

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, October 30, 1951.

The SPEAKER (Hon. Sir Robert Nicholls) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

ASSENT TO ACTS.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, intimated His Excellency the Governor's assent to the Prices Act Amendment, Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment (No. 2), and Police Pensions Act Amendment Acts.

ROYAL VISIT.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended the House to make appropriation of the sum of £20,000 from general revenue for expenditure in connection with the proposed Royal visit.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 2.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy recommended to the House the appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue as were required for the purposes mentioned in Appropriation Bill No. 2.

MIGRATION POLICY.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I noticed in this morning's press that the Federal Minister for Immigration, Mr. Holt, had said that Australia was to join in a conference being summoned by the United States to deal with the question of European migration. Though some migration is necessary, some members believe that at present Australia may be trying to absorb too many people too quickly. As the States are vitally concerned in the absorption of migrants after their arrival can the Premier say if any consultations have taken place between this Government and the Federal Government or with other State Governments as to what steps are necessary to satisfactorily absorb the additional migrants who may come to Australia as a result of any international agreement? If such consultations have not taken place will he suggest to the Prime Minister that a conference of State authorities be held in order to formulate a proper plan before the Commonwealth Government takes part in the international conference?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No conference has taken place between the South Australian Government and the Commonwealth Government and I do not believe any conference has taken place between other State Governments and the Commonwealth Government.

It has been the practice of the Commonwealth to assume liability for the settlement of displaced persons for a period after their entry into this country. It has not handed them over to the States immediately but has established camps to accommodate them and has attended to their after-care. I will examine the position to see if any matter can usefully be taken up by the South Australian Government in connection with migrants entering this State. We are still short of essential labour in a number of our key industries. For instance, we are anxious to get more employees for the railways, because railwaymen are still working extremely long overtime hours. If we could obtain assistance to break down that position we would willingly provide accommodation to get the necessary labour. I will examine the honourable member's suggestion, and I think I will refer it to Mr. Holt for consideration.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I heard the Premier say that accommodation would be made available if New Australians could be induced to come here. Can the Premier say whether any approach has been made to the British Government to obtain British migrants? If accommodation were made available surely they would come here. Further, if the accommodation is available, how is it that people in the metropolitan area in particular are living in sheds, verandahs, and things of that type? I was amazed to hear the Premier make such a statement.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Regarding accommodation, the Railways Commissioner has arranged with the Housing Trust to import a number of houses for his employees, and they will be available to employees at various places. If I gave the impression that the houses were now empty I did not mean to. I wanted to give the impression that the railways were prepared to import accommodation for its staff and locate it at suitable places throughout the country to enable essential services to be maintained. If there are any Australians who are prepared to work under these conditions for the railways we are anxious to get in touch with them at once. Every attempt has been made to get migrants from Great Britain to fill the need, but we were completely unsuccessful. When we did bring out British migrants and provided them with accommodation they did not carry out the work they undertook to perform. Because they were British migrants they were not obliged to stay on the job.

HAILSTORM DAMAGE TO FRUIT CROPS.

Mr. TEUSNER—Last week a severe hailstorm occurred in the Barossa and Eden Valley district, resulting in some horticulturists and vignerons losing their entire fruit crops, and the crops of others being partly affected. In recent years the joint bounty of the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments was responsible for alleviating the hardship suffered by fruitgrowers in the Barmera district who were in a similar plight. Will the Minister of Agriculture have a survey made of the extent of damage suffered and place the matter before Cabinet to see whether some financial relief can be made available to those affected?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I am aware that last week isolated hailstorms did damage to crops in some districts, and apparently vineyards were included. I have not been officially advised that any serious damage was occasioned, but will investigate the matter, and as it is a question of Government policy whether any assistance should be given I will bring it before Cabinet if I receive a report justifying such action.

Mr. DUNCAN—Many vignerons in the Lyndoch Valley have lost almost their entire crop of grapes in the recent hailstorms, and severe damage has been done to new wood which would have provided next year's crop. The total damage is estimated at thousands of pounds. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether any advance has been made for Government assistance to tide these growers over their misfortune?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I thought I had made it clear that I would get a report from the officers of the Agriculture Department on the damage supposed to have taken place as a result of the hailstorms in the Barossa Valley and contiguous areas, which would include that mentioned by the honourable member, so that I can be fully informed, and will place the whole matter before Cabinet.

Mr. QUIRKE—Hail storms occur at intervals of a few years and create devastation, but it is impossible for a vineyard owner to insure against hail damage as do owners of growing cereal crops, as companies will not accept such propositions. Will the Treasurer investigate the actuarial basis of insurance for hail damage in vineyards, not on an individual basis, because that presents many difficulties, but to see whether it is possible to have an industry insurance to cover hail damage and so prevent periodical applications to the Government for financial assistance? I think it

would be possible to work out an insurance policy on the basis of a whole industry to cover hail damage.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Suggestions for a plan to provide for payment on a per acre basis to cover the risk of hail damage have been made from time to time, but the difficulty has always been that growers generally are not prepared to approve of a plan which commits them to an annual payment under this heading. One of the difficulties is that some districts are more immune from hail than others. In some districts I doubt whether hail damage has ever occurred. There is always reluctance by growers in those areas to accept a scheme of the type suggested. If representative growers in the industry make a request to the Government for some such scheme, and it has the support of the industry, obviously the Government would not object, neither do I think the House would, to giving effect to such a scheme. The difficulty to date has been to get unanimity among growers because some are more immune from hail damage than others.

ALTERATION OF POLLING TIMES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my former question relating to the polling booths being open for elections from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. instead of to 8 p.m.?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—As I pointed out when the question was previously asked, it is not one entirely of routine, but it is tied up with the desire to have polling times as uniform as possible. An alteration was made some time ago to bring about uniformity, and the adoption of the honourable member's suggestion might put the times out of line. It is not a matter of urgency, but at the earliest possible moment I will ask the Attorney-General if he will submit it to Cabinet for consideration, as it involves policy.

BRONZE, COPPER, AND BRASS PLATE SUPPLIES.

Mr. SHANNON—I have been informed that the management of the small arms section of the Commonwealth rolling mill at Finsbury has received advice from Canberra that it is to discontinue the manufacture of bronze, copper, and brass plates, which are being supplied to many industries in this State. Although at Finsbury this will only mean dispensing with the services of persons employed in that branch, it will create a serious position for many other industries in the State, and

possibly result in the partial closing down of a number of small factories. Will the Premier take the matter up with the authorities and see whether that information is accurate, and if so, will he inquire whether the Commonwealth is prepared to continue the supply from the small arms section so that our small industries can continue full employment?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have received no word that the Commonwealth is ceasing to manufacture plates from brass and allied metals, but now the question has been raised I will make inquiries, because I believe, with the honourable member, that it would be most serious to many of our large industries if these particular materials were unobtainable.

SALE OF WINE BY SHOP GIRLS.

Mr. FRED WALSH—It has come under my notice within the last few weeks that girls of 16 or 17 years of age are employed in selling wine in certain retail grocery stores holding Australian wine licences. Will the Treasurer have the question examined to ascertain whether there is any breach of the Licensing Act in such cases?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes.

TREATMENT OF POLIOMYELITIS PATIENTS.

Mr. WHITTLE—Has the Premier's attention been drawn to a statement by the member for Stanley, Mr. Quirke, when speaking on the Budget debate, wherein he made some very grave accusations regarding the lack of attention paid to poliomyelitis patients at the Northfield Infectious Diseases Hospital? If so, can he make a statement which would be somewhat reassuring to patients who have to go to that institution for attention?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The department was naturally concerned about the honourable member's remarks and a report was called for immediately from the Deputy Director-General of Medical Services. It is as follows:—

Following the report which appeared in the *News* on Thursday, 18th October, 1951, of the statements in the House of Assembly by Mr. Quirke, M.P., the Acting Medical Superintendent, Royal Adelaide Hospital, was requested to obtain a report from the Medical Superintendent, Northfield wards, in connection with the matter. This report had already been prepared when the more lengthy statement as printed in *Hansard* was received in this office. Dr. Sargent has made every effort to check the allegations made in the statement, by endeavouring to ascertain to which patient or patients it referred. As indicated in the report it is impossible to do this satisfactorily without the names of the patients and dates of

admission and other particulars being supplied. Verbal inquiries from Dr. Sargent have revealed that it is the normal practice to change the whole of the bed linen and wearing apparel of the patients at least twice weekly and more frequently if circumstances necessitate, and it is not thought possible that any one patient could have been overlooked for such a lengthy period as ten (10) days. It is respectfully recommended that the Honourable the Minister endeavour to obtain the names of the patients referred to, when full investigations will be carried out with regard to their treatment, particularly with regard to the allegations made by Mr. Quirke.

The docket also contains a long report from the Acting Medical Superintendent, Northfield wards, which members may see. If the honourable member for Stanley will let me have the names a full investigation will be made in order to clear up the matter.

Mr. QUIRKE—When I spoke on poliomyelitis on October 18, in addition to mentioning a female patient whose pyjamas were not changed for 10 days I mentioned a male patient whose pyjamas had not been changed for three weeks. He had lumbar punctures no fewer than six times without result. I also stated that a female patient who was under physiotherapy treatment was required to drag herself on to and off the barouche without assistance. I also said that the patients did not blame the nursing staff and that those who had given this information were prepared to substantiate the statements. If I give the Premier their names, will he assure me that they will be allowed to appear before the Poliomyelitis Board?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—If the member will furnish me with the names I will see that a thorough investigation and not one designed to cover any unsavoury incident is made. I have some personal knowledge of the conditions of the staff operating in connection with the poliomyelitis epidemic, and I pay a great tribute to the tremendous amount of overtime and arduous work they are performing.

Mr. RICHES—At Port Augusta there are two children suffering from the after effects of poliomyelitis who are almost permanently in iron frames. They have to travel periodically to Port Pirie for treatment which takes only about five, six or seven minutes. The travelling probably does more harm to the children than the good they receive from treatment by a physiotherapist. Will the Premier inquire from the Minister of Health whether a physiotherapist could visit Port Augusta for, say, half a day once every six weeks in order

that poliomyelitis sufferers in my district may have similar facilities to those more fortunately situated?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will take up that matter with the Minister of Health to see to what extent the suggestions can be adopted, and bring down a reply. However, I point out that the poliomyelitis epidemic has made severe demands upon physiotherapists and it might be that we would not have sufficient available to send them to various centres.

Mr. HEASLIP—On a population basis probably no town has been harder hit by poliomyelitis than Laura. Patients there also have to go to Port Pirie for after-treatment, but there is no train service to that town, such as Port Augusta has, and Laura is just as far from Port Pirie. When the Premier takes up the matter with the Minister of Health will he include the after-care of patients in the Laura district?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes. In any case I would have had the facilities of country towns inquired into generally because obviously any facility provided for Port Augusta would have to be capable of general application. That was why I said that the limited number of physiotherapists might preclude a scheme of the type suggested by Mr. Riches from being adopted.

