

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, October 1, 1957.

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

**APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2).**

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House the appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue of the State as were required for all purposes mentioned in the Bill.

**QUESTIONS.****TAXATION OF INTERSTATE HAULIERS.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Premier any statement to make concerning the High Court decision invalidating the tax South Australia imposed last year on interstate hauliers? Has the Government considered any alternative to that legislation and is it intended to introduce such legislation in the near future?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The legislation that was declared invalid gave the road haulier the opportunity either of registering or paying an alternative tax based upon a tare mile fee. The Commonwealth Government has imposed a diesel oil tax of 1s. a gallon and that will probably operate particularly with regard to interstate traffic. Cabinet has not made any further decision on this matter, but is examining it from two points of view. The High Court has declared the Victorian legislation valid. That legislation imposes a road tax on all vehicles of over 4 tons tare weight. It would be possible to introduce legislation in this State providing for a tare weight tax on all vehicles operating in the State, but to be valid, according to the High Court, it must apply to all vehicles of 4 tons or over. That means that the intrastate road user would pay an additional tax as against the interstate carrier who does not pay any registration fee in South Australia. Cabinet is examining whether it would be possible to provide for a remittance to the intrastate haulier in the same manner as we permit rebate water charges. It has still to be determined whether or not that is practicable.

We have not seen the judgment upon which our law was invalidated, so I cannot yet express an opinion on it. Legislation will definitely be introduced to reduce the amount of registration now payable on diesel motor vehicles. Since the introduction of the 1s. a gallon tax there is no ground in equity for

maintaining the double taxation on diesel vehicles and the legislation will bring those vehicles into line with ordinary petrol vehicles in respect of power weight. As to the second part of the question, it may be that no legislation will be introduced until the Privy Council has considered the appeal now being launched by hauliers against the Victorian legislation.

Mr. Stephens—When will that appeal be heard?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I understand that the Privy Council has the right of determining whether or not to hear an appeal, but I believe the hauliers are certainly appealing.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Premier say whether the Government intends to appeal to the Privy Council against the High Court's decision invalidating the road tax Act passed last year, or to intervene in any appeal to the Privy Council against the decision by the High Court on the Victorian legislation?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Government does not intend to take the case on its own legislation to the Privy Council at this juncture. In answer to the second part of the question, we do not know whether the Privy Council will allow an appeal by the carrying firms against the High Court decision on the Victorian legislation. It would depend on circumstances, but, offhand, I think we would probably not be involved.

**ACQUISITION OF A.M.P. LAND.**

Mr. HARDING—According to the 1955-56 report of the Department of Lands, five sections aggregating 5,935 acres have been purchased from the A.M.P. Society for £106,021. Can the Minister of Lands say whether this land was purchased for soldier settlement; whether it was purchased as single unit properties; and whether the houses and sheds thereon were erected by the A.M.P. before purchase?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The land was purchased as single units and I would imagine the price mentioned by the honourable member was correct. In respect of the homes and sheds, I believe the land was only purchased subject to a report from a State officer that certain work still had to be done on the houses and sheds. After the work was completed, the State, in conjunction with the Commonwealth, inspected the properties, which were eventually recommended for purchase as single units. This has happened in respect of, I think, five properties.

## SINGLE UNIT FARMS.

Mr. FLETCHER—Can the Minister of Lands indicate how many single unit farms have been approved apart from those acquired from the A.M.P.?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have not that information here, but I will let the honourable member have it tomorrow.

## BRUISING OF LAMBS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—On Friday the press reported that the Minister of Agriculture had said that lamb bruising was too prevalent in this State. The article also stated that five per cent of the lambs prepared for export were rejected because of bruising. Can the Minister say what causes this bruising, what steps can be taken to prevent it, and what proportion of lambs are rejected by the Port Lincoln Abattoirs because of bruising?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The problem has received much publicity over the years, but unfortunately with little success. The percentage of lambs rejected because of bruising continues at about the same figure regardless of our efforts by way of publicity to minimize it. It is impossible to say at what stage bruising occurs in the movement of the lamb both on the property and between the property and the works. Efforts have been made to segregate lambs brought to the works by road and rail transport, and speaking from memory, the last effort several years ago tended to indicate that lambs brought by rail were less damaged than those brought by road; but all along the line it is essential that people observe the utmost care with such a fragile commodity, particularly the shorn lamb because it lacks the protection given by wool against bruising in transit. Because the lambs lose their identity as individual consignments as soon as they arrive at the works it is difficult, if not impossible, to say what causes bruising, but, in my movement by road around the State, I have seen examples of stock transported by road to market where obviously carelessness has accentuated bruising. Some drivers take more care than others, and, if the owners of stock realized the position, steps might be taken to draw the attention of drivers to the bruising. Alternatively, a carrier who would take more care could be engaged to transport the stock. Regarding the percentage of rejections at both abattoirs, last year and up to the present this year rejections at Port Lincoln because of bruising have been about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent lower than those at Gepps Cross.

Mr. FLETCHER—I understand the wastage from bruising on a shorn lamb transported to the abattoirs is far greater than on an unshorn lamb. Will the Minister of Agriculture attempt to ascertain what that difference is?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I doubt whether it would be possible to obtain an accurate assessment, but I will make inquiries into the matter. It would be difficult to segregate the lambs because they lose their identity when sent in for slaughter. There is a tendency for them to be marketed shorn in the drier years and that would possibly be the reason why a greater number are arriving shorn at the abattoirs.

## KINGSCOTE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BROOKMAN—The water supply at Kingscote at present is of the poorest quality, particularly during summer. I understand that this unsatisfactory position is acknowledged by the department and it is undoubtedly inhibiting the progress of the town. Has the Minister of Works a statement on this matter?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I have previously discussed this question with the honourable member and I have also received communications from the people on Kangaroo Island, so the question is by no means new. I have now received the following report from the Engineer-in-Chief:—

The most promising method of improving the water supply to Kingscote would be by providing a reservoir at Smiths Creek. This would involve an expenditure exceeding £100,000 and reference to the Public Works Committee would be necessary. Detailed investigations into this proposal are in hand and preliminary designs are in course of preparation for:—

- (a) a rock fill dam;
- (b) a concrete dam.

Comparative estimates of both types of dam are being prepared and a complete report will be made in approximately two weeks time. The matter will then be submitted to Cabinet for reference to the Public Works Committee.

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. TAPPING—Listening to the Australian Broadcasting Commission news broadcast last evening I heard a report that Mr. Scammell of Fauldings Limited had complained that the lack of a large hotel in Adelaide was causing business men to by-pass South Australia in favour of other States. Will the Premier ascertain from the Licensing Branch whether the reported statement is founded on fact?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will refer the question to the Chief Inspector, although I do not know how he will determine whether it is accurate. There are many

reasons why people come to South Australia and why they do not. Personally, I doubt very much whether anybody who intended to come would stay away for the reason stated. True, we have not the luxury hotels that exist in other parts of the world, particularly the United States of America and Europe, but we have many good first-class hotels and I doubt very much whether the class of accommodation here would under any circumstances preclude people from coming to this State if they so desired. Further, the charges are not so high; the food in many of our hotels is excellent; and the accommodation is good and clean. However, another good-class hotel in South Australia would be a distinct advantage to this State: it would give more accommodation.

#### RIVER MURRAY WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Works the information I asked for previously about the quantity and quality of River Murray water that will be available for irrigation in South Australia?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I have received the following report from the Engineer-in-Chief, who is also South Australia's representative on the River Murray Commission:—

The River Murray Commission considered the question of water resources available for the present season at a meeting held at Renmark last week and came to the conclusion that the position did not call for any immediate action. It was decided to give further consideration to this matter early in November. In normal seasons Hume Reservoir continues to rise until the middle of November or thereabouts, but the behaviour this year will depend upon the amount of replenishment by rain and melting snow during the next six weeks. If restrictions later become necessary, they will not be drastic in character and should not interfere with South Australia's diversions for irrigation and other purposes.

Salinity increases as the flow decreases and the salinity in a dry season, such as the present one, will certainly be higher than in a normal year when the flow is considerably greater. Lake Victoria is full and water will be released as and when necessary to make good any deficiency in the river flow. Approximate field analyses show that the water in Lake Victoria contains about 140 parts per million of salt (10 grains per gallon) and that the salinity at Berri is approximately 20 grains per gallon. Arrangements have been made for regular laboratory analyses of samples collected at various points along the river. Although the salinity has not reached the danger point, the position will be watched carefully and it will soon be necessary to release some water from Lake Victoria to increase the flow and reduce the salinity.

#### MEAT DELIVERIES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I have received complaints from my area about the late deliveries of meat from the abattoirs. It is often delivered in the afternoon and butchers have asked whether the Abattoirs Board could arrange earlier deliveries to suburban shops. Can the Minister of Agriculture also say whether there is any backlog in killings because of the flush season for lambs?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will bring the question to the notice of the chairman of the board and ask for information on meat deliveries to butcher shops in his area. As to the second part of his question, I am not aware of any serious problem, although there is heavy pressure on the abattoirs, and that applied especially in the last couple of weeks. The board has been killing on Saturdays, and I think Sundays too, to keep up the killing of both sheep and lambs. On that question, too, I will seek a report from the chairman of the board.

#### PRICE OF MEAT MEAL.

Mr. BYWATERS—This week I received a letter from a constituent stating that the price of meat meal had gone up by £10 15s. a ton in the past six months. Is the Premier aware of this increase, and in view of the necessity to use meat meal in egg production and as the recent drop in the price of eggs makes it difficult for poultry farmers to continue, will he see if this increase is fully justified?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Prices Commissioner cannot exercise an adequate control over the price of meat meal because it is readily available from markets outside this State. I understand it is possible to export meat meal at high prices at present, but I will get a full report for the honourable member. I agree with him that it is an important item and indirectly affects the cost of living.

#### SCHOOL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Last night, at the invitation of the Minister of Education, I had the pleasure of attending, with my wife, a musical festival provided by about 400 school children. It was an excellent festival throughout and everyone associated with it is to be warmly congratulated. I noticed that the choir items were being recorded on a tape, and I am sure that many people, particularly in the country, would like to hear them. Is it intended to broadcast any items and, if so, will it be

widely advertised so as to give everyone an opportunity of hearing it?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—As far as I am aware there is no intention of broadcasting any items, but I am glad the honourable member has raised the question and I will see whether it is possible to do so. If it is done I will see that adequate notice is given.

#### MEAT PRICES.

Mr. HEASLIP—At the abattoirs yesterday cattle prices dropped by about 30s. per cental. About the same time it was announced in the press that beef meat had been increased by up to 8d. a pound retail, and mutton and pork decreased by up to 3d. a pound. In view of the fact that mutton, pork and beef are now in adequate supply and consumers can pick and choose what meat they buy, will the Government give further consideration to the decontrol of meat prices?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I understand that there is some confusion on this matter, and I welcome the opportunity of clearing it up. In the first place, the Government fixes the maximum price, not the minimum. Anyone who wants to sell meat at a price lower than the maximum may do so, and I notice in today's press that some people are anxious to do it. At the request of the industry, the maximum prices are fixed on the actual prices that were paid for meat in the preceding month. Previously an averaging system was used, but that was always condemned by the meat industry because it was not factual enough. The present method is absolutely factual, and it controls only the retail selling margins.

#### ENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. JENNINGS—Some time ago, I think in July, the reply to a letter I had sent to the Minister of Education stated that the grading and levelling of the grounds at Enfield high school would be carried out some time after some surveys had been made. I have been informed now, by a telephone conversation with the Minister's department, that the surveys have been completed, but that no work has been done on levelling and grading. Will he call for a further report with the object of endeavouring to expedite this work?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Yes.

