

report closely; and, if he acts on it, it will be in the best interests not only of Carnarvon, but also of the other North-West towns and the North-West generally—although some North-West members may not entirely agree with me.

If a person wants to send his child away from Carnarvon to go to school the cost is beyond the reach of the average pocket; and there is no reason why a district which is as isolated as Carnarvon is, should be handicapped in this way. The same applies to other North-West towns, and, if people are prepared to go there to help settle and establish the area, it is up to the Government to do everything possible to help them. So far only a few people have shown any inclination to settle there and we must give them amenities which will keep them there. It is up to all Governments, irrespective of their political colour, to do whatever they can to keep the people in the North-West.

DR. HENN (Leederville) [9.5]: I would firstly like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to the very high office which you hold in this Parliament. From what I have read, and from what I have heard, I understand that you hold a position of great authority in this House. I can assure you that you will not have to use any of that authority against me during my stay in this Chamber.

I also wish to take this opportunity of thanking the staff of Parliament House for the very kind consideration they have shown me since I have been a member. It has certainly been a pleasure to enter this House, and I hope that my stay will be a long one. For the kindness that has been shown me by the staff so far I can only say, "Thank you."

As far as my electorate is concerned, it is, of course, a metropolitan one; and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking my electors for placing their confidence in me. I can assure them that I will give them the very best service of which I am capable. I think it was Edmund Burke, the great British statesman, who said that a member of Parliament's first duty was to his electors, his second to his party, and his third to himself. I admit that the political scene has changed somewhat over the last two centuries, but I will do my best to live up to that maxim.

Like the member for Toodyay, I am not unaware of the fact that in my electorate I have a large number of excellent schools. I am also not unmindful of the fact that this Government is sympathetic to any question that is referred to it, particularly regarding the question of financial assistance to independent schools. However, I shall not say any more about that at this stage.

The first matter to which I would like to refer is one that at first sight may seem quite trivial. But I hope to show that

it is of very great importance to many of my electors; and also it concerns a great number of dwellings which surround Lake Monger which, of course, is right in the centre of my electorate. I am referring to the midge pest, or plague, which, as members know, is no small matter.

Many people have no idea of the enormity or the seriousness of this nuisance. One talks quite gaily and quickly about the midge as if it were some little mosquito that just gets out of one's way; but I should like to refer to it by its other name which is *Polypedilum Nubifer*. As members can see, it is a formidable name; and I can assure them that the midge is equally as formidable. These midges cause a rapid deterioration of houses, not only those surrounding the lake itself, but also those within a half mile radius of it. No less than 1,000 houses are affected by these pests during the summer months; newly built and expensive houses depreciate enormously in value almost as soon as they are built.

No mention has been made of the personal nuisance which this pest causes by preventing people from sitting on their verandahs on warm summer nights. Every morning housewives are to be seen sweeping down midges by the bucketfuls from under the eaves; also tradesmen are prevented from carrying out proper trading facilities in their shops when this pest is about. One would think that flywire doors would be quite sufficient to counteract the nuisance, but I can assure members that they just fold up their undercarriages, fold their wings, and go straight through the flywire! It is absolutely true to say that flywire is no guard against them.

In the last four years the Perth City Council has concerned itself with this important subject—I say it is important because of the threat to the health of the people—and, in conjunction with the Department of Zoology in the University of Western Australia, they have been looking for ways and means of eradicating this pest. We are very fortunate in Western Australia because we have in this State a world authority on these particular midges in the person of Dr. Hodgkin and his assistant, Mr. Don Edward. I understand there is no greater authority, and these men have been working for four years on this matter. I mention that because what I am going to suggest should be done has certainly the backing of that eminent authority.

As a result of this research it has been conclusively proved that the best method of eradication of the midge—and the midge is not common only to Leederville, but it is in plague form there—is to remove 12ft. of the bottom deposits of Lake Monger by dredging. This operation will not only achieve the desired result, but it will also assist in the functions of Lake

Monger as a compensating basin, which part it plays in draining the Jolimont lake.