WINE INDUSTRY STRIKE.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—In connection with the illegal strike in the wineries, which is holding up one of our primary industries, I asked the Premier on October 18 whether he would stop aiding and abetting and giving comfort to the strikers by withholding the use of the railways from wineries which are carrying on their legitimate functions. The Premier in reply said, *inter alia*:—

There are a limited number of trucks available and the carriage of commodities depends on the goods delivered to the railways being promptly loaded and unloaded. This happens not only in connection with the wine industry, but other industries. Where a person is unable to take delivery of commodities coming to the railways, he is informed that the railways are not able to provide storage accommodation indefinitely. That is all the railways are concerned with in this matter. Obviously the Premier is under the impression that if the wineries, particularly those in my district and Mr. Stott's district, want to shift wine to Victoria, and Melbourne in particular, via Tailem Bend, delivery of it cannot be taken by the consignees. The Premier knows that the wine would not enter the metropolitan area where the strike is. Will he say what

authority the Railways Department has to not only refuse the carriage of wine but to make one winery unload wine which had been loaded into a truck for transport to Melbourne? If that has been done, will he see that the embargo is lifted and that wine which is not affected by the strike in the metropolitan area can be sent by rail?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I was informed yesterday by representatives of the employers that not only wine manufactured in South Australia, but wine produced in other States and spirits imported from overseas are subject to the embargo by the transport union. There has been a ban on the landing of spirits from overseas. It is not, as the honourable member would have us believe, that a limited number of wineries are involved in this matter. At present there is a general declaration against the handling of wine and spirits by the transport organization. That is the position as I know it today.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—The Premier has informed the House that the strike has spread to cover not only wine produced and handled in South Australia, but wine from other States and spirits from overseas. That being so, and seeing that South Australia is not able to do anything to help this important primary industry, will he take steps to ascertain whether the Commonwealth Government will take up the matter in order to end the strike? This matter is of the utmost importance to those who grow grapes, because so long as wines are held up, prices of grapes will deteriorate. Settlers in the Cooltong, Loveday, and Loxton areas are bringing their first crop into production this year, and the matter vitally affects them.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Although the strike arose as the result of an industrial award of the State President, I am informed the union is affiliated in the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, and is subject to Commonwealth union discipline. The member raised the question of whether it would be possible for this Government to take action. I have discussed the strike with the employers and with the President of the Arbitration Court. The Government is just as concerned as the honourable member that the wheels of industry be maintained in South Australia, and that an important industry should not be closed down. Up to date there have been no constructive suggestions made that might end the strike. The matter is not being left dormant and efforts will be continued.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—A number of my constituents, and I believe people in other country areas, are taking strong exception to being mulcted by the Liquor Trades Union to the extent of 6s. a week as a strike levy. I understand the chief ground for objection is that they were not consulted before the strike was called. Further, a statement appeared in the press that many strikers in the metropolitan area, whom these people are called upon to subsidize, are already working in other industries. I have been told that if they do not pay the levy it can be recovered through the process of law. Can the Premier say whether it is lawful for money to be taken from their pay to subsidize what he says is an illegal strike?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I believe the union is registered under the Commonwealth Arbitration Act, in which case it would be subject to Commonwealth law. I also believe that recently this law was amended to enable a ballot to be taken on certain matters on application by a specified number of members of a union. Whether this particular matter would come within the scope of a ballot I do not know, but I believe it would.

PRICE OF STOCK FEED.

Mr. STOTT—I understand that the Minister of Agriculture has received a request from the New South Wales Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Graham, to attend a meeting of State Ministers of Agriculture in Melbourne as regards increasing the price of wheat for stock feed to 16s. 1d. a bushel. Will the Minister attend the conference and does he know whether other States are prepared to agree to the Commonwealth's proposals on the matter?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—When I was absent in the country last week I received a communication from the New South Wales Minister of Agriculture asking whether I was prepared to attend a conference of Ministers of Agriculture on Thursday next to deal with this matter. I informed him, however, that there was no possibility of my attending such a conference as I already had an important engagement for that date. He then asked whether I would be prepared to be represented by a deputy, and I informed him that at the meeting of the Commonwealth and State Ministers of Agriculture some time ago, I had made South Australia's position clear

on the question of stock feed wheat, that my expressed opinion had been endorsed by the State Government and that I could see no good purpose which could be served by attending any further conference which might result in any variation of the agreement already given expression to. The State Government had agreed that the farmers were entitled to the 16s. 1d. a bushel for wheat used as stock feed for home consumption.

COOL DRINKS AND ICECREAM PRICES.

Mr. MOIR—I have been approached by several small suburban storekeepers selling drinks and icecream who have had to pay the increased sales tax on those products but who are not in a position to pass on that increase or even portion of it to the general public because the Prices Commissioner has not given his consent to such action. As this imposes a hardship on these storekeepers, will the Premier take up the matter with the Prices Commissioner?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Prices Commissioner is at present attending a conference in Hobart, but as soon as I can get in touch with him I will take up the matter and let the honourable member have a reply in due course.

SITE FOR PROOF RANGE.

Mr. RICHES—According to the press, the Federal Minister for the Army will visit South Australia this week and inspect the Adelaide Hills site for the proposed artillery range. Has the Premier any knowledge of that visit and, if so, can he say whether the site he has suggested at Port Augusta West will also be investigated?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—As an alternative to the very fertile country in the Adelaide Hills it was suggested, following on a recommendation of the Land Board, that an area of lower carrying capacity south of Port Augusta West would probably be suitable. I have since heard that the Federal Minister proposes to visit South Australia to examine this position and have also seen reports that he proposes to confer with me on it. As far as I know no such conference has been arranged by my office, but I have no doubt that when he comes to South Australia he will discuss this matter with me. I will undoubtedly urge that he examine the alternative site before making a decision.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA IN SOUTH-EASTERN CATTLE.

Mr. FLETCHER—The following resolution was carried at a recent conference of the South-East Dairymen's Association:—

That this conference requests the Chief Stock Inspector to prohibit all stock from entering the South-East without a certificate given by a veterinary officer of the Department of Agriculture.

Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the legislation governing the matter can be tightened up and closer supervision made of stock entering the South-East from districts subject to pleuro-pneumonia?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The South-East embraces a wide area—I understand from Tailem Bend to Mount Gambier and beyond—and to prohibit the entry of cattle and prevent people from buying cattle for fattening when there is an abundance of feed in that area would not be quite fair to them. At present there is a prohibition on the taking of cattle from the northern districts into dairying districts such as those around Mount Gambier. That does not apply to the grazing districts, which are some distance away from there. At present there is a very rigid inspection, but sometimes outbreaks of pleuro-pneumonia do occur in cattle from beyond a certain limit—I think it is the 26th parallel. The position is being very closely watched and steps taken to provide inspection yards at Dry Creek so that we can make even better inspections. I assure the honourable member that there is little need to fear the introduction into dairying districts of pleuro-pneumonia in dairy cattle.

TURN-ROUND OF SHIPPING.

Mr. STEPHENS—Very early in the session the House was told about the slow turn-round of vessels at Port Adelaide and that the Government had decided to appoint a Commissioner, Mr. Bishop (Auditor-General), to inquire into the matter, which was considered an urgent one. I have asked on several occasions whether the Commissioner has made any inquiries or submitted a report. The men at Port Adelaide are anxious that members and the public be told what is really causing the slow turn-round. It would seem something is being hidden. The slow turn-round is no fault of the waterside workers. Somebody seems afraid that the public may discover the truth, as did a judge in a court in another State recently. As the Auditor-General has now finished his annual report on the finances of this State, can the

Premier say whether members can expect a report on this matter from him in the near future, or has the matter been dropped?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Since the Auditor-General was appointed to investigate the turn-round of ships at Port Adelaide he has worked almost continuously upon the project and has accumulated a tremendous amount of information dealing with the matter, not from the point of view of attributing blame to any particular section, but from a constructive way of trying to solve the problem. He has had conferences with the Harbors Board and has visited other States to see their methods of handling cargoes. He has investigated whether mechanization would assist at Port Adelaide and what additional works and labour are necessary to meet the position. He has also had the advantage of conferring with the Commonwealth officer who was brought from overseas because of his knowledge of harbour working. He has had several conferences with me and the Harbors Board as to what steps should be taken to rectify the position. I assure the member that the matter has not laid dormant but a large amount of active constructive work has been done. I am not sure when Mr. Bishop's final report will be made available, but I will see that the member has a copy as soon as it is. Mr. Bishop is doing his utmost to see that the work entrusted to him is carried out in a satisfactory manner.

NOTICES FOR POSSESSION.

Mr. LAWN—I have been handed a letter by a constituent of mine which concerns a matter of public interest. It is from the Kar-Fix Engineering Company Limited (F. Scallery, director), and is addressed to Mr. Cipriano, Gilbert Street. It reads:—

We find that since we have bought the property that you have given us a lot of trouble and worry. First you had your sister-in-law or relation come along and stay with you, plus a boy, and now we find you have a dog that comes to our fences, brings bones to our yard where we have our cars for business and we definitely object. I have given you notice by mouth that I want you to vacate the premises. We think that a house which contains three rooms is not sufficient for three adults, two children and a boy, plus a dog. I have noticed that the place is not very clean and is not hygienic. I have not asked the inspector to come around because I thought by that time you would have found other premises suitable to you. Please take notice that under these circumstances we want the house, as at the present time it is not a residential area—it is a business area.

Last year when we passed landlord and tenant legislation I understood from the Premier that a notice had to be given in writing and in the first instance had to be justified on the question of hardship, and that where a British subject had owned a house for a specified period the notice was to be given in a form prescribed by the Minister. Can the Premier inform the House of the requirements in regard to notices for possession?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—If the honourable member will let me have the letter he read I will refer the matter to the chairman of the Housing Trust for an examination of the legal position. I point out that the landlord and tenant legislation sets out the code which shall exist between the owner and the occupier of a house. It then becomes a matter for proper legal representation to the court.

ERADICATION OF CAPE TULIP.

Mr. QUIRKE—It is well known that, owing to high wool prices, considerable areas have been taken off wheat production, and in many cases non-cultivation of the land has caused a rapid spread of noxious weeds, particularly Cape Tulip. Areas north of Clare that were formerly under intensive wheat production are now overrun by Cape Tulip, and the menace is growing. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether his department is investigating the problem? What means are available to growers to prevent the spread from infested areas to areas not now infested?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The department is fully aware of the great menace of Cape Tulip. If adequate steps had been taken when it first appeared in the Clare district it would not have spread so much. Unfortunately, it was allowed to get out of hand, as many noxious weeds do under district council control, and apparently Clare was one district where laxity led to its spread. A thorough investigation has been made by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Waite Institute, and it has been decided by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization that certain weeds shall be made the subject of intensive investigation in States where they are particularly prevalent. I will make further inquiries about the destruction of Cape Tulip, which has been a particularly hard weed to deal with. Hormone treatment, though considerably effective, is very costly. Where

Cape Tulip has got a hold in some wheat land there, it has benefited considerably from being turned over to grazing after being subject to intensive wheat growing for years. I will make the fullest investigation and bring down the latest information.

