

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, October 21, 1958.

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

APPROPRIATION ACT (No. 2).

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the Act.

QUESTIONS.

WOOL FREIGHT RATES.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—In Saturday's *Advertiser*, under the heading "Wool Freight Rates Lower in S.E." the following report, purporting to have come from Mount Gambier on October 17, appears:—

A 20 per cent reduction in freight charges on wool from the South-East to Port Adelaide was announced by the S.A. Railways Department today. A freight agent for the S.A.R. at Mount Gambier (Mr. J. H. Brown) said that the freight price drop was a concession as a result of falling wool prices. The 20 per cent reduction would mean a saving of 4s. 5d. a bale from Mount Gambier. The new rate was 17s. 8d. a bale.

Will the Minister of Works ascertain from the Minister of Railways whether the same concession can be granted to wool growers in other parts of the State who have forwarded their wool to Adelaide by rail during the current season and who, of course, have to withstand the same impact from the reduction of prices as South-Eastern wool growers?

The Hon. C. G. PEARSON—Unfortunately I missed the press item referred to, so I have not had any opportunity to think about it. In any case, this is a matter of policy. I will address the question to my colleague and, if necessary, further discussions thereon can ensue in Cabinet.

PARKS AND GARDENS BEAUTIFICATION.

Mr. CUMBE—Recent press announcements indicate that the Adelaide City Council is preparing and considering plans to beautify the parklands and parts of the River Torrens in its area. This has been widely acclaimed generally as a forward move which will provide additional facilities for the public in those areas. Although I realize that the council is responsible for the parts of the river and the parklands directly under its control, as part of this scheme envisages the formation of lakes in the river will the Government co-operate with the council so that these desirable objectives can be achieved?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am not quite sure what meaning the honourable member puts on the word "co-operate." If I had more precise knowledge of his meaning I would be able to answer the question more directly. However, in general principle, the Government's policy for a number of years has been to assist local organizations on approved projects that are valuable for tourist activities, although if they are merely designed for the benefit of a particular area we expect the council concerned to pay. If the activities are of value to the State as a whole the Government gives financial assistance, not merely co-operation. When a specific case is placed before the Government, or when it has a definite request and can consider its implications and take into account the financial ability of the organization concerned to pay, it will be fully considered.

MAGILL REFORMATORY BREAK OUT.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Last week I asked questions relating to a break out by inmates of the Magill Reformatory, including one relating to the provision of additional manpower at that institution. From press announcements at the week-end it seems that there is a conflict of opinion on the subject. I have been reliably informed that the warder who was the victim of an attack by the escapee is still in the Adelaide Hospital in a serious condition. I believe a more positive approach to this problem should be made by the Government or the department responsible for the institution. I understand that the Public Service is also involved and has made representations that further labour be engaged there. The facts I have indicate that the attendant was responsible for the care of 70 inmates in one dormitory, and that the customary practice is to lock the door and remain with them all the evening.

Mr. Hutchens—Don't they have more than one attendant in the dormitory?

The SPEAKER—I do not think honourable members can debate the question.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—It seems that at present there is a shortage of labour, and because some attendants are away on annual leave only one attendant was placed in charge of 70 boys, and the superintendent has been assisting in this work. Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked last Thursday, can he say anything about the adequacy of the staff, and has the Government considered asking, say, the Sheriff to report on the care and attention of inmates over the age of 16?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I told the honourable member last Thursday that I would get a report on whether the staff was up to strength and adequate, and I will inform him as soon as it is available. I assure him it will cover all the contingencies he has mentioned because the staff would not be adequate if it were not sufficient to cope with such things as annual leave.

MEAT EXTRACTS INDUSTRY.

Mr. HARDING—An article in yesterday's *News* stated that Oxo Limited, which is the world's largest manufacturing company of meat extracts might establish an Australian industry if marketing problems could be overcome. I understand that a director of the company recently interviewed the Premier and the Chief Secretary, and I ask the Premier whether he has anything to report?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have not seen the report, which did not emanate from me, but Mr. Sycamore contacted the Agent-General in London prior to coming to Australia and had a letter of introduction to the Government from him. Mr. Sycamore is in Australia investigating first the market possibilities of his company's products. If the market is adequate he will consider establishing an industry here, but I assure the honourable member that there is no proposal at present for establishing one in Australia. Any decision about manufacture in Australia will depend on whether the market possibilities are sufficient to warrant the large investment that will be necessary.

CARGO TONNAGES.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Today's *Advertiser* contains an article stating that less cargo was handled in Port Adelaide during the current year than in the previous 12 months. It says that the decrease was 142,000 tons, and that the railways handled about 25,000 tons less than in the previous year. Can the Premier say whether this indicates an economic recession for South Australia, or is there some other reason for the decline in tonnages?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not think it indicates an economic recession, but that there was rather a bad drought last year in many of our primary producing areas, and as a result production, particularly of cereals, and to some extent of wool, was much lower than in the previous year, and that had repercussions upon tonnages handled. On the other hand, I think that the present bountiful

season will result in the figures for Port Adelaide improving considerably. We must remember that our economy is still geared closely to production from the land, and if that is low it affects every section of the community. Taken by and large, we got over last year's drought well. The economic conditions of this State remain remarkably buoyant, much more so, in some respects, than in some other States, and despite the adverse season Savings Bank deposits and other activities did not show a decrease, but continued to show a healthy increase. I cannot tell the honourable member that there is a depression, or one in sight; in fact, I think the State will remain fairly prosperous, and he will have to base his election campaign on the fact that we are having a prosperous year.

BUTTERFAT PAYMENTS.

Mr. SHANNON—The dairying industry is concerned about the proposed guarantee by the Commonwealth Government for the payment to producers for butterfat on the basis of 40d. a pound. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the producers are assured of this money, and when they can expect to receive payment of the additional sums required to meet the amount over and above the existing rate being paid for commercial butterfat?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The Government has taken a considerable interest in this matter, and I have received the following report:—

In his press statement dated October 1, 1958, the Minister for Primary Industry, Hon. W. McMahon, said:—

"The Government will underwrite a return on total production of butter and cheese for the 1958-59 season which will enable the average butter factory to pay producers 40d. per pound commercial butter basis when the equalization pool for the year is finalized. The current average interim payment for the 1958-59 season is only 37d. per pound. This decision therefore will assure producers of a final return of at least 3d. per pound over the present interim return of 37d. per pound. The guarantee has a potential liability for the Commonwealth and is, of course, additional to the Commonwealth Government subsidy to the dairying industry of £13½ million for 1958-59. The assurance means that the dairy farmer will get a minimum return on his total production, whether sold for domestic consumption or for export."

In discussions at the last meeting of the Agricultural Council, Mr. McMahon indicated that his Government would probably not be called upon to make available any finance until near the end of the present financial year. They have undertaken to guarantee a minimum return of 3s. 4d. (40d.) per pound. Interim or progress payments, at present 3s. 1d. (37d.)

per pound, are determined by the Equalization Committee. Producers are, however, assured of a total payment in due course of at least 3s. 4d. (40d.) per pound, and although they may have to wait for the final payment, they can use the guarantee as security for advances, if required, from bankers.

COACHING SCHOOLS.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Has the Minister of Education seen the recent full-page press advertisement seeking students for a New South Wales coaching school, which is apparently now commencing operations in this State? It read as follows:—

Parents, this is urgent! This may be your very last chance to help your child succeed in the final examination. Your child will sit for his final examination in just a few short weeks. But will he be prepared? Failure will mean a whole year wasted. Failure will mean another year of expenses on your part. Failure will mean another year of frustration.

It went on to say that all subjects for people of all ages, from five to 55 years, were coached. Apparently once a person is over 55 he is given up as a bad job. Imagine children in the infant school being coached by a tutor! I think most of us would agree that the best place for them to be coached is at their mother's knee. I was perturbed when I read this advertisement because by inference it reflects on the quality of teaching and teachers in our schools. I am reliably informed that this organization has circularized teachers in the Education Department offering them 15s. an hour to do coaching, for which the organization charges the parents 30s. an hour, and it is those teachers upon whom the organization reflects. The advertisement also engenders an undesirable fear complex regarding examinations and over-stresses the importance of examinations in general. I believe that, except in isolated cases, coaching is undesirable for school children and it may be even psychologically damaging. My concern was increased further when I read a press report of the remarks of Mr. Laurie Kiek, secretary of the South Australian Institute of Teachers:—

Certain coaching organizations were attempting to commercialize education by using the fear technique. The institute was concerned at the activities of these organizations which could harm the children and the work of education. The inference was that unless a child was properly coached its future might be in danger. Instances had been reported of children in Grade I being coached.

Mr. Kiek said that that was ridiculous. Can the Minister make a statement on the matter and, if not, will he get a report?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have read and heard some of the advertisements referred to and I substantially agree with the honourable member's remarks and with the reported statement of the secretary of the South Australian Institute of Teachers, Mr. Kiek. I have also had discussions on the matter with the Director and the Deputy Director of Education and received written reports from both. I have been informed that the institution referred to by the honourable member has forwarded circular letters to a large number of members of the teaching profession, ranging from the principal administrative officers of the department down to the temporary unclassified assistants, offering them employment as coaches for students of all ages and in all subjects anywhere in any suburb. Acceptance of employment from any coaching institution by any teacher in the employment of the Government requires prior approval from the Public Service Commissioner or the Director of Education. This approval is given only if it can be shown that the following conditions are fully met:—

1. That the work will not interfere with the proper and efficient discharge of the employee's ordinary duties.

2. That he or she will not be competing against unemployed persons who are suitable and available for the work.

3. That the work is not incompatible with the maintenance of a proper standard of conduct and respectability.

4. That substantial hardship will result if approval is withheld.

In common with other educational authorities throughout Australia, as well as overseas, the Education Department has not encouraged private coaching institutions for teenage girls and boys because it is considered that, as a general rule, the intensive coaching of students at that age level outside normal school hours is unnecessary, unwise and contrary to the real interests of the students concerned. It appears that, legally, the institution concerned is not infringing the law. The only power vested in me as Minister of Education in the licensing of private teaching institutions refers specifically to private technical schools and the institution in question cannot be properly brought within this provision.

