

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, May 10, 1956.

The SPEAKER (Hon. B. H. Teusner) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.**CHILD MIGRANT'S MEDICAL TREATMENT.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH—My question relates to the illness of a child who was recently taken to Bonn, Germany, for an operation. Will the Premier obtain a report from the Medical Superintendent of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, where this child had been a patient, and ascertain whether the parents took the child overseas on medical advice? Were they informed by the doctor that the complaint the patient was suffering from was not one that could be helped by surgical treatment, or for that matter by any form of treatment which was available in South Australia?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will have a look at the question to see what it involves. There has always been a very strict principle laid down that publicity is never given to matters between a medical practitioner and his patient. The patient's ailment is not disclosed to other people, and I believe that the doctor's advice given to the patient is to be regarded as advice to that patient. Whether we have the information which the honourable member has I do not know, but I should like to look at the general proposition before I ask for a report. I think the honourable member will appreciate that there are certain conventions in these matters which it is not desirable to break down.

SCHOOL TRAFFIC LIGHTS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—In recent years a number of schools have installed what are called the *News* and *Mail* traffic lights. I understand they are so called because those newspapers showed much interest in having them installed and have given a great deal of assistance. The lights were installed to warn motorists that children were either entering or leaving school, the object being for motorists to exercise the greatest consideration and courtesy in order to provide the maximum amount of safety for children. I understand that it was the intention both of the sponsors and those who subscribed to these lights that they should operate only when the children were entering or leaving school, but I have observed, and it has been brought to my

notice, that a number of them operate sometimes for 24 hours a day and over the week-ends. Will the Minister of Education have this matter investigated, and, if it is found that they are operating as I have stated, will he give instructions that they must operate only when children are entering or leaving school in order that they may be of the greatest value?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I shall be pleased to have the whole matter investigated. I formed the opinion some time ago that these *News* and *Mail* lights were useful warning devices; in fact, that they are better than our official ones, although they have no legal sanction, but I have noticed on several occasions that they are left on far too long, thereby defeating their own purpose. Of course that also applies to flags and other official signs outside schools, and I think the fact that such warning devices are being left on too long is bringing the whole system into disrepute. I am glad the honourable member raised the matter and I shall thoroughly investigate it to see what can be done.

PORT AT MURRAY MOUTH.

Mr. BYWATERS—An inspection of the Murray Mouth is being made by representatives of the Murray Valley Development League with a view to forwarding a request to the Government for a port in that area, believing that it would encourage decentralization of industry and population and the use of the Murray for river transport. Will the Government favourably consider such a scheme?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I would not be prepared to commit the Government to a proposal that would undoubtedly cost many millions of pounds until after it had been carefully considered.

Mr. Jennings—I bet you would before the elections.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No, I have always held the view that a port should have been established at the Murray mouth, if it was desirable, before the Murray valley had been tapped by railway systems. Whether it would be possible for a port at the Murray mouth to regain trade is something I would not be prepared to express an opinion upon now. While it is true that the river forms a valuable channel of communication we must remember that it flows very slowly and is very tortuous. Consequently, any goods going forward to market would be greatly

impeded compared with goods going by either road or rail into Victoria, South Australia or New South Wales.

The Hon. Sir Malcolm McIntosh—Or overseas.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes. The scheme would be very costly and the amount of trade that such a port could recapture has not yet been ascertained. I read the report in today's *Advertiser* with much interest, for it is a matter of importance to the State, but it will be examined to see to what extent it could be expected that diversion of trade would be possible and whether the expenditure could be justifiable in the public interest.

LYRUP SOLDIER SETTLEMENT SCHEME.

Mr. KING—Can the Minister of Irrigation say whether it is true that the proposal to establish a new irrigation settlement in the hundred of Gordon (near Lyrup) for soldier settlement has been rejected by the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Unfortunately, it is true that the Commonwealth Government has refused to grant permission for that area to be developed for irrigation settlement. In 1954 this scheme was referred to the Land Settlement Committee for report, and its report was forwarded to the Government in June, 1955. The State Government approved the scheme and forwarded it to the Commonwealth that same month, but some months later the Commonwealth advised us that it did not agree to the scheme. I was very disappointed. I took the matter up with the Premier who in turn took it up with the Prime Minister, and on Monday last we had confirmation from the Commonwealth that it refused to go on with the proposal.

