stock adequately to meet current requirements.

(2) Has it sufficient to meet its needs for the next twelve months?

(3) What quantities of V.I.R. stranded copper wire have been purchased by or for the State Electricity Commission since the 31st May, this year?

(4) From what source and at what prices were the purchases made?

(5) What quantities and sizes, respectively, of V.I.R. stranded copper wire has the State Electricity Commission in stock?

(6) Does the State Electricity Commission place buying orders for the Government Tramways Department?

(7) Has the Tramways Department in stock all the cable it requires for its trolley bus lines?

(8) Has the State Electricity Commission recently had offered to it quantities of rubber insulated type R.H. heat resisting cables, 660 volt grade, of various sizes and available in Australia for immediate delivery?

(9) Were particulars of any such offer, or offers, referred by the general manager to the technical officers of the Electricity Commission and the Government Tramways? If so, which officers?

(10) If an offer has been made, will the papers in connection therewith be made available for perusal?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The Commission's requirements are already covered by outstanding orders.

(2) See (1) above.

(3) 1,500 yards taken over from P.W.D. stocks.

(4) See (3) above. Cost £21 2s. 1d.

(5) 28,265 yards as scheduled—

Sizes.	Total Yards.
3/029 250V. .. ..	943
3/036 250V. .. ..	7,586
3/036 660V. .. ..	200
7/029 250V. .. ..	3,533
7/029 660V. .. ..	200
7/036 250V. .. ..	3,389
7/036 660V. .. ..	2,151
7/036 3300V. .. ..	143
7/044 250V. .. ..	5,338
7/064 250V. .. ..	2,964
19/044 250V. .. ..	321
19/052 250V. .. ..	103
19/064 250V. .. ..	622
19/064 660V. .. ..	300
19/072 250V. .. ..	80
19/083 250V. .. ..	322
37/083 250V. .. ..	70
	<hr/> 28,265

(6) No.

(7) No. Part of the requirement is in stock and the deficiency will be made good when V.I.R. cable on order comes to hand.

(8) Yes. By a Mr. Fitzpatrick, 289 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, who has for disposal a quantity of American manufactured cable of large diameter, which it is understood came from surplus American stores through the Disposals Commission.



(9) Not referred to the Government Tramways Department. The following officers of the Electricity Commission were asked for comment:—Messrs. Jukes, engineer, South-West; Ehlers, electrical engineer, Electricity and Gas Branch; Plues, transmission engineer, Metropolitan System; Riensset, electrical superintendent, East Perth Power Station.

(10) File S.E.C. 10/32/1 (Part 1) submitted.

### HOSPITALS.

#### (a) *As to Regional Buildings and Expenditure.*

Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Health:

(1) How many regional hospitals have been built and opened from March, 1947, to June, 1949?

(2) In what towns are they situated?

(3) What was the total expenditure on each regional hospital?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) None. The erection of regional hospitals at Geraldton, Bunbury and Albany is contemplated as soon as the exigencies of the building situation will permit.

(2) and (3) Answered by (1).

#### (b) *As to Intermediate Ward and X-ray Plant, Kalgoorlie.*

Mr. STYANTS asked the Minister for Health:

(1) What are the prospects of re-opening the intermediate ward of the Government Hospital, Kalgoorlie, in the near future?

(2) If the x-ray plant at the above institution is unsuitable for any case requiring an x-ray photo and the patient is sent to the Commonwealth Laboratory—

(a) is the patient expected to pay for the plate?

(b) if so, will he make representations to the Commonwealth Government to have this service considered part of its free hospital service?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The intermediate ward will be opened as soon as staff is available, but it is too early to anticipate a time when this will occur.

(2) (a) Yes, unless indigent.

(b) Yes, but representations to that effect have been made more than once, the latest being in March, 1948. The Commonwealth's decision has been quite definitely adverse.

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.

#### *As to Referees Appointed and Acting.*

Mr. OLIVER asked the Minister for Education:

(1) What number of referees has been appointed under the appropriate section of the Workers' Compensation Act since its inception?

(2) What number of referees is now acting by appointment under the Workers' Compensation Act?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Under Section 17 of the old Workers' Compensation Act it was the Minister's prerogative to appoint legally qualified practitioners as medical referees, and the list of referees so appointed was duly gazetted. Under the amendment Act of 1948, Section 17 was repealed, and under Section 28 of the new Act the Workers' Compensation Board may appoint its own medical referee, and under Clause 7 of the First Schedule the Registrar may refer to a medical referee any dispute between the employer and the worker based on a medical certificate given to the worker by a practitioner. It is difficult to stipulate the number of medical referees appointed, as many revised lists have been published over a very long period. Periodical revision was of course necessary, because of the removal of practitioners from time to time from the districts to which they had been appointed as referees.

