

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, November 19, 1958.

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

QUESTIONS.

RAIL STANDARDIZATION.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Will the survey for the proposed standardization of the railway from Broken Hill to Port Pirie be conducted by South Australian railway surveyors or by any other State survey department, and can the Premier say when the survey is likely to commence?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The standardization agreement between the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments has been ratified by both Parliaments, and it provided that all the work for standardization in this State would be undertaken by the State authority, which is the constructing authority and responsible for all the work. The Commonwealth Government pays to the constructing authority certain amounts, and as they are spent they are replenished from time to time. The Prime Minister's policy speech stated that if he were successful at the election next Saturday he would make available £50,000 for the work to commence, so I think the work is likely to commence any time after Saturday.

NEW NAME FOR FOY'S BUILDING.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—If the Government has not already decided on an appropriate name for the building occupied by Government departments and the Electricity Trust in Rundle Street, will it consider deciding on a name with some regard to the historical association of that place?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No name has been given to the building. Consideration has already been given to the historical associations of the site, but no apposite name presented itself. The building has always been known as Foy's Building, but as the premises were taken over by another firm that used the term "Foy's" in connection with its trading activities the Government does not consider it would be proper to use that name. If honourable members have a good suggestion for a new name the Government will be prepared to consider it, but perhaps it would not be a good thing to suggest their own names.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Following on a telephone conversation and a letter I have received from one of my constituents at Salisbury Highway, Salisbury, I was amazed to find that apparently it is possible for land to be compulsorily acquired by Government departments under the Town Planning Act without compensation to the owner. I have full details of this case, and if I can supply them to the Minister of Education, will he request his colleague, the Attorney-General, to investigate this case to see whether such a procedure is legal and permissible and under what conditions it can be done? Will he also see whether it is possible for my constituent to get fair and adequate compensation for the land acquired?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The member for Enfield raised a similar question some months ago, and I referred it to my colleague, an investigation was made by him and by the Minister of Roads, and it was the subject of several discussions in Cabinet. I shall be pleased to refer this case to the Attorney-General if the honourable member will supply me with full details.

RAIL CONCESSIONS ON POTATOES.

Mr. HARDING—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked recently about rail concessions for potato growers in the South-East?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think Mr. Corcoran also asked a question on this matter, and I have a report from the Railways Commissioner as follows:—

With reference to the attached letter of November 4 from the secretary of the South-Eastern Potato Growers' Association, I have to report as follows:—

Potatoes from Mount Gambier are carried at the miscellaneous rate, which is 75s. to Adelaide. To assist the growers when the price of potatoes fell below £18 a ton, it was agreed that there should be a reduction in this rate of 7s. 6d. per ton, making the rate 67s. 6d. per ton when the price of potatoes is less than £18. The recent reduction of 20 per cent on the freight rate of wool was made to meet competition from unregulated road hauliers. The result of this has been to reduce the rate on wool from Mount Gambier to Adelaide from 154s. 7d. per ton to 123s. 8d. per ton.

The honourable member will see that the wool rate is still about double the potato rate. The report continues:—

I do not understand the reference to the concessions in the grain rate, as no such concessions have been granted. The rate on the

carriage of potatoes is no more than is sufficient to meet the reasonable costs of the department, and I regret that I cannot agree to making any reduction over and above that which has already been conceived.

NORTHFIELD MENTAL HOSPITAL.

Mr. JENNINGS—Has the Premier received a report from Dr. Birch, Superintendent of Mental Institutions, in reply to a question I asked some time ago about artists giving entertainment and specialized tuition to inmates of the Northfield Mental Hospital?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I regret that the report has not come to hand, but I will write to the honourable member as soon as it does.

OIL EXPLORATION.

Mr. COUMBE—Recently the Premier visited the north-eastern part of this State where investigations into the possibility of finding oil are taking place. In view of the importance of this matter and the recent announcement that many oil drilling experts are arriving in South Australia from the United States of America, can he indicate the extent to which the Mines Department is co-operating with these officials and the oil drilling companies? Can he indicate what progress has been made at the field?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Mines Department, which has modern equipment, has been undertaking all the seismic work for Delhi-Taylor on the basis that the company repays to the department the cost of the work done. We have a team of experts at the field and they have been systematically undertaking all this work. The last report I saw was that the seismic work had been completed in the area adjacent to Innamineka, and I understand that as a result a site for the first bore hole has been selected. The last I heard was that the team was working forward in a north-easterly direction. The area is large and I feel that the seismic team will be in demand there for a considerable time. There was a suggestion that the Government might have to consider appointing additional officers and procuring more equipment to enable the work to be done more rapidly, but as far as I know that has not yet been urgently required. The work is well ahead, but how long it will take I cannot say.

PREMIER'S VISIT TO U.S.A.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Premier give any further information regarding his recent visit to the United States of America and the

effect it will have on South Australia in the future?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I regret that I am unable yet to announce any definite success arising out of the visit. This morning I had a cable from America to say that one of the firms with which negotiations had been proceeding was still examining certain matters in connection with an extension to Australia, but was not yet in a position to make a decision. A number of supplementary matters arising out of the visit are encouraging. Some Australian manufacturing companies, perhaps because they are now confronted with possible competition from America, have expressed interest in extending their activities to South Australia. Probably it will be necessary for me to go to another State next week concerning negotiations of that nature. I think there is a possibility of three industries coming to South Australia ultimately in connection with this matter.

BARMERA VEGETABLE GROWERS.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Irrigation a report to make following on my introduction of a deputation to him from the Barmera Vegetable Growers' Association with the object of obtaining a better tenure of their land and increasing their plantings under the present irrigation scheme?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Following on the honourable member's request I have obtained the following details. The total area in the Cobdogla irrigation area for which additional water rights can be recommended is 606 acres and the number of settlers concerned is 106, made up as follows:—

Cobdogla Division .. 206 acres 25 settlers.

Nookamka Division . 109 acres 26 settlers.