TAILEM BEND-KEITH WATER SCHEME.

Mr. BYWATERS—Will the Minister of Works get the latest information on a proposed water scheme for the area from Tailem Bend to Keith, bearing in mind that there has been a change in relation to the previous scheme to cover the hundreds of Seymour and Burdett?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I can give the honourable member the information today because I saw the docket only last week. The proposal referred to by him has been given very little consideration so far because it is a major scheme. It has been discussed but it has not gone beyond the discussion stage because this scheme will go south-east from Tailem Bend in the general direction of Keith, and will possibly reticulate the area south of the railway line which has very little natural water supply. The cost of the scheme would be very considerable. Following on representations from the area north of Tailem Bend, I have replied to the honourable member to the effect that because the major proposal involved the establishment of a pumping station at Tailem Bend as the first part of the scheme it was considered wise to defer any final conclusion in respect of the hundred of Ettrick scheme until there was further investigation into the major scheme, because the two were interlocked in relation to the pumping station in particular. The scheme to serve the area south-east of Tailem Bend has not yet gone beyond the discussion stage and because it is a major scheme it would need to be referred to the Public Works Committee. There is no other information available at the moment.

BAROSSA TERMINAL MAIN.

Mr. LAUCKE—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question in which I sought information on whether the extension of the Barossa trunk main from the Grand Junction Road terminal to the site of the completion of the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline would be of any value to the Tea Tree Gully and Modbury areas in implementing their water supply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have a report from the Engineer for Water Supply, forwarded through the Engineer-in-Chief, which states:—

The 30in. Barossa trunk main which now terminates at Grand Junction Road has been connected to the existing reticulation mains which feed Clearview and Northfield. This connection will relieve the draw on the trunk main from the Athelstone tanks and should make possible a supply of water to the subdivisions of Windsor Gardens, Holden Hill, Strathmont and possibly the Valiant Road Estate. The proposed new trunk main in Grand Junction Road from the terminal point of the Barossa trunk main at Briens Road to near the Hope Valley reservoir is to be used for discharging the maximum quantity of water into the Hope Valley reservoir so that stored water in the South Para reservoir can be used to avoid the pumping of an equivalent quantity through the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline. When discharging

at maximum capacity the grade line near the Hope Valley reservoir will be down to approximately R.L. 480, and consequently this main will be of no help to the Modbury and Tea Tree Gully areas, where the level of the country is considerably higher than this.

BURBRIDGE ROAD CARRIAGEWAY.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply to my recent question concerning the Highways Department's plans for the construction of the southern carriage-way of Burbridge Road, Brooklyn Park?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have obtained a report from the Minister of Roads, who has informed me that the land was purchased by the Highways Department and the Burbridge Road reserve widened so that eventually two roadways, separated by a median strip, could be constructed from Marion Road and Tapleys Hill Road to the airport entrance. The northern roadway has been constructed at no cost to the local authority, but as the Highways Department is primarily concerned with "through" and airport traffic the southern roadway will not be constructed until warranted by this traffic. In the meantime the responsibility for any improvement necessary to the service or access roads to the houses should be accepted by the local authority. In addition, the Highways Department has had to spend considerable sums in acquiring land and constructing a new double highway from the Burbridge cross road to the Henley Beach Road.

MOTOR CAR SALE FRAUDS.

Mr. STOTT—I have in my possession information to the effect that some very fraudulent actions are taking place under hire-purchase transactions entered into by people purchasing secondhand motor cars. In one case a person went to buy a motor car from a used car lot and agreed to pay, in round figures, £1,000 for it. He paid £400 in cash, and the dealer made out a hire-purchase agreement for the balance of £600, which the purchaser signed. The dealer then received a cheque for £600 from the hire-purchase company in respect of the balance owing on the car. He was a member of a partnership, but paid the cheque into his private account instead of into the partnership account. Subsequently he made out another hire-purchase agreement for another person in respect of the same car, and received another £600 from the company. This type of fraud is becoming prevalent. Since I heard about this case I have heard of others. In another case

the buyer paid the full price for a vehicle and the dealer subsequently entered into a hire-purchase agreement in respect of the same car. A few months ago a person was prosecuted for a similar fraud, but was given only six months in gaol, and now—this cannot be proved, but I think my information is fairly reliable—I believe this person is again in Adelaide trying to float another mortgage finance company. The position has clearly got out of hand.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member cannot express opinions.

Mr. STOTT—Some tightening up of the law is evidently necessary, because all a person entering into an agreement has to do is present a piece of paper to the hire-purchase company; there is no inspection of the car and no recognition of a title. Will the Premier consider this matter with a view to tightening up the law? Some time ago the Motor Vehicles Department was criticized in this House in relation to the trafficking in transfers of motor vehicles. The trouble is that there is no title to a car. Will the Premier have this matter examined with a view to having a proper title, which would prevent these fraudulent practices and protect the general public? I know one person—

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member has asked his question.

Mr. STOTT—Will the Premier ascertain whether it is possible to amend the law in the way mentioned, and whether some people have lost their cars as well as the deposits they have paid because of these fraudulent practices?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Recently I said in this House that the best assurance people can have is to deal with reputable firms, otherwise they automatically place themselves in a position in which they can be taken in. If the honourable member will give me the documents he has I will refer them to the Commissioner of Police and see that the Police Department investigates the cases. If any strengthening of the law is required, I assure the honourable member that any recommendation of the Commissioner of Police will receive the greatest consideration by Cabinet. The fact that there is a law does not automatically protect the community because unfortunately a few persons prefer to live outside the law. For instance, although many offences are created under the Police Offences Act, some people still break the laws concerning them.

DERAILMENT ON MOONTA LINE.

Mr. HUGHES—I understand that the Minister of Works has obtained a reply from the Minister of Railways to the question I asked last week relating to a derailment on the Adelaide-Moonta line?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have a report from the Minister of Railways as follows:—

The derailment referred to occurred at 94½ miles on the Moonta line, where the track is curved to a radius of 10 chains. The derailment is attributed to a misalignment of the track. The type of truck derailed was class "DWF," of which there are 544 in service. Some years ago derailments of this class of truck did occur, but following the alteration to the springing in the truck the trouble was eliminated. In the present instance, the truck concerned in the derailment was in good condition. Action has been taken to rectify the track defect.

ABORIGINES' WELFARE OFFICER.

Mr. RICHES—Can the Minister of Works now make a statement about the appointment of a welfare officer to the Aborigines Department at Port Augusta?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I intimated orally to the honourable member late last week that I had ascertained that applications for the position of welfare officer had been called and a number received. I have a report from the Aborigines Protection Board to the effect that 30 people applied, that the applications were being considered by the Public Service Commissioner and that the schedule had gone to the Chief Protector of Aborigines for consideration. I expect a selection for appointment to be made within a day or two.

THEBARTON SOOT NUISANCE.

Mr. LAWN—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on September 23 concerning smoke, soot and dirt nuisance from the South Australian Co-operative Bottle Company?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The honourable member initially addressed his question to the Minister of Education, requesting its examination by the Minister of Industry. I understand that up to the present the Minister has not been able to furnish a report.

WOOL CARTAGE TO ADELAIDE.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I understand the Minister of Works has some information relating to my recent question about a complaint that certain carriers were carting wool to Adelaide without permits from the Transport Control Board?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—My colleague, the Minister of Roads, has informed me that the Transport Control Board considers that wool is a commodity which should be handled by rail or shipping wherever practicable. In pursuance of this policy it does not grant road permits for the cartage of wool where train or steamer is available. Certain unauthorized carriers have carted wool to the metropolitan area and, where a breach of the Road and Railway Transport Act, 1930-1937, has been disclosed, the report has been forwarded to the Crown Solicitor for appropriate action. A number of reports on wool cartage are now in the hands of the Crown Solicitor, and recent cases before the courts resulted in substantial penalties. The defendant in the last case heard at Port Augusta was fined £150, with £3 13s. costs.

CHELTHENHAM BUS ROUTE.

Mr. COUMBE—The Municipal Tramways Trust has announced that in the latter part of November the Cheltenham tram service will be converted to buses. With the exception of the Glenelg tram service this will be the last service so converted. Residents of North Adelaide are concerned to know the actual route to be taken by the buses through North Adelaide. Will the Minister of Works inquire from the trust the proposed route and publicly announce it?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will ask the general manager of the trust for a report.

FOOTBRIDGE ON STURT ROAD.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on October 9 concerning the provision of a footbridge across the Sturt Creek on Sturt Road?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Roads advises as follows:—

Sturt Road is a district road and any construction thereon is the responsibility of the local authority. Even if the department assisted financially to carry out any work on this road, it is considered that the responsibility for the construction of a footbridge should not be that of the department. On heavily trafficked roads, where conditions at the time of construction required it, a footway has been provided on a bridge at no cost to the local authority. However, at this stage Sturt Road cannot be placed in a similar category.

STOCK FEEDING.

Mr. HUTCHENS—An article in this morning's *Advertiser* under the heading "Ignorant About Stock Feeding" reports that the Minis-

ter of Agriculture, in a radio broadcast, said that Australian farmers were unaccountably weak in their knowledge of stock feeding and few could plan a diet scale for their animals. He is reported as having said that many of South Australia's worst stock diseases would disappear with proper feeding. I congratulate the Minister on his courage in making such statements. Can he enlarge on the diseases that could be cured by correct feeding?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—From the heading of the article referred to it would appear that I used the word "ignorant," but I did not. I broadcast on what I considered the attributes of a good farmer and I paid some generous tributes to South Australian farmers. I did say, "We are unaccountably weak on the subject of dietetics." Whilst South Australian farmers generally are outstanding in growing crops, I do not think they are up to the same standard in feeding animals.