(2) None. I would amplify this answer; On the basis of medical referees who have been specifically appointed by the Workers' Compensation Board since the 8th April last.

### MINING INDUSTRY.

#### *As to Reports on Ventilation.*

Mr. OLIVER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

(1) Has it been the practice of the Mines Department to furnish to the Secretary or the A.W.U., Boulder, a copy of the monthly report of the Ventilation Inspector of Mines?

(2) If the answer is "Yes", when did the practice cease, and upon whose instructions?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Practice ceased in February last upon instruction of the Minister for Mines.

### NORTHAM ROAD BOARD.

*As to Administration of Affairs at Wundowie.*

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE asked the Minister for Local Government:

When will it be possible for the Northam Road Board to take over legally the administration of local government affairs at Wundowie?

The MINISTER replied:

A decision on this matter has not yet been reached. A conference including representatives of various Government departments involved and also representatives of the Board of Management, Progress Association and the Northam Road Board, has been called by the Director of Industrial Development as Chairman of the Board of Management with a view to discussing the various problems and making definite recommendations.

I might add that the answer to this question was typed on Friday afternoon and that the conference had its first sitting yesterday and made some appreciable progress.

### BILL—MARKETING OF BARLEY ACT AMENDMENT (CONTINUANCE).

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 30th June.

MR. KELLY (Yilgarn-Coolgardie) [5.23]: I think the brief remarks of the Minister, in his second reading speech on this continuance measure, should be taken by the House as a compliment to the Minister who originally brought the legislation forward. The brevity of the Minister's remarks and the lack of amendments indicate that the measure has operated successfully during the past three years. It is not surprising that the parent Act has given so much satisfaction, in view of the great care taken during the time when it was before the House three years ago, and the fact that it was introduced at the request of the growers and to a great extent incorporated their ideas. The legislation has undoubtedly fulfilled a very useful purpose. I am surprised that after

three years the Government has not seen fit to bring down amendments to several of the provisions of the parent Act, particularly with reference to the constitution of the board.

During the second reading debate on the original measure considerable time was devoted to pulling to pieces the relevant clause, and members opposite made every endeavour to deprive the Minister of the right to appoint one grower representative to the board. It is interesting also to recall that during that debate no less than four of the present Ministers in this House spoke, in both the second reading and Committee stages, in opposition to that clause. I believe the Honorary Minister for Agriculture in another place was quite pronounced in his views and said that the producers did not favour the Minister having the right to appoint one of the producer representatives.

It seems strange to me that, although this criticism was levelled at the Bill when it was first introduced into this House, and considerable discussion took place with regard to it, the present Minister has not seen fit to give a great deal of consideration to that aspect. If the contentions raised at that time were right it is a wonder that now, when a continuance measure is before the House, nothing has been done about the amendments that were attempted to be made to the original Bill. The member for York spent 25 minutes in dealing with this provision and was not prepared to concede one reason why the Minister should have the power he sought. Several of his utterances are worthy of recall. He said, "There may be all sorts of Governments and Ministers administering it." I concede him that point. There have been all sorts of Governments, and the present Government, although composed chiefly of men representing the growers of the State, has not seen fit to increase the representation selected by the growers in this case. The hon. member continued, "The genuine producers have just about had a neckful of these people who are put on boards to represent them and who are just tools in the hands of Ministers." Does that imply that the growers are at present in the hands of these tools, as they are called?

I think this matter should have received a considerable amount of attention on the part of the Government. In a division—when dealing with that provision—as to

whether the Minister should select one growers' representative or whether the growers should select all three, the voting was ayes, 18, and noes, 27. The ayes were composed of eight Liberals, seven C.D.L. members and three Independents. I am more than surprised that that provision has not been altered and the only solution I can arrive at is that, notwithstanding the criticism levelled at it on its introduction, the measure in its entirety must have given complete satisfaction to those in whose interests it was introduced. I support the second reading.

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS** (Hon. L. Thorn—Toodyay—in reply) [5.30]: I stated at the outset that this Act had functioned very successfully.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Look who brought it in!

