

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Wednesday, August 12, 1953.

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

**QUESTIONS.****YORKE PENINSULA HARBOURS.**

Mr. McALEES—Has the Minister of Marine a report following on the recent visit of Harbours Board officers to Moonta Bay, Port Hughes and Wallaroo?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have a lengthy report from the Harbours Board which states:—

The members of the Harbours Board visited Moonta on Friday, 31st ultimo and conferred with mayor and councillors and representatives of the fishing industry from Moonta and Port Hughes. Following the conference an inspection of the damaged Moonta Bay jetty was made, also the Port Hughes jetty which appears to be in first class order, and the board's engineers closely inspected possible sites for a boat haven which it was recognized to be an imperative need to protect the important fishing industry of the district. To provide access to their fishing boats the board agreed, as a temporary measure, to construct a "catwalk" from the shore end seaward which would allow fishermen to bring their catches ashore in safety. The condition of the jetty, however, was beyond repair and the replacement of some suitable alternative requires close study as a heavy capital expenditure would be involved. A marine survey is being put in hand immediately at various points between the Moonta and Port Hughes jetties by the board's engineers to ascertain the most suitable position for a boat haven to ensure the most complete protection of the fishing fleet, and as soon as this is completed the board will again visit Moonta and meet all parties interested to discuss various alternative proposals, following which a submission will be made to the Minister as a matter of urgency. Because of the unsafe condition of the Moonta Bay jetty due to storm damage the board also decided to have the shore end of the structure immediately barricaded off with a handrail and barbed wire and the barricade fitted with a gate to permit fishermen to use the jetty for the time being and pending arrangements being made for some temporary repairs. It was arranged with the town clerk that he should hold a key to the gate and make it available to the fishermen as necessary.

Regarding Wallaroo, the report states:—

The board paid a visit to Wallaroo on Friday, 31st ultimo, and was met by the mayor (Mr. A. G. Clarke) and representatives of the waterside workers' and fishing industries. Regarding the request by the waterside workers for improved lighting facilities on the jetty, the General Manager reported that this work was now in hand. The need for a first-aid room was also stressed. This work has also been authorized. Concerning the fishing haven, the need for strengthening the old jetty to

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provide greater security for the fishing boats was emphasized, and it was agreed that the board be provided with statistical information as to the number and size of boats requiring protection. The amounts involved in protection might be considerable and appropriate charges would require to be forthcoming to contribute towards the capital outlay. The board recognized that provision must also be made to provide protection for the pleasure craft and an endeavour would be made to provide for both fishing and pleasure craft in the one plan. The need was admitted and the board's engineers will be instructed to further develop plans so that a concrete proposal could be submitted to the Minister.

**BALAKLAVA FLOUR MILL.**

Mr. GOLDNEY—I understand that the employees of the Balaklava flour mill last week-end received notice that their services would not be required after Friday of this week. I understand this mill has been working largely or entirely on export flour and since March has been working only one shift, which has enabled it to manufacture about 100 tons a week. The position in regard to mill offal is acute. The mill has only small stocks of bran and pollard on hand, so the position may be serious in the future, for the mill supplied not only areas nearby but some places farther afield. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether it is correct that the mill is to close down because of the lack of export orders, and what the possibilities are of there being export orders in the near future?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—Regarding the closing down of the Balaklava Mill, a letter to my secretary from the Miller's Produce Co. of S.A. Ltd. states:—

We are in receipt of your letter of the 5th inst inquiring on behalf of your Minister as to whether there is a probability of the flour mill at Balaklava closing down owing to lack of export flour orders. The answer to that question is that the mill in question will be closing down for the above reasons. For the Minister's information we would add that it is not only the Balaklava mill which is affected.

I have obtained the following information from the Australian Wheat Board respecting export flour sales:—

All overseas flour sales other than to Ceylon are now made by private traders. The Ceylon Government is the only direct buyer of flour from the Australian Wheat Board. Whereas the British Ministry of Food previously purchased flour for United Kingdom and territories, including Malaya, they have now ceased buying. Private trading to Malaya and Indonesia has resulted. Importers in those countries are granted import licences and all of these sales are made through private exporters in Australia. The Wheat Board is finding it difficult to make export sales of flour at present.