INDUSTRY AT WALLAROO.

Mr. McALEES—Can the Premier say when the Pascoe Company will start operations in the grain distillery at Wallaroo? The matter has been hanging fire for a long time and people in the district are becoming anxious.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—All the preliminary work, such as the organization of the company, the provision of capital, and the clearing of the plant, has been done. Recently an application was received for part of the capital and that was approved, so I presume active steps are being taken, but I will make further inquiries for the honourable member and let him have a report.

BOOT REPAIR COSTS.

Mr. FLETCHER—As is well known, boot repairers are more or less a dying race and are giving up the trade. When the Treasurer is discussing with the price fixing authorities the question of prices generally, will he consider the position of boot repairers and review the prices fixed? Only last week I was told by a boot repairer in Mount Gambier that six months will elapse before he is allowed to make increased charges permitted by the prices authorities.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Mr. Moir's question related to passing on increased sales tax on cool drinks and ice cream, but I am not aware that there has been an increase in the sales tax on footwear. As to industries in which an increased sales tax had not been applied by the Commonwealth Government, an application should be made in the normal way, with figures to support the increase proposed. I will have the question of footwear examined, but unless an application were supported by information which would lead the Prices Commissioner to make a decision for an increase, the position would be static.

DESTRUCTION OF MISTLETOE.

Mr. RICHES—Will the Minister of Agriculture call for a report from his officers on the possibility of practical steps being taken to combat the mistletoe nuisance in Pichi Richi Pass and other pleasure resorts in the Flinders Ranges? The question has been

raised from time to time and I understand the C.S.I.R.O. is working on the possibility of its eradication.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I will certainly have an investigation made and try to ascertain whether there are any means of dealing with the nuisance. If it is the job of the local authorities to destroy any mistletoe in the district, I will be happy to put it back on the honourable member's council.

ILLEGAL USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

Mr. Dunnage for Mr. DUNKS (on notice)—During the year ended June 30, 1951—

1. How many persons were convicted for using a motor vehicle without first obtaining the consent of the owner?

2. How many were first offenders and what was the longest term of imprisonment?

3. How many were second offenders and what was the longest term of imprisonment?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. 198.

2. 146; longest term of imprisonment, 9 months.

3. 52; longest term of imprisonment, 15 months.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES FOR SICK WORKERS.

Mr. Fred Walsh for Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—

1. Is the Treasurer aware that some doctors are charging 10s. for a certificate regarding employees absent from employment on account of sickness?

2. If so, is it his intention to negotiate with the British Medical Association for a reduction in such fee, as the present charge is burdensome to workers?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Medical practitioners do not charge for certificates issued in connection with the Worker's Compensation Act and no charge for a certificate is made in cases where a patient has been under treatment by a doctor. If a person is absent from his employment on account of sickness, and then requests a medical certificate for his return to work, the doctor may make a charge for a consultation fee rather than a charge of 10s. for the certificate. It is understood that this is the usual practice.

WATER PRESSURE AND DISCOLORATION.

Mr. Fred Walsh for Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—Is it the intention of the Minister of Works to obtain a report concerning (a)

the low water pressure experienced by consumers in the Semaphore and Largs Bay districts during warm weather, and particularly on October 15, 1951 and (b) discoloration of water evident in the same districts?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The replies are:—(a) Monday, October 15, was the first hot day of the season and consumption jumped from less than 30,000,000 gall. to over 50,000,000 gall. This large increase in consumption is inevitably accompanied by a drop in pressures. While everything possible will be done to maintain satisfactory pressures during the coming summer, there will be (as in all water systems) occasions when pressures fall low, especially in localities remote from the reservoirs. Towards improving pressures on LeFevre Peninsula, the Government has approved of a new 24in. trunk main from Port Adelaide to Osborne at a cost of £52,500 and pipes are being manufactured and laying will commence on their delivery. (b) Mains are being extensively flushed for cleaning purposes and temporary discoloration is an inevitable result of this process, but if and when a report is received in respect to protracted discoloration in any particular locality immediate steps will be taken to remove any avoidable cause for complaint.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Mr. R. L. McKENZIE.

Mr. O'HALLORAN moved—

That one month's leave of absence be granted to the honourable member for Murray (Mr. R. L. McKenzie) on account of ill-health. Motion carried.

AGRICULTURAL SEEDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS, having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Agricultural Seeds Act, 1938. Read 'a first time.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE'S REPORTS.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the final reports of the Public Works Standing Committee on the Brighton infant school and St. Leonard's infant school, together with minutes of evidence. Reports ordered to be printed.

THE ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from October 18. Page 1013.)

Hospitals Department, £2,361,975.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—When the debate on this line was adjourned I was dealing with

the question of a pedigreed boaf at the Bedford Park farm. I should also like to know whether the amount of £750 set down for the purchase of stock, compared with the £3,000 provided for the same purpose for the Northfield Mental Hospital, will enable the number of sheep carried to be increased. A sum of £600 is proposed for the purchase of a tractor. Portion of the Bedford Park farm area is hilly, and it is therefore essential that a tractor sufficiently powerful to work in this type of country be provided, and I am not sure that £600 will be adequate. The farm, in addition to having a fairly good fruit and vegetable garden, endeavours to produce fodder for its 1,000-odd head of poultry and up to 100 pigs and a low-powered unit would probably be unsuitable for the purpose. I have previously said that I am not happy about the position at the hospital, and I blame the farm manager at Northfield. Some time ago I sought a header for Bedford Park because I thought half the crop was being lost through lack of a suitable machine. Now at Bedford Park there is a header and a small tractor, but both were considered obsolete at Northfield. The man responsible for the work at Bedford Park should have a broader outlook and get the proper type of machinery. The spending of £600 on a tractor is insufficient. The foreman at Bedford Park is expected to work with unsuitable plant. Can the Premier say what type of tractor is to be purchased, and can he give details of the livestock to be bought?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Sheep are to be purchased, and the tractor is to replace the present tractor, which is to be transferred to the Northfield Mental Hospital as it is considered unsuitable for vegetable and garden work. I do not know the type of tractor to be bought, but it will be suitable.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I would like some information about the £600 to be spent this year in connection with payments for indigent patients in non-subsidized hospitals, and the £75 for the transport of indigent patients by district ambulances to hospital. I presume that non-subsidized hospitals are the community hospitals scattered throughout the State, one of which is at Terowie.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—There are a considerable number of non-Government hospitals subsidized by the Government. One of the subsidy conditions is that a certain number of indigent cases should be treated without further charge. In addition, we have a number of cottage hospitals which do not

receive a subsidy, although they may get a little financial assistance, but no conditions apply. The vote in this matter enables the Minister of Health to make reimbursements to such hospitals for the work they do. I am not sure of the rates of payment, but I will let the honourable member know. In the country a number of persons want to be taken to a hospital, but cannot pay the cost of transport, and in these instances the Minister of Health provides assistance. I believe he stands half the cost of the transport, with the district meeting the other half. I will get further information on this point. This year there may be some adjustment of the rates because of increased costs, but it is a procedure which has been in existence for several years.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Treasurer give any information about the type of dairy and other stock to be purchased at a cost of £3,000 for the mental hospital at Northfield?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The explanation I have is that 200 breeding ewes are to be purchased for £1,000, and 35 head of dairy cattle for £2,000. Evidently pedigreed stock are to be bought.

Mr. Frank Walsh—Will the farm manager decide on the type of tractor and is the present one to be traded in on a new machine?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I do not think it involves any trading in. All sums received from the sale of Government goods must be credited to State revenue and Parliament has to make a specific vote for any payments. The Chief Secretary obtains a report on the type of machine required and approves of its purchase on a recommendation from the Supply and Tender Board.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I know it would be impossible to purchase a high powered tractor for £600 and am glad to hear that investigations will be made by competent authorities. On a number of occasions it has been necessary to get the tractor from Northfield for use at Bedford Park and it is desirable to have a machine which will do the work efficiently on the hilly nature of this farm.

Line passed.

Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, £381,493; Department of Public Health £64,970—passed.

Miscellaneous, £659,624.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The sum of £100,000 was voted to the Adelaide Children's Hospital last year as a special grant. It is proposed to increase that by £10,000 this year.

The Hon. T. Playford—It is a grant-in-aid.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The next line "Special grant towards additional building accommodation (portion)" shows that £38,000 was voted last year, whereas only £1,000 is proposed this year. The hospital is rendering splendid service to the community, but because of our growing population, especially in the metropolitan area, accommodation there is totally inadequate to meet demands. Recently I had a number of complaints from parents whose children could not be admitted to the hospital because of lack of accommodation, although they were prepared to pay almost any price. They could not get them into private hospitals and had to nurse them at home. I understand that the bulk of the beds are free, a small number being available for paying patients. It is time we had a good look into the broad aspect of treatment of our children. We do not hesitate to vote large sums to erect buildings at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and make large grants for their maintenance. Why has the amount for the building fund at Adelaide Children's Hospital been reduced? Will the Government consider assisting it to provide more accommodation or establish a separate institution for the type of patients to whom I have referred?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The £1,000 represents the balance of expenditure likely to be needed this financial year on Gilbert ward. Last year a special grant of £24,800 was provided for poliomyelitis accommodation, but it was not possible to use it. The Minister of Health is having a Bill prepared to enable a State institution to be placed under the control of the Children's Hospital. This will enable accommodation for poliomyelitis children to be enlarged. I join with the Leader of the Opposition in expressing appreciation of the magnificent work of the Adelaide Children's Hospital. The Government is anxious to assist the hospital by making substantial grants and is working in the closest harmony with the board. As far as I know there is no request that the hospital has made which has not been dealt with by the Government.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—There is a new line of £10,000 for ambulance services. Is that to assist in the co-ordination of our ambulance services which, I understand, was recently brought about by agreement with the St. John Council for South Australia? What steps must country authorities take to get their ambulance services co-ordinated?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The sum of £10,000 provided for ambulance services is to assist the institution of the new set-up and to

provide ambulances under it. In addition a sum has been voted to provide additional units for the police ambulance service. The co-ordinated service will not be a metropolitan set-up but will be on the widest possible basis. Local ambulance authorities desiring to come under that scheme should get in touch with the St. John Council, the co-ordinating authority.

Mr. PEARSON—On behalf of the people of Cummins and surrounding districts I commend the Government for its proposed grant of £10,000 to assist in financing the completion of the new hospital in that town.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Does the grant of £30,000 to the South Australian Fire Brigades Board include the provision of additional fire stations? I have in mind particularly the St. Mary's area where a number of timber-frame homes and factories have been erected. It is expected the number of such buildings will increase, thus enhancing the fire risk there.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This amount is to assist the Fire Brigades Board in carrying out its normal duties. The location and conduct of fire stations is entirely a matter for the board, a body comprising representatives of local government authorities and insurance companies with a chairman nominated by the Government.