Mr. Stott—We are well below the standard of the Scandinavian countries.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I think it is generally accepted that Northern Hemisphere countries lead in the scientific feeding of animals. During my broadcast I used the word "we" in a personal sense, because as a farmer I readily admit my own deficiencies and realize that in my approach to the problem of correct feeding I am not as expert as some others. I recognize that we have big problems to overcome in respect of animal feeding. The honourable member asked what diseases could be cured by proper feeding. One is unthriftiness in weaner sheep. In some pastoral areas weaners can be raised without any difficulty. They grow well and are sought after by farmers in the wetter districts, but when the weaners are taken too early to those wetter districts in the Adelaide Hills and in the southern parts of the State they do not develop as much as those remaining in the other area. That is one problem closely associated with feeding. It is recognized that dozens of diseases are associated with mineral deficiencies. Though we have overcome many of those diseases we still have to find answers to many others.

Mr. Quirke—Infertility is one problem.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—We have the answer to dystokia; that is almost a disease of the past now because farmers know how to overcome it. I have a copy of the broadcast speech I made, and I shall be glad to give it to the honourable member.

GLENCOE AND TANTANOOLA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Mr. CORCORAN—Can the Premier say when the Electricity Trust is likely to extend power to Glencoe and Tantanoola for domestic and other purposes?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will get a full report on the extension of electricity to the honourable member's district and to neighbouring districts. The Electricity Trust is anxious to extend supplies as quickly as possible, but first it had to install power stations to make supplies available.

COOBER PEDY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the Coober Pedy water supply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Engineer-in-Chief reports:—

The District Engineer at Crystal Brook has arranged for the Road Superintendent to visit Coober Pedy in connection with the suggestion that water be piped to Coober Pedy from a bore recently sunk on Mount Clarence Station, approximately eight miles from the opal field. However, as the honourable member knows, Coober Pedy is in a remote area, but as soon as the officer can go there he will. The report continues:—

It is probable that the cost of laying eight miles of 3-inch asbestos cement main, the erection of a tank at the opal field, and installation of a pumping plant at the bore, would cost in the vicinity of £30,000, and this expenditure would be difficult to justify in view of the fact that up to the present time the 500,000 gallon underground tank at the opal field has never gone dry. When the investigation has been completed a further report will be provided.

TRANSPORT OF HARVESTING MACHINERY.

Mr. STOTT—Some new harvesting machinery has been imported into South Australia recently. It is about 12ft. 6in. wide and too high to be transported by rail because it would not go through tunnels. The implements are assembled in Adelaide, and the best way of transport would be by towing them by road to their destination. Farmers may transport harvesting machines for distances not exceeding 25 miles as the crow flies, but to enable them to tow these implements the relevant Act would have to be amended. Will the Premier examine this question urgently and, if necessary, bring down amending legislation this session?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—People transporting such machinery would need to get a special permit to do so, and would probably have to get a police escort to ensure the safety of other road users. Under the Road Traffic Act a vehicle may not go on the roads without a permit if it exceeds a certain width. The question the honourable member has raised has already come under my notice and I am having it investigated in regard to licence fees and the safety of the travelling public. The matter is being investigated by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

HENLEY BEACH AND GRANGE RAIL- WAY REVENUE.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Railways a reply to the question I asked on October 7 about revenue derived from the Woodville-Henley Beach railway service and the Woodville-Grange service?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Railways has informed me that the revenue derived from the Woodville-Henley Beach railway service from July 1, 1956, to June 30, 1957, was £21,891, and from the Woodville-Grange service from July 1, 1957, to June 30, 1958, was £19,924. It is estimated that £1,800 of the latter figure was the result of the increase in fares which was effective from September 15, 1957.

POULTRY INSPECTORS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Recently I was approached by one of my constituents who is a fairly large poultry raiser and who complained that some of his birds had been wrongly condemned at auction sales in Adelaide, and that the inspectors at the sales were not properly qualified. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether inspectors at these sales are properly trained and, if they are not, will he endeavour to have the position rectified?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Generally speaking, any stock inspector appointed by the Department of Agriculture is fully trained and, to my knowledge, the inspectors are efficient, but I will get a full report and check the position.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR MELTON.

Mr. HUGHES—Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Railways, a reply to my recent question regarding an electricity supply for railway houses at Melton?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Railways has informed me that a contract

for the installation of electric lighting at Melton, both to the station premises and the nine cottages, received his approval on September 26, 1958, and a letter of acceptance was forwarded to the contractor on October 10. The contract papers have not yet been returned by the contractor, but are expected shortly. The contract time is one month.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I understand that the Tramways Trust has agreed that public transport services in my district and in the electoral district of Glenelg should be improved, but it seems that another body can override the trust. I do not know whether the Transport Control Board or the Railways Commissioner has a finger in the pie, but I ask the Minister of works to ascertain why there has been a delay in providing better services.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson—Does this concern an ancillary service or a private service?

Mr. FRANK WALSH—It is a type of service that can be authorized by the Tramways Trust, which is agreeable to a better service being provided, but another body is not.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The honourable member suggests that some body is intervening in the matter, but he does not name it.

Mr. Frank Walsh—I don't know which body it is.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—A hypothetical body.

Mr. Frank Walsh—No.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I think I appreciate what the honourable member requires and I will make inquiries, but I would like him to give me details of the particular service extension he has in mind.

RAILWAY RETRENCHMENTS.

Mr. RALSTON—I believe that at Mount Gambier four railway employees have been retrenched within the last few days. The significance of the word "retrenched" is not lost either by me or by the general public because it is a word that was used considerably during the depression years. These employees had service records of many years, one of 18 years and two of about 17 years. In the days of the war and the years immediately after labour was difficult to obtain and private industry competed with Government undertakings by offering more than award rates, but these men were not induced to leave the railway service. At all times they remained loyal to the department. No reason was given for their dismissal. According to the notice of retrench-

ment, they had not proved unsatisfactory. It has been reported that there is much unfair competition in the South-East between the railways and the interstate hauliers, mainly from Victoria, who use our highways at no cost to themselves. Their transport drivers work up to 36 hours continuously, except for meal breaks, and I believe some take drugs to keep awake. Will the Premier obtain a report as to the reasons for the retrenchments and whether they were justified?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will get a report.

SURVEY OF POULTRY FARMS.

Mr. BYWATERS—It has been suggested to me that a survey committee should be set up in our Department of Agriculture, similar to the one in Victoria, where a survey is taken of the condition of poultry farms with a view to improving their management. I understand that within our department surveys are made of all branches of agriculture. I remember the survey of farms along the River Murray swamps. I do not know whether a survey is made of poultry farms, but on this matter there is an efficient organization in Victoria. Will the Minister investigate the suggestion?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will discuss the matter with the Chief Poultry Adviser, and I should like to discuss it with the honourable member because I am not sure what he wants. I will make inquiries regarding the Victorian scheme.

ADELAIDE HOSPITAL BUS STOP.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply to the question I asked on October 9 regarding the Royal Adelaide Hospital bus stop?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The General Manager of the Tramways Trust has supplied the following information:—

In reply to the suggestion that the bus stopping place on the north side of North Terrace, adjacent to the outpatients' department of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, be moved to a position further east to enable motor cars to park at the kerbing in front of the outpatients' department, it is advised that this bus stop is now conveniently located for the many passengers using this stopping place. Some little time ago arrangements were made with the City Council to provide a taxi rank to accommodate up to five taxis immediately east of the entrance to the casualty receiving room at the hospital, and persons with private motor cars conveying outpatients to the hospital are able to draw in close to the kerb on the eastern side of Frome Road, or alternatively

on the northern side of North Terrace slightly east of the abovementioned taxi rank.

Mr. Hutchens—Can private cars use the taxi rank?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I do not know whether there is a separate place for them, but I think they would be able to use the rank when it is not occupied.

LOXTON SOUTHERN MAIN.

Mr. STOTT—The southern main at Loxton has again burst, following on the pumping of water the other day. Can the Minister of Lands say what the department is doing to replace the rubber joints with lead joints? It seems that every time there is an irrigation the main breaks, and it will be a serious matter in the summer months if nothing is done about it.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—The matter has not come under my notice, but I will now take it up with the engineers and get a reply.

FREELING HOSPITAL SURGICAL EQUIPMENT.

Mr. FRED WALSH—My attention has been drawn to a report in today's *News* about a migrant who died this morning after taking poison. I will not discuss the merits or demerits of the recent Freeling hospital dispute but Dr. Benjamin Taylor said that the sole reason for the man's death was that surgical equipment was locked in the closed hospital, and it was not possible to obtain a stomach pump and the other equipment necessary to treat the man. He also said that he attempted to obtain the hospital key from a local bank but was unable to do so, and the local constable refused to permit the hospital to be broken into. He drove the man to Gawler hospital but the man was dead on arrival there. Will the Premier obtain a full report on the matter from the Minister of Health with a view to avoiding a repetition of such an occurrence?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have not seen today's *News*, so I do not know the facts. This may be the subject of a coronial inquiry. I will have the matter investigated and let the honourable member have a report.

RED SCALE AT LOXTON.