Mr. STOTT—The suggested Lyrup soldier settlement scheme is in the very important district of Ridley. The Premier will remember that during negotiations concerning the Loxton soldier settlement scheme he rightly insisted that if the Commonwealth Government was not prepared to proceed with that scheme and provide the finance he would do so with the backing of the South Australian Government and Parliament. As the Commonwealth Government has intimated that it does not intend to go ahead with the Lyrup scheme, will the Premier consider proceeding with the proposal, notwithstanding that refusal?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will examine the matter and confer with my colleague, the Minister of Lands. There are two or three

problems involved. The Commonwealth rejected the proposal, because in its opinion marketing prospects did not warrant it. That is entirely different from the position which existed at the time the Loxton scheme was launched when marketing prospects were very good. The second matter to be considered concerns the financial implications, but I do not know what they are and whether they can be brought within the Budget available to us. In due course I shall inform the honourable member whether it is possible to consider State action in the matter.

OIL REFINERY FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mr. TAPPING—On November 17 last the member for Port Adelaide asked the Premier for information regarding a proposed oil refinery at Birkenhead, and the Premier replied that a powerful international company that was interested could not indicate its decision until last December at the earliest. Has the Premier now any further information?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Over a period of years the Government has had a number of inquiries concerning the establishment of an oil refinery. At the outset they were rather vague, but before I answered the question last year two companies had shown much interest. One had gone to the trouble of preparing a long questionnaire requiring information on the amount of electricity and water that would be available, the depth of the berth that could be made available, the area available, the rates of wharfage on the importation of crude fuel and much other detailed information that it stated it wanted for submission to its overseas headquarters. The officials of that company said they would advise me of their decision, I think in December. About the middle of December I received a letter asking for the offer to be held over a little longer because the matter had not received the consideration of the directors overseas. On the day after Christmas Day another company asked me to consider a proposal. I waited on that company that day and discussed the matter, but I had to inform it that we were already negotiating with the first company. Subsequently, the first company said that it would not go ahead with the proposal. The matter is now being considered by the second company which has had all the information submitted to it, which I believe is being analysed by overseas interests. I hope to have definite word from that company in due course. It is a big

project and no doubt will require a good deal of investigation. The oil market in South Australia has reached a volume which I think amply justifies an installation here. It may be a matter of some negotiation, but I feel fairly confident that in due course a project will be launched.

EYRE HIGHWAY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—Can the Minister representing the Minister of Highways and Local Government say whether the Government has considered some improvement to the Eyre Highway, and if not, will favourable consideration be given to that portion between Waddikee and Poochera?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I will take up this matter with my colleague and advise the honourable member as soon as possible.

UNION RADIO BROADCAST.

Mr. JENNINGS—I understand that recently a union representative broadcast over station 5AD pointing out the union's views concerning the recent industrial dispute in Government hospitals. I have been informed that subsequently a representative of the Crown Law Office called at the broadcasting station and took away the script, presumably to copy or study it. Can the Premier say whether this was done with the knowledge of the Government, whether it was the normal procedure and whether he believes such intimidatory tactics are conducive to the maintenance of harmonious industrial relationships?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have some personal knowledge of this matter. This action followed a suggestion by the Crown Law Office that an offence had been committed and it was necessary to examine the matter. However, a full examination revealed that the offence in question had not been committed and no further action was taken.

CHELTENHAM TRAM ROUTE.

Mr. COUMBE—Can the Minister of Works ascertain whether the Municipal Tramways Trust intends to convert the Cheltenham route to buses, as is being done with several other routes passing through North Adelaide? If so, when is this likely to happen and will the buses traverse the same route through North Adelaide as trams do at present?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I, of course, have no knowledge of the present intentions of the trust except in a general way. I will ask the trust for a reply and let the honourable member have it as soon as it is available.