The **MINISTER FOR LANDS**: I would indicate to the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie, and I think he will agree with me, that we members on this side of the House are very reasonable in these matters, and we do appreciate it when a good Act is included in the statutes of this State.

Hon. A. H. Panton: It takes you so long to realise that it is a good one. That's the trouble.

The **MINISTER FOR LANDS**: As I stated, the Act was so good that it was not the desire of the Government to amend it in any way.

Mr. Kelly: Then you must have been wrong in the first place.

The **MINISTER FOR LANDS**: I have much pleasure in asking that the second reading of the Bill be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

## **BILL—CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS ACT AMENDMENT.**

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 30th June.

**MR. STYANTS** (Kalgoorlie) [5.32]: I understand the necessity for this Bill has been brought about primarily because of a

Queen contest that was conducted last year by the Wooroloo Aftercare Committee. However, I do not think that that is the only case that has occurred which warrants some amendment to the Act. The Wooroloo Aftercare Committee received a license from the Chief Secretary's Department to conduct a Queen contest and without any reference to the department the committee appointed an organiser. One of the conditions of his contract was that he would receive ten per cent. of the total net collections. Ten per cent. on the amount which it was anticipated would be raised, probably spread over a period of nine months, would have worked out to quite a reasonable sum when based on an estimate of what the committee had previously collected.

However, on this occasion there was a State-wide collection which had a distinct appeal to the charitable instincts of the people of the State. Consequently a much greater amount than previously collected was obtained on this occasion, with the result that ten per cent. of the receipts would have been something in the vicinity of £1,600 or £1,800 spread over a period of eight months. That was considered altogether too high. I understand that the agreement between the Wooroloo Aftercare Committee and its organiser was a strictly valid one, but I would point out that the Minister had power under the Act to revoke the license immediately it came to his notice that the committee had entered into an agreement to pay an official organiser more than was thought to be fair remuneration.

The Minister could have revoked the license which would automatically have cancelled the contract with the organiser, and if it was thought that the application was still worthy of consideration the Minister could then have issued a fresh license and the committee could have commenced a new appeal. I think that would have got the department out of a lot of bother and had it instantly been carried into effect the whole scheme would have been nipped in the bud. Section 12, Subsection 2, of the parent Act contains a provision that a license may be issued with any condition attached to it which may be fixed by the Minister. Therefore it seems to me that if there was any irregularity in the matter it was not because the Minister did not have authority in connection with it but rather that he had been tardy in exercising his authority. In the

first place he could have attached any condition he liked upon the issue of the license; and, secondly, he could have revoked the license immediately he found out that something he had not approved was contained in an agreement between the committee and the organiser.

The amendment proposes, in the first instance, that any contract or arrangement entered into, without the proposal first being submitted and approved, shall be declared void. The second portion of the amendment provides that any money received on account of any contract or arrangement which has been declared void, because it had not been approved by the Minister, shall be recoverable in any court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due from that person. The third portion of the amendment indicates that where money is recovered it shall be given to the charitable purpose for which it was raised but, if the cost of recovery has not been met, that cost may first be deducted.

I do not think there would be any serious difference of opinion as to the desirability of the Bill, not only as regards this particular contest but also with other charitable organisations. There have been very questionable methods adopted in the raising of funds. The day of the voluntary and efficient organiser has gone. During the war it was not difficult to get a competent voluntary organiser, particularly if the appeal was for patriotic purposes. We had men and women of high standing and integrity, as well as ability, who were prepared to take on these jobs in an honorary capacity, but I think that day has passed and we must realise that it would pay in many instances, and be more profitable for the charitable organisation concerned and better for the contributing public, if a paid organiser were appointed. If you have a competent person in charge of an appeal then that competition is efficiently run. I know of one appeal which was conducted by voluntary effort, and with the very best of intentions, but unfortunately it was conducted by an incompetent person and it did not realise the results that the organisation had anticipated.

Whilst it would probably be agreed that there is no intention in the amendment to prevent payment to an organiser, I think it is generally agreed that he should be paid a reasonable remuneration, and not to the

tune of an amount ranging from £1,600 to £2,000 over a period of eight months. In justice to the organiser of this particular contest, I understand that when the results indicated that the amount to be raised would be in excess of that which was anticipated, he agreed to accept and did accept a lesser amount than what he would have received if he were paid the 10 per cent. commission set out in his contract. An agreement to pay by results can be particularly dangerous and objectionable. It was dangerous in an instance of this kind when the committee anticipated, on the proceeds of previous appeals to the public for funds in aid of those suffering from the after-effects of T.B., that they would raise about £4,000 or £5,000. I think they did raise about £13,600 clear.