Loveday Division .. 291 acres 55 settlers.

The figures for Loveday include 226 acres at present occupied under annual licence and miscellaneous lease by 51 settlers.

HIGH SCHOOL IN PLYMPTON-CAMDEN AREA.

Mr. FRED WALSH—It has been reported in the press that the Education Department contemplates establishing a high school in the Plympton-Camden area and I am concerned about where it is likely to be built. I know it is difficult to get land suitable for high schools in any part of the metropolis, but the area of land known as Birkalla recreation reserve will soon be lost to the public because high rates make it impossible for those in

control to carry on. I understand the land is to be subdivided. Can the Minister say whether any land has been acquired for a high school and, if not, will consideration be given to acquiring adequate land from the old Birkalla recreation reserve?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I share the honourable member's concern about where 20 acres of land suitable for the proposed new high school can be found. It is not only desirable but absolutely necessary to find it very soon, because we shall be obliged to establish a new high school somewhere in the Plympton or Camden area to be ready for use by the beginning of the school year in 1960. At the beginning of the 1959 school year there will be about 1,350 students at the Brighton High School. We are building a high school at Seacombe Gardens and the Marion High School will be full, so it is imperative to have one in the Plympton area. My own view is that the Birkalla land would be most suitable and tentative negotiations have been entered into with the owners for the purchase of land there, but no great progress has been made. Again I share the view of the honourable member that, short of negotiations by private treaty, it may be desirable or absolutely essential to acquire an area of that land for the necessary public purpose of establishing a high school on it.

UNLEY BOYS HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—Can the Minister of Education say when it is likely that the new Unley Boys High School will be completed and ready for use?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Architect-in-Chief has informed me that he has been advised by the contractor for the new Unley boys high school that the framework of three of the four wings comprising the above school has been completed and the precast concrete cladding which forms the outer wall has been completed on two of them. On the third wing the cladding is 50 per cent complete. One wing has been roofed and the windows are now being installed. The erection of the fourth wing will be commenced on Thursday, November 20, 1958, and the whole of the steel framework will be completed by the end of this year. I have also been advised that the contractor anticipates completing the erection of the school by September, 1959.

Mr. STEPHENS—Some time ago the Public Works Committee investigated a proposal to build a girls technical high school at Port Adelaide, and made a report. The matter was

referred back to the committee, dealt with further, and I think an amount was placed on the Estimates this year for it. Will the Minister of Education state whether plans and specifications have been drawn up for this building, whether a contract has been let, when a start will be made and when the building will be completed?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have been informed by the Architect-in-Chief that plans have been completed and are now in the hands of the specification writers. A tender has been let for the domestic arts centre, and this work should begin very shortly. It is expected that tenders for the main school building will be called at the end of this year, and that a contract will be let early next year. Work should begin soon after the contract has been let. The building of the school should take approximately 18 months from the point at which the building operation commences. I very much appreciate the great interest the honourable member has taken in this matter for some time, and I am sure he will receive great satisfaction from the fact that he has done so much to promote the construction of this school.

BALAKLAVA SCHOOL TOILET BLOCK.

Mr. GOLDNEY—I wish to ask the Minister of Education a question relating to the construction of a new toilet block at the Balaklava high school. The last information I obtained was that the matter was in the hands of the Architect-in-Chief for consideration. Is the Minister in a position to tell me what progress has been made? If not, will he give me a report after the session ends?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I regret that I have no further information to that already in the honourable member's possession, but I shall be only too pleased to comply with his request by writing to him, giving detailed information, within the next week.

FARMLETS FOR VEGETABLE GROWING.

Mr. BYWATERS—Yesterday I asked the Premier about a water supply for people in a new subdivision at Murray Bridge, and as many people have approached me about this matter I was rather surprised to hear that only four people had applied for a water supply. I was told later that they signed an application form with one of the agents, William James, in Adelaide. I rang Mr. James this morning and was told that applications concerning at least 85 per cent of the 320 blocks sold had been forwarded to the

department in four big bundles. Mr. James had not counted them but was sure there were over 200. Will the Premier check the information he gave yesterday?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I shall be pleased to do so. The Government would not desire to give incorrect information. A possible explanation could be that the applications the department referred to were for water for irrigation purposes. I will have the whole matter thoroughly checked and inform the honourable member.

ROAD TRANSPORT OF SHEEP.

Mr. HAMBOUR—One of my constituents recently wrote asking if I could help him obtain a permit to carry stock. He is endeavouring to bring fat lambs into the market and as he lives eight miles from the railhead he would have to hire a vehicle to carry the stock that distance or drive them through grass filled with seed, which he wants to avoid. It entails considerable expense to obtain a vehicle to carry sheep only eight miles. Will the Government take up with the Transport Control Board the question of issuing permits in cases where a vehicle has to be hired to take stock a short distance to the market.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—As the honourable member knows, the Transport Control Board is appointed under Act of Parliament, it has the powers of a Royal Commission and its decisions are not subject to ministerial control. One of its members has been directly appointed in the interests of stockowners, one is a commercial man, and the independent chairman, incidentally, once represented a country district in this House. The board is not a Government body, and it has given permits much more freely than is done in any other State: South Australia has less prohibition on transport than any other State. If the honourable member will give details of the case to which he refers, I will refer the matter to the board and ask it to consider the matter not only on its merits, but as a pattern for future determinations.

BUSH FIRE FIGHTING.