LEIGH CREEK PARLIAMENTARY VISIT.

Mr. LOVEDAY—With respect to the proposed Parliamentary visit to Leigh Creek in August, will the Premier arrange for Iron Knob and Whyalla to be included in the itinerary?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The itinerary, which is now being studied, provides for the party to arrive at Port Augusta early in the morning. It is proposed to make a diversion in order that members may visit Whyalla and the power station at Curlew Point, rejoining the train to reach Adelaide at about 10.30 at night. This could allow only a limited time for inspections at Whyalla and I am not sure whether Iron Knob could be included. The proposed itinerary provides for several hours at Whyalla.

LAND TAX ASSESSMENTS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I have been informed of a specific case where the land tax assessment of a property last year was £440 and where under the new assessment it will be £802. That shows on last year's figure 15s. 6d. was paid in land tax, whereas under the new assessment 51s. will be paid, which represents a steep increase. The property is situated on the main South Road. I have had other reports submitted to me regarding land tax assessments and three councils are affected. Two of them rate on the unimproved land value system and the other on the rental system. I understand from a publication in the area that it will be the policy of the Marion Corporation to adopt the land tax assessments for the purpose of assessments in its area. That would mean an increase so steep as to prevent almost any person working in normal industry from continuing to meet rising costs, particularly these increases in council rates. I recommended that the ratepayers concerned should appeal to the Land Tax Department. Would the Treasurer ascertain from the Department whether the valuations are based on current land sales, particularly sales of land for motor car sales stands or industrial purposes? Could he state the actual system in operation for valuations?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Act lays down the matters to be considered by assessors in determining values and one of them deals with land sales. One sale in an area would not automatically change the values in the whole area, but where sales have taken place in an area, and they are of sufficient magnitude

to give an indication of the values placed on properties by both sellers and purchasers, the Commissioner, under the Act, must consider them, although they are not the only matters to be considered. Generally speaking, the assessments made in connection with land tax are very much below current values. Although in some instances reassessments have increased, and sometimes sharply, present assessments are probably only 70 per cent of present market values. Any dissatisfied taxpayer can make use of the elaborate machinery in the Act for appeals. The Commissioner has always been prepared to discuss valuations with anyone who might feel aggrieved, and I pay a great tribute to him. He can be approached by the public, and he is always prepared to justify his valuations, quite apart from the provisions which already exist in respect of appeals. It is true that valuations, in many instances, have not been altered for a long time; as long as 15 to 20 years in some cases, but members know that in the meantime values have been rising very steeply indeed. If the person referred to by the honourable member desires further information he can get it from the Commissioner, Mr. Reiners. Elaborate machinery is provided for appeals against assessments, but Parliament has not provided that, in making valuations, the Commissioner shall take previous valuations into account.

MURRAY BRIDGE-PARINGA RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. STOTT—Representations have been made to the Railways Commissioner for a better railway service to several important places along the Murray Bridge-Paringa line, as quite a few people in those places have been unable to get quick dispatch of urgently required goods. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Railways ascertain whether some trains, particularly the Renmark night train, can be re-scheduled to meet the requirements of these people, because sometimes they have to wait two days before they receive an urgently dispatched parcel?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will address the question to my colleague. I point out that time tables and schedules are purely a matter for the Railways Commissioner. It is not a matter of policy, and the Act lays down very definitely that these matters shall be decided, and rightly so, by the Commissioner. It is his function to see that the best possible service is given.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from May 9. Page 50.)

CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH.

Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, £24,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Treasurer say whether reciprocal arrangements exist between States for the enforcement of maintenance orders?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Complete co-operation exists; indeed, many agreements have also been made with other countries. For instance, a court order made in Great Britain can be satisfied by a special warrant used in this State.

Line passed.