#### NORTH TERRACE TO GLENELG RAILWAY LAND.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Some time ago I asked what was to be done with the land formerly used as a railway track from North

Terrace to Glenelg and I was advised that the Highways Department had no intention of constructing an arterial road there. There are persistent rumours in my district that portion of the land is to be sold by the department. Can the Minister of Works intimate whether there are any grounds for this rumour and, if not, will he make inquiries from the department?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I know of no grounds for that rumour. I will make specific inquiries and bring down a reply as soon as possible.

#### PORT PIRIE TRUCKING YARDS.

Mr. DAVIS—When speaking on the first line of the Estimates I referred to the danger arising from the position of the railway trucking yards at Port Pirie. Can the Minister representing the Minister of Railways say whether this matter has been brought before the appropriate authorities? If not, will he do so with a view to having the danger removed as soon as possible?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—As this is a railway matter I am not in a position to say whether it has been considered by the Railways Commissioner or the Minister, but I will secure an early reply.

#### EGG PRICES.

Mr. LAUCKE—I am concerned at the incidence in the poultry industry of rapid reductions in the gross price of eggs this season. These reductions began six weeks earlier this year than last year and have had a most disturbing effect on the stability of the industry. Today's gross price of 3s. 6d. a dozen for first quality eggs—which is subject to handling and freight charges—is far below the cost of production. Will the Minister of Agriculture, with the Egg Board, investigate the possibility of holding prices at more reasonable levels to the producer?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The problem of egg prices affects every State and every Egg Board. I think it is a well known fact that the market overseas for both eggs in shell, and to a lesser extent, pulp eggs has undergone serious price reductions as compared with prices at similar stages last year. The net result is that when production exceeds local consumption, the price the board can pay must be more closely linked to the overseas parity. It is beyond the capacity of the board to maintain prices which, in effect, compel it to operate at a loss. The fact that prices this year have receded somewhat more abruptly

than last year is a reflection of that unfortunate position. As the honourable member may know, various things have been undertaken with a view to supporting the price to producers, but it all comes back to the point that one cannot pay more for a product than it is worth to the markets. As a matter of hard fact, the South Australian Egg Board, because it has been far-seeing and efficient, has been able to maintain prices perhaps higher than would have been possible on account of small reserves it had accumulated. This is cushioning the effect of the rather disastrous overseas market. I will discuss the matter further with the Egg Board in view of the honourable member's

question, but I believe the price must relate to the market equivalent and therefore it will probably decrease further as the flush of the season comes upon us.

#### EYRE PENINSULA RAILWAYS.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Railways a reply to my recent question of September 24 concerning Eyre Peninsula railways?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The Railways Commissioner reports:—

1. (a) The main line derailments on the Port Lincoln Division from the 1st May to the 31st August, 1957, were as shown on the following list:—

#### *Main Line Derailments, Port Lincoln Division, May 1 to August 31, 1957.*

Date.	Mileage and Line.	Vehicles Involved.	Cause.
1957.			
May 1	105½ miles Kimba Line.	Yx 6282	Left side W. iron was cracked above back lug.
May 21	3 m. 76 ch. Thevenard Line.	Cx 2769	Spreading of track.
May 22	13 m. 20 ch. Thevenard Line.	OeN 13969, Yx 6342, Yx 6021	R.H. leading brake hanger of OeN 13969 losing the pin allowing hanger to drop down in front of wheel just before coming to facing switches at Coomunga Station Yard.
June 3	147 m. 73 ch. Buckleboo Line.	Yx 6434, Yx 6203	Inconclusive.
June 4	168 m. 35 ch. Buckleboo Line.	Yy 5815, Yx 6454, Yx 6287, YF 6476	Track.
June 10	145½ m. Buckleboo Line.	Yx 6198	Track.
June 12	145½ m. Buckleboo Line.	Yx 6394, Yx 6430	Track.
June 28	137½ m. Thevenard Line.	Yx 6093	Track.
July 9	2½ m. Thevenard Line.	Cx 3182	Track spreading.
July 10	19 m. 70 ch. Thevenard Line.	Cx 4666	Track.
July 31	112 m. 20 ch. Buckleboo Line.	Yx 6185, Yx 6250, Yx 6444 OeN 13970	Broken Rail.
August 1	141 m. 50 ch. Buckleboo Line.	V 4871, V 1914, V 5121 SV 207	Track spreading.
August 22	163½ m. Buckleboo Line.	BV 117, X 3689	Track spreading.
August 30	56 m. Thevenard Line.	Yx 6418	Track.

(b) The cost to the department was £1,995. This includes repairs to permanent way, rolling stock, and other incidental items.

2. He does not believe that any good purpose would be achieved in submitting a monthly report to Parliament, as all appropriate action is taken by railway officers.

3. The permanent way on the Port Lincoln Division is safe for the loads and speeds prescribed. For the year ending June 30, 1957, £212,000 was spent upon way and works on this Division. 33,000 sleepers were renewed, and 2½ miles of railway relaid. A great pro-

portion of the lines on Eyre Peninsula are laid with light rails, and it is estimated that it would cost £3,800,000 to relay with 63 lb. rails all tracks at present laid with rails lighter than 60 lb. The department has a relaying programme for the most heavily used parts of the Division, and this work, as well as sleeper replacements, will be pursued within the limits of our resources.

#### KINGSTON WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. CORCORAN—Some time ago, in reply to my question about progress on a water supply

scheme for Kingston, the Minister of Works said that much detailed work on costs had yet to be done by the department, but that suitable water was available. Now that the people there know that a supply is to be given they are eager to have it as soon as possible and I have received letters from the District Council of Lâcepède on the matter. Can the Minister say when the scheme will operate?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—Earlier this session I secured from the councils concerned the names of property owners affected, and an estimate of the cost of the water supply has been made. The Mines Department was asked to make a test bore to see whether suitable water was available. One bore was put down and proved that a satisfactory quality could be obtained, but three bores were considered necessary. Officers of the department have been engaged on estimating the cost of lifting and reticulating the water and they expect to let me have a report within the next fortnight. The scheme will not be cheap: it will run into scores of thousands. When it can be given effect to depends entirely on the availability of Loan funds during the ensuing financial year.

Mr. Corcoran—Will it be necessary to get the ratepayers' approval?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The ratepayers will be given an idea of the cost to each individual and will be asked whether they favour the scheme at the cost then ruling. I hope the scheme will not have to be submitted to the Public Works Committee as it will cost less than £100,000. The council will be consulted and as soon as the estimates are completed the honourable member will be advised so that he, in turn, may advise the council on the probable cost to every ratepayer.

#### HOSTELS FOR STUDENT TEACHERS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—This morning's *Advertiser* contained the following report:—

The South Australian Government is to be asked by the High School Councils' Association to establish hostels for student teachers. The association decided at its annual meeting at the week-end to approach the Government because an increasing number of country student teachers needed accommodation, particularly in the city.

Has the attention of the Minister of Education been drawn to that statement and can he say whether it is correct? If so, does the Government intend to help rectify the position?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The question of hostels for student teachers has been before

the Government on several occasions. There are many arguments for and against constructing them, and it is the considered view of the Government that they should not be proceeded with, at any rate at present. However, in order to alleviate the position, as the Leader of the Opposition and other members know, students' boarding allowances have recently been increased, and that gives them the opportunity of obtaining board as they see fit. I cannot take the position any further at present.

#### RECLAIMED AREAS WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week about the height of the River Murray affecting people around Purnong and Walker's Flat who water from lagoons?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I have received the following report from the Engineer in Chief:—

The level in the lakes is at the normal full supply level of R.L. 109.50. While it may suit the interests of settlers at Purnong and Walker's Flat to raise the level above the present height, this would probably adversely affect settlers on or near the lakes. The actual flow in the river at the present time is very small with the result that there is little fall in the water surface between Mannum and the lakes. This has probably led the settlers at Purnong and Walker's Flat to form the opinion that the lakes are not being maintained at their normal level, but this is not the case.

Mr. Bywaters—These people are having difficulty in watering their properties.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—They cannot be given what they ask for without adversely affecting others.

#### TRANSPORT OF STOCK TO ABATTOIRS.

Mr. STOTT—I know that the Minister of Agriculture, as well as thousands of primary producers, is concerned at the lack of rain. As the Abattoirs Board will pay only a small sum to primary producers who send their stock to the abattoirs for slaughter, will he ask Cabinet to consider charging only half-rates on stock sent to the abattoirs?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes.

#### COCKBURN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—When the Minister of Works was also Minister of Railways there were complaints about the supply of power at Cockburn, which is produced by the Railways Department. There were some discussions about increasing the capacity of the plant, and I have recently had further complaints that the plant is completely inadequate, but the people

there want the supply maintained. If a continuous service cannot be given they want a supply for a longer period each day. Will the Minister ask his colleague for a report on the present position and see where it is intended to improve the supply in the near future?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—Yes.

#### HARBORS BOARD RETRENCHMENTS.

Mr. TAPPING—Has the Minister of Marine a reply to the question I raised recently about suggested retrenchments in the Harbors Board?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—A question was addressed to the Premier in my absence, but since then considerable discussions have taken place on whether it is possible to avoid retrenchments. The employees concerned are skilled men who work on the dredgers and there would be no other occupation for them. I think they have been working a double shift, and the Government is giving earnest consideration to this matter in the hope and expectation of being able to maintain the employment of these men.

#### SNOWY RIVER WATERS AGREEMENT.

Mr. BYWATERS—A letter written by Senator Spooner appeared in last Saturday's *Advertiser*. One extract stated:—

It is wrong to say that South Australia has not known what was proposed and what is being done under the Snowy Mountains Scheme. On the contrary, South Australia has been fully aware of the water diversion and regulation proposals and of their relationship to South Australia's entitlement under the River Murray Waters Agreement. And, of course, there has been a continuous flow of publicity since the scheme started. That publicity has stated over and over again the way in which the water was to be shared between New South Wales and Victoria. Surely it is fair to comment that if South Australia felt that the Snowy Mountains scheme was not reasonable then it should have objected to it long ago and not waited until the negotiations were practically concluded.

In view of the exception that the Premier took to a remark made by Mr. Lawn in the House last week, what are his views on Senator Spooner's statement, and what steps does he intend taking to refute his statement?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—My Government has always known about the Snowy River scheme and the works that are to be carried out on the river and its tributaries. That was common knowledge, but what was not common knowledge was that negotiations had been taking place between Victoria, New South

Wales and the Commonwealth for a number of years. This State was not advised of them, nor was it advised of the terms of the negotiations. This State repeatedly asked for information on the agreement, but it was deliberately refused. The agreement was only made available to us two days after it had been signed. Previously we had knowledge only from hearsay, such as from statements made by Mr. Bolte, Mr. Cahill, and Sir William Hudson, the head of the constructing authority. They were to the effect that all the water made available under the scheme would be used long before any of it reached South Australia, but that was not in the terms of the agreement. South Australia did not know of the allocations of water that were proposed, it has never agreed to them, nor was it ever consulted on this matter.

In regard to the Snowy River Scheme itself—and I am now speaking from hearsay because we have not been advised—I understand that there has been an important alteration to the original programme. As I understand it, it was originally decided that the Snowy waters were to be diverted into the River Murray system before the water from the Tooma was diverted into the Murrumbidgee system. We understand that now, to get quick results, the Tooma river will be diverted into the Murrumbidgee six years before work on the Snowy River commences, and that is an important matter for South Australia. I only learned that last week.

#### LOXTON BLOCK VALUATIONS.

Mr. STOTT—Is the Minister of Lands in a position to indicate what progress has been made in valuations of blocks in the Loxton soldier settlement area?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I took up this question with the Federal Deputy last week and he has promised to furnish the valuations some time this week.