Because Their Majesties the King and Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret will not be visiting South Australia next year owing to the King's illness, Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh coming in their stead, I move:—

To strike out the words "Visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret—Preliminary expenses in connection with .. £20,000" and insert in lieu thereof "Royal visit—expenses in connection with .. £20,000."

Amendment carried.

Mr. TAPPING—This year's contribution of the Port Adelaide corporation towards the Fire Brigades Board has been fixed at £12,606. The fire float *Fire Queen* is used for quelling any fire on the Port River or the wharves. At present the obligation to maintain the fire float is divided between the corporation, the Government, and the insurance companies; but I feel it should be between the Government (through the Harbors Board) and the insurance companies, as the fire float is used to protect wharves and vessels and not buildings in Port Adelaide. Can the corporation be relieved of its obligation in connection with the upkeep of the *Fire Queen*?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—On a number of occasions the Government has considered the implications arising in this matter because of the Government's ownership of the harbour. I will have the matter investigated and let the honourable member know whether the Government can assist.

Line passed.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Attorney-General's Department, £17,562; Crown Solicitor's Department, £20,747; Parliamentary Draftsman's Department, £4,121—passed.

Public Trustee's Department, £37,231.

Mr. FRED WALSH—What is the attitude of the Public Trustee's Department in a case where a person dies intestate? A case was brought under my notice of a person dying intestate, leaving two sisters and two brothers as beneficiaries. One brother has not been heard of for many years, so the Public Trustee has not wound up the estate. How long does the portion due to him have to remain in the department and will it ultimately be paid to the other beneficiaries?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—If the honourable member will tell me the name of the estate I will make inquiries.

Line passed.

Supreme Court Department, £42,560.

Mr. TAPPING—I have frequently heard complaints from jurymen that their fees and travelling expenses are insufficient. Will the Minister representing the Attorney-General consider increasing jurors' fees in view of increasing wage standards?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I am sure the community, as well as the Government, recognizes the great value rendered by jurymen, and it is regrettable if their fees are out of step with wage trends. Their remuneration has always been lower because service on the jury is regarded as a service to the community, but it falls to the lot of some people more than to others. I will take up the matter with the Attorney-General and I am sure he will bring it before Cabinet. I will bring down Cabinet's decision as early as possible.

Line passed.

Adelaide Local Court Department, £25,829; Adelaide Police Court Department, £23,186; Country and Suburban Courts Department, £32,004; Coroner's Department, £3,444; Registrar-General of Deeds Department, £74,551; Miscellaneous, £4,977—passed.

TREASURER AND MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION.

Treasury Department, £22,656; Superannuation Department, £30,102; Motor Vehicles Department, £117,874—passed.

Agent-General in England Department, £24,985.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Treasurer indicate when the position of Agent-General in London will be filled? The Assistant Trade Commissioner is probably carrying out at least the major portion of the duties of Agent-General. If he continues to do so for some time it seems obvious that his allowance will have to be increased.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Public Service Commissioner, Mr. Schumacher, has been abroad attending the I.L.O. Conference as adviser for the Commonwealth Government, and I asked him to report to me on the question of the representation South Australia should have in Great Britain and the composition of South Australia House. Since Mr. Schumacher returned I have had a preliminary discussion with him on this matter. My Government regards the representation of this State in Great Britain as important and I have no doubt that Cabinet will decide to fill the position so ably occupied by the late Sir Charles McCann, but it has not yet selected his successor. The Assistant Trade Commissioner, Mr. Greenham, will be adequately remunerated for carrying out the duties of Agent-General while that position is vacant.

Line passed.

Land Tax Department, £66,306; Stamp and Succession Duties Department, £25,567—passed.

Publicity and Tourist Bureau and Immigration Department, £141,903.

Mr. TAPPING—Fort Glanville is an old building and I am sure the £2,000 provided for the renovation of buildings and installation of sanitary conveniences will not be enough to do all that is required. How will the sum be spent?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Fort Glanville was recently handed over to the State by the Commonwealth as an historical memorial. The area adjacent to the fort was purchased from the Commonwealth and will be developed as a national pleasure resort. I presume the £2,000 will be spent mainly on sanitary conveniences. The ultimate control of the area will have to be investigated and I hope it will be brought under some local control. It may be beyond the means of any local authority to spend enough money on the area to bring it up to a reasonable standard.

Mr. BROOKMAN—What progress has been made on the development of Kelly's Hill Caves on Kangaroo Island?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The caves were taken over by the Government from the Kingscote District Council, which found them difficult and costly to develop as tourist attractions. An entrance to the caves has been made and electric light installed. A house will be provided for the caretaker.

Mr. WHITTLE—Will Levi Park benefit from subsidies to be paid to municipal authorities? This park has been developed remarkably in the last 12 months. Much money has been spent on the home on the site, which is a great asset to the tourist trade of this State.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I cannot say whether it is included in the £7,000 vote this year, but I understand it received a grant last year. It is eligible to receive consideration in the same way as other resorts.

Mr. TEUSNER—Does the Government provide subsidies for the establishment of caravan parks, and are subsidies available to district councils for the acquisition of land for such parks?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This matter is not governed by any Act of Parliament, but the money comes from the funds provided in the Estimates each year. Some years ago £10,000 was put on the Estimates and that has been used to subsidize local endeavour to improve districts and make them more attractive for tourists. Any worthwhile proposal will be considered. The basis of the subsidy is usually 50 per cent of the amount raised and spent. The Government tries to distribute the subsidies as fairly as possible throughout the various districts, and I believe this has been greatly appreciated. One of the features included has been the establishment of caravan parks and conveniences. Frequently the parks have paid not only for their own maintenance but for further extensions of tourist activities.

Mr. LAWN—Can the Treasurer explain the line "Payroll tax for child endowment"?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Probably the words "for child endowment" are now superfluous. The payroll tax was introduced by the Commonwealth Government to meet the cost of child endowment, and because State employees received that endowment the Government did not raise any legal issue concerning its payment. However, it is doubtful whether one constitutional authority has power to levy in this manner upon another constitutional

authority. Owing to an alteration in the Commonwealth law the words referred to appear to be redundant.

Mr. DAVIS—When caravan parks were established at Port Pirie a subsidy was received from the Government. In the event of further improvements being added is it possible for a further subsidy to be paid?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes. Each case is considered on its merits. The fact that a council has received one subsidy does not preclude its applying for a further subsidy. Although £7,000 was provided, only £3,478 was applied for.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—That is because it is on a subsidy basis.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes. It would be fatal to remove it from that basis because people are generally more careful when spending their own money.

Mr. RICHES—Last year the Port Augusta Council applied for assistance on a subsidy basis, but it was not granted.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will make an inquiry and see if there is any hitch.

Mr. MOIR—Would a council be permitted to create a tourist resort and get a subsidy?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Normally this is expenditure involving council and not Government property. In the latter case the Government takes responsibility for maintenance.

Mr. HEASLIP—During the past year it has been almost impossible for tourists to get past the first creek at Mambray Creek to see the real beauty of the gorge. Who is responsible for the upkeep of the road, and if it is the Tourist Bureau has any money been voted for this purpose?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I understand it is a district road and that the Tourist Bureau provided £1,000 towards its construction. I will take up with the director the question of its disrepair, and any work being done will depend on there being sufficient money in the fund and also on the council being able to do the work.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—The Ragless Reserve, which is in the Mitcham corporation area, is controlled by a Progress Association which endeavours to provide certain amenities. A number of people are living more or less permanently in tents and caravans at this spot, and tourists with caravans also use it from time to time. The greatest problem is that of sewerage, and I understand that the department is willing to lay a main to the area on

the condition that the corporation will guarantee interest on outlay until such time as the main is fully connected. Would it be practicable to give the progress association a grant to provide sewer connections and other amenities?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The term "grant" denotes an outright grant without any conditions, but this line does not come in that category. The Government gives a pound for pound subsidy on approved projects advanced by councils for the improvements of beauty spots and tourist attractions, and I see no reason, from the honourable member's description of the place, why it should not qualify for such assistance.

Mr. FLETCHER—I pay a high tribute to the Tourist Bureau for the fine work it is doing in advertising, not only Mount Gambier, but South Australia generally. Recently the Port McDonnell council applied for a grant for tourist amenities and it was conceded by the bureau without hesitation. The local branch of the bureau is of wonderful assistance to tourists in securing accommodation in any part of the Commonwealth. Last year I had the privilege of visiting Western Australia, and but for the assistance of the local branch of the bureau I think I would have been unable to get accommodation in that State.

Mr. FRED WALSH—I think it is a long time since any substantial amount has been spent on improvements to National Park, which I consider to be the most popular and best resort in the State. On a recent visit I observed the men's lavatory accommodation was in a condition verging on shocking; apparently vandals had destroyed the doors, and generally the premises were in a very unclean condition. I believe the same applies to the women's amenities. A small creek, which had to be crossed to reach the lavatories, was running a banker, and women in particular had to be assisted across or be in some danger of falling into the creek. It would not cost a great deal to put small bridges across such streams. On a fine week-end the park is crowded, but last week a great part of the sporting areas was under water and no preparation had been made for the running of sporting events associated with trade picnics and the like. Running tracks ought to be provided on at least one of the three main ovals at Long Gully.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The National Park is controlled by a Board of Commission-

ers under a special Act of Parliament, and it comes within the scope of the Lands Department grants. The honourable member will find on page 60 provision for special grants towards working expenses, £930, for alterations and additions to buildings, £550, and for the purchase of plant, £520.

Mr. MOIR—Can the Treasurer say how the amount of £15,190 for accommodation, fares, etc., of migrants will be spent?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This line provides for the accommodation of 100 migrants at the Elder Park Hostel, formerly the S.P.F. Hostel. This accommodation is for migrants being brought in for railway work and for the dependants of personnel joining the Australian Army. The amount is offset by charges made for accommodation.

Mr. RICHES—I endorse Mr. Heaslip's remarks regarding the Mambray Creek Reserve and urge that the Tourist Bureau be assisted in its desire to have it declared a flora and fauna reserve. Provision should also be made for fireplaces, and regulations gazetted for the control and use of firearms and the control of both Mambray Creek and Alligator Gorge. I join with the member for Mount Gambier in paying a tribute to work being accomplished by our Tourist Bureau, for I have heard nothing but commendation on its efforts. Would the Premier cause to have tabled a report from Mr. Baker who, I understand, visited America in recent years, as to the desirability of establishing motels in South Australia. Motels are becoming very popular in Victoria, and a number of visitors whom I have had the privilege of taking to some of our northern hills resorts have expressed the opinion that this State should lose no time in establishing these facilities there.

Mr. Fred Walsh—They are run by private enterprise in America.