Mr. STOTT—Has the Minister of Agriculture any information on the outbreak of red scale at Loxton?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Recently a deputation introduced by Mr. Stott waited on me and asked for more effective measures

against the outbreak of red scale in the township of Loxton, further assistance for the horticultural adviser, and acceptance by the Government of the financial responsibility of controlling outbreaks of red scale in the town. I have considered the matter and the Government is concerned at the position. Every effort is being made to co-operate with the red scale committee. I have a long report on the measures to be adopted. I will not read it, but briefly it outlines the identification of the disease, the instructions given to the owners of trees, and the enforcement of those instructions. The operation will be carried out in co-operation with the red scale committee. Steps are being taken to obtain assistance for the agricultural adviser at Loxton. The Government cannot accept the financial responsibility of controlling outbreaks of red scale. If it did it at Loxton it would have to do it elsewhere, and there is no reason to depart from the accepted principle of owners taking the responsibility.

BROKEN HILL ROAD.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Some time ago the Minister of Roads said that the Broken Hill road between Cockburn and Mingary would be sealed. I understand some work has been done, but will the Minister of Works ascertain whether work is proceeding on the road where it passes through those towns, and when it will be completed?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will ask for the information.

FILLED MILK.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister of Agriculture indicate the decision of the Australian Agriculture Council regarding filled milk?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will get a copy of the decision for the honourable member, but I can say that the States are strongly opposed to the manufacture and sale in Australia of filled milk.

BETTING CONTROL BOARD.

Mr. FRED WALSH (on notice)—

1. What are the duties of the Betting Control Board?

2. Are the members of the board required to attend race meetings in the carrying out of such duties?

3. What are the respective fees paid to the chairman and members of the board?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Chairman of the Betting Control Board reports:—

1. The general duties of the board are referable to the variety of subjects upon which it

is empowered by section 37 of the Lottery and Gaming Act to make rules, and are also as declared by section 34 (2) of that Act, which reads:—

34. (2) The board is charged in the performance of its duties and exercise of its powers hereunder with the duty of controlling betting in such a manner as is reasonably consistent with the welfare of the public generally and the interests of persons and bodies liable to be affected thereby.

In pursuance of this duty, the board shall so restrict the number of premises registered under this Part, and shall so regulate and control such premises, as to provide only such facilities for betting as are reasonably necessary in the public interest.

Other express duties contained in the Act are to hear and determine appeals by trotting clubs against decisions of the S.A. Trotting League, Inc. (section 22a); to appoint officers, etc. (section 36); to deal with applications for licences, or registration of premises, or for authorities and the renewal thereof (section 38); to collect and apply betting commission, including the application of portion thereof for the benefit of country racing clubs (sections 40 and 41); to hold public inquiries as to the need for betting premises outside the metropolitan area, the inquiries to be held in the locality in respect of which an application is made (section 42); to collect and apply taxes on winning bets (sections 44a and 44b); to consider and decide whether a licence should be cancelled (section 47); to consent or not to the issue of permits for holding trotting meetings (section 48 (2)); to deal with unclaimed money (section 48a); and to grant authority to publish racing and betting information (section 67).

To enumerate the duties which result from express powers and duties would be impossible, but the following may be mentioned:—To give rulings on betting procedure or practices; to hear and determine disputes between bookmakers and bettors, or appeals of either from decisions of stewards or betting supervisors; to consider complaints against holders of licences and to take appropriate action to overlook bookmakers' transactions with the object of detecting and remedying improper or undesirable practices; and to consider and decide upon applications (over 1,000 a year) in respect of lost, discarded or destroyed betting tickets.

2. No. It is left to the discretion of members having regard to the terms of section 34 (2). In the result the board is represented by a member at the majority of metropolitan race meetings. (The board also has experienced officers in attendance in each enclosure at all the metropolitan race meetings and in consequence is kept fully informed.)

3. Chairman, £500 per annum; other members, £300 per annum (see section 35 (1)).

PORT WAKEFIELD ROAD.

Mr. GOLDNEY (on notice)—To what extent has land been acquired by the High-

ways and Local Government Department for the purpose of widening the Port Wakefield road?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Roads reports that the departmental proposal is to widen the road reserve to two chains between Gepps Cross and Port Wakefield, involving the acquisition of a one-chain strip where the road reserve is not at present that width. Between Gepps Cross and Cavan a one-chain strip has already been purchased or is in the process of negotiation. Between Cavan and Lower Light a one-chain strip has been purchased over 160 chains frontage, involving five owners. Negotiations for the purchase of 240 chains frontage, involving two owners, have been completed and the matter is with the Crown Solicitor for settlement. In addition, negotiations for the purchase of a one-chain strip on a 921 chains frontage, involving 23 owners, are in hand.

MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL.

Mr. RALSTON (on notice)—

1. Has provision been made in the plans of the new Mount Gambier Hospital for accommodation for a resident house surgeon?

2. If not, will this be considered?

3. Will this hospital, on completion, be proclaimed an "Approved institution" within the meaning of section 30a of the Medical Practitioners Act, 1919-1955?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Director-General of Medical Services reports:—

1. Provision was made in the plans of the new Mount Gambier Hospital for accommodation for a resident house surgeon, but when the proposal was considered by the Public Works Standing Committee, its recommendation omitted from the plans the residences of a medical superintendent and resident medical officers.

2. It is anticipated that some difficulty may be experienced in filling the number of positions of resident medical officer required for Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the appointment of a resident medical officer at Mount Gambier Hospital will be held in abeyance for the time being.

3. Mount Gambier Hospital is already an "approved institution," within the meaning of section 30a of the Medical Practitioners Act, 1919-1955, as it is a public hospital under the Hospitals Act, 1934-1952.

CLEARING FOREST RESERVES.

Mr. RICHES (on notice)—

1. Were tenders called for clearing scrub, etc., in the Mount Gambier, Penola, Comaam, Caroline, Myora and Cave Range forest reserves?

2. If so, who were the successful tenderers?

3. Are the successful tenderers South Australians?

4. What was the amount of tender in such instance?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The replies are:—

1. Yes.

2. Mount Gambier: M. C. Goodson, Mount Gambier, 290 acres; Hayes Bros., Penola, 608 acres; Arthur Hall Ltd., Port Pirie, 110 acres. Penola: C. R. Hutchens, Tintinara, 350 acres; Gericke Bros., Naracoorte, 320 acres; Hayes Bros., Penola, 200 acres. Comaum: Gericke Bros., Naracoorte, 250 acres; L. G. Jacobs Ltd., Naracoorte, 180 acres. Caroline: F. McNamara, Mount Gambier, 450 acres. Myora: Hayes Bros., Penola, 500 acres; F. H. Gericke, Port MacDonnell, 35 acres. Cave Range: L. G. Jacobs Ltd., Naracoorte, 150 acres; E. E. & J. E. Henke, Mount Gambier, 100 acres.

3. Yes.

4. All tenders accepted were the lowest or equal lowest. It is not the policy of the Government to disclose details of contract amounts. In accordance with Audit regulations, tenders were examined by the Auditor-General before being considered by Cabinet.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY'S STEELWORKS INDENTURE BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from October 14. Page 1178.)

Clause 3—"Interpretation."

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—Since this matter was last before the House, the Select Committee's report has been made available to members. The report contains the recommendations of the Select Committee, appointed to investigate matters associated with the steel industry at Whyalla. As this is an important matter, I will say a few words about the scope of the inquiry. The committee called before it any Government officer that it thought could give evidence that had any bearing on the proposal and from the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited. It inserted advertisements in the papers to enable any interested people to submit evidence, and as a result the chairman of the Whyalla Town Commission gave evidence. The committee also visited Whyalla to give local people an opportunity to tender evidence and to enable

its members to see the scope of the proposal, the area where the industry is to be established, the proposals for the enlargement of the town, and other such matters. It visited Iron Knob and made inspections in regard to the availability of the iron ore supplies that the company has. Also, it made a superficial inspection of the work that has been carried out by the Mines Department in the racecourse area.

The recommendations of the Select Committee are on members' files, and in general terms I think I am speaking for the committee in saying that it was impressed by the project, which it believes will be very beneficial to the State, as it will not only enable a large amount of additional employment to be provided at Whyalla, but have indirect implications as regards every industry associated with it.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Probably one of the most important aspects the committee had to consider was the amount of ore remaining in the Middleback Range and available to the company and whether the ore found by the Mines Department could be used to the best advantage by the company or by any other company that might be interested in the erection of a steelworks. The evidence the committee had from the Deputy Director of Mines proved extremely valuable in helping it decide whether Parliament was justified in giving widespread and important concessions to the company in the Middleback Range which are essential for the establishment of a steelworks if the company is to secure adequate supplies of iron ore for its future requirements. I compliment the Deputy Director of Mines on his excellent evidence.

Mr. Buckingham has leases in the area in which it is proposed to give the company exclusive rights to iron ore for 20 years if it requires them. The committee was seized with the importance of ensuring that no injustice was done to Mr. Buckingham. I emphasize that we examined this question thoroughly and the report dealt with it at some length because it was felt that nothing should be done to jeopardize his position. We feel sure, as a result of inquiries from the Parliamentary Draftsman and from the evidence submitted by the Deputy Director of Mines, that Mr. Buckingham is not being prejudicially affected by the Indenture.

The provision of a steelworks will probably be one of the most important industrial steps this State has ever taken not only because of the employment it will provide but because of

the number of subsidiary and associated industries which will follow. Steel, being the very basis of modern industry, should provide tremendous scope for the State's development, not only at Whyalla but throughout the State, in directions which at present cannot be foreseen. The committee was also impressed with the fact that it is much more profitable for a local steelworks to use our iron ore than to export it. From the evidence submitted it seems quite clear that all our iron ore resources will be needed for the future development of this and the other States for a long time.