Many insecticides have been tried in an effort to eradicate the pest, but only D.D.T. has proved of temporary use, and the expense of repeated treatment of the lake at frequent intervals is considered to be impracticable and too costly. In this connection it must also be borne in mind that Lake Monger itself is drained through to the Swan River so that one has to be careful with the spreading of D.D.T. on Lake Monger. If it can be conceded that the only method of eradication is dredging; and as biological control and insecticides have proved ineffectual, it must be considered a matter of urgency to eradicate the plague by this method. This will have the additional advantages of—

- (1) Improving the function of Lake Monger as a compensating basin.
- (2) The bottom deposits dredged from the lake can be used for the filling in of the rubbish tip areas, which are adjacent to the lake, and these can then be grassed and used for sporting fields.
- (3) Lake Monger can then be used for aquatic sports as I believe it used to be in the past.
- (4) Lastly, and the most important of all, is the eradication of the midges themselves.

Apart from the reasons already given for the desirability of exterminating the midge plague from Lake Monger, and so relieving the burden on the surrounding population, there is another important aspect to which I would like to refer; namely, the Empire Games.

Most people know the cycling velodrome is situated adjacent to Lake Monger; and when the Australian cycling championships were held there in March this year many of the participants with foreign bodies in their eyes, reported to the St. John's Ambulance men. These foreign bodies proved to be midges. As this velodrome will be used during the Empire Games, it would seem imperative for the safety of the cyclists that this menace should be removed before the games in 1962.

No doubt in future years Lake Monger will be a tourist attraction with aquatic sports facilities, an adjacent velodrome, and surrounding sports fields; but its attractions will be nullified unless the midge plague is eradicated. I would urge the Government to look into the question of some financial assistance to the Perth City Council so that that body can complete the task, already begun, before the Empire Games commence in 1962.

Now there is another subject that I wish to bring to the notice of the House. This concerns the plight of the mentally incurable children who are born in this State.

These children are not to be confused with the slow learners or spastic children whose intelligence quotient is higher than that of those I am discussing. The slow learners can often be trained eventually to earn a living. But the mentally incurable child has no hope whatever of ever earning his own living or, indeed, of ever feeding himself or caring for himself. He does not come from mentally deficient stock, but he usually has a family of mentally alert and normal brothers, sisters, father and mother.

The first difficulty regarding these children is, I think, to make an early diagnosis of the mentally incurable; but this should be done as early as possible so that the child may be cared for in a home. If the child is looked after in its own home, difficulties arise with the other children who naturally are not paid the same attention by the parents, and the normal children subconsciously resent this. This produces an early psychological abnormality in a normal child. The longer the incurable child remains in its own home, the more reluctant are the parents to part with it. Therefore, it would seem that education of people along these lines is indicated. But in order that parents will not be reluctant to part with them, a suitable reception home must be available.

Where can they go now? One place is the Claremont Mental Hospital. While I cannot and do not wish to say anything derogatory about this excellent institution, there is in the minds of people a certain reluctance to send relatives to it. I think this is only a prejudice built up over the years. Were the institution to change its name to "Golden West" or some name other than Claremont, perhaps it would be a different matter!

Indeed, it is hard to get the relatives of an adult who has become quite insane, and has been committed to that home, to become reconciled to the idea. How much more difficult is it then to persuade parents to commit their infants to Claremont?

We find that there is an excellent home for these mentally incurable children—the Nulsen Haven. I do hope that even the most enthusiastic correspondent to the Press would not want to change that name, because it conjures up a home of peace, contentment and efficiency. If anybody has visited it, as I have, he would have found there a model for any hospital to follow. Most of the children are unable to look after themselves. On my visit I found it to be a model of cleanliness, tidiness, and satisfaction.

As the name indicates, the Nulsen Haven was purchased by the previous Government either in 1955 or 1956, and a most excellent job is being done there by a sympathetic staff. In 1958 the then Government gave a grant of £1,000. However, the total expenditure amounted to over

£9,000 per annum. The Lotteries Commission was generous to the same extent as the Government, but the remaining income had to be raised by public donations.

I would suggest a form of per capita subsidy—there are at most 25 inmates there at the moment—so that those responsible for the conduct of this institution can carry on with the work untroubled by financial worries.

I know it is the policy of this Government to help those who cannot help themselves, and this type of child certainly comes into this category. I therefore commend my suggestion to the Government.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of this House for the great consideration they have shown me on this my maiden speech.

On motion by Mr. O'Neil, debate adjourned.

Decorum of the House

THE SPEAKER: There has been too much movement in this Chamber as soon as the Sergeant-at-Arms picks up the mace. The decorum of the House requires that members remain in their seats while the Speaker is in the Chair.

House adjourned at 9.21 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 9th July, 1959.

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ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL

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