Mr. RICHES—I believe that is the case in Victoria too, but my reason for suggesting calling for a report is that the working man, at any rate anyone earning approximately a tradesman's wage, finds it impossible to take his wife and family on a holiday and pay for hotel accommodation, even if he can obtain it in these days. At present the average family cannot afford a holiday in South Australia. At Bright in Victoria a motel provides many modern conveniences and is available for a family of four or five at a cost of £8 a week. At this price a holiday for the average family is possible. Will the Premier get a report from Mr. Baker regarding the adoption of

the motel system in this State? Perhaps there could be some adaptation of the emergency homes when the need for them disappears.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I shall be glad to get a report on the matter.

Line passed.

Prices Control Department, £80,438.

Mr. TEUSNER—On July 26 this year an order promulgated a reduction in the price of blankets. On the following Monday, July 30, officers of the Prices Department visited some country districts, and as a result prosecutions were launched against a number of storekeepers. Many of them had not had the opportunity to become acquainted with the order reducing the price of the blankets. Before any action is taken against a storekeeper he should be given the opportunity to see the order. I know that as soon as some of the storekeepers in question became aware of a change in price, without knowing exactly what it was, they decided not to sell any blankets, yet action was taken against them. In future I think the department should act less precipitately.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I do not think the honourable member has been correctly informed. The order reduced the price of Onkaparinga blankets, because the company manufacturing them was able to purchase wool at a price lower than that ruling when the first order was made. The majority of the prosecutions in the country took place because the storekeepers, following the issue of the new order, increased the price of blankets already in stock, to get an undue advantage. The Prices Department does not want to make a lawbreaker of any person, and if there is a reasonable excuse for a breach of the law there is no prosecution. If the honourable member will give me names in connection with the cases he mentioned I will be pleased to have an investigation made, and if the position is as he sets out I will see that no action is taken. When the report is obtained I shall be glad to discuss the matter with the honourable member.

Line passed.

Building Materials Office, £18,952.

Mr. PEARSON—I notice that for this year no amount is set down as an honorarium to the secretary of the Building Permits Advisory Committee at Port Lincoln. Can the Treasurer explain the reason for this? I understand the committee has operated satisfactorily and been of assistance to the Building Materials

Office in sorting out permits. It has also given general satisfaction to the people at Port Lincoln, although no building materials committee could satisfy everybody.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have not the information with me. I will examine the position and let the honourable member have a reply.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £5,316,834.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—The Auditor-General's report contains the following regarding temporary housing:—

Temporary housing accommodation has been financed by the Government under the Building Materials Act, 1949-1950, by means of two schemes. The initial project was confined to the provision of converted dwellings at former military camps at Springbank and Warradale. The number of temporary dwellings so provided was 264, but re-occupation of Warradale Camp by the Department of the Army during the year necessitated the transfer of 98 tenants to other dwellings.

It also states, in regard to stores:—

An examination made during the year of the stores records revealed an unsatisfactory state of affairs as regards issues to contractors and many discrepancies were found. The matter was brought under the notice of the trust. Steps were taken to prevent a recurrence, but discrepancies in the earlier transactions are still being investigated by officers of the trust.

Does this mean the building up of maintenance costs? Apparently the Auditor-General is not happy about some of the projects carried on by the trust as, at the end of his financial statement, he says:—

The lower surplus for 1950-51 was due to losses on the sale of timber-frame houses constructed at St. Mary's. These houses did not meet with the demand anticipated, and the trust was obliged to sell most of them below cost under long-term agreements. The losses at St. Mary's were offset by surpluses on other groups.

That statement shows that it is the solid type construction of house that appeals to our people. An article in the *News* says that the Treasurer, in addressing a conference of master builders and contractors today, stressed the fact that building materials must be found to erect houses, but it is no use his appealing to them to manufacture the most necessary basic material, burnt red bricks, when the Government allows its agent, the Housing Trust, to use all the bricks that can be manufactured at the moment. The Auditor-General continues:—

During the year the trust was obliged to sell a further 89 houses under long-term purchase

agreements with a maximum of 35 years, because of the inability of the purchasers to make their own financial arrangements.

What has the Government done to assist our ex-servicemen who have been forced to accept timber-frame houses at St. Mary's? The Auditor-General's statement shows clearly that these houses have not the equity in them. He goes on:—

The rate of interest charged under these agreements is 4½ per cent per annum subject to a rebate of one-half per cent for payment within seven days. To the 30th June last the trust had financed a total of 158 timber houses erected by it. The total of advances outstanding amounted to £224,691, representing an increase of £127,475 for the year.

What does the Government intend to do in the matter? Many people have had to accept temporary wooden-frame homes, but had the Government accepted some of the suggestions of members of the Opposition it would not have been necessary to provide these large amounts on the Estimates. It is the Government's duty to see that there is sufficient equity in these houses. It is too important a matter to be glossed over. Although the matter has been brought up on numerous occasions, the suggestions of members of the Labor Party have been pooh-poohed. Does the Government intend to continue its policy of inactivity in the manufacture of bricks for home building? What is to be done about the proposed new town at Salisbury, in the district of the member for Gouger? I do not know whether it is to be called Goldney Hill or Goldney Vale, but something will have to be done to erect a decent type of house, with proper amenities, if workers are to be attracted and kept there. Instead of spending money on sending officers overseas to find out new methods of brick production the Government should do something positive to increase brick production in this State. In his report the Auditor-General stated:—

An examination of payments made to contractors and the records of materials supplied during the year, disclosed an unsatisfactory position, due to lack of co-ordination between certain sections of the trust organization in not fully advising the variations in contracts, etc., from time to time. As a result, some overpayments were made. However, immediate action was taken and the accounts of contractors were adjusted. Appropriate action has been taken by the trust to prevent a recurrence of errors of the nature disclosed.

That action may have been taken, but what has been done to make more homes available? When more than 90 families were

transferred from the emergency homes at Warradale, did the Commonwealth Government bear portion of the costs of such transfer? How much longer will the Government persist in the erection of temporary housing accommodation while doing nothing to increase the manufacture of bricks?

Mr. MOIR—Why has provision been made for £10,850 as part cost of administration of the Betting Control Board?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—That sum relates to the administration of the winnings tax legislation.

Mr. TEUSNER—The sum of £500 has been provided for the training of New Australians for the brick industry. Are such persons obliged to enter into a contract to serve in the brick industry for a certain period on completion of their training and how many are training for such service?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I do not know the number, but they are obliged to remain for two years in the employment to which they are allocated. This sum is provided to conduct tests of the proficiency of these men at their jobs.

Mr. LAWN—The Premier has repeatedly stated that the purchase of land is the only action carried out by the Government on behalf of the Housing Trust, yet certain sums are shown as administration expenses for housing improvement, control of rents, and temporary housing accommodation. Do these sums represent the whole or only part of the administrative expenses of the trust?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The sum of £40 provided for "Housing improvement, administration expenses" represents the administration expenses on work performed by the trust as an agent of a Government department such as the Harbors Board or the Railways, and would be only a fraction of the total administrative costs of the trust. The £14,080 provided for "Control of rents, administration expenses" reimburses the trust for its services as a fair rents court under the Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents) Act. The £23,650 for "Temporary housing accommodation—administration, maintenance, etc.," is provided as payment for work undertaken on behalf of Government departments by the Housing Trust. It is only when the Housing Trust acts as agent for the Government on work outside the general activities of the trust that the Government is responsible for any expenditure.

Mr. LAWN—Are sinking fund payments a refund of the money voted for the purchase of land?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The sinking fund is a general fund of the State and provides for the liquidation of loans in 51 years.

Mr. Lawn—The contribution of the Housing Trust to the fund would be in regard to monies voted by the Government for the purchase of land?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Yes, and for other purposes. The trust would have to find its proportion of the redemption of the loan.

Mr. Lawn—Doesn't the Government purchase the land for the trust?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—No; the trust purchases land out of its funds.

Mr. MOIR—Last year £300,000 was voted for exchange on payments made overseas for various Government departments and other bodies, but nothing is proposed for this year. Will the Government be free from exchange commitments this year?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Hitherto they were charged to the Treasury in bulk but corresponding items will be found under public works. Exchange will now be rightly charged to the various departments as it is incurred.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—According to today's *News* the Premier said:—

Governments must set about developing supplies of materials for the building industry, the Premier (Mr. Playford) told the convention of the Master Builders' Federation in Adelaide today.

Does that mean that this Government will attempt to increase supplies of building materials or that the Brick Production Committee, for which £100 is voted, will be making recommendations to the Government? Will any report of the committee go to the Industries Development Committee for investigation? We often see references in the press to Government proposals, but apparently Parliament is not entitled to information. Does the Government intend to produce bricks, or will the Brick Production Committee merely investigate and report on brick supplies?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have not had an opportunity to read the *News*, so I do not know what is indicated by the article. The sum voted is to cover investigations in regard to brickmaking. Parliament has authorized a Parliamentary committee to further the promotion of industries and the brick industry has had a good hearing. If the Government can do anything further in the interests of the industry it will be happy to do so.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Last year £3,900,000 was voted for the Housing Trust, but in 1946-47 it was only £750,000. The trust has expended much bigger sums in the last year or two than it did previously. Originally it built homes for rental, but today many are being built for sale. As a result of high building costs it is almost impossible for the wage earner to find the necessary deposit. Because 70 per cent of the homes are allocated to returned servicemen there are not many available for civilians, no matter what their housing circumstances may be. The Government should revert to the original policy of building homes for rental. The time may not be far distant when people who have purchased houses will not be able to meet their commitments and as a result the trust will be required to write off a considerable amount of arrears. So as to keep the amount that may have to be written off to a minimum will the Government consider building more homes for rental than for sale?

Mr. LAWN—I have often received replies from the Housing Trust that it does not build houses to cater for people with large families. If they are desperately in need of housing one can only ask that they be provided with temporary accommodation. The type of reply received was to the effect that the houses being made available by the Trust under its temporary programme were not big enough for a large family including a husband, wife and six children, or if a claim was made on behalf of a man with two children one was told that the type of house available was not suitable for a family of such size. If the trust is not building homes for families with six children or others with two children, I should like to know what type of temporary home is being built?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Government has no jurisdiction over the allocation of trust homes or over the type of home it builds. As a representative of a country area I have always found there was ample justification for any reply given by the trust. The Government has confidence in the trust, which has done a wonderful job. It does its best to cater for the average family.

Mr. MOIR—Are New Australians engaged in the brick industry pegged at their work after they have served a period in which to learn the trade?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—New Australians are under a contract with the Commonwealth Government to stay on their job for two years,

but it is not always honoured. Some men are found to be unsuitable for the type of work to which they are allocated and therefore the Government has allowed a large number to transfer to other work.

Mr. LAWN—I think the Minister of Works misunderstood my question and I now address it to the Treasurer. If I write to the Housing Trust on behalf of a family with six children I receive the reply that the larger type homes are not available and therefore nothing can be done. Perhaps a few weeks later I write to the trust on behalf of a family of two children and I am then told that unfortunately the smaller type homes are not available for allocation. If temporary homes being built are not suitable for families with either six children or two children I should like to know what size temporary homes are being built?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I think difficulty arises because the trust lets a contract for a big number of houses of a certain number of rooms, and if by any chance when the contract has matured a family which has too many children for that type of house applies, one cannot be allotted to it. The trust tries to fulfil the public demand. The allotment of emergency houses is not based upon the period of waiting, but the emergency of the family. A family may apply one day and a house be allotted the next: I have known that to happen. It is not always possible for the trust to anticipate how many families with a large number of children will apply for temporary accommodation. If the honourable member will let me have the particulars of the cases he has in mind I will personally examine them and see if I can help.