Department of Public Health, £14,897.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Will the Treasurer explain the sum of £11,000 provided for the purchase of caravans?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It is for the purchase of special caravans for use in the proposed anti-poliomyelitis vaccine campaign. They will be of the same type as those being used throughout the State on the anti-tuberculosis campaign, but will contain different equipment. They will travel from place to place and give service wherever necessary. Many towns have no fixed hospital accommodation available, and this would involve the transporting of children a considerable distance, whereas the travelling equipment will make possible the prompt use of the vaccine without disrupting normal services more than necessary.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £15,949.—passed.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Registrar-General of Deeds Department, £7,534.—passed.

TREASURER AND MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION.

Publicity and Tourist Bureau and Immigration Department, £6,671; Miscellaneous, £11,000—passed.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINISTER OF REPATRIATION.

Miscellaneous, £350.—passed.

MINISTER OF WORKS.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, £206,319.

Mr. LOVEDAY—The sum of £18,319 is shown as a refund of overpaid rates due to incorrect meter registration, and I understood the Treasurer to say that this was to be

refunded to the Broken Hill Proprietary Company. I believe the water in this case is metered through a meter house some miles north of Whyalla, and as this sum represents the cost of 146,000,000 gallons I should be interested to know how such a discrepancy occurred.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This is not an item which involves one year's payment, but relates to five or six years. Undoubtedly, the department is satisfied that the water has not been supplied or it would not have made the recommendation. Anyone with experience with the department as to the testing of its meters knows that before it makes any recommendation for a refund it satisfies itself that the meter has been defective. The Government has no doubt that water has been short supplied to the extent indicated.

Mr. LAWN—Will the Treasurer give me details relating to the £43,000 provided for additional salaries and wages? In his speech he said that it was due to the better availability of labour. What does he mean by that?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The position is that many of our works have been slowed down because of insufficient labour, but recently more has been available, some of which has come from the other States.

Mr. LAWN—Is it a considerable number?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I understand that a considerable number came from Western Australia. The latest information I have is that the Commonwealth Railways, which for many years were greatly understaffed, have been able to recruit full construction gangs. We are now able to get unskilled labour, and consequently the various departments have undertaken maintenance work which previously lagged.

Mr. LAWN—Has that occurred only in the last couple of months, or has it been spread over the current financial year?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I cannot give the precise information, but more labour has been available in the last two months, including workers from other States. The change has taken place gradually and the £43,000 is necessary to meet the salaries and wages involved.

Line passed.

Aborigines Department, £15,000; Public Works, £106,000—passed.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Education Department, £51,500.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Much money has been provided by school councils and committees to

buy school equipment, which is subsidized by the Government. Particularly in relation to secondary schools, many thousands of pounds have been spent. When closed, the schools are left unattended and I consider the time has arrived when caretakers should be provided for the bigger schools to protect them and their equipment. There is a grave shortage of trained teachers, but in some of the major schools we find that the headmaster and the headmistress occupy much time in attending to correspondence and filling in forms. Has the department considered supplying secretaries to do this work, as it is wasting the time of highly trained officials to do it?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I understand that in one or two instances premises have been burgled, but the loss sustained has been made good by the Government. We do not have caretakers even in many of our big public buildings, but rely on the police force. Much of the special equipment involved, even if it were stolen, could not be disposed of. I cannot give an undertaking that caretakers will be provided to look after empty buildings and equipment, as the cost would be colossal. I believe that in one or two of the larger schools the Minister of Education has provided clerical assistance, but whether that practice can be extended will depend upon our future financial position. Expenditure on our social services is increasing very rapidly, in fact more rapidly than in other States. In some States charges are being made to offset to some extent the cost of these services. I have considered this problem in connection with the preparation of our submission to the Grants Commission. One of the problems confronting us is that in Queensland the cost of education is very low compared with the Australian standard. As Queensland is one of the States that is held up as the rule by which our costs are to be measured, its expenditure on education influences the amount that is allowable to us for this social service. I will confer with the Minister and advise the honourable member to what extent we can accept his suggestions.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Can the Treasurer give some details about teachers being brought here from England and whether any of them have returned after giving the required service?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Director of Education continues to recommend obtaining additional teachers from overseas. Many that we have brought here are of high standard, and we must obtain more to cope with the large influx of children coming to our schools.