Mr. RALSTON—I draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to a newspaper report on page 15 of today's *Advertiser* under the heading "Forest men and bush fires." This article states that there is great dissatisfaction with the conditions under which the Government expects employees of the Woods and Forests Department to fight forest fires. A major portion of the disabilities

outlined in this article will be determined on an industrial basis, but one or two aspects of the conditions mentioned in the newspaper report have caused my colleague, the member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran) and myself some concern, and my colleague fully associates himself with me in this matter. There appear to be no satisfactory arrangements for the supply of food, etc., to employees while engaged in fire fighting, although the Emergency Fire Services have a very good service in this respect. Claims for compensation where personal loss, including clothing, has occurred appear to be ignored. The case of Mr. J. A. Nolan is one of which I have personal knowledge. He lost personal belongings in the Wandilo fire that occurred on Easter Saturday last, April 5. He has lodged a claim for only a nominal sum, and although seven months have passed, the claim has not been finalized. Mr. Nolan was the hero of that disastrous fire. Some of his clothing was destroyed and he was badly burned when he saved the life of a new Australian named DeJong by dragging him, after he had collapsed, to safety through the flames. Will the Minister investigate the position regarding the supply of food and the reasons for the unreasonable delay in settling compensation claims for personal loss incurred by employees while firefighting?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I saw the statement in this morning's press complaining about the conditions under which forestry men are expected to fight fires, and took up one or two aspects of the question with the Woods and Forests Department. The general tenor of the statement was somewhat unreasonable. The secretary of the A.W.U. complained that men were expected to fight fires until 3.30 a.m. and could then be penalized for not arriving at work by 7.30 the next morning. That is rather a ridiculous suggestion, and I would like to know whether he has any evidence that that has ever happened, because in my opinion the department is particularly considerate of employees and I have already given plenty of evidence of that. I will take up the question of the facilities made available during bush fires with the department and find out what is generally done. I point out that every bush fire is an emergency and, particularly on the first day, if one spent all day organizing catering facilities it would be detrimental to control of the fire.

I have inquired into the position of Mr. Nolan, who played a worthy part in the fire last

April at Wandilo. He is not the only person concerned. A number of others also claimed compensation for property lost. I think all the claims were lodged in June, 1958, but with insufficient information on which to base compensation and they have had to be referred back more than once to get full information. The applications are now with the Minister of Industry and I understand he will approve payment of them shortly. I point out that applying strict legal conditions, the Government would not be required to pay compensation. These payments will be *ex gratia* payments.

Mr. HARDING—Today's *News* contains the following paragraph:—

After a conference today with the P.M.G. officials tenders will be called for radio equipment. Every effort will be made to have the radio network operating for fire fighting this summer.

Fire fighters, like an army, must have the fullest co-operation of all the available forces and equipment in order to obtain the desired result. Can the Minister of Forests assure me that every effort will be made by the Woods and Forests Department to operate its radio on the same frequency as the local emergency fire-fighting service during firefighting operations?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will consider the question and, as soon as possible, let the honourable member know our policy.

Mr. RALSTON—I have asked the Minister of Agriculture many questions relating to the protection of South-Eastern pine forests and I appreciate the courteous and informative replies I get from him. He appreciates, as well as I do the value of South-Eastern forests, which are conservatively estimated to be worth £50,000,000 in standing timber alone. In reply to a question I asked yesterday the Minister said:—

As to aerial spotting, arrangements have been made with the Mount Gambier Aero Club to hire a plane for the purpose as required. This morning I communicated with the Mount Gambier aerodrome and ascertained that there is no club of that name at Mount Gambier, and there is certainly no equipment. There is, however, a unit of the Royal Victorian Aero Club, which has a Tiger Moth plane, the pilot of which is a Mr. Collins. There is no telephone to his house and the aerodrome is six miles away. There is no radio in this plane and the Minister will agree that at all times during a fire radio communication between the plane and the ground is desirable. There are three privately-owned planes at the aerodrome, one owned by a Mr. Humble,

another by a Mr. McFarlane, and the third by a Mr. Berkefeld. They are all equipped with radio, but the wave length of the sets is in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Aviation Department and is not suitable for contacting equipment used by emergency fire services. However, I think the wave length could be altered to make it possible for these aeroplanes to be used in conjunction with emergency fire services. I believe the Minister has been misinformed on the position at Mount Gambier. Will he have this aspect of aerial fire spotting investigated in view of the apparent discrepancies I have outlined?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Usually the honourable member informs me that he will ask a question so that I can get an answer for him, but he did not do it on this occasion. What I told him yesterday was what I understood to be the case. I said I would get a full report for him, but I will go further and say I shall be pleased if he will arrange an interview with the Conservator of Forests and myself, and then we can discuss the honourable member's suggestions as to what should be done about aerial spotting throughout the South-East, and he can give any criticisms of the department's plans.

Mr. STOTT—I think the Minister of Agriculture is aware that many farms have single fire fighting units and that the depots of the Emergency Fire Fighting Services are almost invariably located in townships. A fire may break out 10 miles or so from a depot, but it may be close to a farmer with a single fire fighting unit. The sooner a unit can be taken to the scene of a fire the better the chance of controlling it in its early stages. Will the Minister confer with the Emergency Fire Fighting Services authorities, district councils and local fire fighting authorities and endeavour to get the co-operation of farmers with single fire fighting units for the purpose of controlling bush fires? For instance, the man in charge of a depot could telephone a farmer if a fire broke out close to his property, and he could get his unit to the fire before the emergency fire fighting service unit arrived. I am sure the Minister realizes the seriousness of the bush fire danger.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will consider the question.

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. LAUCKE—Has the Minister of Works any information concerning the proposed water reticulation scheme to Chain of Ponds and Kersbrook?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Some time ago, I think in 1956, a small scheme involving a moderate expenditure was approved to serve Chain of Ponds. The Kersbrook proposal then came to the forefront of consideration and in order to tie the two schemes together, as they necessarily would be, the Chain of Ponds proposal was deferred pending consideration of the whole scheme. A proposal and an estimate of its cost has been prepared and a comparison made on the matter of the rate return which the scheme would provide. There seems to be some problem with the scale of rating to be applied to this area, which does not seem to fit comfortably into the category either of country lands or country towns for rating. I suggest that in order to make progress I might discuss this matter in some detail with the honourable member at an early date so that he may then discuss it with the people to be served by the combined scheme. We might be able to resolve the question of how the scheme should be financed and what return could be expected from the people concerned.