Mr. SHANNON—For the Institute of Management an amount of £1,000 is set aside, which is twice that provided last year. Why has the amount been increased and what purpose does this institute serve?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The grant was increased on the recommendation of responsible Government officers. The institute is of great value to the Railways Department as it trains young people to undertake responsibility in managerial posts.

Mr. RICHES—Has the Government formulated a policy for the building of additional emergency homes at Port Augusta?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—An urgent housing problem has arisen at Port Augusta due to the establishment of a major power station there, and if a second major station is established as suggested some hundreds of additional houses will be necessary. Port Augusta

will then possibly grow as big as Port Pirie and Whyalla. I can assure the honourable member that the housing requirements at Port Augusta are being examined, not only from the present emergency point of view, but from a long-range point of view. We are already in difficulties in trying to obtain building materials for Port Augusta, but every consideration will be given to that town, in common with other towns.

Mr. TEUSNER—Is the Commonwealth Government still reimbursing the State in respect of administration expenses in the control of rents?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes.

Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. SHANNON—With regard to the increase of £2,887 in the item "Control of Rents, Administration Expenses," will the Treasurer explain whether this is an indication that, under the Bill which is to be introduced shortly, there is likely to be an increase in staff in this department, or is the increase due simply to higher salaries?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It is the latter. I do not propose to forecast legislation to be introduced on Thursday next because it would be desirable for members to have the committee's report available for study.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINISTER OF REPATRIATION.

Lands Department, £410,764; Botanic Garden, £40,098; Government Motor Garage, £23,643; Advances to Settlers, Vermin-proof Fencing and Loans for Fencing and Water Piping, £4,231—passed.

Miscellaneous, £17,068.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—A number of pastoralists in the northern part of my constituency are concerned about the poor state of repair of the dog fence. I notice that a sum of £6,500 is provided as subsidy to the Dog Fence Board, compared with £6,419 last year. I understand that some difficulty has been experienced in securing sufficient material to maintain the fence in a thoroughly efficient state, but as all but £81 of last year's vote was expended I am wondering whether it is not shortage of money rather than materials which has caused the fence to deteriorate.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands)—The board has done everything possible to keep the fence in repair. Inspectors have recently reported damage, and of course, one of the problems is to get sufficient netting

of the type required. We are endeavouring to obtain it and when it is available everything possible will be done to repair the fence.

Mr. SHANNON—A sum of £100 is proposed for planting marram and other grasses on Crown lands for protection against sand drift. Although the same amount was voted last year nothing was spent, whereas this year was probably the best we have had for some time to establish these sand-binding grasses in bad patches. Although £100 will not go far, if we spend what is voted we may see results which will encourage further expenditure.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Not many applications for assistance have been made, but it is thought advisable to have something on the Estimates to meet eventualities. Particularly it is for assistance to councils in the South-East for combating sand drift on Crown lands.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF WORKS.

Public Works Department, £4,899—passed.
Engineering and Water Supply Department, £1,406,956.

Mr. RICHES—Can the Minister explain two lines under "Development of Interior," the first on page 65, and the other on 67, one providing for staff and the other for materials? Is this the grant covering construction of roads in country areas? If so, can the Minister say whether provision has been made for the purchase of the long-promised equipment for road-making in the north-western pastoral areas and, if so, when it is expected to be available?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH (Minister of Works)—The two items referred to are the proportions of head office salaries chargeable to the district. Actually the money for road construction is derived from grants for roads outside district council areas. Everything which can be done towards obtaining the plant has been done and we can only await events.

Line passed.

Architect-in-Chief's Department, £128,228;
Government offices, £86,650—passed.

Cemetery, £14,953.

Mr. LAWN—Recently I raised a question regarding people who apparently habitually enter the morgue and use it as sleeping quarters, and even mutilate bodies. Can the Minister indicate whether it is possible to build a more suitable morgue, or strengthen the existing one so as to keep out intruders?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—It is hard to see what can be done beyond strengthening the entry and that has been done.

Line passed.

Public Stores Department, £83,344—passed.
Aborigines Department, £68,311.

Mr. RICHES—I noticed with a great deal of satisfaction an item of £750 towards the cost of additional accommodation at the children's home at Umeewarra Mission. Will the Minister call for a report as to whether this mission should not receive a grant towards the maintenance of the home, as well as this proposed subsidy for additional buildings? The people in charge are doing a very wonderful work, the value of which cannot be estimated, and it is asking a little too much to expect them to carry on this work entirely at their own expense.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will do that. I appreciate very much the work which has been done and if, in keeping with what we have done for other missions, we can help further it will be given every consideration.

Line passed.

Public Works, £525,213.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—The Minister probably knows that there has been a very disastrous fire in the nurses' quarters at the Barmera hospital, in which the nurses lost practically all their personal belongings and have suffered major personal loss. People in the district have helped by making funds available and providing temporary accommodation for the staff. Can the Minister say what steps are being taken to replace the nurses' quarters?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Following on the fire the Minister of Health got in touch with me and I approached the Architect-in-Chief. Immediate steps were taken to re-establish the nurses' quarters permanently. The temporary structures will be left for other domestic requirements.

Mr. LAWN—Can the Minister say whether provision is made for transferring the Correspondence School, now situated in the Currie Street School building, to enable that building to be used as a primary school? Some of the children of local residents have to go to the Sturt Street School, and others to Thebarton. I have seen mothers taking the younger children quite a long distance to prevent their being molested by older boys.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I cannot give any information on that matter tonight. It is one of high policy, and I do not control the policy

of the Education Department. I will see that a reply is obtained from the Minister of Education as early as possible.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister explain what appears to be a very large expense of £2,100 in providing a tube carrier system for the Motor Vehicles Department?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—A large building has to be catered for and that is the estimated cost of the work. Apart from that I can give no information.

Mr. STEPHENS—Can the Minister explain why only £551 of the £900 voted for furniture, renovations, etc., at the Immigration Reception Depot last year was spent; why only £34 of £1,600 voted last year for furniture and equipment at the Immigration Hostel, Port Adelaide, was spent; and why £6,400 is to be spent on improvements, renovations and replacement of furniture at the Women's Hostel, Woodville, this year? It seems that money voted for Port Adelaide last year and not spent is to be spent elsewhere this year.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Last year we could not find the materials to enable the full amounts to be spent. It is hoped to spend more this year.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £20,737—passed.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Education Department, £3,690,235.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The allowances to students in training at the Teachers College are to be increased to £98,105 this year, an increase of £4,924 over the amount expended last year. During the past 12 months or so I have had a number of complaints from parents who reside in the country and whose sons or daughters have become students at the college. They say the allowance is inadequate and becoming more so with each increase in the cost of living. The increased expenditure for this year seems to be out of line seeing that there will be 644 students against 604 last year. Schools in various parts of the State have had to remain closed for a period because of the shortage of teachers, and considerable hardship is inflicted on the children and the parents. In my electorate some children have had to be taught by correspondence. The mails are not very convenient, and mothers have ample work to do looking after the menfolk without having to devote time to teaching their children. We should endeavour to get the maximum number of students to qualify as teachers to enable our schools to be

fully staffed. In the schools which are manned the teachers have inordinately large classes, which, in many instances, breaks down their health, and the pupils do not get proper education.

Mr. FRED WALSH—I do not think any area in the State has been so much neglected, so far as schools are concerned, as the Thebarton district, where there are three primary and two technical schools. I have previously referred to the overcrowding at those schools. When I first entered Parliament 300 children attended the Lockleys school; now there are 530. The buildings are erected on about four acres. Six or seven years ago I was advised by the department that another primary school would be erected in the district. There is electric lighting in one room only and lavatory accommodation is sufficient only for the number of scholars who were there originally. Two portable rooms are erected on an area abutting on Taylor's Road, about half a mile distant. I have made representations to the department concerning the lavatory accommodation but nothing has been done. I was informed that it was the department's intention to build a girls' technical school on another site. More should be done to cater for increased enrolments in the area where the old schools are built and to overcome the overcrowding that exists.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—It is not through lack of desire or of money that we are not further ahead in these matters. Although we have placed orders abroad for prefabricated schools the Cabinet, because they are not coming forward, decided to ask the Public Works Committee to reconsider its recommendation regarding the erection of this type of school. The increase in the vote for education is enormous. Last year the total expenditure was £3,378,771; this year the amount proposed is £4,262,137, an increase of £883,366. It has been claimed in some quarters that we are spending too much on education and it is not in keeping with the facts to say we are doing nothing in regard to school buildings. The Education Department has established a building section, which has become a more or less permanent institution. We called tenders for the erection of schools, but did not receive one. The Harbors Board, Railways Department and Public Stores Department have made available materials which had been put aside for railways and harbour construction. We have insufficient men and materials to build all the schools and classrooms desired, but are doing our best.

Mr. MOIR—Last year £154,120 out of £160,000 voted was expended on the line "Buses—conveyance of pupils." This year £207,125 has been voted for the purpose, an increase of £53,005, or more than £1,000 a week. What is the reason for this additional expenditure? Surely our population has not increased to that extent?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—It is because of additional buses and the extra cost of running a bus. I will ask the Minister of Education to have the matters raised by the Leader of the Opposition brought before the Cabinet for consideration.

Mr. SHANNON—The sum of £289,886 is provided for teachers and staff for boys' and girls' technical schools. Provision is also made for teachers at primary and high schools, but no mention is made of staffs for area schools. Is the department quietly abandoning its policy of establishing area schools and substituting high schools in country areas, with possibly some technical schools? Does it intend to move back to the old idea of high and primary schools? If so, I strongly oppose it. Two high schools in my area, at Mount Barker and Birdwood, are being turned into multi-purpose technical schools, but as it will give the children in those districts a much broader course of education I do not object to that. Apparently there are to be no more area or rural schools. That is a retrograde step and any action taken to abolish them would be widely deplored by parents. No provision seems to have been made to fill the vacant position of Superintendent of Rural Education formerly filled by the late Mr. Hosking. Does this indicate a change of policy on the part of the Government with regard to the area schools system?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Government does not intend to vary the system of area schools; in fact there is a tendency to increase their number. Their teaching staff are under the same headings as last year.

Mr. Shannon—Is a Superintendent of Rural Education to be appointed?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Because there is always a qualified officer anxious and willing to fill any vacancy there will always be an applicant for the post, and it is rarely that they go unfilled.