The standard of the teachers that we have obtained is certainly better than what we could have obtained by any other method.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Several members have urged that school committees be subsidized for the provision of refrigerators in schools where they are deemed necessary. Refrigerators are not so very costly and as it has been the policy for the Education Department to reject applications for subsidies for them I ask the Treasurer, seeing that the Architect-in-Chief's Department realizes the necessity of providing them in public buildings, to request the Education Department to review its policy.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will confer with the Minister to see what is involved. The honourable member said that the expenditure involved would be fairly small, but I point out that at this time last year the State had a credit in its total loan, trust and revenue funds of about £12,000,000, whereas its credit now is only about £6,000,000. In order to maintain our present standard of social services it will be necessary this year for us to get a grant from the Grants Commission of not less than £8,500,000, but in recent years it has not recommended anything like that. I think that in the year before last the grant was as low as £2,500,000, and last year it was £4,000,000 or £5,000,000. My Government has always aimed at a policy giving stability so that we may avoid engaging men and later laying them off. I will advise the honourable member in due course whether his suggestion can be accepted.

Mr. JENNINGS—How many teachers have been obtained from England; are they bound by contract to the department for any specific time; and have any of them returned after their contract has expired?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—They are bound by an agreement to serve with the State for, I think, three years. There is no obligation on the Government to take them back to England afterwards, and in many instances they continue to serve in the department after their contract has expired. I will see that the honourable member is supplied next week with information on the number who have already come to South Australia, the number still in the department and the number still to come to South Australia.

Mr. JENKINS—I have been approached by a school teacher who went through the Teachers College some years ago. After leaving that college he was not appointed to a school for 18 months or two years through no

fault of his. Now he has come near to retiring he is anxious to know whether that period will be credited to him as service, both in relation to retiring time and superannuation.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I do not know this case, so anything I say is qualified by that fact. The retiring age for public servants and teachers is 65 and certain long service leave accumulates to them. Unless there is some circumstance that would make it necessary to alter the practice in any particular case, it is usual for the Government to allow them to work until they are 65 and then pay cash in lieu of leave.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—That was done to help public servants from a taxation point of view.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It is done because it enables public servants to avoid, not evade, a very considerable amount of income tax. If it were not done they would lose a large percentage of what the State gives them. If the honourable member will give me the name of the person concerned, I will investigate the case.

Mr. LAWN—I was struck by the repetition in the Estimates of salaries and wages followed by another item that discloses that the Government is getting people from overseas. Other members have been seeking information about the number of teachers brought here from overseas. I sound a note of warning about the labour pool that the Treasurer said now exists in South Australia. He said that since the Menzies "horror" Budget announced a few weeks ago labour has become plentiful in this State, yet we find that printers and teachers are being brought here from England and the Treasurer said that an abundance of labour is coming from another State. He said that labour is more readily available to Government departments and private contractors tendering for public works. In view of this I protest against going overseas for labour.

Mr. Shannon—That would mean closing our schools.

Mr. LAWN—The obvious way of doing a thing is not always the best way. If we are short of teachers the obvious way of going overseas to get them is not the best way. Instead of doing this let us spend a little more money to train more of our own citizens to enter the teaching profession. If we do that we will not have an inadequate and discontented personnel in the department. Having in mind what the Treasurer said, we should see

that we will not have a large number of unemployed in the near future. I asked the Treasurer whether the availability of labour has occurred over the last 12 months or two months, and he said two months.

The Hon. T. Playford—The honourable member is not stating what I said.

Mr. LAWN—I asked the Treasurer to explain the availability of labour, which he did; I then asked him if he could say whether that was noticeable during the current year or in the last two months, and he said the last two months.

Mr. Shannon—You mentioned two months.

Mr. LAWN—The Treasurer said that it was most noticeable in the last two months. I do not blame the Government for taking advantage of the availability of labour, but we should note that this labour has become available most noticeably in the last two months, which corresponds with the introduction of the "horror" Budget. I protest against the Government going overseas for printers and teachers and interstate for other labour when we could and should train our own citizens.