CONCESSION FARES FOR PENSIONERS.

Mr. LAWN—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on June 18 regarding concessions fares for pensioners?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—If I remember rightly, in the first place a deputation was introduced by the Leader of the Opposition requesting that the Government provide free transport to pensioners on the tramway system. The request has been somewhat modified since and on one occasion it was suggested that free transport be not available at peak periods. The Government has carefully considered the proposal, but I regret that I have not been able to give an earlier reply. It is undeniable that many people who are not technically pensioners are no better off than pensioners. The dividing line between a pensioner and a non-pensioner in many instances cannot be defined. Secondly, the Government is not at present in a position to more heavily subsidize the trust. We are at present subsidizing it to the extent of about £500,000 a year. Moreover, the Teachers' Salaries Board has been considering a claim for an alteration of teachers' salaries and soon a determination will be made that will be extremely costly to the Government. Therefore, the State's finances do not enable the Government to undertake additional social services. An examination has shown a difficulty regarding pensioners who have to

attend the Adelaide Hospital for treatment and Cabinet has asked that a scheme be worked out to enable the hospital authorities, where it is considered necessary for persons of limited means to get medical treatment, to issue them with a chit that would enable them to attend. I hope the details of that proposal will soon be worked out and as soon as they are available I will inform the honourable member.

YEELANNA AND POOCHERA SCHOOL HOUSES.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—Can the Minister of Education advise me whether work has begun on the school houses at Yeelanna and Poochera and, if not, can he indicate when it will begin?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—School houses for both Yeelanna and Poochera are listed for erection this financial year, but work has not yet begun on either. It is not possible to say at this stage when they will be completed. However, I will ask the Architect-in-Chief's Department and the Housing Trust to treat both matters as urgent. I am confident my colleague, the Minister of Works, will be delighted to assist me.

HIRE-PURCHASE MISREPRESENTATIONS.

Mr. RICHES—Some time ago the Minister of Education promised to obtain a report from the Attorney-General whether prosecutions could be launched for misrepresentation against the salesmen who sold food mixers in the Port Augusta district. I know that some of my constituents have complained direct to the Attorney-General. Has the Minister received a report and, if so, can he disclose the results of the investigations?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—In the hurly-burly of the last few days of the session I have not received a written report from my colleague, though he has discussed the matter with me. I informed the honourable member and the House previously that the Attorney-General had referred it to the Crown Solicitor, who is investigating the matter. He has stated that it seems an offence may have been committed, but he is a little guarded at the moment because he has not completed his investigations. He has asked the police to investigate the whole matter and obtain statements for him so that he will be in a position to give a final opinion to the Attorney-General on whether prosecutions should be undertaken, but he will not be in a position to do that for some weeks yet. As soon as there is

anything further to report I think the Attorney-General will communicate direct by letter with the honourable member.

MOONTA BAY JETTY.

Mr. HUGHES—On July 31 I asked the Minister of Agriculture whether the Government intended building a new jetty at Moonta Bay, and he replied, *inter alia*:—

The Government is very keen to provide improved facilities in this area for the fishing industry and close consideration is being given to the matter.

Has the Minister anything further to report, as he has had four months to consider the question?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—A number of projects are being worked out for the coming programme, but I have not any statement to make on Moonta Bay particularly. I will let the honourable member have a statement as soon as I am in the position to do so.

NOXIOUS WEED SPRAYS.

Mr. QUIRKE—As I indicated in previous questions, I am interested in the eradication of the noxious weed cape tulip at Clare, and the Minister of Agriculture has made extensive investigations into the possibility of obtaining expensive spray material at a cheaper rate by purchasing in bulk. Has he anything further to report in answer to my previous question?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I have a report from the Chief Agricultural Adviser, who also inquired about bulk buying, and he states:—

The possibility of groups of farmers buying weedicides in bulk quantities to deal with noxious weeds has been discussed with the president of the Agricultural Chemical Association of South Australia. He stated that members of the Association would not be prepared to offer further price concessions for bulk purchases beyond the existing ones applying to 44-gallon lots. However, from other discussions I have had, it can be assumed with confidence that at least some firms will give a further discount on orders comprising several 44-gallon drums. There is no provision under the Weeds Act of 1956 for spray materials to be supplied at bulk prices for the purpose of controlling proclaimed weeds. In any case this would involve a great deal of work and would not be subject to satisfactory control. It would be most difficult, for example, to ensure that weedicide supplied at a special price for control of false caper were not used as a crop spray to control crop weeds not listed as proclaimed weeds. The best prospect for achieving the objective

outlined in Mr. Quirke's question therefore appears to lie in farmers in any one district submitting a composite order to a firm which is prepared to give a discount for quantity. I, too, am interested in the cost of spray materials, particularly in regard to the eradication of cape tulip, and if I can arrive at any further arrangements I will let the honourable member know.

LOFTIA PARK SWIMMING POOL.

Mr. SHANNON—I have had a number of approaches from some of my constituents—and from some of the Premier's constituents residing on the northern side of his electorate—relating to the action the Government proposes to take to make available the Loftia Park Swimming Pool for public use. It was put out of action as a result of investigations by health authorities, and the expenditure of public funds is required to make it safe for use again. We have only a limited number of pools in the hills for the teaching of swimming, and the Loftia Park pool was often used by school children living in adjacent areas. What are the Government's plans to meet the requirements of the health authorities, and can we expect the pool to be available for teaching purposes in the coming school holidays?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not think the health authorities in Adelaide supported the view that there was any health risk at this pool. However, it is Government policy to bring pools up to standard if possible, and it has provided subsidies to other swimming pools. Approval has been given for chlorination equipment to be provided at the pool, and the work has probably already commenced. Whether the pool will be available for the Christmas holidays I do not know, but I will make inquiries and inform the honourable member later.