Mr. STOTT—An increase of £53,005 has been made in the amount provided for the conveyance of pupils by buses. I draw the attention of the Government to some anomalies in the present system. An increase in this item is only to be expected, because of the

increase in cost of motor tyres, petrol, etc. In some cases parents are being asked to contribute towards the cost of this item on a per mile per day basis. If one child out of a group of ten children is absent for, say, a fortnight, the parents of the other children are expected to make up the contribution lost through his absence. I suggest the Minister of Education look into this question with a view to increasing the amount per child per day. Parents of outback children should not be expected to have to meet the increasing cost of their transport. I believe the Minister has been a little too parsimonious in this matter, which is agitating the minds of a number of parents in my district.

Mr. RICHES—I endorse the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition regarding allowances paid to students in training. My attention has been drawn to a recent advertisement inviting applications for engineering cadetships. A department of the Public Service will pay cadets under training from £281 per annum at 15 years of age to £442 at 19 years. The Education Department is paying students recruited for training at the teachers college an average of £152.10s. per annum. On gaining a degree or diploma the engineer cadet is paid a minimum rate of £735, whereas, according to the Estimates, the average salary paid to a school teacher is about £100 less than that amount. These differences have been pointed out by people who feel they cannot afford to let their children train as teachers under these conditions.

Mr. MOIR—The sum of £2,000 has been provided for the purchase of furnishings and equipment for the S.P.F. hostel for girls. The services of this hostel are much appreciated. The sum of £500 has been provided for the extension of the dining room annex there. I do not oppose these grants, but would like to know where the hostel is situated? Is the sum of £725 provided for the purchase of an inter-office telephone to be spent on such an installation in that institution or is it expenditure of a general nature? Can the Minister explain the increase of £9,749 in the amount provided for the purchase of motor buses?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—In reply to the question raised by the member for Stuart regarding the differences in salaries paid to engineering cadets and trainee teachers, I point out that to qualify for the salary of £735 an engineering cadet must hold at least a Diploma in Engineering—a qualification of a higher grade than that required by the average school

teacher. Only a limited number of applicants will be selected as engineering cadets on the results of certain examinations. The cadets have to serve in the department when the University is in recess. They also have to give an undertaking that they will serve full-time in the department for a period following their cadetship. School teachers having an Arts degree get a salary equivalent to that of an engineer. The figures show that we are getting more teachers, but whether the allowance is sufficient is a matter of policy. The extra cost on account of buses previously mentioned by the member for Norwood was in regard to running expenses, but the extra £9,749 he just referred to is on account of the purchase of additional buses.

Mr. STEPHENS—Are the buses being used to take children to school?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Yes. The Government had to acquire buses because some tenders for transporting children were far too high. I assume the S.P.F. Hostel is the one Mr. Moir has in mind. If not, I will advise him in due course.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I understand it is desired to train a number of young people to become engineers in the various departments. Is there a limit to the number of cadetships, and for how long will they be granted? I think the system of bursaries could be used to provide the primary training at least of young engineers, and if the amounts granted were increased they would be of more assistance. They are only worth about £30 a year, yet, engineering cadetships are worth £281 a year. Higher bursaries might result in bringing more young people into engineering classes and also assist in overcoming the serious shortage of school teachers.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Cadetships are available only to males, who are much older than students to whom bursaries are granted. Applicants must have high educational qualifications before obtaining a cadetship. Many students gaining bursaries are girls and when Minister of Education I used to say the department was the best matrimonial bureau I knew of because girls are no sooner trained in the teaching profession than they become engaged. We do not lose cadets, of course, in the same way.

The Hon. T. Playford—The cadets work, too.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Yes, although in the early stages they spend the bulk of their time at the University. A true comparison cannot be drawn between bursaries and cadetships. The Premier and the Minister of Edu-

cation have considered the position of probationer teachers and found that only one State pays higher rates than South Australia. Whether we would get more teachers if we increased the rates is doubtful, but the question having been raised it will receive the consideration of Cabinet.

Mr. HUTCHENS—In regard to the line "Children's Playgrounds—Supervisors (five)," can the Minister say where the supervisors are employed and what their duties are?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will get a reply for the honourable member. They are only part-time supervisors. I rarely see anybody supervising or children to be supervised.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Are the Education Department's buses operating in the metropolitan area or in the country?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—All in the country.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—I assume that the £920 spent last year on milk for scholars was expended in the metropolitan area. I believe the Government will have great difficulty in extending the scheme to many country towns. Strangely, it is more difficult to get milk in the country than in the metropolitan area or in the larger country towns. Would it be possible for the Government to issue orange juice instead of milk to children in certain areas? Citrus juices can be easily transported and are not affected by heat as much as milk is.

Mr. O'Halloran—But oranges are 7d. each.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Yes, in the metropolitan area, but culled fruit is used to make citrus juices. It would be unfortunate if country people thought these special benefits were only for children in the metropolitan area. Country children would get as much benefit from fruit juices as city scholars do from milk.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Commonwealth is prepared to extend the milk scheme to country areas, but will not agree to any alternatives, such as the supply of fruit juices. However, the matter will be placed before the Minister of Education.

Mr. STEPHENS—What is meant by the line "Milk for scholars—share of incidental expenses"? I understand that the Commonwealth Government agreed to supply the milk provided the States paid for its delivery.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Commonwealth Government pays for the milk and for its delivery, but the State Government pays for its distribution in the schools.

Mr. Stephens—Does the Commonwealth Government pay part of the incidental expenses?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It pays 50 per cent of the capital expense.

Mr. Stephens—Are all the schools in the metropolitan area being supplied with free milk?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—No; the department has been unable to get contracts to supply all schools.

Mr. MOIR—An amount of £400 is set down for the purchase of kerosene refrigerators for outback school residences. I am surprised that it is not larger as few refrigerators could be bought for that sum. Although there was nothing in the Estimates last year for the purchase of typewriters for schools, £510 was spent, but this year it is proposed to provide £5,000. Are these machines for new schools, or is the department setting up a new system? Although £920 was spent last year in the distribution of free milk for school children, only an additional £180 is provided this year. With the free milk scheme now in progress I cannot see how the increased quantity of milk can be distributed for almost the same cost as last year.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The bigger schools are now being equipped with typewriters, and it is proposed to purchase 110 machines. Refrigerators are made available to country school teachers on a nominal rental basis.

Line passed.

The Libraries Department, £79,463; the Museum Department, £26,343; the Art Gallery Department, £12,533; Observatory, £766; Miscellaneous, £452,797—passed.

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT.

Department of Industry, £52,300.

Mr. LAWN—An amount of £851 is provided for the purchase of a new departmental car. Unless this item is free of sales tax, it would appear that the department is purchasing a light cheap car which, in the long run, may prove to be dear.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government can purchase cars at a more advantageous rate than private people. At the time the Estimates were prepared, taking into account the price the Government would pay, the amount was considered sufficient for a vehicle suitable for the job.

Mr. Lawn—Would it be restricted to metropolitan use?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Not necessarily. Line passed.

Factories and Steam Boilers Department, £38,540; Miscellaneous, £2,930—passed.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FORESTS.

Minister of Agriculture Department, £7,620—passed.

Agriculture Department, £365,925.

Mr. HAWKER—I notice that provision is made for nine field officers, whereas previously there were four in addition to a weeds adviser and a weeds supervisor. I am pleased that the Government is increasing the number of officers engaged on this important work. Has the Minister of Agriculture been able to get suitable officers to fill these positions, and can he say how the weed control policy is progressing? Is the department following in the footsteps of the soil erosion officers and getting the confidence of farmers in the eradication of weeds? A man may get weeds on his property due to no negligence on his part but to their being distributed, say, by travelling stock, whereas with soil erosion the trouble is due to a farmer's neglect and bad farming.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—Under our legislation it is the responsibility of councils to see that noxious weeds are destroyed, and the policy of the department has been to allow them to function. I once had ideas of taking it away from them and introducing legislation to provide for a Government department to deal with it direct, but on sounding out the councils I found the consensus of opinion against me, and consequently it would have been extremely difficult to get such legislation through Parliament. Therefore, we decided to appoint weeds advisers with the object of assisting and advising councils. Where, after having advice and help, they still declined to carry out their duties we could put pressure upon them, as the Minister has power to do. We found, however, that it was not easy to fill the positions, for only one suitable applicant has been found. We are still advertising for field officers whose primary duty will be the supervision and control of weeds and the advising of councils and others who want to ascertain the best means of eradicating noxious weeds.

Mr. FLETCHER—Did I understand the Minister to say that if a private individual was not satisfied with what a council was doing the department would take action?

The Hon. Sir George Jenkins—No.

Mr. FLETCHER—Suppose a private individual were doing his best to keep down the weeds on his property—I have in mind horehound, prevalent in my district—and the council was lax in its enforcement of the Act, would the Minister, on a complaint by the landholder, send a weeds adviser down to enforce the Act?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The Minister has very wide powers and he can, if the councils refuse to do their duty, take steps himself to do the work. I do not think any Minister has ever done it, but since I have been in office, when complaints such as those referred to have been received, I have immediately written the council concerned pointing out its obligations under the Act and asking it to enforce the Act to the best of its ability. I do not say that that policy has been wholly successful, but a great number have responded to the moral suasion, and as a result we have at least got somewhere. It was hoped to strengthen the department by appointing men capable of giving councils advice on the most up-to-date methods of weed destruction, and since the Government decided on that policy we have had more requests for assistance than we have been able to handle. The difficulty is a very old one, but we hope that, as the result of the appointment of additional officers, we will be able to meet the problem much more satisfactorily than in the past.

Mr. PEARSON—I notice with much satisfaction that the number of soil conservation advisers is to be increased from six to nine, the number of field officers from three to five and cadets from six to nine. The Soil Conservator is doing a great service to the State and the results of his efforts will show up very definitely in the years to come. Not only is his department establishing confidence in its methods amongst the farming community, but it is teaching the principles of the reclamation of soil and educating farmers in the best methods of land usage. That is a most important aspect of his work and I commend the Government very much on the increased vote for this department. I know that the Minister has had brought under his notice a request from certain people on Eyre Peninsula for the appointment of a sheep husbandry adviser for that area. Has he reached any conclusion in this matter?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I am pleased to hear the honourable member's complimentary remarks on the work of the Soil Conservation Branch. Unfortunately, we are

in an even worse position in this branch than in regard to the weeds advisory service, for we have found it exceedingly difficult, firstly, to get trained soil conservation officers and secondly, having got them, to keep them, for there seems to be a tendency nowadays for people not to want to work in the bush. We have decided that the best way to get officers of this kind is to train them ourselves and at present we have six cadets, one of whom is expected to graduate this year. There is provision for three new cadets. No decision has been made about the appointment of an additional sheep husbandry adviser on Eyre Peninsula. I mentioned the matter to the Director and said that we should make the best use possible of the two officers we have. If the agricultural bureaux in the area would work in with us, we could arrange a series of meetings and demonstrations, where our officers could give advice. I am sure that we would get the full co-operation of the agricultural bureaux.