#### OLARY SCHOOL.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Is the Minister of Education able to indicate how far investigations have proceeded into the suggestion made by the residents of Olary that instead of spending a considerable sum on renovating the old school a new school be provided on another site?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I shall be pleased to obtain a report.

## SUPPLY BILL (No. 3).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE WORKS  
(INVESTIGATION) BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

## VERMONT GIRLS TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the final report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the Vermont Girls Technical School, together with minutes of evidence.

Ordered that report be printed.

## THE ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 26. Page 843.)

MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINISTER OF  
REPATRIATION.

Lands Department, £740,201; Government Motor Garage, £41,501; Advances to Settlers, Vermin Proof Fencing and Loans for Fencing and Water Piping, £1,287—passed.

Miscellaneous, £111,338.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—An amount is provided for maintenance of the Botanic Park. Last year I asked the Minister whether the board would take action to remove the spoon drains from the roadways in the park and he said consideration would be given to the matter, but nothing has been done. Will he have investigations made into this question? I notice that many trees have been grubbed out in the park. Can he indicate why they were removed and whether they will be replaced?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands)—I took up the question of spoon drains with the board last year. I understood that one drain was being widened to lessen the impact on motor cars passing over it, but I will have inquiries made. The director has informed me that it was necessary to remove some trees to build up the growth of those remaining. It is proposed to plant more trees in these areas.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—Last year £6,475 was spent by the Dog Fence Board and it is proposed to make £6,500 available this year. I have received a number of complaints about the increasing number of wild dogs in the northern pastoral areas well inside the dog fence. Pastoralists in the area are also levied to provide assistance in maintaining that fence. If dogs assume serious proportions—especially in the more

rugged country of the Flinders Ranges—they will prove a menace to the pastoral industry. I was born in the Flinders Range country and lived the greater portion of my life there and can remember when, in order to run sheep without shepherding, it was necessary to dog-proof fence individual properties. We do not want to revert to that position, but we could easily do so if this fence is not adequately maintained.

Earlier this year in reply to a question the Minister said that there had been some difficulty in maintaining sections of the fences and that those owners who were responsible for the maintenance were being told that if they did not fulfil their obligations the work would be done and they would be debited with the expense involved. I impress on the Minister the necessity for ensuring that this fence is kept in good order at all times. When the original legislation was before this House I suggested that one fence was not enough. I still believe that, but while we have only one fence the best possible use should be made of it. Some dogs will get through the fence under any circumstances, but we do not want them getting through in numbers. People who keep sheep which are supposed to be protected by the fence are levied for the protection afforded, but they must also go to considerable expense to destroy the dogs which penetrate the fence and roam their properties. I urge the Minister to see that whoever is responsible for the maintenance of this fence keeps it up to the mark under all possible circumstances.

Line passed.

## MINISTER OF WORKS.

Public Works Department, £7,949.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Last year I referred to the qualified certificates as to stock given by the Auditor-General and then suggested a system of continuous stock controls whereby spot checks could be made from time to time. I note that there are store examiners, but much would depend upon the ability of those officers to institute a system that was simple enough. It seems to me wrong that the Auditor-General is prepared to give only qualified certificates. It would be a very simple procedure to have this continuous stock control so that spot physical checks could be made from time to time; an examiner could go into a store at any time and by reference to the appropriate card see the amount of stock purchased, the quantity taken out and the balance in stock, and if they did not correspond he would immediately know that something was wrong.



I should like to know if this system has been tried in any department, and, if it has proved successful, would suggest that it be tried in this department.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—It is customary for the Auditor-General to give qualified certificates when he raises certain queries as to stock. In 99 cases out of 100 the queries are answered to his satisfaction but not prior to the issue of his report for the current year. Generally speaking it has been accepted that the records of the various Government departments are of a very high standard. However, I will see that the honourable member's comment is brought under the notice of the proper authorities and will follow it through.

Line passed.

Engineering and Water Supply, £3,390,467.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Following the growth of Elizabeth a good deal of subdivision has been made on behalf of local land owners by various city land agents. Most of these are completely *bona fide* subdivisions, but I have been much concerned in the last 12 months about promises that are made to purchasers of blocks that water will be readily laid on by the department. Upon investigation following complaints I have found that the department has never been approached prior to the subdivision and that no such promise of water being readily laid on has been given. In some cases the purchasers are suffering real hardship because they cannot get the water as they were led to expect. I bring this matter under the Minister's notice to see if something can be done to prevent such ideas being conveyed to people thereby inducing them to buy, and to see if it is possible to help as early as possible those who have been misled.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I saw an advertisement which contained the promise that water was available, but in the next and more complete one it was dropped. I took the matter to Cabinet and it was referred to the Crown Solicitor to see if there were any way of preventing these misleading statements. It is a question of "Let the buyer beware" because we cannot follow up the statements made by every individual, nor can we give priority to people who have been misled by false representations. The Premier has made an announcement to the effect that people are not to accept the general statement that water is readily available. The only suggestion I can offer is that prospective purchasers check up through the department to see whether promises of land agents can be fulfilled.

Line passed.

Architect-in-Chief's Department, £185,518; Government offices, £160,000; Cemetery, £17,900; Public Stores Department, £129,549—passed. Aborigines Department, £261,000.

Mr. LOVEDAY—With reference to the line "Allowance towards maintaining missionary depot at Coober Pedy, £500," I should like to know if this is an allowance in the form of a retaining fee for the people who supervise the depot at Coober Pedy, or whether any of this money is actually disbursed to aborigines?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—It is an allowance towards maintenance of the missionary depot. The Lutheran Church provides the staff and acts as the board's agent in the distribution of rations and the general care of the natives to prevent their exploitation.

Mr. LOVEDAY—I can see no provision under this line for the training of people in the Aborigines Department in native welfare. I understand such courses are available and I think they should be of benefit to quite a number of people in the department. Last year I raised the question of the appointment of a special officer to deal with aboriginal matters at Andamooka and Coober Pedy where the problems concerning the natives are very similar. I think such an appointment would be extremely helpful to the aborigines, and that opinion is substantiated by at least two authorities with great experience in aboriginal welfare whom I have consulted. I feel that the road to the solution of many of the problems in these two areas is along that line. At Andamooka the school teacher is responsible as representative of the Aborigines Department for all of the work in connection with the aborigines there. As that is a part-time job, it is impossible for that officer to do what could and should be done on the field. There is a large number of aborigines there, and many need the attendance of an officer stationed on the field. I know this presents some difficulties in housing and in obtaining an officer prepared to go there, but there is no provision for securing or training an officer. Last year I was informed that there was no finance available for such purposes. Has the Minister any information about this matter?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I am glad to inform the honourable member that the Government has approved of two welfare officers being appointed; instead of having to train them, it is looking for trained men. One man has been appointed, and applications are now open for another trained man.

Their duties will be to go through those districts and, as far as humanly possible, to look after the welfare of the natives. I think it is better to appoint trained men rather than the department, which is already fully occupied, having to train them. Mr. Miller now assists Mr. Bartlett, who has had a wide experience in the care of natives. I hope in the years to come there will be a big increase in the amount available, and that an improvement will be made.

Mr. LAUCKE—Firstly, I commend the Government warmly for the overall increase of £38,272 under "Contingencies," and in particular for the introduction of a number of new lines for missions of various denominations. Will the Minister inform me, where homes for aborigines, to purchase which £24,000 is provided, will be situated?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—We hope to erect eight homes during the forthcoming year. It is expected that two will be erected at Warrambo, and one each at Cowell, Meningie, Penola, Tailem Bend, Barmera and Port Germein.

Mr. DUNSTAN—From time to time I have raised the matter of assimilating aborigines in the community, particularly those at the two major stations. The thing that strikes anybody who visits the stations, particularly Point Pearce, is that the standard of housing, and in consequence the standard of living, is quite poor. Certainly, Point McLeay has much better housing than Point Pearce. Not all the facilities on the stations are utilized for the purpose of employing aborigines. Indeed, at Point Pearce there has been a letting of certain areas for sheep farming to people of European extraction, and not all the aborigines have been given an opportunity to sharefarm. At Point Pearce contracts for agricultural developmental work have been let to European people.

I know that from time to time it is contended by people within the department, and those who have been acquainted with its workings, that it is difficult to deal with aborigines because they are not always prepared to carry out what is asked of them. It has been said that on occasions they have spoilt equipment and have left boats out to rot, after which they have asked for new boats. This sort of thing is often raised by officers of the department. It is a common excuse that no matter how much aborigines are helped they are not prepared to help themselves, but I do not agree with this. Only recently I had a personal experience that counters these statements.

Recently there has been a most heartening development at Point Pearce which makes nonsense of the contention that the aborigines are not prepared to help themselves. The aborigines there have got together, with the assistance of Mr. Nielsen, a schoolmaster, and have formed a co-operative that has worked extremely well, and they run the co-operative themselves. The store is running very well, and has been able to reduce the price of ordinary staple commodities on the station. The aborigines look after the accounts and all purchases are for cash. The co-operative is now seeking registration. It is an example of what can be done when small assistance is given so that these people can do something for themselves.

The work done by Mr. Nielsen is very commendable, and if the department goes further and sees that this sort of thing is done for aborigines on the two stations, as well as other places, we will proceed towards a situation in which assimilation on a much larger scale will be possible. What has happened so far is that on the stations the standard has been very largely that of a workhouse. Some people have adopted the attitude that it is not much use improving the standard of people on the stations because, if it is improved, the people will not be assimilated, so they are kept at such a standard that people will not want to go there, but will be forced out into the community. That is an illogical policy. The workhouse policy in England was castigated, yet it is followed here. I believe the department is getting away from the policy now, but it has not gone wholeheartedly to the other policy of making these stations model institutions where people can help themselves with the department's co-operation, and develop places to which they can come with pride.

Another thing that makes it difficult for natives to leave the stations is that there has been no vocational training there. I am pleased to see a line on these Estimates for the establishment of a vocational training centre at Point Pearce, and I hope this will be utilized fully to take up the time of children who leave school and are being kept idle on the stations either until they marry or reach 21, which is the earliest age at which they can be employed on the station now because of Government policy. It is obvious that when a large number of youths and girls are left idle on a station mischief can result, and that has occurred. There has been a high level of convictions of youths and girls from the stations, not for anything frightfully serious, but for

such things as minor breaking and entering and stonethrowing. It is not that they are inherently bad, but the same thing would happen in our community if children were kept idle between the ages of 14 and 21.

It is true that apprenticeships have been offered to these young people, and sometimes they have taken them, but they have gone home without completing them. This is not surprising, because aborigines are family-loving people, and they must leave their families and go to the city areas to do their indentures, and they find that our legislation makes it difficult for them to associate with people in Adelaide who are not unexempted aborigines. There was an outstanding case of a man at Victor Harbour who was going to work in a European's car, and the European was warned by a police officer that he was committing an offence by associating with the aborigine. While this type of legislation exists it is very difficult for these young people, who have to leave their families to come into a strange community and are inevitably homesick, to feel at home in cities. It is not surprising that they find their way back to a place where they can find some sort of security.

The only way to get sufficient training of a proper standard within the stations is to provide vocational training and to encourage domestic activities. For instance, clothing could be manufactured at homes on the stations, and indeed the women have expressed a wish to do this. I will have something to do with the registration of the co-operative, and I hope that this will be one of its projects. If such things can be done on the stations, much will be achieved.