MILLICENT HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. CORCORAN—When I last asked the Minister of Education a question about the negotiations for the purchase of a new site for a high school at Millicent, he told me the delay had been caused by a hold-up at the Millicent end. He said that the solicitor there representing the owners of the land had not answered a letter from the Crown Solicitor, but I was in touch with that solicitor this morning, and he told me the information sought by the Crown Solicitor had been supplied over a week ago and that the owner of the land was prepared to negotiate for its sale at the price quoted. Has the Minister anything further to report?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I assure the honourable member he is giving me great pleasure and satisfaction by conveying information I have not yet received through official channels. Last week I was told that the Millicent solicitor had not replied to the Crown Solicitor's letter, which was written on about October 8, but if he has replied accepting the conditions prescribed everything points to happiness, and we shall acquire the land and build a new Millicent high school with the greatest expedition.

OIL EXPLORATION ROAD.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked yesterday about the route of the road being constructed in the north-east of this State to serve the purposes of oil exploration that is now proceeding?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—As I foreshadowed yesterday, the route commences at Lyndhurst, but I have further information for the honourable member as follows:—

Some consideration has been given to a number of possible routes for a new road direct to Innamincka and the one selected will use an existing road from Lyndhurst through Avondale and Mount Lyndhurst to Murnpeowie. The new construction will start at Murnpeowie and the road from this point will be easterly until it reaches the Strzeleckie Creek and then along the route of this creek to Innamincka. There is already a road connecting Farina and Lyndhurst and if a road were commenced at Farina, it would mean additional construction as portion of an existing road could not then be used.

This report was taken from the docket and was written prior to the commencement of the road. At present the road is well into the Strzelecki Creek area and getting on towards Innamincka. Certain extensions beyond that point have been proposed and they are under consideration.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH OFFICERS.

Mr. STOTT—Prior to the Hon. D. N. Brookman taking office as Minister of Agriculture, I discussed with the previous Minister the lack of qualified men to undertake necessary scientific work in agriculture, particularly in connection with agronomy. The present Minister will agree that the department is having trouble, like departments in other States, to get trained staff to carry out this important work. The wheat industry has a research body but it cannot do its work through lack of trained personnel. Can the Minister say whether the department has considered the matter of making salaries, including those of uni-

versity graduates, sufficient to attract trained men to the scientific field, and so enable better planning for the future in the important wheat industry?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Like most other departments, the Department of Agriculture is having trouble in filling vacant positions with trained men. University courses have been greatly enlarged in the last few years and the department has been paying more attention to getting trained men. Salaries are dealt with by the Public Service Board; they do not come directly under my control. The board is continually considering the matter. There are continuous movements in salary ranges in this type of organization and it is possible that at times South Australian salaries vary considerably from those offering elsewhere. I will get a statement on the latest position and inform the honourable member. In many instances the department offers cadetships to those undertaking university courses to ensure that there will be openings for employment with the department after graduation.

SCHOOL OF ARTS.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Can the Minister of Education say whether any progress has been made in the provision of a new building for the School of Arts?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Preliminary plans are being prepared for a new South Australian School of Arts to replace the old School of Arts and Crafts at present housed in the Exhibition Building. We are somewhat hampered by the present inability to obtain a suitable site, and, not knowing the site or its size, there is difficulty in planning a building. I assure the honourable member, in the capacity of chairman of the school council, that the new building will be commensurate with the size and status of this important school.

SALISBURY WATER PRESSURES.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Recently I was approached by constituents of mine in Spains Road, Salisbury, who complained about the water pressure. They say that at times they get no water at all, and mostly only a trickle, not enough to run the septic tanks or hot water services. Will the Minister of Works have the matter investigated to see if the water pressures can be improved?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—A few days ago the honourable member asked a question regarding the water supply at Elizabeth, but I think it referred more to quality than

quantity, and I obtained a report about discoloration. A number of these matters are constantly arising and they all seem to have a somewhat similar cause. At the onset of summer a heavy draw of water from the mains occurs somewhat suddenly with the first burst of heat, and so the velocity through the mains is increased considerably above the normal winter flow. For instance, the day before yesterday the consumption of water in the metropolitan area was 106,000,000 gallons, which was a startling increase on any other day this year. That tends to stir up any small sediment in the pipes and on occasions the water becomes discoloured, and the department takes the opportunity to flush the mains while the materials are in suspension. This increases the flow and accentuates the quality problem. There are other causes: for instance, complaints reached my office this morning about discoloration of water in the western districts. This was caused by a sudden draw off of water that brought about a lower level than usual in a service tank, and the sediment, small though it may have been, was drawn into the main. It seems impossible to avoid occasional occurrences of this kind. Pressure is another aspect, but I will ask the department to investigate and will inform the honourable member as soon as I have the information.

SWIMMING INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS.

Mr. CUMBE—As I know all members of this House and the public appreciate the work being done in the Learn-to-Swim Campaign, will the Minister of Education state whether arrangements similar to last year's will apply this year in connection with the clubs and the Education Department? Has he any information to give on the campaign, especially the number of children likely to participate?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Similar plans will be put into effect during the coming season, but they will be bigger and brighter than those of previous years. Plans for swimming instruction in schools during the 1958-59 swimming season make provision for an enrolment of 35,000 pupils in term time and vacation classes, an increase of 3,000 on last year's figures. It is expected that 18,000 pupils will receive instruction in weekly lessons during school time. These commenced during October. It is also expected that 17,000 children will attend vacation classes which will be conducted from January 5 to 15, 1959.

Vacation classes are being planned for 85 centres—22 in the metropolitan area and 63 in

country towns, and 300 instructors will be engaged. Children from schools other than those of the Education Department may attend. Normally, the children enrolled will be 9 years of age or over but, where adequate facilities are available, children under this age may be admitted as late entrants when the classes are being held. Our aim in connection with the teaching of swimming goes much further than just teaching children to swim. Provision is made for the conducting of advanced classes, as well as teaching non-swimmers. During the last three swimming seasons over 80,000 children enrolled for classes—37,000 were taught to swim, about 47,000 departmental swimming certificates were issued, and students gained nearly 12,500 life saving awards. This year, in order to encourage pupils who have already gained their junior swimming certificates, a senior swimming certificate has been introduced. This means that there will be four departmental swimming certificates for which pupils may qualify.