In addition to that most unsatisfactory feature, in many of the large manufacturing establishments and in some city emporiums the staff had raised, by their own efforts, as much as £150 and £200 in one particular building for this Queen contest. Thus the organiser, without having given any energy or organisation towards the collection of that amount, was automatically entitled to £15 or £20 as commission. If that became known to the public generally, it would not further the cause of charity and the people would be very reluctant to contribute to future worthy appeals which are made to them from time to time.

In the present Act it is provided that the account of the appeal shall be audited and power is also given the Auditor General's Department to examine all documents relating to the appeal. Evidently, it is now proposed to provide dual control because, in addition to the authority given to the Auditor General, it is proposed to give the Minister power to authorise some other person to examine and audit the accounts of these appeals. I made some inquiries on this point because it seemed extraordinary to me that the Minister, when introducing the measure, should have said that the intention was to give him authority to authorise someone to examine and check the accounts of these appeals in lieu of the Auditor General.

The Attorney General: That was a mistake.

Mr. STYANTS: That is all right, because I find on inquiry that there is dual control, and it is needed. In some instances

I think that ten per cent. commission would not be excessive when it is considered that the Lotteries Commission pays out ten per cent. of the proceeds collected in commission to agents for selling tickets. In some instances ten per cent. of the total proceeds of an appeal to an organiser would not be exceptionally high, especially if the appeal was spread over a long period. However, I think the proposed amendment will definitely cover the position, that is, that a license shall contain a provision that before it is issued any organisation intending to conduct an appeal must obtain the sanction of the Minister, and, if it is not obtained, the license shall be declared void. Where that is done then any moneys raised under that license shall be liable to recovery in any court of competent jurisdiction by the Minister and any moneys that have already been collected, less the cost of recovering them, shall be paid to the charitable institution concerned. That, I think, would meet the position.

When the Lotteries Commission was inaugurated it was confidently thought that appeals and small art unions which plagued the community at that time would be completely stopped. For a time, I think there was almost a total cessation, but the position has gradually returned to what it was previously, because almost every Friday in the city area an appeal is conducted in aid of some charitable institution. I suggest that if the Lotteries Commission were devoting the whole of its attention to the provisions of adequate sums for these institutions there would be no need for these appeals. I point out that it was inaugurated for that purpose. However, we find that the major contribution from the Lotteries Commission is paid out for the building of the new Royal Perth Hospital. I do not think those payments should be brought under the heading of payment to a charitable institution. They should be paid out of consolidated revenue or from Government funds raised by taxation.

I consider that if the Lotteries Commission did not pay out enormous sums in that direction, it would be able to finance adequately the whole of the charitable institutions, and thus obviate the necessity for the constant appeals held almost every Friday. These appeals constitute a sectional tax upon a small portion of the inhabitants in

the metropolitan area who find they are obliged to enter the city each Friday. Probably only 10,000 or 12,000 of the population are constantly being asked every Friday throughout the year to contribute to some charitable organisation conducting an appeal. I believe that no step should be taken to prevent an organiser being paid, but in all circumstances where the amount of the appeal is likely to be large, an agreement for a commission to be paid by results is exceedingly dangerous, and I therefore approve of the proposed amendment to avoid a repetition of any such practice. I intend to support the second reading of the Bill.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. A. V. R. Abbott—North Perth—in reply) [5.50]: I do not intend to add much by way of further comment because the member for Kalgoorlie has supported the Bill. It should be made clear that in connection with the Queen Carnival referred to by him, the Chief Secretary had the advice of the Solicitor General and acted upon it. Some reference was made to the Lotteries Commission utilising too much of its funds upon the construction of the Royal Perth Hospital. Whether that was right or wrong, it was an arrangement made with the previous Government.

Mr. Styants: Cannot you get away from that phase?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I am merely pointing out the position.

Mr. Styants: We all knew that.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: When such arrangements are made, it is sometimes difficult to avoid them. As I have indicated, the arrangement was made with the Lotteries Commission prior to the present Minister becoming responsible.