A contrary policy was followed in Western Australia, where Mr. Middleton, the departmental officer in charge of aboriginal welfare, took the attitude that in order to enforce civilization on detribalized aborigines the stations should be closed so that the aborigines would be forced into the community. They were to be made subject to the same laws as Europeans, and if they were not assimilated, their children would be. I have not had an opportunity to see that activity in progress, but I have heard from members of the Western Australian Parliament that they are not happy about the result. I do not think a very happy situation would result here if that were done. It would inevitably mean that, because of the housing shortage, they would have to take poor class homes, and it would be very difficult to get them to the standard that I hope we could achieve by raising the standard on

stations so that they could come to the remainder of the community for the purpose of assimilation. Of course, I believe that this policy should not be confined to the stations for there are detribalized aborigines elsewhere, for instance at Coober Pedy. We can do much towards assimilation by using welfare officers.

On this score we can take a leaf out of the book of the small and at present impoverished state of Israel. The Israeli State has recently been faced with an enormous influx of Yemenite Jews who were living in the lowest possible conditions in Moslem communities from which they were taken; they appeared and lived as Arabs with the lowest standard of living one could find. During the present tension in the Middle East these people have been imported into Israel in their hundreds of thousands, and Israel, a country facing a difficult economic situation, is doing marvels in assimilating them into a substantially European community with a completely different cultural background, the only unifying factor being that of religious belief. Yet what Israel has done has been forcibly to settle these people and mix the families in the housing settlements of the general community. They have then brought these immigrants under the care and attention of welfare officers, anthropologists, psychologists and clinics in those settlements. These families are constantly catered for by welfare organizations throughout Israel. Every family is visited, studied, and given a high housing priority.

By deliberate policy these people have been brought into the community activities of the rest of Israel. This has meant that, although they still have their problems in some areas, particularly close to the initial immigration camps, they are assimilating these Yemenite Jews at a rate far higher than we are assimilating our aborigines in Australia, yet Israel has the same sort of problem. That State is doing this by the enormous vigour and drive of their belief in the necessity for assimilation—something which, unfortunately, has not characterized the aborigines administration in South Australia for many years. In this State assimilation has been tackled only in dribs and drabs, with one or two families settled here and there, but the major problem has remained and it affects everybody in the community.

There is widespread concern in this State about the lack of proper assimilation of our aborigines and there would be more concern

were it possible for South Australians in large numbers to visit the settlement at Point Pearce or other outlying aboriginal settlements that are not Government stations. People who visit these stations cannot but be struck by the fact that we are not doing our job of assimilating the aborigine and I hope the department will move quickly towards seeing that adequate care, attention and vocational training is given these people and that officers experienced in social science and the promotion of co-operative activity are employed by the department, not in ones or twos, but in large numbers so that the administration of our aborigines may be brought up to the standard existing in Israel at present for the assimilation of Yemenite Jews.

Mr. LOVEDAY—I endorse the remarks of the member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan). I understand that the co-operative store at Point Pearce that he referred to has a turnover of £300 a week and that the trade left with the Government store there is particularly small. Can the Minister say what is the attitude of the department concerning the Government store; whether everything possible is being done to assist the co-operative store in proceeding apace, even though it is displacing the Government store; and whether the people at Point Pearce are being encouraged by the department in this venture?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—Speaking personally, I welcome the co-operative movement and the spirit engendered in it. Indeed, I was asked to open the store, but as I was ill I could not do so. The board has the interests of the aborigines at heart. Professor Cleland has given almost a lifetime to those interests. Mrs. Cooke, Mrs. Harvey Johnston, Mr. Bartlett, the Rev. Gordon Rowe and the Chief Agricultural Adviser, are members of the board, which meets regularly to consider problems. No opposition to the co-operative movement exists, and if I can assist it in any way I shall be glad to do so. I listened with interest to the remarks of the member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan) and to a large extent I agree with what he said. Much has yet to be done, but during the past two or three years there has been an awakening. For instance, £261,000 is provided this year. We are also moving in other directions. For instance, we have appointed building overseers who employ natives to repair, redecorate, and keep in better order and condition the houses at Point Pearce and Point McLeay. I agree that difficulty will arise if we try to throw those aborigines on the community generally. I

cannot see how they can be housed or assimilated. Indeed, I believe their last condition would be worse than their first. At Point Pearce we have arranged, at considerable cost, for the reticulation of water when the water supply comes through. Further, electricity supplies will be extended to the town, and if the people can be encouraged to take some pride in their cottages and maintain them with a coat of paint the homes should be much better.

Generally speaking, Point McLeay has a better type of cottage. An irrigation scheme was installed there and the natives worked it for a while with much success, but the native does not like fixed employment; he prefers more itinerant work such as shearing, fishing, and fruit picking, which offer him a better livelihood perhaps than does a steady job. That has been our difficulty concerning share farming. When prices for produce were low and the crop not too good the share farmer lost interest in the crop and sought a more lucrative employment. I do not know how one can deal with a case such as that. One cannot hold the native for damages for he has no monetary resources on which to rely.

I will take up with the board Mr. Dunstan's point concerning the co-operative movement to see how much help can be given. Since the appointment of building overseers, the following buildings have been erected at Point Pearce: four sleepouts; one additional room; one recreation room; a hay shed; a Salvation Army recreation hall; 26 lavatories; a bathroom; a laundry; and a verandah. In addition, a roof of a house has been repaired. I hope that the bathrooms will follow as a matter of course when we get the reticulated supply.

At Point McLeay they have erected nine additional rooms, ten soakage pits, and some kitchens and sleepouts. For some reason there are many men at Point McLeay capable of carpentry of a better standard than bush carpentry, and there are also good stone workers. They have erected a new shearing shed that is a credit to the men employed there. During the last 12 months a better atmosphere has prevailed and I will continue by every means in my power to foster the co-operative spirit and to help those people who need our help.

Mr. FLETCHER—I compliment the member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan) on his fine address on the aboriginal problem, and the member for Whyalla (Mr. Loveday) on his remarks. I was pleased to hear the Minister's remarks concerning these unfortunate people. The tide

has turned and more toleration is being extended to the natives than for some time past. Although I have not had as much experience as some other members with our natives, from the little I have had to do with them I realize that in a sense they are practically no different from those of us classified as white. There are good aborigines and there are those not so good, but with the material available reform is possible. Some aborigines have high intellectual values and may be trained in vocations. A suggestion has been made for something in the nature of home industries, such as the manufacture of cloth. That would be something that our aborigines would be deeply interested in, and it would appeal to the womenfolk particularly. My experience goes back to my shearing days at Wellington Lodge, where the native women did the wool picking and rolling and that sort of work and did it extremely well. At the weekends they did the washing and mending for the shearer and those who required such services. When I returned to my home after shearing there my mother immediately noticed how well the clothes were washed and mended. These people can do a good job, particularly if they take an interest in it.

The Minister referred to the ability of those aborigines who came from those stations during the war and engaged in war work and industry. I am very pleased to hear him say how interested he is in this problem. I agree that there is a far more tolerant outlook towards our natives and I hope it continues. I know the older ones may be harder to assimilate, but we have a younger generation coming along who will be assimilated into our ways of life and I have no doubt that they will become worthy citizens.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Expenditure is proposed in regard to Finnis Springs, Gerard, Nepabunna and Oodnadatta Missions. Can the Minister say whether those amounts are pound for pound subsidies or straightout grants?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—They are straight out grants.

Mr. KING—Aborigines have lived in my district for a number of years and there are now between 120 and 130 residing between Berri and Barmera, some of them at the mission and some in the town. They are in all stages of assimilation into our way of life. Some are living in £3,000 Housing Trust homes and are very highly respected members of the community. Others prefer to live in rather more primitive conditions where there is

no control other than that exercised by the health authorities, and these people behave themselves very well. I have come to the conclusion that some of them appreciate everything that can be done to help them lift their own standards. Sometimes they wonder why we insist on matters like personal and domestic hygiene which they perhaps consider a waste of time, but I think that if they understood the background of many of our traditional ways of living they would probably adopt them with some reason instead of just trying to imitate our ways in order to make good fellows of themselves. Consequently I think it would be a good thing if some means were provided for them to be trained in the elements of household and personal hygiene and good housekeeping so that they would then be able to fit in more with our ways of life and not wonder why other people are often apt to point the bone at them, to use their own expression. I do not know how this could be overcome as far as mission stations are concerned, but I think if the missionaries were trained anthropologists rather than in some cases sentimental enthusiasts we would get a lot more done.

My own feelings on the matter are that not all people who undertake some of this work are necessarily practical people in dealing with aborigines or trying to run a mission station. I know that the matter is now being considered by the Minister. I think there is a great scope for adult education amongst these people, and in my own district there are people who would go down and help them if the opportunities were provided. I have been informed that there are approximately 5,000 aborigines in South Australia, many of them detribalized natives who have lost the connection with their tribes and their own ways of making a living; they are placed in an environment for which they are not fitted, and consequently they are in a state of transition in which they are not respected by the white people nor their own. If we are going to ask them to live according to our standards we must show them what our standards are and the reason for them.

I compliment the Minister on the additional money set aside to deal with this problem. I would heartily support any move to have men trained as anthropologists, because the personal relationships with these people call for expert knowledge and attention, and will depend entirely on the distance they are removed from

their tribal state. It has been a popular conception that aborigines will eventually be absorbed into the white population by inter-marriage with white people, but I learned with some surprise that it is possible that that will not be the case and that the tendency is for the Australian aboriginal blood to become stronger because the half-caste and quarter-caste natives tend to marry aborigines rather than whites. If that is so it is something we will have to regard as a permanent problem. The aboriginal population will increase, particularly as they are not going in for infanticide as much as they once did. With the improved standards of nutrition and health the population of the aborigines will continue to increase, and consequently we will have to make a bigger share of our revenue available to enable them to take their proper place alongside the white population. We should give them every facility to enable them to do so. I support the line.

Mr. RICHES—I was interested in what the Minister said with regard to the policy of the department on assimilation and the provision made in these Estimates for the welfare of aborigines generally. I will refer to two specific matters which I raised last year and which I have mentioned by way of question from time to time. These concern the rehousing of an aboriginal family at Port Germein and the improvement of housing facilities at the Umeewarra Mission at Port Augusta. The people of Port Germein, particularly the Country Women's Association, are very anxious that something should be done concerning the aboriginal family involved. Representations have been made to the department over the last 12 months. The Minister has looked into the matter himself, and he told me that it could properly be discussed under these Estimates. Can the Minister give a report on those matters?

I take this opportunity of paying a tribute to the womenfolk who have given so much of their time and effort to native welfare in the Umeewarra Mission. The balance-sheet contained in the official report of that mission stands out as one of the most extraordinary I have ever perused. It tells a story which I think should be told because it shows something on the other side of the scale to balance the relationships between the white people and aboriginals. Much has been said concerning our relationships with the aborigines, our neglect and our exploitation of them, and much that has been said is true. This balance-sheet

shows the other side of the picture, the sacrificial work and the interest and effort over the years which help to redeem the position somewhat, and it is something of which, for a change, we can be proud. On the income side there is a grant of £2,986 from the department towards the upkeep of the children's home which cares for some 50 children. The department now pays 30s. a week for the upkeep of these children. From the Commonwealth Government the mission gets £1,344 12s. 8d. in child endowments. Two of the women at the mission teach part time at a departmental school, and their total payments from the Education Department were £630, and that sum is included in the income side of the balance sheet. In gifts and board the mission received £417 3s. 9d., making a total income of £5,378 19s. 5d. The expenditure side of the balance sheet shows the following items:—fruit and vegetables, £1,448; groceries, £1,055; bread £669; clothing and shoes, £617; laundry, £522; meat, £461; hardware, £183; telephone, £94; firewood, £82; insurance, £21; wages for help, £10; leaving an excess of income over expenditure of £15.