## THEBARTON BOYS TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Last November I asked a question about the state of repair of the western and northern fences of the Thebarton Boys Technical School. On that occasion the Minister of Works called for a report from the Architect-in-Chief, who, in effect, admitted that the condition was bad, and that it would be uneconomical to repair the back fence, and suggested the erection of a cyclone fence. The Minister then said:—

I intend to confer with the Architect-in-Chief as I consider that funds could probably be made available to him for this purpose in view of the serious instances of trespassing which have occurred there.

It has come to the knowledge of the school council, of which I am a member, that nothing has been done to the back fence, and that portion of the back fence which was reasonably good has been transferred to the western fence, leaving the back fence worse than ever. There have been cases in recent weeks of trespassing. On one occasion tools were removed from the metal workshop, and there were other instances in the main part of the school. Will the Minister of Works again take up the matter with the Architect-in-Chief with a view to having the work done as expeditiously as possible?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Yes. I regret that it has not been attended to. I shall follow the question up immediately.

## PENALTIES FOR DRUNKEN DRIVING.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Has the Minister representing the Premier seen a police report suggesting that penalties for drunken driving are inadequate, and if so, does the Government intend to examine whether such penalties should be increased?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I did not see the report but will refer the matter to the appropriate Minister for a reply.

Mr. TRAVERS—A senior official of the Police Department has apparently made two statements, firstly that the penalties are not severe enough and secondly—a gratuitous direction—that legislators would now have to re-examine the Act. Can the Minister say:—

(1) Is it not a fact that drunken driving, properly so-called, is not increasing but is definitely diminishing? (2) Is it not a fact that the increase in the number of cases under the section is due to three things—(a) a recent amendment of the drunken driving section which has the effect of deeming a man guilty if any of his faculties, either mental or

physical, are appreciably impaired and that quite regardless of the skill or efficiency of his driving; (b) a recent decision of the Supreme Court that the word “appreciably” contained in that section means merely “noticeably” or “capable of detection” as opposed to what was previously commonly held, namely, “substantially”; and (c) a special blitz by the Police Department upon cases under this section?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I will refer the questions to the appropriate Minister for reply.

S.S. *ARKABA* TOW.

Mr. TAPPING—Has the Minister of Marine a reply to the question I asked last week relating to the towing of the s.s. *Arkaba*?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The harbor master at Port Adelaide has reported:—

I discussed this matter with the Deputy Director of Navigation this morning, and he advised me that the *Arkaba* was in a fit condition to be towed on departure from Port Adelaide, and that the tug *Allegiance 2* had suitable equipment for the towage. I am of the opinion that neither the Federal or State authorities have any say in which route a vessel should take in these circumstances. This is a matter entirely for the principals concerned. In accordance with the Navigation Act it is apparent that the Commonwealth have power to remove or destroy the *Arkaba*, and the board to do likewise if the vessel came within the limits of the jurisdiction of the board.

## IRRIGATION PROJECT.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—The member for Light recently asked a question relating to the proposed purchase of land adjoining the River Murray by private persons, who intended developing it. I understand one of the areas concerned is known as Oxford Landing. I was informed earlier this week that this country comprises some of the best land on the River Murray frontage and if that is so I wonder why it has not been acquired for soldier settlement. Will the Minister of Lands ascertain whether the Irrigation Development Committee has examined that land and, if so, will he bring down its report and make it available to members?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Yes.

## RATING ON MANNUM-ADELAIDE PIPELINE.

Mr. WHITE—A landholder in the Tung-killo area, through whose property the pipeline from Mannum to Adelaide will pass and on which will be built a storage tank as part

of the scheme, has asked me to ascertain whether, as he will not come into the scheme which has been worked out for the Murray Flats, he will be allowed to use water from the main and the storage tank, and if not will he be compelled to pay a water rate because the main goes through his property? I want to make it quite clear that he has no objection to these works being carried out on his property.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The honourable member can be assured that the landholder will not be asked to pay water rates unless he is given a service either from the main or the tank. If he were supplied with water his land would be rated according to the general principle adopted in that locality. When the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline went through, those adjoining the trunk main got a service therefrom and paid so much per thousand gallons.