Mr. Styants: That does not make it right.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I am inclined to agree that these weekly collections represent somewhat of a burden to those who have to frequent the city streets. I also agree that it probably becomes hard on some employees whose remuneration these days does not make it possible for them to make the contributions they would like and which are not altogether unimportant items of expenditure to them. At the same time, the street collections assist very materially a great number of worthy objects.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

# **BILL—PLANT DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).**

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 30th June.

**HON. J. T. TONKIN** (North-East Fremantle) [5.55]: I have read carefully the very few remarks made by the Minister in another place and also those by the Minister in this House in connection with the small amendment embodied in the Bill. The proposal is simply to substitute the word "pest" for the word "parasite," it being argued that the definition of "parasite" in the existing Act is too restrictive and therefore makes it impossible, in the view of the Solicitor General, to enforce certain provisions of the Plant Diseases Act with respect to some of the pests that attack fruit trees and the like. I have no doubt that the advice tendered was to the effect that certain pests should be brought under control and it was extremely doubtful, as the legislation stood, whether compulsion could be resorted to. The amendment included in the Bill is intended to make it possible to use compulsion when necessary in cases where certain pests are developing or spreading. I believe that the powers sought should be granted. The Minister might have given some indication of specific insects that the department has in mind.

The Minister for Lands: Perhaps it had in mind Argentine ants and some others.

**HON. J. T. TONKIN**: I do not think Argentine ants represent one of the items seeing that the Government has handed that pest over to the Health Department, whereas the Act we are asked to amend is administered by the Agricultural Department.

The Minister for Lands: Yes, but the Argentine ant might become a pest.

**HON. J. T. TONKIN**: I do not think there is any intention of dealing with the Argentine ant under this measure. In fact, I am certain of that, otherwise the Government would not have handed the pest over to the Health Department to deal

with, a step which has completely mystified me. However, I cannot discuss that matter under this Bill. It would have been of assistance had the Minister named a few of the pests which the department has in mind.

The Minister for Lands: Probably the authorities find that they want a bigger measure of control over all pests and that the term "parasite" does not go far enough.

**HON. J. T. TONKIN**: Possibly so.

**HON. F. J. S. WISE**: There are vegetable, insect and other pests.

The Minister for Lands: That is so.

**HON. J. T. TONKIN**: The dictionary meaning of the word "parasite," as applied to insects, would apply to those that spend the major portion of their time on the host.

The Minister for Lands: Yes, and I am very interested in them, too.

**HON. J. T. TONKIN**: It is conceivable that there would be various pests that could cause considerable damage to vegetation but which did not spend the major portion of their time on a host. Take grasshoppers, for example! It cannot be said that a grasshopper is a parasite inasmuch as it does not attach itself to animals or vegetation but rather does it consume vegetation as it goes. Thus, the word "parasite" would not cover grasshoppers. I take it the reason why the amendment is sought is to make it possible for the department to use compulsion in connection with insects which, strictly speaking, are not parasitical and do not come within the ambit of the definition included in the Act. I have examined the definition of the word "pest" in the measure and I have no quarrel with it, although it will permit the department to declare almost any insect a pest. If it is a pest, the provisions of the Plant Diseases Act should be brought into operation against it.

If the Argentine ant were under the control of the Department of Agriculture, it might be possible to use the provisions of this Act against it, because not only does the ant cause inconvenience and loss to human beings but it also creates considerable damage in orchards and paddocks, and to that extent can be regarded as a pest that ought to be dealt with. However, the provisions of the Plant Diseases Act have stood

the test of time; the Act is regarded as a sound piece of legislation, and I have no objection to its provisions being extended to cover those insects which today are supposed not to be embraced by the term "parasite." I support the second reading.

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS** (Hon. L. Thorn—Toodyay—in reply) [6.1]: I have been greatly interested in the remarks of the member for North-East Fremantle regarding the distinction between parasites and pests. At one time, I held a position as an inspector and was privileged to develop a wasp that attacks the dried fruit grub. This is a most efficient parasite. I was responsible for some of these wasps being sent to London and there at the docks, they are propagated by the warmth of a certain type of lamp. That wasp has proved of great assistance to the dried fruit industry because it destroys this objectionable grub. We refer to it as "life"; it is not nice to think of grubs in dried fruit. The wasp stuns the grub and fastens it to the end of the box by means of a web, and then lays its eggs on and covers the grub. At a later date, the eggs hatch and those wasps, in turn, carry on the work. I might have gone further and spread myself on the difference between parasites and pests.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: That would have stunned us.