The women at the mission have given everything they possess and have dedicated themselves to working amongst the aborigines. They have not touched one penny of the £630 they received from the Education Department. All that has gone into the home for maintenance of the children. Those women are maintained by gifts from friends, without which they would not be able to clothe themselves. They shower their love on the children, and the effectiveness of their work is demonstrated by the fact that the children regard this place as a home, not as an institution. Wherever the children go, whether to Ballarat, Darwin, or a sheep station, at every opportunity, such as at Christmas or when on holiday, they go back to Umeewarra. It was a thrill for these people to have the pleasure of a visit from the Minister of Education. I was at the mission last Thursday and they are still talking about the Minister's visit because he demonstrated a personal interest in their welfare.

There has grown up between the children and the women at the mission an association which is far deeper than the relationship between a matron and an inmate of an institution. These women have been happy to see some of the children adopted by white people, but it is a wrench for them to see children whom they have mothered since they were babies, perhaps three months old, taken away for adoption. These women have

mothered them and I think they should be consulted before children are taken away. They do not object to adoption, for they want everything possible done for the advantage of the children, but it is a little sudden for them to be told, perhaps over the telephone, that a child will be taken from them within three days and brought to Adelaide. As a result, there could be some heart-burning, which I think could be alleviated if there were a closer liaison between the department and the mission.

I think the supervisor of the mission should be taken into the confidence of the department, for the women at the mission could give valuable advice on adoption. I am pleased that provision has been made on the Estimates for the erection of the boys' dormitory and the renovation of the bathrooms. They are long overdue, and these works are being subsidized by those supporting the mission so generously. A transport vehicle has been a welcome addition to the mission, but the Government should give attention to the living conditions of the adult population. The Minister said that certain arrangements had been made about Point Pearce and that an officer would go there to assist the aborigines to clean up the place. I do not profess to have the answer to the problem, which is one for experts. I understand that the Minister has called for a report and I would be grateful if he would give us any details he may have on the rehousing of a family at Port Germein and the improvement of housing at Umeewarra.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—We hope to erect a number of houses for aborigines this year, one at Port Germein. The department has no control over the housing of aborigines outside reserves, or over the missions. The honourable member spoke about the good work that the Umeewarra Mission has done, but without the contribution by the Government of 30s. a week for the children there the balance-sheet would look much worse. That contribution was made without any request to the Government. There are 168 children in missions receiving 30s. a week from the Government, but the department has no more control over aborigines outside reserves than it has over those at Andamooka or any other place.

The Government has already appointed one welfare officer, and we shall appoint another as soon as we can get a qualified person. There are overseers, but they are not under the jurisdiction of the department. I am not happy about the position at some missions because they have not the necessary funds or

trained personnel. We have been trying to help them, but some have slipped back, and they are causing considerable concern. We are helping to maintain the children in those missions and making grants for them, but apparently the public has not responded generously to calls for assistance. Some of them, particularly the United Aborigines' Mission, are known as "faith missions." They do not make appeals, but take the responsibility of looking after children, and if the State takes over their control we shall incur greater expenditure. Then, instead of the missions having dedicated women, there will be the impersonal control of officials who may not have that touch of kindness that the women bestow on the children near Port Augusta. The problem is a difficult one, but the board is doing its best to surmount it. The additional expenditure this year of £44,000 will help greatly, and I hope that in future years we shall be able to do even better.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—In my electorate there are a considerable number of aborigines living a more or less free life. They have established their humpies near their employment, and there is a settlement at Beltana that is virtually permanent. As a result of the Commonwealth railways closing the line from Hawker to Copley there are now a considerable number of unoccupied railway houses along that line. Most of them are of stone construction, and I ask the Minister to see whether they could be made available for aborigines, who form a core of labour there for sheep stations.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I will have the question investigated, but most natives do not make provision against unemployment. Most of them are casual workers and we have found difficulty in collecting rent from them. I take it that most of the aborigines the Leader has in mind are in permanent employment, more or less?

Mr. O'Halloran—Yes.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—Then they should be able to pay a reasonable rent. I presume that these unoccupied houses belong to the Commonwealth Government?

Mr. O'Halloran—Yes.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—Then we would have to negotiate with the Commonwealth, but I will see that the matter is taken further.

Line passed.

Public Works, £1,092,850.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—There are several lines concerning repairs, renovating, painting and so forth to Government buildings. This work

is undertaken by the Architect-in-Chief's Department and a considerable sum is involved. I believe this work could be undertaken more efficiently and much more cheaply if officers of the department were decentralized. In many large country centres where work of this nature is necessary there is no permanent staff. If one or two employees were stationed in those areas it would eliminate unnecessary travelling from Adelaide and would be more economic. Earlier this year a gentleman employed by the Architect-in-Chief's Department complained that, although stationed in a country town, he was frequently sent elsewhere to work while officers from Adelaide were sent to his home town to do essential work. Whilst I cannot identify this gentleman, I checked his story and found it true. That is not good management. If an employee is living in an area he should be employed there and not sent away while other men are sent there to do the work.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—Employees of the department work in gangs—plumbers, carpenters, bricklayers, etc.—and in the case mentioned the employee may have been engaged in a different category. There are hundreds of employees in the department and it is inevitable that occasionally such cases may arise, but they do not as a general rule. The department has engaged in decentralization and various foremen have been enabled to make contracts with local contractors who satisfactorily undertake the work required. The work is by no means undertaken solely by the department. I will take up the Leader's remarks and ascertain if decentralization can be implemented further.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—An amount of £340,000 is provided for repairs, renovating, painting, alterations, additions, grounds, fences, road moieties, etc., for education buildings. I am much concerned as to how much of that amount represents road moieties. Many schools are being erected in new areas and where roadways are being provided a considerable sum is involved. Councils cannot be expected to meet those charges and if part of this proposed expenditure is to reimburse the councils I have no complaint. Can the Minister say where the road moieties will be paid and what schools in what areas are involved? In the district of Glenelg a private college was recently obliged to pay £380 for road making—a not inconsiderable sum, particularly considering that thousands of pounds was spent in erecting suitable school buildings. The council was fully entitled to be paid for the road works. The Government insists that private schools and

colleges provide an education of the standard stipulated by the department and, I should think in all cases, those schools measure up. Will the Government consider paying for all road moieties where schools—departmental and private—are erected in new areas?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—It is obvious that with an amount of £340,000 involved I would not have a specific statement as to what represents road moieties and where they would be paid. There have been frequent discussions concerning road moieties, but I know of no instance where road moieties have been paid in respect of private schools or colleges. However, I will bring down some further data in respect of where it is proposed to expend this money and whether any money was spent last year on a similar line.

Mr. DAVIS—I, too, would like some information on road moieties. Councils spend money on putting down roads and footpaths in front of schools, but do not get one penny from the department for the work. I agree with Mr. Frank Walsh that the department has some responsibility in this matter. I notice that the same provision is made in regard to other Government buildings, but the Government pays no rates in respect of these buildings. It is not right that the councils should have to shoulder the whole responsibility without any return. I would like to know where the money provided for road moieties is spent for I do not know of one penny of it being spent in Port Pirie.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The honourable member possibly did not hear me tell Mr. Walsh that I would have to get further information. The honourable member said that councils get no benefit from Government hospitals and schools, but I continually hear from all members of the desirability of having these great amenities within their areas, and they do give a great deal of local benefit. Consider the immense advantage, for instance, that a secondary school gives to a town. The amount saved by parents in not having to send their children away to school, and the benefit of having them at home is very material. As I promised Mr. Walsh, I will get some further information and let the House have it as early as possible.

Mr. TAPPING—On previous occasions I have taken the opportunity to mention under this line the need to send the Architect-in-Chief abroad in order to refresh his knowledge on building trends abroad. We have sent officers of the Hospitals Department, Harbors Board, Electricity Trust, Railways



and Tramways Trust and the Police Department, but the Architect-in-Chief's is one of the most important of our departments, and I think it a grave omission not to have sent one of its officers overseas. As a member of the Public Works Committee I have some knowledge of this department, and Mr. Siddall and his assistant, Mr. Lees, are both very capable men who should be given the opportunity of comparing notes with the leading architects of other countries in order to bring back the very latest ideas.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—Any suggestion by the honourable member put in his usual modest and persuasive way, always receives a great deal of consideration, and this will be no exception.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £38,570—passed.

#### MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Education Department, £7,509,096.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Has any consideration been given to the proposal to raise the status of the School of Arts with a view to attracting competent and talented teachers?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Yes. It is intended to call applications for the position of Principal and it is desired to raise the status of the school. I referred the suggestion to the Teachers Salaries Board that the status of the school be raised from Class III to Class I, and the board agreed to that about a week ago.

Mr. FRED WALSH—More than once I have raised the question of subsidizing schools committees on the provision of refrigerators for public schools and have been told that it was not the department's intention. However, provision is made for refrigerators in hospitals, court houses and other places and if it is good enough in other public buildings it is equally necessitous in public schools. I ask the Minister if he will reconsider the previous decision.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The matter has been considered by Cabinet from time to time and I will be pleased to take up the honourable member's suggestion again. Refrigerators are, of course, subsidized in domestic art centres, but generally this is again a question of how much of the total pool of money voted to the Education Department can be devoted to this purpose and, again, there is the question of priority of subsidies. I am sympathetically disposed to the application if and when I can get around to earmarking sufficient money to this particular line. I can

do nothing at the moment, but will take it up again for discussion in Cabinet to see what can be done in future.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I draw attention to the necessity for providing money for a trained speech therapist, for which I see no provision in the Estimates. I am well aware that the department has a trained person who gives assistance to scholars who have defective speech, but I have been told that, because of the very limited number of staff, scholars have to wait a very long time before they can receive treatment or assistance. Can the Minister indicate the size of the staff and whether it will be increased?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—We have only a half-time speech therapist who is attached to the psychology branch. However, it is hoped to increase the opportunities for speech therapy as soon as practicable by obtaining the services off a full-time officer.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—My query relates to the National Fitness Council to which there are references on pages 76 and 80. In the new suburbs, particularly in my own electorate, there is a tendency to cultivate youth clubs. I have attended quite a number of meetings of citizens, and the director of the National Fitness Council is only too pleased to come along. In reply to requests for assistance he usually says that he may be able to arrange for a loan or he may be able to give a small sum towards the cost of a particular item of equipment that is required. I believe the director is sympathetic, and would like to establish youth centres in certain areas. People in the Plympton area were fortunate three or four years ago when the Plympton Sub-branch of the R.S.L. decided to form a youth centre. This is now operating and doing a good job.

A couple of years ago I was asked by representatives of the Baptist Youth Club at Edwardstown if some assistance could be given to it. This organization had erected a building for gymnastics and basketball, but as it was on private property no assistance could be given. There is a need for youth clubs for children of both sexes, but the necessary financial assistance cannot always be obtained. Usually it is possible to raise a small loan—perhaps £100, but it must be repaid within a very short period, quite often one year. It costs a great deal to establish a club, and in new areas people are usually buying their homes and establishing gardens, and have to pay for road building, so they find it very hard to give financial assistance to establish youth clubs. Years ago it was not necessary to have so

many clubs, but open spaces around the city are now limited, so youths cannot engage in sporting activities as they used to do, or they would be trespassing on private property. Is the Government in a position to give more assistance to the National Fitness Council, which is doing a very good job? It must be remembered that, even after the capital cost of establishing a club is obtained, it is necessary to get tutors.