#### DRIVING TESTS FOR MOTORISTS.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister representing the Premier say whether it is the Government's intention to amend the Road Traffic Act this session to provide for driving tests, and will the Government consider the question of whether it is not a fact that a person with no experience of handling a motor can go to the Motor Vehicles Department and register a vehicle?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I will take up the question with the Premier.

#### HOUSES UNFIT FOR HABITATION.

Mr. LAWN—Has the Minister of Local Government a reply to my question of July 30 concerning the condemning of houses owned by the Franklin Transport Company in Adelaide?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have a reply from the secretary of the Local Board of Health, Adelaide, to the effect that in the last 12 months nine cottages owned by this company have been condemned by the board as being unfit for human habitation.

#### COMPLETION OF NORTH-SOUTH RAILWAY.

Mr. RICHES—Under the heading "Queensland Pressure for Rail Link" the following appeared in the *Advertiser* today:—

Commonwealth finance to build the Dajarra-Camooweal rail link in northern Queensland to bring cattle to the Queensland seaboard for treating and export was sought by the Acting Premier of Queensland (Mr. Duggan) at today's Premiers' Conference. Mr. Duggan said Queensland had over 50 per cent of Australia's cattle population and was the natural

fattening area for Northern Territory cattle. The only objections to the rail link could be finance and an agreement between South Australia and the Commonwealth to build the north-south rail link from Adelaide to Darwin. This agreement was made in 1910, but 1953 problems should not be treated in a 1910 way. The Prime Minister said that the broad question was being examined by an inter-departmental committee, which would report to Cabinet. The South Australian Premier (Mr. Playford) did not speak.

As the Premier was silent when the request was made, can the Minister of Works say whether there has been any change of Government policy on the question of building the North-South railway? I understand that the South Australian Government has always demanded the fulfilment of the agreement to construct a railway from Alice Springs to Darwin.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—An intimation from the Premier appeared in the press the day before to the effect that any departure from the original agreement would be resisted by South Australia. I am sure that the South Australian Government and the people of South Australia agree that the building of that line was a consideration in the transfer of the Territory to the Commonwealth Government. Our policy, as announced by the Premier at Canberra, has not been departed from, and in the circumstances I do not think he will consider taking the matter further. I am sure that our attitude will be maintained and I will fight any suggestion that the construction of the line will not be given priority over other commitments.

#### BRAKES ON TRAILERS.

Mr. STEPHENS—Doubtless the Minister of Lands and other members of the House saw a photograph in this morning's press of an accident between a trailer and a tramcar, which might have had very serious consequences. There was another accident yesterday with a trailer, but I did not see any report in the press, although I saw the result of that accident, and as one who has used the roads for years I know that it might have had serious consequences. I also understand that there is no law in South Australia which compels any person to have a brake on a trailer, which means that frequently heavily laden vehicles without sufficient braking power use our roads. There have been many accidents of this nature in the city of Adelaide. Will the Government go into the question of an amendment to the Road Traffic Act with the State Traffic Committee and see if something

can be done to prevent these trailers from using city streets and also compel every trailer to have, in the same way as in other States, efficient braking power?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—There are also many accidents to lorries without trailers, but with very good brakes. As the honourable member has raised the question I will discuss it with Cabinet.

#### EIGHT-MILE CREEK AREA.

Mr. FLETCHER—On Monday last, accompanied by a member of the Legislative Council, I had the privilege of inspecting the Eight-Mile Creek area and was rather disappointed at what I saw. I have every confidence in what the Minister assured myself, settlers and deputations, that all would be well with men who were triers and that they would get a fair deal. I was astonished to hear from a number of the settlers that promises made to them in regard to amenities on their holdings and in respect of clearing and other facilities had not been fulfilled, and this is the cause of much dissatisfaction. Many of these men have spent all their own cash and a lot of their own labour and are still without some of the essential amenities. Will the Minister see if something can be done to reassure them that the promises made to them will be carried out?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The honourable member will agree, I think, that in an inspection at this time of the year he would have seen the area at its worst and wettest period. The drainage position is well in hand and I hope that in the near future we will have overcome that problem. I think the honourable member would also agree that, although some settlers are very good, others are not quite so good, but I will have further investigation made and assure him that any promises I have made will be carried out in their entirety. As regards clearing, I think the honourable member refers to the high land we have purchased for the settlers to enable them to move their stock from the wet land. We have not yet had an opportunity to clear any of it and personally I am not anxious that much of it should be cleared, for I believe that in that locality we should retain as much timber as possible in order to provide shelter for stock.