Mr. HAWKER—I support what Mr. Pearson said about the good work done by the Soil Conservation Branch. Its work is not confined to the making of contour banks. It gives advice about the proper use of soil after the banks have been put in, and then there is the matter of keeping out weeds. I hope the Minister will continue to see that the various departments under his control work together in order to increase production and not have one department working in a watertight way. All the agricultural work is interlocked.

Mr. QUIRKE—I appreciate the good work done by the Soil Conservator and his staff, but it seems that the process of education is too slow to prevent vast quantities of soil being moved from our arable land. In the country wrong methods are being adopted, and we see, despite the education provided by the branch, sheet erosion going on with vast quantities of soil being carried away. Is there anything in the Act to prevent this, or must we continue with the slow education, hoping for the best? Many people persist in doing the wrong thing. Perhaps we could compel them to adopt proper practices.

• Mr. FLETCHER—In connection with the South-East regional centre, for Naracoorte last year £1,378 was voted for expenses of an officer in charge and three research officers. Can the Minister explain why that money was not spent; and why only £340 was spent of £1,000 voted as salaries and wages in connection with the Struan Research Centre?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—In reply to Mr. Quirke, the matter is largely in the hands of soil conservation boards, four of which have already been established. This is the best way to bring pressure to bear on people who continue to do the wrong thing. Our soil conservation legislation aims at educating people to adopt proper practices, and not compelling them to do it. After a visit to the United States of America recently Dr. Trumble said that ours is the most advanced soil conservation legislation in the world. As regards Struan Research Station, the Government intends to proceed with work there when it can obtain the necessary officers. Considerable buildings are also required and as soon as conditions allow the work will be proceeded with.

Mr. WHITTLE—Provision has been made for two field officers (previously one) at Flinders Chase ligurian bee farm and also for equipment and purchase of a motor truck. Expenditure on these items last year totalled £1,103; this year £3,684 is provided. Kangaroo Island is not recognized as a honey-producing area and I understand is used more for the production of queen bees. What is the justification for such a large increase? Is any revenue obtained from the sale of bees, apart from queen bees?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—There would not be much profit if we had to rely on breeding queen bees. A bee farm was established in Kangaroo Island where pure strains of ligurian bees, which would not be contaminated by mixing with ordinary black bees, could be bred. Certain experimental work is being undertaken this year and the department has arranged with a number of accredited apiarists to carry out tests to determine the qualities of ligurian bees as against other types. The farm at Flinders Chase has proved almost profitable, not because of the sale of queen bees, but from honey production. The types of eucalypts there are excellent for high class honey production. If the tests disclose that the bees are not worth persevering with we will not go on with the job.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—The time has come when we could extend the powers that exist under the soil conservation legislation. Good results have been obtained by the Soil Conservation Branch in certain parts of the State. Members of the Land Settlement Committee the other day passed through an area with an 18in. rainfall, and saw one property from five

or six miles distant that had been badly eroded. Damage had not only been done to the property; but to the main highway. A couple of years ago sand drift there was well pegged down, but rabbits infested the place and it is in a bad condition today. The owner apparently is not prepared to do anything and we have no power of compulsion. Sooner or later the State will have to face up to the position and put the land back into use. Will the Minister take up with the Cabinet the question of compelling occupiers or owners of such properties to do the necessary work to bring the land back into production?

Mr. HEASLIP—I congratulate the Minister of Agriculture and his department on the work done by the Soil Conservator. In some instances farmers may be forced into a position where they unwittingly cause sand, water, or wind erosion. Under the Soil Conservation Act the Soil Conservator already has certain powers and can take the action mentioned by the member for Chaffey. In my own district where soil erosion was doing much harm the soil has been restored to a great extent to its original texture following on the swing from cereal growing to wool production due to the increased price of wool. The sum of £5,600 has been provided for aid to herd testing associations. Can the Minister say whether this provision is made to cover testing for tuberculosis or for cream content of the milk? Could the grant be increased so that more herds could be tested?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—This grant relates to the testing of dairy herds not for tuberculosis but for production. Where associations are formed under this scheme certain funds are made available by this Government and others by the Federal Government; the balance is provided by those receiving the benefit of the activities of the herd testing association. Records are kept of all tests conducted by the association. I think as many associations as possible under the present grant have been formed. Any community wishing to form a herd testing association should supply to the department particulars regarding the number of members and their location. The department will then try to find for them a herd tester who will be paid by the association and not by the Government.

Mr. HEASLIP—Has any provision been made by the department for testing for tuberculosis in dairy herds?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—Not under that scheme; that testing is done by the Veterinary Branch. So far as I am aware there has been no testing for tuberculosis conducted in northern areas. If the people in the area mentioned by the honourable member made a request to the Department of Agriculture that their cows be tested for tuberculosis, that request would be met as far as possible.

Mr. STOTT—In view of the difficulty facing many dairymen because of the varying policies of Commonwealth and State Governments with regard to dairy production over the past 12 to 18 months a number of South Australian dairy herds have diminished. Consequently, a more vigorous policy of incentives should be pursued in an effort to increase dairying production. In the next few years the Department of Agriculture should co-operate in encouraging the breeding of the right type of cattle. Whilst in Sweden last year I learned how the breeding of the right type of cattle was encouraged under a system of artificial insemination. This Government should consider the adoption of that system, probably through the associations mentioned by the Minister or some other country body, so that the department could assist country people, particularly those in the hills and south-eastern areas where climatic conditions and the nature of the country lend themselves to dairying. The Government could purchase the class of animal which is considered best for the particular locality and thereby increase the butterfat or milk production of herds there. Many people, particularly young soldier settlers, who wish to start out as dairy farmers today are faced with the terrific cost of land, implements, and a suitable sire—costs which handicap them in their efforts to go ahead. If the Government purchased a high-class sire and got its veterinary officers to undertake artificial insemination it would encourage increased dairy production. Settlers would only have to pay a nominal amount to breed the best herds. Australia will find itself short of butter and milk in the near future unless the right type of cattle is bred. Production must increase by up to 27 per cent to feed our people if the migration programme is carried out. We must arrest the decline of milk and butter production.

Mr. FLETCHER—Some dairy farmers in my district are not able to get their herds tested because there are no officers available for the purpose and because they are unwilling

to pay the higher fees. At present only two pure-bred herds in the district have been tested. Although some of the best strains of stock in the State are in the South-East producers are unable to sell their sires because the herds have not been under a test. Will the Government consider the owners' desire to form a herd testing association if they are willing to pay the increased fee of £25 being asked?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—When the testing of pure-bred herds was first established many years ago when Professor Perkins was Director of Agriculture it was on a fifty-fifty basis, the Government finding half the cost and the owners of the herds the other half. However, subsequent increases in costs were met by the Government and not by the people able to sell their bulls as sires of an accredited strain. I told the Pure-Bred Herd Association that its members would have to stand up to their obligations and carry the increased costs. The position was rectified, but it has now become worse than ever as the Government has been carrying the enormously increased costs of recent years. The Government realizes that great benefits can accrue from the testing of herds and desires to help the dairy farmers, but it is not prepared to meet all the added costs.

Mr. QUIRKE—Although £90,825 was provided in 1950-51 for the fruit fly campaign only £36,967 was spent and this year an amount of £4,812 is set down. Can the Minister of Agriculture indicate the likely incidence of the fruit fly pest this year? Some time ago I brought forward the question of the manufacture of insecticides and fungicides which were being sold as correctives for certain insect pests and diseases and which in my opinion were more or less useless for the job. The Minister then said that attempts were being made to have the manufacture of those products regulated to a standard. Has any progress been made in that direction?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—As regards the fruit fly campaign, it is pleasing to have such a favourable outlook as is indicated by the amount provided in the Estimates. There was no appearance of the fruit fly last year. That is a great tribute to the work done by Mr. Strickland and his officers. The small amount provided this year is to meet the cost of inspections so that we can be aware of any reappearance of the pest. The present position looks very favourable. I am unable to give

any information concerning the second question, but will make investigations and bring down a reply.

Line passed.

Agricultural College Department, £98,955.

Mr. QUIRKE—Can the Minister say how far the replacement of oenological equipment lost in the fire at Roseworthy College has proceeded?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I cannot say to what extent the equipment has been replaced. A new chemistry laboratory has been recommended by the Public Works Committee, but the Government still has to find the money and the contractors for the job. There are not so many applicants for training in oenology as previously, and this is probably due to the fact that many of the positions at wineries have been filled. This section has been widely used in the training of students and it is possibly the only course of its kind in the world.

Line passed.

Fisheries and Game Department, £11,348; Chemistry Department, £34,180—passed.

Primary Producers' Assistance Department, £9,483.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister say how many applicants come under the department now? It would appear that it could be closed down.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The Government is hopeful that the department will be closed down altogether. The small amount made available this year is to enable a skeleton staff to wind up the few accounts remaining. Many of the staff have been transferred to other departments.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £55,134.

Mr. WHITTLE—I recall the criticism levelled by certain people outside Parliament against the methods employed and the ruthless way in which gardens were broken up in the fruit fly campaign. In my district the fruit fly arrived about two months before an election, and it was freely stated that I would lose a thousand votes because the "Playford wreckers" were taking possession of people's fruit. However, I was returned. Sometimes when I see those people I am pleased to remind them of their statement about the Government's desire to protect only the commercial fruit-growers so that they would have the field to themselves. Mr. Strickland, who was in charge of the campaign, had a trying time with an inexperienced staff. Altogether it was a most courageous campaign which the Government undertook, and if the other States

even now followed its example it would make a difference there. Last year while visiting Sydney I saw oranges growing which were riddled with maggots and I wondered why people bothered to grow them, but that state of affairs is regarded as inevitable there. I commend the Government on a most successful campaign.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister offer some explanation of the two items under Miscellaneous—Imperial Bureau of Entomology, contribution to, £164, and Imperial Mycological Institute, contribution to, £101.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—These are not Australian institutes, but we subscribe to them and get necessary information from them as to what is being done elsewhere.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I notice that our old enemy the grasshopper has not been forgotten in these Estimates as £100 is provided for reimbursement of district councils for expenditure in their destruction. I am not going to join Mr. Whittle in sounding paeans of praise about the success of the Government's fruit fly campaign, for I am well aware that it cost over half a million pounds, whereas grasshopper plagues have not cost the State very much. Previously I suggested that the destruction of grasshoppers might be undertaken on an Australia-wide basis with the same vigour with which the destruction of the fruit fly was undertaken in this State. It is a remarkable fact that in really good seasons one sees few if any grasshoppers and that they are at their worst in lean seasons. This is therefore a good opportunity to endeavour to find their breeding grounds and deal with them promptly.

Mr. HEASLIP—I notice that £100 is provided for the Fire Fighting Association for publicity and propaganda work, but I feel that this amount could well be increased. I do not suppose we have ever faced a greater fire risk than we will face this summer. With the smaller area under cultivation and the huge areas of grass there is a real risk of vast areas being burnt out, and money spent in propaganda and advertising to make the people conscious of the danger would be money well spent.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.9 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 31, at 2 p.m.