The National Fitness Council is using a school building on South Road, St. Mary's, which was obtained as a result of work done by parents' bodies. However, that building is not now big enough, and it is necessary to raise money to enlarge it. This sort of thing is happening in all new areas. Can the Minister offer better financial assistance to the National Fitness Council to erect buildings?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I share with the honourable member his regard for the members of the National Fitness Council, its director and staff, who I think are doing excellent work. This body is extending activities not only in the metropolitan area, but throughout many country districts, and I am anxious to support its work. As the honourable member knows, this organization was set up by the Commonwealth Government and the £9,000 in these Estimates is really money provided by the Commonwealth Government; the salary payments are handled by the Education Department and recharged to the Commonwealth. It is interesting to note that last year £9,050 was voted but only £8,478 was expended. This year £9,000 is provided.

The amount for alterations to new premises has been increased from £4,500 to £5,750 because of a special case submitted to me by the National Fitness Council. Until a few years ago the grant was nominal, but it has been increased considerably in recent years. Last year it was increased because of a special case put to the Treasurer by the members for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) and Edwinstown (Mr. Frank Walsh), the two Parliamentary representatives on the council. Again, they have applied for a special grant, and the amount has been increased to £5,750, which is a very substantial percentage increase. Having made the grant, the Government has confidence that the members of the council, the director and staff will use it to the best possible endeavour. At present there is a further application for more assistance in the future to youth clubs. This, I think, has been made to the Treasurer by the R.S.L. If a grant is approved it will have to be decided whether

that is a suitable body to administer these activities. I cannot give any further information, other than to say that the National Fitness Council has asked for an increased grant.

Mr. TAPPING—This year £90,000 is provided for payment of teachers in Northern Territory Schools, and this represents an increase of £5,761 over last year's expenditure. Although I do not object to this provision, I ask whether, in view of these schools being in the Northern Territory, we get any reimbursement from the Federal Government? Last year I visited Alice Springs with the member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran) and inspected the primary school, which I found to be very satisfactory. The two teachers there were at one time stationed at Kangaroo Island, but transferred to the school.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The cost is recouped by the Commonwealth Government. It has so much confidence in our Education Department that it is prepared to continue this payment from year to year to allow it to conduct education in the Northern Territory.

Mr. HARDING—Last year £33,301 was spent on purchase of motor buses, although only £12,000 was voted. Are all the buses purchased last year on the road, and if so, why is £19,200 provided this year?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—All those vehicles are not on the road: some are being constructed by a firm of motor body builders and we hope they will be on the road by about the end of next month. We have progressively increased the size of the departmental fleet and the department is now providing 363 transport services; 257 of these are contract services and 106 departmental buses. In addition, 62 subsidized services are operating. The total is continually growing and, as more schools are closed, more effective educational facilities are being provided in consolidated schools.

Mr. BYWATERS—I assure the Minister that the National Fitness Council appreciates the increase in its grant, but sufficient money is still not available. I appreciate the remarks of the member for Edwinstown (Mr. Frank Walsh) on the difficulties experienced by youth clubs in his district, but those difficulties are not peculiar to his district: the need for youth training everywhere is apparent. This work, however, is primarily a Commonwealth responsibility because the Commonwealth Government originally gave the council its charter, but it has not increased its grant to any great extent, therefore we should try to get more from it. The council appreciates the money given by the State Government not only by

way of grant, but also towards its building programme. At every meeting applications are received from clubs wishing to commence operations, but lack of finance is greatly stifling activity. Today we must keep our youth healthy and the council, which has been set up by the Government, is the appropriate body with the facilities and staff to assist youth organizations.

Mr. GOLDNEY—The sum of £14,000 is provided for the purchase of films, equipment and consumable material and sundries. I understand that some of these films show industry at work and may be used to help young people choose a vocation. Can the Minister say whether these films are available to both city and country schools?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Yes.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I understand that these films are made available for screening by reputable organizations and that this is one of the best methods of adult education. On what conditions are the films lent and is it intended to purchase more for the library?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—It is intended to add to the library but I have no details of the method by which that is to be done. I shall be pleased to bring down a report for the benefit of both Mr. Goldney and Mr. Hutchens. All types of reputable organizations throughout the metropolitan area and the country may borrow the films and also use the skilled operators available. Indeed, the department is anxious that the films be used in that way.

Mr. LAUCKE—What is the total cost of conveying children to schools throughout the State?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—About £330,000.

Mr. TAPPING—Why has the work on the sewerage of the Taperoo school been delayed?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I cannot say offhand. That was a special case and the Minister of Works and I arrived at a formula, which was approved by Cabinet, whereby the Education Department would contribute its proportion. I have no current information on why the work has not been completed, but I shall be pleased to take up the matter and inform the honourable member.

Line passed.

Libraries Department, £139,438.

Mr. DUNSTAN—On August 27, in reply to my question following on the statement by the Minister at a conference of the Library Association of Australia that a council-sponsored library would be subsidized pound for pound on all its expenditure, the Treasurer said that an item would be placed on the

Estimates, apart from grants under the Libraries (Subsidies) Act, to enable assistance to be given to libraries. Can the Minister say whether such a line has been included in these Estimates?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I think the line to which the Treasurer referred is "Purchase of books under Libraries (Subsidies) Act, £3,000." That is a new line and is the result of a request by the Public Libraries Board for a grant to enable books to be lent in bulk to libraries established under that Act. I do not think the Treasurer actually meant that a line would be included in these Estimates for the establishment of libraries, because as far as I know, there has been no application for a subsidy for the establishment of a library. In fact, one application was received as recently as September 3 from the chairman of the District Council of Salisbury, the chairman of the Public Libraries Board, and the chairman of the Housing Trust. That is for the establishment of a library at Elizabeth, but there will not be any real establishment expenses there because the Housing Trust undertakes to make a shop available without charge for use as a library, and it will equip the room with shelving and furniture. It is expected that those premises will be ready for occupation early in December. I expect that later there will be another application for a library in the Marion district. I do not know what the nature of that request will be, because at present there is no official request.

I have received a report from the Principal Librarian on the matter, which quotes the opinion of the chairman of the Public Libraries Board. The board has not actually dealt with the matter, but the Principal Librarian has reported as follows:—

It is anticipated by the chairman that any municipal or district council which desires to avail itself of the assistance which section 2 of the Libraries (Subsidies) Act, 1955 empowers the Treasurer to pay, will, in its application for such assistance, specify the capital expenditure which the council thinks will be necessarily incurred in the purchase of library premises, or alternatively the annual rental expected to be payable for renting suitable library premises. The chairman is confident that the board will not take any unduly restricted view of its responsibilities under the Act, but will consider on its merits each application made by a council for assistance. Section 2 of the Act contains no express provision relating to the payment by the Treasurer of the cost of establishing library premises, but it may in the chairman's opinion be expected that the Libraries Board, when making its report pursuant to subsection (2) of section 2 of the Act, will sympathetically consider each

specific application and will have regard to the merits of such application; and if it should appear in a particular case, which the board regards as deserving, that there is no power under the Act for payment by the Treasurer to the extent requested by the council, the board may consider itself entitled to recommend to the Treasurer such amendment of the Act as may seem necessary to give the Treasurer power to make the actual payment, or some portion thereof, requested by the council.

I think the position is substantially clear.

Mr. Riches—Haven't you had an application from Kimba?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Not to my knowledge. As far as I know the board has received only two specific applications, one being from Elizabeth and the other from Marion, and in neither of those applications has the question of capital expenditure arisen. As pointed out by the Principal Librarian, the chairman (Mr. Justice Abbott) considers that if and when it arises the board will make a recommendation to the Treasurer, and it is not for me to anticipate the decision of the Treasurer or Cabinet. However, my own view is that it will be very favourably received if and when it is made.

Mr. DUNSTAN—That reply heartens me considerably. Certain councils are interested in establishing municipal free libraries, but some of them have been holding off because no assurance could be given by those who approached them to establish the libraries that any establishment assistance could be provided. I will be very happy to convey the Minister's reply on this matter to people in the Grange district who have approached the council on this question. The Henley and Grange Council has held up any further consideration of the establishment of a library in that area pending a reply on the question of whether any assistance could be given towards the establishment costs.

I am certain that members on this side of the House would be only too happy to agree to an amendment of the Act to provide for establishment costs. I still feel that even with that amendment to the Libraries (Subsidies) Act we are not going far enough or fast enough in the establishment of free libraries. It seems to me that even with that amendment to the Act the initiation of action in establishing libraries will have to come from local governing bodies. In the States where the regional libraries system has been most successful the action to set them up comes from the central organization which has the power to recommend establishment grants. The central organizations in New South Wales and

Victoria employ regional officers who approach local governing bodies and make recommendations. The result is that their regional library services have been far more effective than could possibly be the case in this State even under the amendment which the chairman of the board proposes.

Let us consider the contrast between the administration in those States and any proposed administration which can be foreseen in South Australia. It is true that this State spends more on library services per head of population than the other States. The report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission is not a particularly accurate indication of the position because the figures include a number of matters apart from libraries. I have taken out some figures from the Budget papers of the various States which show that South Australia is spending more on libraries per head from State moneys than are the eastern States or the Commonwealth, but the expenditure from other sources is not nearly so great.

Although certain councils in South Australia give assistance out of the rates towards institutes in their areas, none makes grants comparable with those under the free library system in the other States. The last report of the Libraries Board of New South Wales shows that that State spends on library services from State moneys £339,000 a year, and in addition the amount expended by councils exceeding the minimum that they are required to spend under the Libraries Act is £482,027. The total spent by councils on libraries is £633,136. That State therefore has a very different picture in overall library expenditure.

Councils in Victoria are spending on an average up to 3s. a head on libraries, and some of them very much more. Yallourn is spending 7s. 9d. a head of its population on library services. The Victorian Free Libraries administration gives a municipal library subsidy, a special extra subsidy to children's libraries established within the general library services, and also a country libraries grant. A council in a rural area may get a municipal library subsidy, a country library subsidy and a children's library subsidy, and then expend its own moneys as well. This has meant that in Victoria a very much higher proportion of the population is actively using libraries. Box Hill is a city to which I have previously referred in debates on libraries, and 46.6 per cent of its population are regular users of the library services.

There are some institute libraries in my district, and from the figures available it would

appear that about three per cent of the people of the area are regular users of their local libraries. Admittedly some people within the area would be registered borrowers with the central library in Adelaide, but there is not the same service to the people of this State by having one central library as there is through having regional libraries and bookmobiles.

The regional library and bookmobile service which is run by the Free Library administration in other States has meant that books are taken much closer to the people than is the case here, and yet at the moment there is no proposal for anything of this kind in South Australia. The regional library services are set up by the combination of municipal and local governing bodies in suitable areas within the regional library administration. Branch libraries and bookmobile services are then set up in which there are up to 3,500 books available in a mobile service for the people in the particular area. Branch libraries and mobile centres have been started in a number of areas in New South Wales.

It is not enough for us to pass an Act, then find that it is not very satisfactory, and then make some slight amendment to it in order to receive applications from councils in dribs and drabs. We should make an immediate plan for the establishment of regional libraries. We should select suitable centres and appoint administrative officers to approach the local councils and assure them of the availability of assistance. A scheme put forward by a central body would be the best way to get a quick development of library services. If we leave it to councils to put up a scheme to the central body without knowing what sort of subsidy they are going to get or whether they will get an establishment grant, and without having spare money to use for the establishment themselves, we will not get library development at the rate we need it. It is not surprising that under those circumstances people coming here to a libraries conference should be appalled at the situation this State finds itself in as regards library services.