Mr. SHANNON—If it were not for the repeated efforts of the Opposition to talk politics, I would not have spoken, but a comment or two is necessary. The member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) may not know that there is a time lag in the training of a teacher. One cannot feed material into a mill and produce trained teachers simply by turning a handle. Mr. Lawn suggested using the surplus pool of labour—no matter from what source it emanates—to make up our teaching shortage, but I point out that the Education Department experiences difficulty not only in getting recruits for the profession but in securing suitable recruits. The Opposition is obviously endeavouring to throw dust in the eyes of the people by suggesting that we are bringing too many people from overseas. I remind members that the immigration policy was introduced by his own Party and was supported by the Federal Labor Party at the last election.

Mr. Riches—What line are we discussing?

Mr. SHANNON—I am referring to the introduction of teachers from overseas: whether it is advisable to bring skilled teachers from England to fill the vacancies in our schools or whether we should teach our own citizens in this field. Mr. Lawn also referred to the many repetitions concerning wages and salaries in these Estimates. He suggested that if we paid larger salaries we would not need to

worry about getting teachers from overseas because it would encourage our own people into this avocation. Parliament is asked to approve these Estimates in order to pay higher salaries and I cannot understand why the Opposition is complaining. I admit that at one stage I thought that this department had been badly treated, but that was in the distant past.

The Treasurer has said that we cannot keep extending social services in the Education Department without affecting the essential services. It is much more important to the family man whose children are being educated that they receive adequate education to fit them for their life's work rather than that they should enjoy many of the so-called amenities for which we all ask. I believe that Mr. Lawn spoke for the edification of people who do not think. His remarks may have been well received in the Botanical Gardens by people who are not really interested in the economics of the Government of the country, but they were not of assistance in our consideration of whether additional money should be granted for educational services. It is obvious that Mr. Lawn endeavoured to link up what is happening in South Australia with the so-called "horror" Budget. I agree that it is good democracy if there is a virile and energetic Opposition, but I do not think that playing the game of politics in respect of matters where quite obviously there is no room for it is any real help. I do not object to valid criticism, because on occasions I have criticized my own Government. If criticism is constructive and can assist in strengthening any weaknesses in Government policy there is no harm in it, but I heard no such criticism from Mr. Lawn.

Mr. HUTCHENS—The Opposition is deeply concerned about the obvious lack of finance for the advancement of education. I am reminded that a number of new Australians are being taught English by some of our teachers and are using our school buildings. I understand this is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, but the State has generously undertaken to do the work. Does the Commonwealth Government make a financial grant to the State in the matter, and, if not, will representations be made for financial assistance?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The State is proud of the fact that education is one of its functions, but the overall position shows that the Commonwealth does make finance available. This year our reimbursement amount will be about £17,000,000, about one-third of our total Budget. These things must

be looked at broadly. Unskilled persons cannot be given positions as teachers, and there is more unskilled labour available than skilled. The Education Department will continue to be short of staff until the additional persons going through the Teachers College are available for teaching work. We have a first-class problem to get enough qualified teachers. Mr. Jennings asked for some information about the number of persons brought to South Australia to be attached to the Education Department. Approximate figures show that over five years we have brought to this State 120 teachers. Of this number 45 returned to Great Britain, but not before they completed their term under the contract. Most of the remainder are still with the department. If I and the Minister of Education were asked where we could get 80 teachers to take the place of the number remaining with the department we would not know.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—The Treasurer said that we are still short of teachers and are likely to be for some time. He said also that vigorous recruiting campaigns have been carried out, with a certain amount of success. Both statements are true. Many of the teachers who came here years ago from overseas have become some of our best teachers. The president-elect of the South Australian Institute of Teachers was an English teacher who came here years ago. He is now the headmaster of a big school and enjoys the confidence of our teachers. There is a lack of promotion in the Education Department, particularly in primary schools. An effort is being made to improve the position, but more effort is needed. In the Commonwealth Public Service more than half the males occupy positions above the ordinary salary range. In the State Public Service at least one man in three holds a senior position. In the Victorian Education Department nearly 50 per cent of the male teachers are above the assistant's scale, but in the primary schools in this State only one in four is in that category. The position is worse for women. There is not much incentive for them to take up teaching as a career as their chances of higher promotion are remote. It is obvious that the recruitment of teachers will be unsatisfactory so long as the conditions regarding promotion remain.