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS:** However, I am pleased to have the support of the hon. member.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

### **BILL—FARMERS' DEBTS ADJUSTMENT ACT AMENDMENT (CONTINUANCE).**

*Second Reading.*

**THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION** (Hon. A. F. Watts—Katanning) [6.5] in moving the second reading said: This Bill, like measures of the sort which it has been customary to present in recent years, provides for the duration of the Act for a further period of two years. The original legislation was passed in 1930, and came into operation in January, 1931. In the early

years, great use was made of the Act by farmers whose financial position had become difficult owing to the circumstances of the time, but subsequently—I believe in 1935—the Rural Relief Fund Act was passed, which made available methods by which funds contributed by the Commonwealth could be utilised for advances to adjust the debts of farmers, and in consequence the Rural Relief Fund Act and the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act became very closely bound together, in that the machinery to obtain advances under the Rural Relief Fund Act was the machinery provided by the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act. Therefore, it is necessary to continue the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act for a period so long, perhaps, as there is money available under the Rural Relief Fund Act to provide advances for the adjustment for satisfaction, by compromise, of the debts of farmers.

But under the Rural Relief Fund Act the main work now being carried out by the department is in connection with applications for the writing off of advances or for settlement on a reduced basis. Members will recall that in 1947 Parliament agreed to a measure providing that if 20 per cent.—or at the discretion of the trustees a lower percentage than that in certain cases—were paid by farmers into the Rural Relief Fund, the balance over and above the 20 per cent. could be written off. There have not been as many repayments of 20 per cent. as were expected; yet the position is that 803 cases have been dealt with since the passing of the 1947 Act, involving repayments of £53,091 10s. 1d.

Today, in consequence—and notwithstanding certain re-advances which have been made—there is in the Rural Relief Fund a sum of £116,208. The full amount outstanding is £1,172,672 2s. 4d. and, allowing for cases which in the discretion of the trustees might be justified for a total writing off, it may be said that nearly £1,000,000 will probably, provided farmers pay the amount in order to obtain the settlement, produce between £150,000 and £200,000. It is therefore apparent that there is an expectation that between £250,000 and £300,000 will be in the Rural Relief Fund. This sum will be available in the event of unfortunate circumstances again attacking the farming community, so that the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act will come into greater use than it has been in the past year or two.

That money would be available in conjunction with the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act for assistance to those applicants.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You want to keep that as a nucleus for another emergency?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes. I think that was the intention we debated in 1947 when the Government brought forward the Bill stipulating 20 per cent. in every instance, and the Leader of the Opposition suggested that in certain cases the trustees might have a discretion to accept a lesser sum. To that suggestion the House agreed. Since Parliament approved of the original amendment of the Act to provide for writing off, the total written off in the cases I have mentioned, where the 20 per cent. has been paid, is £217,000. The work of the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act and the Rural Relief Fund Act is now carried out by two officers of the Lands Department, and there is at the moment no financial expenditure being incurred in connection with salaries, because the work is very light.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You have appointed them the trustees?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes. One other trustee is engaged under the Rural Relief Fund Act. He is Mr. Maley, who is paid an amount of £150 per annum. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. F. J. S. Wise, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 6.12 p.m.*

## Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 6th July, 1949.

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

## QUESTIONS.

### EDUCATION.

*As to Hilton Park School.*

Hon. E. M. DAVIES asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) In view of the State Housing Commission having accepted 135 acres of land from the Fremantle City Council for housing purposes, will he ascertain from the responsible Minister whether additional class rooms have been authorised for the Hilton Park School now under construction?

(2) If not, will he give consideration to the request?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) Not up to the present.

(2) Yes.

### STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

*As to Fremantle-Esperance Run.*

Hon. G. BENNETTS asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) Has any consideration yet been given to replacing the m.v. "Kybra" on the Fremantle-Esperance run?

(2) If not, will the Government consider placing another ship on the route to replace the "Kybra"?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) No. It has not been possible to divert the "Kybra" to the south coast owing to North-West space requirements.

(2) To the best of the Government's knowledge, no suitable ship is available.

### BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Building Operations and Building Materials Control Act Amendment (Continuance) (No. 2).

2, Mental Institution Benefits (Commonwealth and State Agreement).

Received from the Assembly.

### BILL—MARKETING OF EGGS ACT AMENDMENT.

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [2.29]: Today I discussed the Bill with some people who are interested. On first thoughts it seemed, according to the Minister's explanation, that the additional power, by which the board