I take no joy in the fact that all those things were pointed out when the Libraries (Subsidies) Act was before the House. When this matter was raised again last year the Minister said that the chairman was confident that what I had had to say about how much we could expect from the Libraries (Subsidies) Act would not prove to be the case, but that there would be many applications for assistance

from councils. It is significant that the only two agitations for assistance that have come forward so far have been from places where no establishment grant was necessary. The Government should not merely amend section 2 of the Act, as suggested by the chairman of the board, but should seriously consider introducing a Bill along the lines originally recommended by the Libraries Board for the establishment, through the central organization, of a scheme for the development of libraries. That is the only way we will get anywhere. Line passed.

Museum Department, £44,188; Art Gallery Department, £19,658—passed.

Miscellaneous, £1,220,225.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—The grant for the National Fitness Council is being increased by £1,250. I am wondering whether the Government could make available, through the State Bank, grants for clubs which have had the blessing of the National Fitness Council. Perhaps a loan, to be repaid over five or 10 years, could be made to approved bodies to establish a club for the welfare of our young people. For instance, an organization at St. Marys has some assets and it desires to build, but it cannot get a loan. Councils cannot use their rate revenue for these purposes. Could the Government set aside a moderate sum and then see how many applications are made for assistance?

Mr. MILLHOUSE—Under the item "University of Adelaide" there is a grant of £5,200 from the Commonwealth towards residential colleges. How is that amount split up?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have no details on that because it is a grant from the Commonwealth.

Mr. Millhouse—Which colleges get it?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have not that information, but I will get it for the honourable member.

Mr. TAPPING—I express the thanks of the South Australian Amateur Swimming Association for the increase of £200 in its grant. No doubt that is in some consideration for the part the association has played in swimming campaigns over a number of years. It is pleasing that last year the number of children taught swimming doubled that of the previous year. Some time ago the Minister of Education accompanied me to the Woodville Spastic Home, and he was asked to consider appointing a part-time teacher for tutoring children there who were below average intelligence. Can he say what the £600 for the Spastic Paralysis Welfare Association refers to?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I was impressed by my visit to the home and was anxious to provide a teacher as requested, but none with the special qualities necessary was available. I thought the best thing I could do would be to provide some money for the services of a teacher, and that is what the £600 is for.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Will the Minister consider the remarks I made about assisting clubs who had the backing of the National Fitness Council?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—There is no line on the Estimates for that purpose, but I was impressed by the case made out by the honourable member and will take it up with Cabinet to see whether his request can be acceded to.

Line passed.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT.

Department of Industry, £84,124.

Mr. COUMBE—I refer to the item "Consulting Engineer, £2,703." This officer has an assistant and three engineers to help him in his work. The staff renders valuable service to industry and undertakes research not only for new industries but for established concerns. At times the consulting engineer is away on other duties. He recently went overseas for the Government to investigate bulk handling and has since presented a report to this House. While he was away the work had to continue with the restricted staff available. I pay a tribute to these men for the calibre of the work they are doing. Will the Minister ascertain if sufficient staff is available to enable this valuable work to continue?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The staff consists of the consulting engineer and five other officers and I join in the tribute to the valuable work they are doing. I shall be pleased to take up his plea for further staff.

Line passed.

Factories and Steam Boilers Department. £53,807.

Mr. FRED WALSH—An amount of £12,584 is provided under the line "Inspectors—Factories, Shops, Inflammable Oils and Scaffolding"—a decrease of £224 on last year. However, £18,285 is provided for "Inspectors—Factories, Steam Boilers, Inflammable Oils and Lifts." I cannot understand why these two lines are separate. Can the Minister explain the decrease of £224? For years trade unions have complained that there are insufficient inspectors to properly police awards and determinations. I realize that lifts must be

inspected, but one of the worst lifts in a public building in the metropolitan area is in the building occupied by the Chief Inspector. It is virtually impossible for a person advanced in years or feeble to climb the stairs: it would be easier to climb a ladder. The lift is obsolete and is just as likely to stop six inches below or above the floor as it is to stop at the actual floor level. One would think that it would be kept in proper order. Will the Minister investigate the necessity for increasing the staff of this department, particularly as more policing will be necessary when long service leave operates in industry?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—There is a well known saying that bootmakers' families have the worst shoes and it may be that that applies to the lift in the office of the Chief Inspector. If it does I sympathize with him because I occupy a basement room in Parliament House and I am solely dependent on a lift, which more often than not is out of order. There are 12 inspectors of factories under the Steam Boilers, Inflammable Oils, and Lifts section and 12 inspectors of factories under the Shops, Inflammable Oils and Scaffolding section—a total of 24 inspectors. I do not know why they are separated into two categories. There has been no decrease in the number of inspectors and I understand there will be an increase. I shall be pleased to take the matter up with the Minister of Industry and ascertain whether there are sufficient inspectors to police the various functions of the department.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £3,380—passed.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FORESTS.

Minister of Agriculture Department, £7,953—passed.

Agriculture Department, £756,000.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—I commend the Minister for placing lighting on the experimental farm at Minnipa. This has been necessary for a long time, as most of the officers have to do book-work at night time. From January to June this year it was necessary to cart water to the farm and I hope the Minister will supply an adequate sum so that this unnecessary work will not have to be done again.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—That matter is being attended to.

Mr. BROOKMAN—What information has the Minister on the activities of the Kangaroo Island research centre? This centre was established not many years ago, and at different

times I have asked if the Department would publish some information. I believe it has done quite good work and has held field days for the farmers at different times. Those who attended were able to gain valuable information, but as far as I know the station has never published the results of any work, and there has been very little opportunity to get the results of things they have discovered without going to the station and questioning the officers in charge. As I believe the director will soon be leaving his job, I wonder if the work done will be recorded and if it will be made available to the farmers so that we will get the best possible use from this centre.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—As the honourable member mentioned, the officer in charge is leaving the area, but from memory I understand that he is giving some time to writing up the results of his work, and this will be in the records of the department. Ordinary routine work is not disseminated in the form of special bulletins from research centres, but findings from the work carried on in them are written up in the form of pamphlets or as articles in the *Journal of Agriculture* and are available to various scientific laboratories. That practice, I think, will be followed in respect of Mr. Carter's work.

Mr. TAPPING—Can the Minister explain the reasons for the increase of £87,457 in the line relating to fruit fly eradication expenses?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Unfortunately, it seems that we have an outbreak of fruit fly every year, and this provision is in the event of an outbreak this season.

Mr. HEASLIP—This year £3,644 is provided for a contribution towards grasshopper control trials. Can the Minister explain what this money will be spent on? We know what happened a few years ago, so I wonder if this money will be put towards research on infestations of grasshoppers.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—This contribution is part of a joint scheme between the Commonwealth and this State. The contribution towards grasshopper control this year is for research being conducted by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture in accordance with a resolution of the Agricultural Council. The total cost of the trials, £42,500, is being shared by the Commonwealth and the States. The amount appearing in these Estimates is our share under the agreement.

Mr. BROOKMAN—In the current issue of the *Journal of Agriculture* an article has been published by Messrs. W. G. Aldon and R. G. Anderson which shows that there is one type of fodder that is pre-eminent above others for the raising of weaner sheep, and that is the summer fodder crops such as Chou Mollier, Rape and Turnip. These have produced outstanding results. Further, in a dry season the farmers know if they are to get light hay crops and they still have time to ensure their autumn feed by sowing fodder crops. These fodder crops are certainly unreliable in dry seasons, but we do not know whether it will be dry or wet in the future, and it is a very sound form of insurance for a farmer who has not an adequate hay crop to sow summer crops with a reasonable chance of success. He could get spectacular success in this direction. In view of that, and the fact that this article shows the value of this type of crop, I wonder whether the department will make every effort to publicize its value, particularly in relation to a season such as the present one.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes, the department organizes publicity to suit the time of the year. This matter has been published for the last couple of years. In the last *Journal of Agriculture* a special article was devoted to summer crops, and in addition a special pamphlet is available free of charge to anyone who asks for it. Unfortunately, summer crops are dependent on summer rainfall and on the ability of the farmer to work up his land and sow the crops. Within these limits, the department fully realizes the value of what the honourable member has said.

Mr. JENKINS—Is the amount to be spent on the experimental block at Milang included in these Estimates?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Speaking from memory, the Milang project is a short-term one and I am not sure from what source it is financed, but I will obtain the information and let the honourable member have it.

Mr. BYWATERS—Before last year's disastrous Murray River flood I drew the attention of the Minister to the desirability of establishing a research centre on the Murray River swamps. As this suggestion originally came from an agricultural conference a couple of years ago, has the Minister considered this matter further?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—That matter has been considered, but in accordance with the reply I gave the honourable member at the

time no decision to establish such an experimental station has been made. We have close relations with the Murray swamps and their problems as those areas are easily accessible and conform to a pattern. Because of that and because of the demands on the department for other purposes it has not been possible to arrive at a decision to establish a station there.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Have the inspectors of weeds referred to on page 87 been appointed yet?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Weeds Advisory Committee has been set up and has already brought down certain recommendations on broad principles concerning the operations of the Act, but the detailed work on the appointment of the inspectors provided for under the legislation has not yet been completed.

Line passed.

Agricultural College Department, £118,727; Produce Department, £195,580—passed.

Fisheries and Game Department, £19,664.

Mr. JENKINS—Does the increase in the sum provided as salaries and wages indicate that more inspectors are to be employed, or is the crew of s.s. *Weerutta* to be increased?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The sum has been increased to give effect to Cabinet's decision to engage additional crew members and inspectors.

Line passed.

Chemistry Department, £47,951; Miscellaneous, £282,508—passed.

#### MINISTER OF IRRIGATION.

Department of Lands, £458,220; Miscellaneous, £640,300—passed.

#### MINISTER OF MINES.

Mines Department, £738,574—passed.

#### MINISTER OF MARINE.

Harbors Board Department, £1,450,000—passed.

Miscellaneous, £18,750.

Mr. HEASLIP—The sum of £6,000 is to be granted to the District Council of Port Germein for repair of Port Germein jetty. Can the Minister say whether the council has taken over the responsibility for this jetty, and if so, would not the ratepayers in that district be liable for its repair?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—When I was ill the Treasurer received a deputation from the Port Germein council, as a result of which the council undertook the whole responsibility for the jetty. The sum of £6,000 was to be paid to the council, which thereafter would control the jetty. A proclamation has been prepared taking the jetty out of the care and control of the Harbors

Board and vesting it in the District Council of Port Germein.

Mr. CORCORAN—Can the Minister tell me the nature and extent of the repairs involved in the line "Repairs to seawall at Robe, £450"?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I think the item is self-explanatory, but I will obtain further details and let the honourable member know exactly what is contemplated.

Line passed.

#### MINISTER OF RAILWAYS.

Railways Department, £15,799,254.

Mr. TAPPING—Some time ago the Railways Department decided to alter its services between Adelaide and the Outer Harbour and Semaphore, and that most trains would go to Outer Harbour rather than to Semaphore *via* Glanville. The diesel train that goes beyond Glanville to the Outer Harbour is very poorly laden, and I believe it is a pity to send a diesel train all the way to Outer Harbour so frequently when there is not very much traffic. The traffic is better between Glanville and Semaphore than it is between Glanville and the Outer Harbour, and the continued service to the Outer Harbour must result in a loss to the railways and the State generally. I think it is fitting that the Minister should bring this aspect to the notice of the Commissioner. The diesels are giving a good service to patrons generally, and because of the service the patronage has increased, but although it is wise to send diesel trains to Outer Harbour in peak periods I think it is most unwise to use them on that line between 8 p.m. and midnight when the traffic to the Outer Harbour is very poor.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I will address the honourable member's remarks to my colleague, the Minister of Railways.

Line passed.

Transport Control Board, £17,730.