Another matter of great importance referred to by the Deputy Director of Mines is the fact that insufficient ore has been found by the Mines Department in its exploratory work outside B.H.P. leases to induce overseas interests to establish steelworks here. Inquiries have been made over a number of years but were stopped when the overseas interests were convinced that the amount of ore was insufficient. The geographical position of the ore found by the department has a strong bearing on this question. It is in such a position that it will be of far more benefit to the B.H.P. Company than to any other interested concern. The Deputy Director made it clear that amounts ranging from 50,000,000 to 100,000,000 tons of higher grade ore would be necessary to interest any overseas firm, but that amount has not been discovered. The largest single body of ore discovered was in the racecourse area and comprised about 30,000,000 tons, of which only 20,000,000 represents an economic proposition by way of quarrying. Other quantities would represent a mining proposition. Some of the bores were sunk to a depth of about 1,000ft. The committee was convinced that because of the geographical position of the ore the B.H.P. Company could use them more advantageously than any other interested concern, particularly as some of the ore discoveries are spread in various pockets throughout the Middleback Range.

Another aspect of considerable interest is that the company has not yet reached the stage when it could successfully treat low-grade ores as an economic proposition. There are enormous quantities of low-grade ore available and there is no doubt in the minds of the committee that success will be achieved in their use in time, and we were interested to ascertain that it was the company's intention to utilize such ores in conjunction with high-grade ores in order to conserve the somewhat limited quantities of high-grade ore remaining in the Middleback Range. By conserving their

use there is no doubt that the company's position as a steel maker with steelworks in Whyalla will be assured for 50 to 100 years. I would like now to briefly deal with one or two other matters—

The CHAIRMAN—Would the honourable member confine his general remarks to the schedule? We are now dealing with clause 3 and I thought the honourable member was going to take up what the Premier started. The Premier made way to enable the honourable member to speak on clause 3, but he is making general comments now.

Mr. LOVEDAY—In view of your remarks, Mr. Chairman, I will add to my remarks at a later stage.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (4 to 12) passed.

Indenture and title passed.

On the motion for the third reading:

Mr. LOVEDAY (Whyalla)—This Bill, with its Indenture, is one of the most important matters this Parliament has ever had to consider. I confess that when I was appointed to the Select Committee I had misgivings concerning the concessions it was proposed to grant to the B.H.P. Company. They were extremely valuable concessions to any concern interested in iron ore or in a steel industry. One of the most important matters the committee had to consider was whether the State was justified in giving the company exclusive prospecting rights for a period of 10 years, with an additional 10 years if required, in the Middleback Range in an area 42 miles long by about 6 miles wide. However, the evidence of the Deputy Director of Mines (Mr. Parkin) indicated that the B.H.P. had established reserves of 170,000,000 to 200,000,000 tons of high grade ore, together with large quantities of low grade ore, and it is impossible to assess accurately the amount of low grade ore lying in the Middleback Range.

A well-known South Australian geologist, Dr. Miles, some years ago estimated that there were thousands of millions of tons of low grade ore in the range, and in addition to the reserves which are in the B.H.P. leases, the Mines Department has established with reasonable certainty the existence of a further 30,000,000 tons of high grade ore. This lies in what is known as the racecourse area, which was extensively drilled by the Mines Department. However, the Deputy Director of Mines assured us in his evidence that probably not more than 20,000,000 tons of this ore could be economically worked because of its great depth. Some drills were

put down at least 1,000ft. In addition we were informed that about 90,000,000 tons of overburden would have to be removed before this body could be worked.

Besides that, we were informed that several other pockets of ore had been found by the Mines Department, but none would contain more than 5,000,000 tons of high grade ore. In view of their geographical situation and close proximity to the B.H.P. leases, it was obvious that they would be of more use to the B.H.P. than to any other interest. The Mines Department considered, too, that the cost of winning ore from the southern end of the Middleback Range, where the B.H.P. has some leases which have not yet been fully developed, would cost probably four or five times more than the cost of winning ore from Iron Monarch, where the company is at present engaged, and Iron Monarch has a probable life of some 20 to 25 years at the present rate of extraction. One of the peculiarities of the low grade ore in the Middleback Range that is causing extra work in processing and successful development is the fact that the low grade ore there is non-magnetic, as distinct from similar ore in the United States of America, where it does not present the same difficulties. Therefore, the cost of treating low grade ore in South Australia will exceed the cost of treating similar ore in the United States. It will probably be some months before the experiments being carried out by the B.H.P. on the low grade ore are successful and before the company can feel assured that its treatment of this ore can be put on an economic basis and the low grade ore used in conjunction with the high grade ore so as to conserve the relatively small supplies of high grade ore in the Middleback Range.

For several years the Mines Department has made intensive efforts to interest other companies in our iron ore deposits, but none has expressed more than a passing interest, mainly because no ore body large enough has been discovered by the department. Inquiries have shown that quantities of 50,000,000 to 100,000,000 tons of high grade ore would have to be found to interest any overseas firm, but the department expressed the opinion that with the high and low grade ore available, and by conserving the high grade as much as possible, the B.H.P. should be in a happy position for 50 to 100 years, even allowing for an increase in production because of the expansion of industry.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford—I think the evidence went further than that. I think it showed that if the company were successful in its experiments with low grade ore the life of the deposits would be practically unlimited.

Mr. LOVEDAY—I agree with that. I do not think it is possible to say what the life of the Middleback Range will be if we take into consideration the tremendous quantities of low grade ores available. Commonwealth regulations prevent the export of iron ore, and the B.H.P. assured the Select Committee it was not interested in exporting iron ore, but was very concerned that iron ore in Australia should be conserved for Australia's use. The company regards the present supplies, and foreseeable supplies, as not being excessive for Australia's future requirements. It was pointed out to the Select Committee that there was a tremendous advantage in establishing a steelworks, for that would ensure far greater employment for our people than would the export of iron ore. In addition, the value of the steel product is far greater than the value of the ore, and there is a far greater profit margin in producing steel, so it is to Australia's advantage to convert its ore into steel instead of exporting it.

Clause 6 of the Indenture gave me some concern, for it raised the question of whether the B.H.P. would be given any preferential rights. It states that if any iron ore is found by the Mines Department in a reserved area the company shall be informed of the find, but I am sure the committee was satisfied from the evidence of the Deputy Director of Mines, B.H.P. representatives, and the Parliamentary Draftsman that the State is only bound to inform the company of any discovery of iron ore in a reserved area, and we were also informed that the public, too, could obtain that information. If any body of ore were found the State would be in a position to negotiate with the company, or anyone else, and I believe we could then negotiate, for example for a further extension of steelworks by the B.H.P. This is an important clause because the company is assured of supplies for a substantial period by securing prospecting rights in the Middleback Ranges, and on the other hand the State should be in a position to negotiate further if it finds further ore bodies in any reserved area.

The Mines Department considered that a royalty of 1s. 6d. a ton on high grade ore was reasonable. I felt it was somewhat low, but it was difficult to get satisfactory information

on the market value of high grade ore if any were exported. I was satisfied that a royalty of 6d. a ton on low grade ore—which is equivalent to about 1s. 6d. on the concentrated ore—was 'somewhat above what the State might have expected to receive in view of the high costs involved in the beneficiation of low grade ore. I believe that on the question of royalties the State will come out satisfactorily under this Indenture. The royalties are tied to the base price of pig iron at Port Adelaide, and on the evidence provided it seems that this has been reasonably stable. The fact that the royalty will be tied in this manner should overcome the difficulty of having a fixed rate variable only by concession, as the old rate was, and I believe this new basis will be far more satisfactory to all concerned. It will obviate any objection that the royalty rate should be altered, and also cushion any effects of inflation.

Clause 8 provides for the Mines Department to be recouped for about half its costs of £490,000 for exploratory work in the Middle-back Range since 1947 as rent for mineral leases at the rate of £12,000 a year over 20 years. The company took the view that it should not have to pay for unsuccessful work, but it will pay about the amount expended by the department in its successful work in the racecourse area, and we were informed by the department that it considered this to be a reasonable compromise.

The Select Committee considered whether we should enter into this agreement with the B.H.P. as it gave the company big concessions, but we also had to consider the tremendous advantages that would accrue to the State. I am sure that all members agreed that, taking the matter as a whole, the agreement constituted a good bargain from the State's point of view, for it will ensure tremendous advantages to South Australia for many years. It will stabilize many of our industries, and it is hard to say at this stage what great benefits will flow from the establishment of a steelworks. In view of the geographical position of the high grade ore deposits found by the Mines Department it is logical that the B.H.P. should obtain the concessions given under the agreement, and in return the company will establish the steelworks.

Under existing conditions I do not think that any other company would establish a steelworks, so we should not delay the passing of this legislation in the hope that in the future some other firm may establish a steel-

works. After examining every angle I am satisfied that South Australia is doing a wise thing in entering into this Indenture with the B.H.P.

I want to mention one or two other matters of importance to residents of Whyalla and Iron Knob. I have in mind the royalties being allocated for local government purposes, which matter has been raised here on several occasions. After examining the question from every angle the committee decided that the disposition of the amounts was beyond the scope of its inquiries. Nevertheless, it felt that a special case existed for some assistance to be given in connection with roads at Iron Knob. I have previously mentioned the lack of amenities there and said that the residents, although appreciating what has been done for them by the company, feel that some of the tremendous wealth that has been taken from the Iron Monarch should be used in providing better amenities in their town, in view of what has been done in other places of a comparable nature. I am glad that the committee unanimously agreed that a special case existed for assistance in connection with Iron Knob roads and I feel sure that something will be done in the future. The town has no local government body and something different from local government process will be needed to achieve what is desired.

It is noticeable in the Indenture that the area to be used by the company in the erection of steelworks and the areas of future associated or subsidiary companies will be excluded from Whyalla local government control. It was put to the representatives of the company that it might be prepared to pay a fixed amount in lieu of rates, but they said the company did not wish to be tied to a fixed amount and desired to be free to help when it thought help was necessary, as it had aided Whyalla township in past years. I believe it was said that the answer to the query was the past history of the company. I was reassured on that point because there will be tremendous development and the local government body will be unable from the ordinary rates to finance what is required. Today it is not receiving enough revenue from rates to attend to ordinary work, let alone the tremendous development that will take place. I look forward to substantial assistance from the company along the lines suggested. Great benefits will accrue to the town and labour will be attracted.