Much of the outstanding success of this campaign is due to the efforts of our departmental supervisor of physical education, Mr. Ern Butler.

Mr. Shannon—And your teaching staff.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—That is so, but I give the greatest credit to Mr. Butler, who is outstandingly able and very enthusiastic. But, for his untiring efforts the campaign could not possibly have been the success it has undoubtedly been. Unfortunately, on the eve of the introduction of this year's campaign, Mr. Butler was laid aside with a serious illness, and will not be able to conduct the campaign. I publicly offer him my deepest sympathy in his illness, which is similar to that from which I was suffering and recovered. I am confident that, given sufficient time and rest, he will be restored to his previous health.

KEELE COMPANY.

Mr. LAWN—Has the member for Norwood seen a recent press statement by Mr. Green, manager of the James Cosmetic Company Pty. Ltd., that his company has no connection with the Keele Company and that he challenged the honourable member's statement on this matter?

Mr. DUNSTAN—Yes. Honourable members will be aware that the Keele Company has been prosecuted in America and New Zealand, and apparently there has been some change in South Australia, so to satisfy myself on this matter I searched the records of the Companies

Office. There are two Keele Companies registered in Australia. They are foreign companies, registered in New South Wales, and registered here as foreign companies. One is called Keele Limited, the other Keele (Adelaide) Proprietary Limited. In each case the secretary of the company is a Mr. James William Smith of New South Wales, and a registered agent in South Australia is Brian John Green, the gentleman who made the statement in the press. The James Cosmetic Company Pty. Ltd. has as its director the same James William Smith, and he appears in the advertisements as the managing director. It would seem, then, that the statement that the James Cosmetic Company Pty. Ltd. has no connection with the Keele Company does not bear investigation.

In addition, I have in my possession a letter signed by Mr. James William Smith on the Keele Company's letterhead, and also a kit issued by Mr. Green. This also has all Keele labels on it. Since my statement in this House, I have had a number of complaints regarding the activities of this company, and I have gone to the trouble of checking the basis of those complaints. I can give the information to the Attorney-General should he find it necessary to have an investigation. I have signed statements from a number of people who have been to this company to the effect that they had hair taken from their heads and were told by the manager, Mr. Green, that a laboratory test would be taken. When they went back he produced a well-thumbed piece of paper, which they were not shown, but which he said was a laboratory report of their hair condition. He told them that they had some complicated disease of the hair to which he gave a complicated name, and then asked them to go in for an eight months' course of treatment which, on time payment, would cost £80, or, if payment were made immediately in full, £60.

I checked to see whether any bacteriological laboratory tests are made in South Australia on behalf of this company. The only facilities in this State for making tests of this kind to discover fungus diseases of the hair are at the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science. I was informed by the Institute that no such tests have been conducted on behalf of this company, and that to establish the nature of a fungus disease of the hair it would be necessary to have tests over many weeks, as it takes the cultures many weeks to develop sufficiently to be identified. It would seem, therefore, that the

suggestion by the manager of this company that laboratory tests have been made to establish diseases is somewhat strange. In addition to this, the New Zealand employees of the Keele Company admitted in evidence before a court that the only qualification demanded of employees was the ability to memorize two sets of sales talk; they have no other qualifications of any kind.

I have seen the guarantee Mr. Green mentioned in the press report. It is to the effect that if no improvement is shown within 30 days the money is repayable to the customer. The treatment, however, is supposed to take some eight months. If, after one month, the customer has found that his dandruff has cleared up, of course he does not claim repayment because he still has some time to go under treatment. I have letters in my possession that people wrote asking for money back, and replies from Mr. James William Smith refusing payment.

I feel that what I have said may be a further matter that the Attorney-General should consider. I have had complaints from people who have not had satisfactory treatment and have had to go to doctors for remedial treatment. I hope the matters I have placed before the House will lead the Attorney-General to make a further investigation and to consider whether it may not be advisable, in view of what this company is doing in this State and what has happened elsewhere in relation to Keele Companies, to amend the Hairdressers Registration Act to make it an offence for anyone to do hairdressing for reward unless registered. At the moment it is an offence to claim the title of hairdresser unless registered; the matter I have mentioned is hairdressing within the terms of the Act, although it is not an offence. There may be other remedies, but I think something should be done.

RENMARK ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE.

Mr. KING—Early this year the Minister of Education came to the river districts and met a deputation that I introduced in relation to opportunity classes, and the appointment of a principal to assist with adult education throughout the Murray was discussed. Has the Minister any further information on this matter?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—At present Mr. V. Prider, head master of the Renmark high school, is the part-time registrar in charge of the Renmark Adult Education Centre. Mr. Prider has done fine work in encouraging adult

education activities in the river district. As a result of representations made to me by the honourable member, supported by the chairman (Mr. J. L. Showell) and members of the Adult Education Centre Council, and my own observations during personal visits to the various towns in the Upper Murray district, I am convinced that there is a great potential in the towns of the river district for adult education classes and activities which can be developed only by a full-time principal.

This has been confirmed after investigation by my officers, the Superintendent of Technical Schools (Mr. J. S. Walker) and the Assistant Superintendent of Technical Schools (Mr. M. H. Bone), who advise me that, in their opinion, the present sound enrolment of about 300 students would be greatly increased if an experienced teacher could give his undivided attention to development of activities in Renmark, Berri, Barmera, Waikerie, Loxton and Glossop, and other towns of the district, as these towns have already shown great interest in the varied classes and groups available under the Education Department adult education programme. I have therefore approved of the appointment of a full-time principal to the Renmark Adult Education Centre from the beginning of 1959.