Mr. TAPPING—I feel certain that like myself other members have been approached with regard to permits for sporting bodies going into the country areas. I know that the Transport Control Board does its best and that it is our duty to protect the railways against road traffic, but I feel that because of the special circumstances some exception should be made with sporting bodies. This year I was approached by a football club at Woodville seeking a transport permit to go from Woodville to Whyalla and return. In that case the permit was granted because the club in its application made it quite clear that it was not



going to Whyalla direct but was calling at other places *en route*. The board eventually granted the permit because it was classed as a tourist trip.

I made another application on behalf of the Semaphore Central Club, and although the application was very similar to the previous one it was rejected because the board said it was not actually a tour. It was pointed out that the club would call at various places *en route* to Whyalla, and on the return trip was to make an inspection of the Port Augusta power house. That was a *bona fide* application, but it was refused. I appealed to the board and pointed out that it was almost identical with the other case I mentioned. However, the board eventually rejected the application, and the Semaphore Central Club cannot now go to Whyalla.

I received another application from the Women's Cricket Association which decided to go to Murray Bridge over the Labor Day week-end. The board refused that application because it said that the trip would interfere with train patronage, but I point out that a match had been arranged for 8 o'clock on the Friday night and the train was not due to arrive until after 10 p.m.. After being refused on the first count the board finally granted the permit. With regard to the trip to Whyalla, if one goes by train it is necessary to take a bus from Port Augusta to Whyalla. When a permit is refused the result in most cases is that the clubs concerned resort to their own private motor cars and cannot be stopped. Whilst we want to protect the railways, I think we should make an exception with regard to youth and sporting organizations.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The honourable member won two out of three of his applications, so it would seem that each case is considered on its merits. Speaking as a matter of policy, I will ask my colleague for his comments on the matter.

Mr. FRED WALSH—I am not in accordance with the view expressed by the member for Semaphore (Mr. Tapping) that the Transport Control Board does its best, and I bring forward a matter on which I hope the Minister will call for a report. An application was made early in the year by an established carrier in the metropolitan area named Fincher to carry direct from Stansbury to Adelaide. He was not proposing to carry any passengers or any goods for places between Stansbury and Adelaide. Approaches were made to him by local fishermen who could not get their supplies to

the Adelaide market because those who were licensed to carry goods from the peninsula would not go beyond Minlaton.

As a result of that request an approach was made to the Transport Control Board which advised him how to fill in an application and told him he would have to get references from two reputable business men including his banker, which he did. I also gave him a personal recommendation. These references, together with a petition signed by the fishermen of Stansbury and a number of other business men in the district, were sent along with his application. After considerable delay he was advised that the application had not been approved. I approached the Minister of Lands, who is the member for that district, with a view to obtaining further consideration of the application. No one else had been given a permit at that date. Following the Minister's intervention the Transport Control Board convened a meeting at Stansbury. That meeting was attended by many local people, including fishermen, a local carrier, and a garage man by the name of Chandler. Mr. Fincher spoke, and others supported his application. Neither the garage man nor the other applicant for a licence made any remarks, and finally the Transport Control Board secretary notified Fincher in a few lines that his application had not been approved and that Mr. Chandler had been given the permit. Mr. Chandler has had little experience as a carrier and it is difficult to imagine how he obtained the necessary references.

I therefore doubt whether the department is being administered as it should be. All applicants should be treated fairly, but Mr. Chandler did not make any application until after Mr. Fincher's application had been rejected. I can vouch for the integrity and efficiency of Mr. Fincher, for I am often in touch with him, and I regret that his application was rejected and the permit given to a man without carrying experience. I hope that the Minister will call for a report on this matter from the Transport Control Board.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I do not know the circumstances, but I will take up the matter with my colleague.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF ROADS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Office of Minister, £5,197—passed.

Highways and Local Government Department, £352,498.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Parliament has little opportunity to ascertain whether this department is being administered wisely. The department spends over £7,000,000 annually, but its report for 1956 stated:—

Examinations of existing bridges have indicated that many are substandard and some actually unsafe to carry anything excepting light traffic. A comprehensive bridge construction programme will be necessary in the near future.

I have just perused a report relating to the Marion and Brighton stormwater drainage scheme. The Highways Department's last report indicated that it is desirable to have the Sturt Creek straightened, but it did not mention that some bridges would have to be constructed. Mr. Fred Walsh and Mr. Lawn have often referred in this House to the bad condition of the Hilton Bridge. The department's report admitted that this bridge was unsafe. I have previously referred to its condition and in doing so I requested an improvement to the Edwardstown bus service. I was told that the bridge would be reconstructed and made safe to take heavy traffic, including buses, when the standardization of railway gauges had been carried out. It seems that this will not be achieved for many years, so I am wondering when we shall get a safe bridge at Hilton.

Many buses pass over Hilton bridge, but nothing is done to put it in good repair. I suppose we shall get the Highways Department report for this year in the dying hours of the session, when we get many other reports. Even the Auditor-General's report for this year did not give us much information about the Highways Department. Why isn't Parliament given an opportunity of knowing what the department proposes? We are entitled to know the department's activities and should not have to wait 12 months for a report before we know what is done. We should not have to search for information: it should be readily available. The department apparently has a plan for bridge construction. However, that is all we know.

Will the bridge on the Marion Road over the Sturt Creek be reconstructed? At present if a cyclist is on the bridge a motor car cannot pass. Another bridge crosses the Sturt Creek on Oaklands Road near the Metro Drive-in Theatre, but it is so narrow that it is unsafe for two vehicles to pass on it. At one time we were able to get ready information, but at the present time the Minister of Roads and Railways is in another place where there

are 20 members elected under a limited franchise. This Chamber has 39 members elected on a common franchise and we should be able to get the information we require. We were asked to agree to the expenditure of over £7,000,000 and we should know what programme is envisaged in the expenditure of that amount. While the Government controls the destinies of the State it should provide information to reassure passengers on the bus services to which I have referred that the bridges they cross are safe.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—The honourable member referred particularly to the Hilton Bridge and I have the following report dated September 24 from my colleague:—

Departmental forces have commenced the reconstruction of No. 2 span in accordance with a programme of replacement which has been implemented during the last two years. After repairs have been completed to this section, the northern third will be repaired leaving the other two-thirds open for traffic. Finally, the centre third will be treated similarly. The edge of the roadway has a kerb line which is now indicated by steel stakes and red lights. . . . The structure is considered safe to carry the accepted highway standard loading.

I will address the honourable member's other remarks to my colleague and if necessary bring down a further explanation of what work is intended. During the discussion of the Loan Estimates we dealt substantially with the £7,000,000. The line now under discussion provides the ways and means of carrying out that programme and we have no power at this stage to counteract any work that is proposed. I have listened with attention to the honourable member's remarks, and I will confer with my colleague thereon.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I ask the Minister to consider the importance of relieving some of the congestion that now exists, particularly on South Road. Will we have to wait for 12 months, or eight years, according to the Marion and Brighton Stormwaters Drainage Committee, for the Sturt Creek to be straightened and for a bridge to be constructed at Marion to enable a free flow of traffic? Will the Minister indicate whether in its last year's report the department had in mind any particular bridges it considered unfit for anything but light traffic? I have only dealt with matters in my electorate, or bordering on it, or things that affect people in my electorate. I do not know if all other bridges in the State are safe, but I have mentioned enough to use over and over again the amount provided in the

Estimates. The member for West Torrens (Mr. Fred Walsh) recently asked if any improvements had been made on the bridge over the Torrens at Findon to enable children attending the school nearby to cross it without any difficulty.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £36,170.

Mr. HUTCHENS—This year £100 is provided for printing of books and forms, dog discs, etc., an increase of £57 over last year's expenditure. Although this may be unpopular with many people, I think that what the councils are able to recoup from registration is not sufficient to pay for the policing they carry out and to provide a dog catcher to keep down the dog nuisance. The last thing I want to happen is for people engaged in primary production, who have to keep useful dogs, to be penalized, but many dogs are kept for no good purpose in the metropolitan area, so serious consideration might be given to increasing registration charges to make it possible for councils to employ dog catchers.

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—I will take up this matter with my colleague.

Mr. HARDING—An amount of £1,000 is provided for preliminary expenses in connection with the establishment of the Coonalpyn Downs District Council. Will the Minister explain briefly the reason for this line?

The Hon. Sir MALCOLM McINTOSH—A very big area east of Coomandook was outside local government authority, and was administered by the Public Works Department. As a result of a Commission, it was decided to bring it within the realms of a local government authority. Obviously this area has to start *de novo*. It has no rates, but has to have a clerk to enable it to function, and this amount is to enable it to make a start. Whether this amount will be sufficient is doubtful, because it will be necessary to pay the clerk about £1,200 a year, and it will take at least 12 months before any rates can be collected. This amount is to help tide the area over in the meantime. This is not by any means a new idea, but has been adopted in connection with local government authorities in the past. It is necessary for the people there to start with a new council. Without having any assistance, they have to pay the clerk and pay interest on the property acquired to their bankers. If this provision is not sufficient, they will have to go to a favourable Treasurer and see how they get on. I am sure the amount will not be suffi-

cient for the area to carry on until rates are collected, and another appeal might be necessary.

I am sure that this provision will be generally approved. One of the reasons why it came under local government was that many complaints were made that the people in that area did not pay registration fees and, while highways went through the district, they were absolved from payments. They have taken the obligation on themselves by petition, and I think they can be commended on a very admirable example of self help. Generally speaking, I think they will probably adopt annual values rating. For a time it was thought that they would adopt unimproved land values, but that would have meant a separate Bill. The Minister of Local Government has been advised that an assessment will have to be made, and this will be a big thing because hundreds of square miles of property are involved. This amount is only to tide the area over until such time as rates are levied.

Line passed.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL No. 2.

The Estimates having been adopted by the House, an Appropriation Bill for £34,785,000 was founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Honourable Sir Thomas Playford and read a first time.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I move—

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It is for the appropriation of £53,785,000, details of which are set out in the Estimates which have just been dealt with by the House. Clause 2 provides for the further issue of £34,785,000, being the difference between the total of the three Supply Bills (£19,000,000) and the total of the appropriation required in this Bill. Clause 3 sets out the amount to be appropriated and the details of the appropriations to the various departments and functions. This Clause also provides that increases of salaries or wages which become payable pursuant to any return made by proper constituted authority can be paid and that the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount necessary to pay the increases.

Clause 4 authorizes the Treasurer to pay moneys from time to time authorized by warrants issued by the Governor and provides that the receipts obtained from the payees shall be the discharge to the Treasurer for the moneys

paid. Clause 5 authorizes the use of Loan funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to make the payment authorized by this Bill. Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to the first day of July, 1957, or at a rate in excess of the rate in force under any return made by the Public Service Board or any regulation of the South Australian Railways Commissioner.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)—I support the second reading and believe that adequate attention has been given to the items in the Estimates. As the Notice Paper contains but few items, can the Treasurer say whether it will be necessary for the House to sit tomorrow evening?

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clause 1 passed.

Clause 2—"Further issue."

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—As this clause deals with the appropriation of money, it would be appropriate if at this stage I answered the question by Mr. Walsh on the sittings of the House. Although at present there is not much legislation on the Notice Paper, there is still much to come before Parliament. Much of it has been prepared and some will no doubt be introduced tomorrow and Thursday. Some may take some time to deal with, therefore the Government would be pleased if members would be prepared tomorrow evening to discuss the Metropolitan Taxi-Cab Act Amendment Bill and the Scaffolding Inspection Act Amendment Bill. A new batch of Bills will be available for second reading speeches on Thursday.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (3 to 7) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 8.54 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 2, at 2 p.m.