Following on information given, I feel satisfied that the housing programme will be met

on a sound basis. The Housing Trust assured the committee that it would be able to cope with the development that will take place, without upsetting its general programme for the State. Undoubtedly power from the Electricity Trust will cost the residents more than the company charges for it, but the trust will fix a special rate to avoid the residents having to change over to new equipment, like hot water appliances, and having to incur additional capital expenditure. The plans to meet the needs of an increased water supply appear to be satisfactory and it is proposed to do the work in six stages, ending up with the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline. I am glad that notice has been taken of the need for consultation between the local government body and the other bodies concerned in the matter of the terminal if a railway line is constructed from Port Augusta to Whyalla. The Whyalla Town Commission is particularly interested in this matter and I would like a sound assurance in the form of an undertaking that it will be consulted when the rail scheme is considered and the position of the terminal is determined.

I do not intend to labour this matter because members have had an opportunity to study the Bill, the Indenture and the report of the Select Committee. I have gone into the matter thoroughly and am satisfied with the arrangements reached. I feel sure that the project will be of tremendous benefit to Whyalla, the State and Australia. The benefits will be of a magnitude too difficult to assess at present. The bargain that has been struck is probably the best that could be struck in the circumstances and I am sure we can support the measure in its entirety.

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa)—The terms of the Indenture are realistic, but they have the stamp of having been carefully considered in the interests of the State. I believe the company has made no inordinate demands, nor has the Government imposed harsh conditions. A mighty important industry is to be established under conditions conducive to the success of the venture and without undue cost to the State. The advent of the steelworks will be the greatest step forward yet taken in the commercial development of the State, and particularly the development of its industrial section. The Bill is the basis of a deal that will bring great benefit to the State. There will be both direct and indirect benefits. A major project like a steelworks naturally facilitates and stimulates local industry. Employment will be created in the construction of the unit

and eventually there will be permanent employment for about 2,000 employees.

The cost of the utilization of the low-grade ores is of vital importance to the State. Success in the beneficiation on a commercial scale of the low-grade ores must bring about an extremely long life for the industry in South Australia. I want to refer briefly to the experimental plant at Whyalla for the beneficiation of the low-grade ore. We are lucky to have the B.H.P. Company prepared to undertake a huge outlay in order to ensure the use of jaspilite. The pilot plant for the treatment of jaspilite intrigued me. The members of the Select Committee saw how the treatment was given to the particularly hard composition of hematite and silica, usually called jaspilite, which has to be treated to produce an acceptable product for feeding to the blast furnace. The plant is in two sections. First there is the section for reducing the hard ore in a reduction furnace and then there is the concentrator. The jaspilite, which is non-magnetic, is converted into a mixture of magnetite and silica. It is done in a furnace 3-ft. in diameter and 27-ft. high. Superimposed on this furnace are feed hoppers 11-ft. high, making an overall height of 38-ft. The reduction of the hematite to magnetite is brought about by passing carbon monoxide, a reducing gas, with hydrogen through the heated jaspilite. The reduced jaspilite is then sent to the concentrator where there is a ball mill, which reduces the material to the fineness of flour. The texture of the reduced mineral is as smooth and as soft as flour. The reduction of this particularly hard material was, I thought, a major achievement. The magnetite is separated from the silica by means of magnetic separators. Then the magnetite is denuded of water to a state ready for conglomeration for feeding into the blast furnace. The plant and the laboratory were of great interest. First there is the ability to handle the hard product, and secondly, its utilization will be a means of bringing an income to the State, where previously there was no return. This treatment will be of great importance to the industry for many years. I am happy to support the acceptance of this Indenture.

Mr. RICHES (Stuart)—It gives me much satisfaction that at last a time limit has been set on the undertaking the Broken Hill Proprietary Company gave in 1937, and that it is

likely to be brought to fruition. I am one of those who have complained on many occasions that the company's solemn undertaking to establish a steelworks at Whyalla in consideration for rights over the iron ore resources given to it in 1937 have not been carried into effect. Whatever may have been written into the 1937 Indenture, anybody who read the evidence submitted, the addresses given in this House or the second reading speech of the then Premier (Sir Richard Butler) would have had no doubt that this State was to receive a steelworks in consideration for the rights given to the company. The bargain made then was that, although the company fully intended to establish a steel rolling mill, it was not in a position to tie itself down to it, but could establish only a blast furnace. However, clause 13 of that Indenture provided that when the company was ready to establish a steelworks and other industries the State would provide an adequate water supply to Whyalla. It was with not a few misgivings that the people saw the time pass with little inclination on the part of the company to carry into effect the promises it then made. It relied entirely on the undertaking provided for in the agreement, and instead of building at Whyalla, as the directors of those days, including a number of South Australians, intended, it embarked on expansion at Port Kembla, largely at the expense of this State.

Much attention was drawn to this matter by the then Director of Mines (Mr. Dickinson), and I think we should have regard to the significant service he rendered South Australia in the lengthy reports he submitted to Parliament, in the case he prepared protesting at the delay in establishing a steelworks, and in his courageous and forthright statements, which went beyond his duties, but were made because of his conscientious beliefs. On these statements the State has based its negotiations for the new agreement. I would like to see his services recognized, and if the new area in which the new ore resources have been found and which are to be handed over to the company is to have a name I should like it to bear and perpetuate his name because of the services he rendered.

One or two other matters in this agreement I cannot pass without comment. I agree with the member for Whyalla (Mr. Loveday) that this is apparently the best agreement that could be entered into, but that does not necessarily make it a good one. By that I mean that the company, by virtue of the rights it secured in 1937, has had the big end of the stick all

along in bargaining powers; we had to accept its terms or we would get no steelworks. We accepted the company's terms, but I am sure some would not have been countenanced under any other circumstances. The chairman of the Whyalla Town Commission stated in evidence before the Select Committee that his commission would need more money to develop Whyalla as the city of the future, and asked that the Government make available a portion of the revenue accruing by way of royalties on the iron ore. I draw attention to the difference between the attitude of the company on this Bill and that taken in relation to the oil refinery. When rating and local government was considered in discussions relating to the oil refinery, the oil company undertook to make a minimum contribution of £10,000 a year for rating; this Bill places the whole of the B.H.P. Company's works outside local government for all times, the company is not required to make any contribution by way of rating, and any contribution it makes will be by means of *ex gratia* payments. In the past it has acknowledged some responsibility and has made contributions, but a price has been attached—it has insisted on having a say with the townspeople in the control of the Town Commission. I imagine that if the Town Commission did not function as it desired it could easily say that the grants, for which there is no security, would be stopped. I do not think it is a good provision that such an area should be permanently outside local government, but I suppose that is one of the prices the State must pay for having a steelworks.

I have every confidence in the Select Committee, which examined the witnesses thoroughly, called every relevant witness, canvassed every possibility, and gave findings in accordance with the evidence, but I think attention should be drawn to the matters I have mentioned so that we all know just what is being given away. The provision that at no time will the company be in a local government area is one thing we are giving away. Another clause I did not like is that exempting it from price control. Any other citizen or industry can be brought under price control, but this company can never be subjected to it. The oil company did not ask for this concession—there is a measure of price control in that indenture. Let us hope that in future the relationships between the B.H.P. Company and the State will be on a better basis and perhaps no control will be necessary,

but why did it go to such lengths to insist that this clause be in the agreement? It has always claimed that its prices are fair and equitable, so if any company should have no reason to fear price control it should be this company.

Another requirement is that it is obligatory on the Mines Department to notify the company if it discovers ore elsewhere in South Australia. The Select Committee asked for some detailed information on this, and was advised that the clause does not necessarily mean that the company will have any prior rights, but only that it must be notified. In view of this, I wonder why the clause must be in the indenture. From these things, together with the fact that the company has demanded rights over ores located by the Mines Department, I think it is evident that it is determined that nobody else shall establish a steelworks in this State. From all the evidence available to us it seems to me that the company will be very careful not only to make sure that it has sufficient iron ore for its operation—and nobody could blame it for that—but also to see that there is no iron ore available for any other interest that might be prepared to establish a steelworks, large or small, in future. So we hand over to the company the whole of South Australia's iron ore resources and give it a complete monopoly for all time. That is the price we pay. If in return we get an industry established on the sound basis on which similar industries have been established in the eastern States and if the industry is conducted efficiently and the profit margin kept within reasonable limits, then perhaps the expansion we hope will develop from the erection of the steelworks will make it a worthwhile bargain for this State.

I notice that this time we are not promised nearly so many ancillary industries as we were promised in 1937. That leads me to believe that this is perhaps a more realistic agreement or that the parties to it have made a more realistic evaluation of the possibilities than was done in 1937. In the hope that the steelworks will be established as the Premier indicated earlier and that other industries will follow, benefiting the areas in and around Whyalla, and looking forward to the day when Whyalla will be the largest city outside Adelaide, with a population of 30,000, we can do nothing but support the Bill.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PRICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. C. S. Hincks for the Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is on the same lines as the previous Bills in that it extends the operation of the principal Act for a further 12 months. The Government is satisfied that the activities of the Prices Department continue to be highly beneficial to the State and that the continuance of its operations is justified. The department's work is carried out not only by means of orders having legal effect, but also by negotiations and arrangements. In some cases an investigation by the department, without other action, produces valuable results. Information in the hands of the Government indicates that the prices of many essential commodities are lower in this State than in other States, and that this result is attributable to the work of the Prices Commissioner and his officers.

One important aspect of the work of the department is in connection with the prices of building materials and rates for building services. South Australia is the only State still exercising control over these costs, and it is significant that an average five roomed brick dwelling can be built here today for about £800 lower than the same type of house in any of the other States. Houses built of materials other than brick are also cheaper here than in other States, although the difference is not so marked as in the case of brick houses. The Government's information also indicates that commercial buildings are substantially cheaper in this State than elsewhere.