#### MOUNT BARKER-WELLINGTON ROAD.

MR. SHANNON—Last week I asked a question regarding further work being done on reconditioning the Wellington-Mount Barker

Road. The council is worried because the proposed grant is for sealing the section already constructed and no money is being made available for further reconstruction work and this road is in a very bad state. Has the Minister of Local Government any reply today?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have a reply from the Commissioner of Highways who says:—

A total amount of £3,400 was allotted to this council for works on main roads including £300 for maintenance of the 75-chain section and £1,000 for bituminous sealing referred to above; but it was not possible to assist the council to the full extent of its request.

#### REPEAL OF PRICE CONTROL LEGISLATION.

Mr. DUNKS—It has been reported that at the Premiers' Conference the Commonwealth agreed to provide £12,200,000 for South Australia, which is less than the amount asked for by the Treasurer, and either the Prime Minister or the Federal Treasurer also stated that the Commonwealth would not pay the cost of the price control branches in the various States. In view of this, does the Treasurer intend to repeal the price control legislation?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The prices legislation has been operating on a yearly basis; therefore, if it is not re-enacted, it will automatically go out of operation. However, legislation to continue it will be introduced, for the Government believes that price control is still necessary on some items.

#### GALVANIZED IRON SUPPLIES.

Mr. CHRISTIAN—Was the Premier able to learn anything about the galvanized iron position when in the eastern States? I saw a statement in yesterday's press to the effect that Newcastle and Port Kembla have about 100,000 tons of iron and steel products banking up, and I heard over the air that Lysaghts were now able to meet the whole of Australia's requirements, yet we cannot get a single sheet in this State for essential and urgent works.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The inquiries I made in the eastern States indicated that the difficulty is mainly in regard to shipping, although I do not believe it is true that the firms could supply all the orders if the ships were available. The information to hand was to the effect that a large quantity of various iron products was held up solely on account

of shipping, particularly through the difficulty of getting materials loaded at Newcastle, and to a lesser degree at Port Kembla. However, I have arranged for Mr. Pollnitz to visit both Newcastle and Port Kembla next week to see whether there is any possibility of taking action to expedite matters.

#### EXCISE ON BRANDY.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Some months ago I drew the Premier's attention to the ill effects of the action of the Federal Treasurer in increasing the excise on brandy by as much as 6s. a bottle. The Premier realizes that the brandy industry is peculiar to South Australia, and it is the only State affected. Did he have an opportunity while at Canberra of discussing this problem with the Federal Treasurer?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No. The topic of excise was not raised at any of the conferences, nor did I have any opportunity of discussing it privately with the Federal Treasurer. It is completely under the control of the Federal Parliament and the matter is really one for determination by Federal members, particularly the members for this State.

#### UNIFORM TAXATION.

Mr. DUNKS—As the State Premiers are not all in agreement on the return of taxing powers to the States, would it be possible for South Australia to make an agreement with the Commonwealth without the unanimous consent of all States?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Two States are strongly opposed to having their taxing powers restored to them. A third State, Queensland, wants the powers restored only if there can be a heavy subvention from the Commonwealth Treasurer to make up for its restricted taxation field, but the main problem is the conditions under which the Commonwealth would relinquish taxation to the States. Those conditions have never been announced, and for this State to undertake a dual taxation system without the Commonwealth's going out of a corresponding field would only mean the duplication of taxation for South Australians and would be impracticable. Further, I do not believe it would be constitutional for the Commonwealth to impose, in South Australia, a rate of taxation different from that in other States. Under the Constitution there are strict limitations regarding preferential treatment for any one part of Australia, and I do not believe that, under uniform taxation, it would be possible for South Australia to have a

rate substantially lower than that in other States. The time will come when the Commonwealth will be only too pleased to hand back taxing powers to the States. The system, which not long ago was looked upon with so much admiration by so many people, is now strongly in the discard in many circles. The three large eastern States are opposed to it and the Commonwealth is beginning to realize that there is much unpopularity to be gained by collecting taxes for other people to spend.

#### CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition), having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1934-1951. Read a first time.

#### PASTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands), having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Pastoral Act, 1936-1950. Read a first time.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. It makes two amendments to the Pastoral Act, 1936-1950. Under the Pastoral Act Amendment Act, 1950, provision was made for the appointment of a fourth member to the Pastoral Board in order to leave the remainder of the board free to act as Land Court for the Northern Territory, in accordance with a request made by the Commonwealth Government. It was provided by that Act that any person so appointed should not hold office after December 31 of this year. Up to the present, the board has not been appointed to act as Land Court for the Northern Territory but it is anticipated that the appointment will be made shortly, so that it has become desirable to extend or remove the limitation on the term of office of the fourth member of the board. The Government believes that the best course will be to remove the limitation altogether. Clause 3 makes the necessary amendment to section 7 of the principal Act. Section 95 (2) of the Act provides that where a lessee holds several leases which expire at different dates the term of those first expiring may be extended for a period up to 3 years to enable the expiration of the various leases to coincide. The Director of Lands has advised that the maximum period of three years under this provision is not sufficient to produce the simultaneous expiry of leases in many cases, and recommends that no maximum period be

fixed. Accordingly clause 4 of the Bill makes the necessary amendment to section 95 (2) of the principal Act.

Mr. O'HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### AUCTIONEERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Auctioneers Act, 1934.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH (Minister of Works)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The principal purpose of this Bill is to enable a company carrying on an auctioneering business to hold a licence to do so. The Auctioneers Act, 1934, provides for the licensing of auctioneers and for the registration of auctioneers' clerks under clerks' licences held by auctioneers. Auctioneers' licences are obtained by production to the Treasury of a certificate of fitness given by a local court and payment of a fee. Two kinds of auctioneer's licence are obtainable, a town licence and a country licence. A clerk's licence may be obtained by an auctioneer from the Treasury on production of a fee, and from time to time the auctioneer may register the name of a clerk under the licence.

At present, where a company is carrying on a business as an auctioneer the practice under the Act is for the principal auctioneers of the company to hold auctioneers' licences and for the clerks employed as auctioneers by the company to be registered under auctioneer's clerk's licences held by the principal auctioneers. The problem has arisen that, there being no provision in the Auctioneers Act for the refund of fees or the transfer of licences when an auctioneer dies or ceases to carry on business, on the death or retirement, resignation or dismissal of a principal auctioneer employed by a company the company has to take out a new licence for the successor of the deceased principal auctioneer and new clerks' licences without receiving any refund of fees. As the fee for a town auctioneer's licence is £25 and for a country auctioneer's licence and a clerk's licence, ten pounds, the loss incurred by reason of the death or termination of employment

of a principal auctioneer can be considerable. The attention of the Government was drawn to this question by a case which occurred last year. A principal auctioneer employed by a large company died and the company forfeited the sum represented by the unexpired term of his auctioneer's licence and clerk's licences.

The Government believes that it is inequitable that fees should be forfeited in this way, and accordingly is introducing this Bill to enable companies to hold licences which will, by reason of a company's continued corporate existence, solve their problem. If companies are to hold licences, it is desirable to make a number of alterations to the Act and, among other things, if companies are to be enabled to hold licences as auctioneers the Act should provide that they should be compelled to do so.