I have encountered some pockets of criticism of my policy of expanding the size and scope of adult education in South Australia. However, with the greatest respect, I consider that my critics are out of touch with the pulse of public opinion on this important subject and lack a modern approach to the problem of education in all its aspects. During my five years as Minister I have received much satisfaction from providing greater opportunities for the profitable and educational use of leisure by adults and, in particular, from the provision of craft centres and home science centres for use by both adolescents and adults. As long as I remain Minister I intend to continue this progressive policy of expansion of facilities for adult education.

Mr. Stott—Will the principal at Renmark be available to other towns on the river?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Yes, to all the other towns I have enumerated, from Loxton to Waikerie. I have received a lengthy report from the Chief Psychologist of the Education Department on opportunity and special classes and remedial teaching in general and one in particular concerning Mr. King's request for preliminary investigations into the establishment of an opportunity class in the Upper Murray district. Mr. Piddington considers it a mistake to start a class too soon, but he under-

takes to make it a high priority at the beginning of next year. The fact that he has been away has placed additional pressure on his small staff and he was unable to obtain the services of an additional psychologist from Great Britain as he had anticipated. He has to decide how many children and what type will require education of this nature; whether there is need for an opportunity class or a remedial class; and whether it should be at Glossop, Berri, Renmark or Loxton. This will depend on the number of children in the particular centres and the type of transport available.

PORT AUGUSTA EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

Mr. RICHES—Is the Minister of Education in a position to give any indication of the Education Department's decisions concerning the future of the Port Augusta High School, and, in particular, the request for a separate technical school, with the appointment of a full-time registrar for the adult education centre?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—No. I received a report from the Superintendent of High Schools, another from the Superintendent of Technical Schools and a third from Mr. Griggs, who was then Deputy Director of Education. The views of these officers conflicted considerably and I asked the Director, Mr. Mander-Jones, to peruse the whole docket and the various reports and recommendations and let me have his opinion. He has given a preliminary opinion, but requires time to make further investigations.

Mr. Riches—Has due regard been given to the request from the High School Council?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Yes, and from other interested bodies. This raises a problem of considerable importance and magnitude and Mr. Mander-Jones is not yet prepared to give me final advice. As soon as I have anything to report I will communicate with the honourable member.

PANORAMA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—I understand the Minister of Works has a reply to the question I asked last Thursday concerning a water supply for Panorama.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Panorama subdivision is, in the main, an area where the level is above the 450 reduced level mark, and areas above that level are extremely difficult to reticulate from the metropolitan system. The honourable member referred to the possible extension of a scheme from Crest

Alta, Gloucester Avenue, and other streets which have been reticulated in the Belair area to bring a water supply to the higher levels at Panorama; but that would be robbing Peter to pay Paul because the supply to that area in the Belair district is only sufficient to meet present requirements and if we provided a supply from that service the low levels would get all the water and the high levels none.

From time to time public statements have been made—and one was made by the Premier comparatively recently—intended to advise people who were contemplating buying land on high levels that they should make quite sure from authoritative sources that water supplies would be available. Only this morning two cases came to my notice, one in which a young man invested his savings in two blocks of land, only to find that neither was capable of being serviced. There are some areas where it is not possible to provide a reticulated service at present. If people secure land in those areas they run the grave risk of having to do without a reticulated supply, at least in the foreseeable future. I am not able to assure the honourable member that the area he has mentioned can get any immediate supply.

MYPOLONGA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BYWATERS—Several times this session I have asked questions relating to the Mypolonga domestic water supply and on October 28 the Minister said he would refer the question to Cabinet. Has the Minister anything to report and, if not, will he inform me by letter when he has?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I will inform the honourable member by letter.

MALNUTRITION IN NATIVES.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—I have read the Minister of Works's reply in this morning's *Advertiser* to yesterday's fairy story about malnutrition in natives in the Koonibba Mission Station. In the course of my Parliamentary duties I often visit Koonibba and have never seen any evidence of malnutrition. The member for Barossa, Mr. Laucke, can support that. Can the Minister of Works tell me where these stories originate and if any good purpose is served by the press publishing them when there is no truth in them?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Frankly, I do not know the lady and gentleman who were alleged to have made the statement in Melbourne concerning the malnutrition in natives,

particularly native infants, so I am unable to say why the statement was made. I think people sometimes seek publicity and, if this was the case, it was rather unfortunate that they chose our natives as the instrument for that purpose. The statement was made and I do not blame the press for publishing it. I sometimes appreciate the reticence of the press on occasions where reticence is desirable. I did investigate this matter and the truth is that the natives are not suffering from malnutrition. Incidentally, the person who took the native couple out of South Australia for an alleged holiday in Melbourne did so, perhaps unwittingly, in contravention of the Aborigines Act. The natives concerned are well-known to the department. The whole matter is somewhat unfortunate. We go to great lengths in South Australia to promote the welfare of natives. Government expenditure on aborigines this year is about £77 a head, or 30s. a week, so it will be seen that the natives are not neglected.

RAILWAY REFRESHMENT ROOMS.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked some time ago concerning the possibility of leasing railway refreshment rooms with a view to eliminating recurring losses?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Commissioner has expressed regret at the delay in forwarding a reply. He states that he is not yet in a position to say whether it would be feasible to lease the Adelaide dining room and cafeteria and at the same time provide the wide coverage of service necessary for train travellers. However, the matter will be further considered. Six country refreshment rooms have been leased and further leases will be arranged if satisfactory lessees can be found to undertake the work.

BERRI WATER SUPPLY EXTENSIONS.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Lands anything to report on the proposed water supply extension to a new subdivision in the township of Berri?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Some time ago the honourable member stressed the necessity of water supply extension in some of the upper river areas. This morning I approved the expenditure of £5,000 for this purpose, mainly to cover extensions in Berri to 70 allotments. The Housing Trust is building homes on some of them; one has been completed and several others are nearing completion. I will endeavour to expedite these water connections.