Another factor against recruitment is the niggardliness of the Government in regard to long service leave. This State lags behind all other States for the maximum amount of leave falls well below the Australian average.

Teachers in other States receive at least nine months' long service leave, and under certain conditions may get more. In New South Wales and Victoria teachers are entitled to 12 months' leave, and in Queensland the period is nine months. In Western Australia and Tasmania it is six months, but in those States the teachers are entitled to an additional six months under certain conditions. In South Australia the absolute maximum is six months. Young persons with parents intelligent enough to go into this matter will not permit them to enter the Teachers College, and that is another matter that upsets recruitment. In the second place the conditions attached to long service leave for teachers in South Australia are more severe than they are in any other State. In South Australia a teacher has to serve 15 years before he becomes eligible for three months' long service leave, but in all other States he may become eligible for three months' long service leave after 10 years' service. In South Australia 25 years' service is required before a teacher may become eligible for six months' leave, but in the other States they become eligible for six months' leave after 20 years' service. There is a discrepancy in South Australia between long service leave for teachers and members of the Public Service. In all other States teachers receive the same amount of long service leave as public servants, but in South Australia public servants may become eligible for 12 months' long service leave whereas teachers can only become eligible for six months' leave. Teaching is therefore less attractive than the Public Service, and normally they would attract similar types of recruits.

I understand that when this legislation was introduced the Premier's excuse for this differentiation was that teachers have so many holidays; but they have those holidays in other States, and this differentiation is not made there. I do not wish to labour the point, but there is no doubt that these factors hinder teacher recruitment. In years gone by we could quite safely say that many men and women became teachers because it was the easiest way to get a cheap university education. Many of the older teachers would freely admit that. Those conditions do not apply today. If an intelligent boy or girl wished to enter the Education Department today the parents would go into it thoroughly; they would consult headmasters of schools, and I think most headmasters would tell them the truth, because they are well aware of the disabilities. These

are the main reasons why we have to import teachers from England. The figures given us by the Premier indicate that many of them stay only until they have fulfilled their bond. They have a pleasant working holiday in South Australia for three years and then return to the Motherland. They do not improve the number of teachers in the long run, although some of them remain and we are happy to have them. I suggest that there will be no improvement in the recruitment of teachers unless the Government gives some serious consideration to the things I have mentioned.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £74,200—passed.

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT.

Department of Industry, £17,000—passed.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FORESTS.

Agriculture Department, £10,000; Miscellaneous, £40,000—passed.

MINISTER OF MINES.

Mines Department, £56,000—passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

The Supplementary Estimates having been adopted by the House, an Appropriation Bill for £1,008,000 was founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. T. Playford and read a first time.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.
This Bill is based on the Supplementary

Estimates which have been dealt with by this House. Clause 3 provides for the appropriation of moneys totalling £1,008,000, which is the total amount provided for in the Estimates. Clause 4 provides that the Treasurer shall only have available to him, for payments, such amounts as are first authorized by His Excellency the Governor by warrant, and that the receipts of the payees shall be evidence of the payments made and the Treasurer shall be allowed credit accordingly. Clause 5 provides that if the revenues of the State, or moneys received from the Commonwealth, are insufficient to make the payments mentioned in Clause 3, the Treasurer may use loan funds or other public funds to make the payments. I commend the Bill to members and move the second reading.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

The SPEAKER—I have to inform the House that I have received from the Governor's Deputy a commission under the hand of His Excellency and the public seal of the State, empowering me to administer the Oath of Allegiance or to receive the Affirmation necessary to be taken by members of the House of Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.40 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 15, at 2 p.m.