Clause 3 amends section 3 of the principal Act, which requires a person carrying on business or acting as an auctioneer to hold a licence as an auctioneer under the Act, or persons acting in the capacity of an auctioneer at a sale by auction to be registered as auctioneers' clerks. New subsections (1) and (1a) to (1d) make more complete and appropriate provisions dealing with the same matter. The effect of new subsection (1) is to require any person or company carrying on business as an auctioneer to hold an auctioneer's licence. Subsection (1a) requires a person acting as an auctioneer at a sale by auction to be registered as an auctioneer's clerk if he is not licensed as an auctioneer. New subsections (1) and (1a) will require a company carrying on an auctioneer's licence to hold an auctioneer's licence, but will not require the principals of a company to be licensed, though they will be required to be registered as the company's clerk if they actually conduct auction sales. New subsections (1b) and (1c) prohibit persons holding country licences and their clerks from carrying on business or acting as auctioneers within the City of Adelaide or ten miles thereof. New subsection (1d) makes failure to comply with the provisions of subsections (1) and (1a) to (1c) an offence and provides for a maximum penalty of £100. This provision replaces section 11 of the principal Act, the existing penalty section. That section mentions in addition a term of imprisonment. This has been omitted, as the Government believes that it is inappropriate to the type of offence.

Clause 4 amends section 4 of the principal Act to provide that where a company applies

for a certificate that the company is a proper company to be licensed as an auctioneer, the court hearing the application must be satisfied that the manager of the company is of good character in addition to being satisfied that the company is a fit and proper company. Clause 5 makes consequential amendments to section 5 of the principal Act.

Clause 6 enacts new section 5a of the principal Act, which declares that a company shall be capable of holding a licence as an auctioneer under the Act and that the words "person" and "auctioneer" shall be construed accordingly. Clause 7 provides for a refund of licence fees where an auctioneer dies or ceases to carry on business. Clause 8 repeals section 11 of the principal Act. Section 11, as previously mentioned, is replaced by new subsection (1d) of section 3 of the principal Act. Clause 9 provides for the making of regulations under the principal Act. There is no provision for making regulations at present in the principal Act and the opportunity has been taken to give the necessary power, so that regulations can be made should the need arise. Clause 10 enables companies to carry on under the licence held by their principal auctioneers when the Bill becomes law until those licences expire.

Mr. HUTCHENS secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### WILD DOGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands) moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Wild Dogs Act, 1931-1951.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The Wild Dogs Act provides a scheme under which rates are imposed on land in the pastoral areas for the purpose of securing the destruction of wild dogs. The rates are paid into a fund called the Wild Dogs Fund and are subsidized by the Treasurer up to an amount not exceeding £4,000 a year. The maximum rate which may be imposed is 1s. per square mile of ratable land. The fund is applied by the Treasurer in payments for tails and scalps of wild dogs killed on

lands which are ratable under the Act or on Crown lands within the pastoral areas. It is also provided by section 9 of the Act that advances may be made to the fund from the general revenue but the total amount so advanced at any time is not to exceed £2,000. The purpose of this provision is to provide moneys for the fund if at any time the amount in the fund is insufficient to meet current requirements. At times the demands on the fund for payments for tails and scalps have been in excess of the funds available to it and, in order that the fund should be in a position to meet claims which can be reasonably expected to be made, consideration has been given to increasing the maximum rate which may be imposed under the Act and to increasing the amount which may be advanced under section 9. The Stockowners' Association of South Australia has been consulted in the matter and the association agrees with the proposals in the Bill.

Clause 2 increases the maximum rate which may be imposed under the Act from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per square mile of ratable land. Each additional rate of 3d. per square mile produces approximately £2,000 so that, if the full increased rate proposed by the clause were imposed, additional revenue of £4,000 would be produced. Clause 3 amends section 9 of the Act to provide that the maximum amount which may be advanced by the Treasury to the fund at any time is to be increased from £2,000 to £4,000. The amounts dealt with by section 9 are, as previously stated, advances only and are required to be repaid from time to time from the fund as occasion offers. The Bill does not make any alteration in the amount of the Government subsidy to the fund which is provided to be paid by section 8 and which is on a pound for pound basis not exceeding £4,000 in any calendar year.