The Government has also received a good deal of information about the effect of the work of the Prices Department on the prices of clothing, footwear and foodstuffs. There is no doubt that the activities of the department in connection with these prices have been highly beneficial to the State. Not only consumers but manufacturers and traders also have derived benefit from the arrangements made by the department. Primary producers, too, have benefited through the action of the department in connection with the price of superphosphate and several other important commodities used in primary production. Reductions in the prices of petrol, lighting kerosene, distillate and diesel oil, are also attributable to the work of the department.

I do not propose to give details of all the items which the department has investigated and in which prices have been fixed or arranged but there is no doubt that the department has been responsible for important reductions of prices over a wide field, involving very large sums of money, and that all sections of the community have benefited from them. It is admitted that some reductions in prices are not attributable to price control and some are only partly due to control. But there is no doubt at all that a great many price reductions are due to the department's work and in numerous cases the department has negotiated reductions greater than those which would have taken place had the department not been involved in them. While the public has benefited from the work of the department it cannot be said that traders have suffered any injustice, because during last financial year companies in this State operating under price control experienced an increasing volume of business and satisfactory profits.

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

WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from October 16. Page 1272.)

Remaining clauses (3 to 22) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

HOMES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 14. Page 1181.)

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—This Bill is complementary to the Bill passed last week amending the Advances for Homes Act. In effect it provides the same conditions as apply in that Bill concerning the borrowing of money for the purchase or erection of homes and for the repayment thereof, but the repayment conditions are somewhat different because under this legislation the money is borrowed from some approved lending institution and the term of the loan is limited to 30 years. I am not in a position to judge whether it would be wise to attempt to interfere with that term at this stage, as it might considerably upset the arrangements that have been made with the lending institution, so I do not propose to raise the question at this juncture.

In effect, the legislation means that whereas formerly a person desiring to avail himself of a guarantee under this Act had to provide a

deposit of 10 per cent, he will now have to provide a deposit of 5 per cent if the loan does not exceed £3,000, and a deposit of 15 per cent if the loan exceeds £3,000 but does not exceed £3,500. There seems to be an anomaly here, just as there was an anomaly under the Advances for Homes Act, for the person who has to borrow a little more than £3,000 becomes liable to finding a deposit of 15 per cent instead of only 5 per cent. However, as that matter was adequately canvassed during the debate on the Advances for Homes Act Amendment Bill I shall not say anything more about it now. I support the second reading.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Edwardstown)—I support the second reading, and I endorse the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition. This Bill may leave some scope for approved societies to advance money to people desiring to purchase homes that have already been lived in, but the scope is limited. Probably the body in the best position to make such advances is the Superannuation Fund Board. If it has already made an advance on a home it is sometimes prepared to increase the advance to an intending purchaser of that home. Some friendly societies are not getting as many members as they were some years ago as a result of the many alterations to social service legislation, so their scope for making advances is limited. As the Government has announced it is not prepared to make money available for the purchase of existing homes, such as those coming on the market under deceased estates, people wanting to buy these homes find it difficult to raise the necessary finance. The interest rate charged by finance corporations—up to 8 per cent flat—is prohibitive. Notwithstanding the legislation enabling Government departments and approved societies to advance money for housing, the opportunities of young people to live in closely settled areas or to buy houses under deceased estates are very limited.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONTROL OF RENTS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from October 14. Page 1188.)

Clause 3—"Provision as to holding over."

Mr. DUNSTAN—I move —

To delete clause 3 and insert in lieu thereof the following:—

3. Section 6 of the principal Act is amended by inserting the following subsection 2d after subsection 2c thereof:—

(2d.) Where any lessee in possession of premises under or by virtue of a lease of the description specified in subsections 2 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or 2a of this section, holds over at the expiry of the term of such lease at the rental prescribed by such lease, the provisions of this Act relating to the recovery of premises shall not apply to such holding over.

The purpose of my amendment is simply to give effect to the Government's purpose, but in a completely different manner from that proposed by the clause. When giving his second reading explanation the Premier gave the following reasons for the inclusion of this clause:—

Some doubts have arisen as to what is the position when a lessee under, say, a two years' lease, remains in possession of the premises at the expiration of his lease and the lessor wishes to recover possession of the premises. The question then arises whether or not proceedings by the lessor to recover possession are governed by the provisions of the Act or by the general law relating to these matters. There is little doubt that the intention of Parliament was that the Act should not apply to rights arising out of these leases and it is probable that the correct view of the law is to that effect but, in view of there being some uncertainty in the matter, clause 3 is proposed to clear up any doubt.

In effect, the clause brings the premises back under the Act, and a special provision is made to make the gaining of possession simple. However, this seems to me to be an extraordinary procedure to gain the desired end, which is to make it clear to the court that the premises do not come back under the Act, but that the Landlord and Tenant Act is the one that applies. I do not think there is any benefit, either to landlords or to tenants, under clause 3. Under the Landlord and Tenant Act no specific notice to quit has to be given. At the expiry of a lease, if the landlord allows a holding over by accepting rent, he simply proceeds under the Landlord and Tenant Act. My amendment means that the Landlord and Tenant Act will apply in any holding over, and I believe it gives a clearer expression to the Government's intention than does the clause.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—Clause 3 provides that where a tenant under a lease, such as a two-year lease in writing, holds over after the expiration of his term, the landlord may give notice to quit within a month after the expiration of the term. The honourable member's proposal is to the effect that, in the

case of all such leases, the provisions of the Act are not to apply. Thus, whilst clause 3 as now drafted requires the landlord to give notice to quit within a specified time, this limitation would not apply under the amendment. Accordingly, his proposal favours the landlord. Cabinet debated this question at considerable length, and it had to consider the fact that if tenants are asked to vacate premises forthwith they often find great difficulty in getting other accommodation. So the Bill seeks to give them a breathing space, although only limited.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Giving them some degree of protection.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Giving them a little protection to afford them a breathing space before they are obliged to go out. That is the object of the Bill. The clause was suggested, as I stated in my second reading speech, by (I think it was) Mr. Gillespie, one of our magistrates, who had come into fairly close contact with this problem. The Government normally likes to consider amendments in the House. The Cabinet discussed this fully but I doubt whether, if we eliminated all protection in the cases of these persons carrying over, we would not increase the hardship to tenants, because at the moment very few of them could comply with the ordinary law without some hardship.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 9. Page 1141.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Edwardstown)—This amending Bill increases the maximum amount from £500 to £2,000, which, I believe, is in the general interest. Therefore, I have nothing further to add and support the second reading.

Mr. QUIRKE (Burra)—I wish to indicate my support for the Bill. There was a time not so long ago when I opposed a similar measure introduced into this House, and had good grounds for so doing. This Bill, however, is somewhat different and I can support it. In brief, it means that, where there is a statutory limitation of £500 of shareholding for any member of a co-operative society registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, that £500 can now be increased to £2,000. That is the upper limit. It does not mean that a shareholder will have it; it means

that each co-operative society can do as it has done in the past: it can limit it to any figure it likes. It can still be £500 or it can increase to £2,000, but it cannot exceed £2,000.

Co-operative companies have always been diffident about the shareholding getting outside the active membership and, of course, the greater the amount of money—say, £2,000—the more difficult it is to hold it inside the company, because such things as deaths occur. A shareholder may die or leave the industry. Co-operative companies do not like shareholders who no longer contribute to the society by putting in the goods under process, such as dried fruit. A dried fruit grower who ceases to be a grower and has a large holding in a dried fruit co-operative company can continue to collect his dividend (5 per cent or whatever it may be) declared each year on his shareholding, but except for what he has done in the past he does not contribute anything to that co-operative company to enable it to earn money. The model rules governing most of these organizations provide that, when a shareholder leaves the industry and is no longer supplying to it, it has the right to call up his shares at their face value and pay him out. The same applies to the estates of deceased people. Very often in such estates there is nobody to whom to transfer the shares, and although a co-operative company jealously maintains the position that the committee of management alone has the right to consent to the transfer of shares, it has occurred that, in the case of a deceased estate, applications have been made to the committee of management to transfer shares to members of his family who have no connection with the industry in which the deceased member was engaged. Invariably those transfers are refused and the shares are purchased at their capital face value. Those people then cease to have any connection with that society.

In one instance known to me that was not done, with the result that it took the society concerned many years to chase up all those connected with the deceased estate and find out all the names, going back over a period of 40 years or so. Great difficulty was experienced before all those outside people who were no longer supplying to the organization could be traced. Shares that were advertised for were lost, new shares were issued, then they were cancelled and finally paid out. So, under the present system, co-operative companies do not let their shareholding drift. The point is that the greater the amount (it has risen now from £500 to £2,000) held by an individual, the

greater the strain, in the event of a number of such cases, upon the society to buy back those shares. However, the safeguard is that there is no necessity to do it immediately; they can be bought back over a period of years, which is done when there is a successful application to purchase those shares. Then, of course, the share capital is reduced and the society has to try to issue the share to other people.

Although I raise no objection to the lifting of this figure to £2,000, I can visualize what can happen if there are half a dozen deceased estates each of which has an individual shareholding of £2,000; if all asked for their money at once difficulties could arise. The fact remains again that it is not necessary to permit an individual shareholding of £2,000. For instance, in the two co-operative companies in which I have some interest we would not think of raising the amount from £500 to £2,000. The decision to do that is in the hands of the companies themselves. It is an entirely different matter with the bigger organizations, such as those on the River Murray, because each grower there is handling a heavy tonnage of a multiplicity of items, and because their capital is so much greater the amendment presents no difficulty to those societies. Although I raise no objection to the Bill, it is to be hoped that small co-operative companies will not be induced to permit individual shareholdings of £2,000 merely because they are authorized to do so, for where the total tonnage they are handling is not very great such a company could get into difficulty. We leave it to the good sense of the boards of management, usually under the able direction of their auditors, to see that such things do not happen. Up to now they have not happened to any great extent. No matter what the individual shareholding is, under this Act each member has only one vote.