Mr. O'HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands), having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Vermin Act, 1931-1945. Read a first time.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. Section 12 of the Vermin Act provides that two or more district councils whose districts are contiguous may form what is called an associated district councils' vermin board. When duly constituted, the board takes over

all the powers given by the Act to the associated district councils relating to the destruction of vermin and, in effect, the board administers the Act on behalf of the councils forming the associated vermin board. Section 12 provides that a board so constituted is to comprise one member from each district council. The member for each council is to be nominated by the council and is to be one of its councillors. If a member nominated to the board ceases to be a councillor in the council by which he is nominated, his seat on the board is to be vacated and a fresh nomination made. So far, only one associated vermin board has been formed and this is a board known as the Mid-Murray Associated District Councils' Vermin Board and comprising the district councils of Mannum, Marne, Keyneton and Swan Reach.

As before stated, the board consists of one member from each of the associated councils and both the board and the Murray Lands District Councils' Association have suggested that the representation of councils be increased from one to two members. Such an increase, it is considered, will make for the more convenient working of the board. Among other things, if a council is represented on a board by one member only and if that member is not able to be present at a meeting of the board, then the council is not represented at that meeting. Accordingly, clause 2 provides that, instead of each associated council having one representative on the board, there will be two members from each council. Section 16 of the Act provides that the proceedings of the board are to be regulated by the provisions of Part VII. of the Local Government Act, which deals with the procedure at meetings of councils. Among other things, Part VII. lays down the rules for ascertaining a quorum and, as applied to these associated vermin boards, provides that one-half of the members is a quorum.

Mr. O'HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Service Superannuation Fund Act. Read a first time.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I move:—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The object of this Bill is to reduce the size of the Public Service Superannuation Fund

Board. The board controls a fund inaugurated in 1902 and now known as the Old Superannuation Fund. This fund was superseded by the present Superannuation Fund in 1926, but was kept in existence for the benefit of those who wished to remain in the scheme. The Act which regulates the fund, the Public Service Superannuation Fund Act, provides for a board of seven. One seat is filled by an *ex-officio* member, the Under Treasurer, two by members appointed by the Governor, and four by elected subscribers or pensioners. With the passage of time it has become increasingly difficult to find persons to fill the four elective seats. The position now is that there are only three subscribers and eleven pensioners who are eligible to be members. There are in all 76 pensioners, but only 11 are eligible as ex-subscribers, the remainder being the widows of subscribers. Only one of the three remaining subscribers is available to be a member of the board and is, in fact, already a member. Of the eleven ex-subscribers the only two not prevented by age and infirmity from acting as members are already members. The problem is already acute, and as time goes on, will become more so. It is clearly necessary to alter the constitution of the board in some way, and the Government proposes to make it possible under the principal Act for the membership of the board to fall below seven. Clause 3 amends the principal Act to provide that the membership of the board must not be less than three and not more than seven. Clause 4 empowers the board to direct that a vacancy need not be filled. Under the proposed arrangement the membership of the Board will be reduced as subscribers and pensioners cease to be available, and when there are no more available the board will be able to carry on with the *ex-officio* member and two members appointed by the Governor. I assure honourable members that the Bill is in accordance with the wishes of the persons interested in this fund.

Mr. O'HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE COUNCIL.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD moved—

That three members of the House be appointed, by ballot, to the Council of the University of Adelaide, as provided by the University of Adelaide Act, 1935-1950.

Motion carried.

A ballot having been held, Messrs. John Clark, Geoffrey Clarke and J. L. Travers were declared elected.



**JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION  
BILLS.**

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD moved—

That the House of Assembly request the concurrence of the Legislative Council in the appointment for the present session of a Joint Committee to which all Consolidation Bills shall stand referred, in accordance with Joint Standing Order No. 18, and to which any further question, relative thereto, may at any time be sent by either House for report.

That, in the event of the Joint Committee being appointed, the House of Assembly be represented thereon by three members, two of whom shall form the quorum of the Assembly members necessary to be present at all sittings of the Committee.

That a message be sent to the Legislative Council transmitting the foregoing resolutions.

That Messrs. O'Halloran, Pearson and Teusner be representatives of the Assembly on the said Committee.

Motion carried.

**PARLIAMENTARY DRAFTSMAN.**

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD moved—

That Standing Order No. 85 be so far suspended for the remainder of the session as to enable the Parliamentary Draftsman and his assistant to be accommodated with a seat in the Chamber on the right hand side of the Speaker.

Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

At 3.32 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, August 13, at 2 p.m.