Mr. Shannon—He cannot use the card system.

Mr. QUIRKE—No. His having only one vote is a safeguard; it means that no small group of people, through their shareholdings, can control the destinies of an organization. I am always rather jealous of this Industrial and Provident Societies Act. The persons responsible for the original drafting of the Act must have been extremely wise for the principal Act has altered very little—only a few minor amendments. The original Act has stood the test of time. It has operated over untold millions of pounds' worth of transactions, and thousands of co-operative

shareholders have passed through these companies or are still in them, yet the Act retains almost its original form.

I am always hesitant about interfering with such a set-up without very good cause, but on this occasion, seeing that the limit has been £500 since the early 1920's, and allowing for the difference in the value of money, there is little danger in allowing the increase to £2,000, particularly when the boards of management have so much say in the organizations that it can be left to them, as the elected representatives of the growers, to see that the position is not jeopardized. Another amendment concerns nominations. A peculiar feature in the Act is that a member can nominate that on his death his shareholding shall go to a certain person. That amount was previously fixed at a limit of £200; under this Bill the limit is lifted to £500 and with that I do not disagree. This provision is one that I feel is not generally known. In my experience I do not remember an application for nomination under this Act, but I feel that if it were known many people would make such an application.

A penalty is provided for holding shares in excess of the limit. That is a consequential amendment, showing all the wisdom of the original Act, and I have no objection to it. In fact, I object to nothing in the Bill at all, and commend it to honourable members as a build-up on an already splendid Act. The Bill merely alters the Act to bring it into conformity with modern values and modern times.

Mr. CUMBE (Torrens)—I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill. I have been urging for two years an amendment to the principal Act. I appreciate the comments of the member for Burra (Mr. Quirke), who has had considerable experience of this type of legislation because of the nature of his calling. This Act does not apply only to growers; in some cases it affects industrial processors who work on the co-operative basis, and it serves a very useful purpose by enabling such types of industry to be carried on. In my view co-operative schemes could be carried much further. Co-operative societies have served a useful purpose in the country and created much stability in producers themselves.

The main provision of this Bill alters the limit that a person can contribute. In 1864, more than 90 years ago, the amount was £200, and in 1923 it was raised to £500. We can see how ridiculous the monetary limit has become.

If we consider only the alteration in money values in the last 30 years we can see the merit in this Bill. It is now proposed to raise this limit to £2,000. My experience and the experience of constituents of mine who are members of these societies is that some societies, as a result of this limit, have been handicapped by lack of capital. Where there are only a small number of members in some processes the overall capital of the company is often insufficient. This amendment to allow individual shareholding up to £2,000 has my entire support.

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

LAND SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 15. Page 1241.)

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—I support this Bill with much enthusiasm. The Land Settlement Committee has performed a useful service in connection with soldier settlement. Its inquiries have been thorough, its reports sound, and soldier settlers will undoubtedly benefit in the future because of its existence. The legislation continues the committee for a further 12 months, but I would make it a permanent committee, like the Public Works Committee. We hear much about the need for increased primary production in order to maintain the balance between primary and secondary production, and to bring that about this committee is one of the necessary pieces of machinery. I see no reason why in the future it should not serve a useful purpose by reporting on land settlement schemes for civilians.

The time must come when there will be no more ex-servicemen applicants and when there will be a need for civilian settlement. There is an inherent desire on the part of people brought up on the land to remain on the land. I will not give my views now about closer settlement schemes, but in their establishment a Land Settlement Committee is essential. Our committee has investigated schemes as the agent of the Commonwealth but the time will come when the Commonwealth itself will be interested in land settlement, which is a fairly costly business in the primary stages and which needs someone with the necessary financial resources to carry it out. Our Land Settlement Committee should be a permanent body with power to make inquiries where land is held in large estates, and it should be able

to advise the Government on the classification of land and how it can be used to the best purpose. If this transpires, the Land Settlement Committee will be of great importance to the State in future.

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray)—I support the Bill which, although short, is important. I re-echo some sentiments expressed by the Leader of the Opposition and agree that the Land Settlement Committee should be made permanent. To a large extent it has been indirectly instrumental in the settlement of some contented people on the land, but the time is approaching when it will have fulfilled the purpose for which it was originally appointed, namely, soldier settlement. However, it should continue in operation because some young men who did not have the opportunity to take part in the last war at present have no chance to go on the land; and it is these people to whom, I think, a service can be rendered by the retention of the committee. Even if the Government does not appoint it permanently, no doubt it will continue it from year to year.

Some people are undertaking intense cultivation on areas adjacent to the Murray. I have mentioned this before and reiterate it because it is something to which we shall have to pay attention soon. A visit to the area adjacent to the Murray will reveal how arid land can be converted to good land by irrigation. I have proved this on a small area which was practically sand drift and grew tobacco bushes, but by the addition of water and fertilizers and by cultivation I grew vegetables equal to, if not better than, those grown by market gardeners on highly productive land. That goes to show that by correct treatment this land can become very productive.

We have read recently that the demand for land for building has become acute and the rates on some land in the metropolitan area have risen so high that market gardeners have been forced to go further afield and into the country. A number who have sold out either to the Housing Trust or others seeking land for building have come to my district and are happy with the change. At the East End Market I have often been asked whether any land is available adjacent to the Murray, but this land is not easy to come by. Often it is held in large tracts which at the moment are desolate, but with proper treatment it could become very productive.

I believe the Land Settlement Committee could explore this position with the idea of

intense cultivation being undertaken on land adjacent to the Murray. This matter has been placed before the Lands Department and has received some consideration, and it will continue to be placed before the department. I believe the time will come when it will be necessary to do something along those lines. Therefore, there is need for this Land Settlement Committee, which has done yeoman service, to continue in operation. It is playing a vital part in our progress.

Mr. JENKINS (Stirling)—As I am a member of the Land Settlement Committee perhaps I should have nothing to say on the Bill, but there is one aspect I should like to mention. It can easily be expected that when the Commonwealth Government ceases its war service land settlement activities the Land Settlement Committee may lapse, but, as some honourable members have said, there is still ample scope for its continuance, although perhaps on different lines from those for which it was originally designed. There are tremendous prospects for development in the South-East as a result of drainage operations. The Land Development Executive is possibly using much equipment belonging to the Commonwealth, and I should like an assurance from the Minister of Lands that when the Commonwealth eventually withdraws from its operations that equipment will be taken over by the Land Development Executive to develop for closer settlement the land being drained.

There is a terrific potential in the South-East. I notice that in his explanation of the Bill the Minister referred to the acquisition of certain lands in the western division south of drains L and K. There is excellent land there and also in the eastern division, which will become available as the drains become operative. Some larger holdings will be sub-divided as the land increases in value. Therefore, I hope that the Minister will consider keeping the equipment belonging to the Commonwealth in the hands of the Land Development Executive for the future development of these lands.

Mr. QUIRKE (Burra)—I hope that this legislation never expires. Last year when I drew the Government's attention to the fact it was likely to lapse if an amending Bill was not passed, the Government took the appropriate action, and we now have another amending Bill to keep it alive for an additional year. I draw members' attention to the fact that the Act provides for the acquisition of under-developed land—if any other land were involved a further amendment would be necessary. The

legislation also incorporates at least one section of the Compulsory Acquisition of Land Act of 1925, but I understand that under this Bill there can be no compulsory acquisition of fully developed land, although it may be acquired with the consent of the owner.

Undeveloped land is one thing, but to what extent must land be under-developed to come within the provisions of this Act? The Land Settlement Committee has to decide, on the recommendations of the Land Board, whether land is under-developed and whether or not to acquire it. Much land in South Australia could come into this category. A few years ago it would have been difficult to classify some of it as under-developed, but because of the application of scientific methods to land it can now definitely be classified as such.

The broom bush and scrub oak country, sandy dunes, and shallow sands overlying clays in the east country of the South-East were just waste lands years ago. The only thing they were good for was to run a fire over them every other year, which succeeded in burning out all that was good for sheep, leaving hard growth that only kangaroos would eat. This land was let on leasehold for a fraction of a shilling an acre, but anyone holding it in that condition now could definitely have it classified as under-developed land in view of what is known about the development of that type of country.

I support this measure; and hope the Act will never be allowed to go out of existence. I am not an advocate of grabbing land from people, but one purpose for which the legislation was passed was to deal with this type

of land, and in that respect it is extremely valuable, apart from its use in giving preference to soldier settlers. Some people do not do the right thing with their land, and while this Act exists they will be forced to do something with it or dispose of their land. I have no pity for anyone inside the 20in. line of rainfall who deliberately keeps land out of production so that its value is increased because of development all around it—and there are such instances. These people will be cleaned up under this Act, as they should be. I support the second reading.

Mr. HARDING (Victoria)—I support this Bill, and wish to comment on it, because the South-East has been mentioned. It is known that there is between 3,500,000 to 4,000,000 acre feet of water in the South-East, draining to a depth of from 15ft. to 200ft. This means there is 1,000,000,000 gallons of water there, which is a tremendous volume, but there is thousands of acres of under-developed land in the area. Dr. Callaghan has been asked to re-assess the carrying capacity, which he has now fixed at the equivalent of 9,000,000 sheep; he also said thousands of acres of under-developed land exists there. I agree that the Land Settlement Committee should be re-appointed; my only criticism is that it would be preferable to have a smaller committee consisting of experts. I strongly support the Bill.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.50 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 22, at 2 p.m.