CALLINGTON WATER SCHEME.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on November 4 about the proposed water scheme for Callington?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Investigations have not yet been completed, but the department is actively engaged on them. From time to time it has a number of investigations to make, and I regret that I am not now able to give the honourable member a final report on the scheme, but if he will get in touch with me later I may have further information for him.

GLENCOE-KALANGADOO ROAD.

Mr. HARDING—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked recently on behalf of members of the Glencoe branch of the South-Eastern Dairymen's Association on the Government's policy regarding the Kalangadoo-Glencoe Road?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—My colleague, the Minister of Roads, has furnished me with the following report from the Commissioner of Highways:—

During the current year a grant of £5,200 has been made to the District Council of Tantanoola to commence the reconstruction of the Kalangadoo-Glencoe main road. The council has not yet commenced work, but it is expected that as soon as the weather is sufficiently dry the reconstruction will be started. A grant has not as yet been made to the District Council of Penola, but it is expected that funds will also be provided to that council for work on the section in that district. During the year 1957-58, £5,000 was allocated to the District Council of Tantanoola, and £2,000 to the District Council of Penola. The road at present is trafficable and will be further improved in the near future.

THEBARTON GIRLS TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

Mr. LAWN—Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked on September 16 about the Thebarton Girls Technical High School?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Following on my inspection of the property in company with the honourable member and the Superintendent of Technical Schools (Mr. Walker), it has been inspected by the Land Acquisition Advisory Committee, which has recommended that the property be acquired, subject to satisfactory negotiations being carried out with the owner on the basis of the valuation of the Land Board. The Architect-in-Chief has been requested to inspect the property to make a valuation of the buildings. When this has been done the Land Board will be

asked to make a valuation. If I consider it is within the realms of reason I will submit the matter to Cabinet for decision, but so far I have not received a report from the Architect-in-Chief.

APPROACHES TO KINGSTON AND BERRI FERRIES.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the possibility of raising the approaches to the Kingston and Berri ferries?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—My colleague, the Minister of Roads, reports:—

In considering the economics of raising Kingston ferry approaches, the Engineer-in-Chief has been asked for the requirements of the River Murray Commission in regard to flood openings if the present road is raised by approximately 3ft. to 10ft. Previous advice required provision of flood openings 1,500ft. long by 5ft. high if the roadway is raised by 5ft. 6in. To raise the road level 2ft. 6in., which would have prevented the recent flooding, would require reconstruction of almost two miles. This would involve the carting of sand for sub-base and stone material for shoulders, crushing of 10,000 cubic yards of stone, and construction of an entirely new pavement at an estimated cost of £32,000. The Commissioner of Highways does not recommend this raising until the costs of other alternatives have been obtained and examined as, even with this raising, such rivers as those of 1931, 1951, 1952, 1955, and 1956 would have flooded the approaches.

That report states that the Engineer-in-Chief has been asked for the requirements of the River Murray Commission in regard to the proposed raising of the embankments, and I have had some discussions with him on this matter. He is actively pursuing investigations.

MOUNT BURR HALL.

Mr. CORCORAN—Can the Minister of Forests say whether work on the Mt. Burr hall has been commenced? If it has not, will he ascertain when it is likely to be commenced?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—My last information was that tenders for the work had been called or were about to be called. The Woods and Forests Department has planned a magnificent hall, which will cost at least £10,000 or £12,000. I will get full details and let the honourable member have them as soon as possible.

MEDICAL BENEFITS ASSOCIATION.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—On November 6 I expressed concern about the activities and finances of a particular medical benefits association, and my fears were shared by other members. Has the Minister representing the

Attorney-General any further information on this matter?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Only that the affairs of this company are still being investigated by the Crown Solicitor, and when the facts are ascertained such action as is necessary will be taken.

FISHING REGULATIONS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Agriculture any further information regarding the 140 lb. Murray cod that was sent to Victoria?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I received a reply from the Chief Secretary in Victoria and negotiations are now proceeding between the parties concerned.

BASIC WAGE CASE.

Mr. LAWN—The A.C.T.U. is an applicant before the Arbitration Commission for an increased basic wage and increased margins, and I understand the Commission has fixed February for the hearing of the claim. In view of the fact that a few weeks after the hearing commences the present Government will walk the plank of no return, and will not be in office in March, will the Premier give an assurance that it will not intervene in the case and oppose the union's application?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The State Government is necessarily involved in this case because it deals with State Government employees. The matter is being examined. I do not hold the same views as the honourable member regarding the future, but I hope someone will give me an encyclopaedia so that I shall be able to answer all the questions put to me next session when they come along in the ordinary course of events.

STIRLING TO QUORN ROAD.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Premier any further information regarding improvements to the Stirling-Quorn road?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Commissioner of Highways reports as follows:—

The reconstruction of the two-mile section at the Stirling end of the road has been commenced by the district council of Kanyaka. The construction of Madman's Bridge has not been commenced, but plans are almost completed and it is expected that tenders for the construction of this bridge will be called in the near future.

WOOL FREIGHT CONCESSIONS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—My attention has been drawn to the publication in the *Government Gazette* of a schedule of the concession rates applying in connection with the carriage of South-Eastern wool. My question relates to the heading of the rather long schedule. It says "Return of special rates, published pursuant to section 99 of the South Australian Railways Commissioner's Act, 1936-1957. Period ended 31st October, 1958." Can the Minister of Works give me the precise meaning of the last phrase? Does it mean that the freight rates ceased to operate on October 31, or will they continue until further varied?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am not able to interpret the famous last words referred to, but I will obtain information from the Minister of Railways and inform the Leader.

PUBLIC SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Service Act, 1936-1954.

Motion carried. Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I realize that it is being introduced late in the session, but it concerns a matter that will not present any difficulties to members. Not a large number of people are involved. The matter arises out of a deputation received a few days ago by the Minister of Industry and Employment.

The Bill deals with the effect of retrenchment upon long service leave. Under the Public Service Act the right to long service leave depends on the service being continuous, but this principle is now subject to modifications. In 1954 Parliament provided that a break of service of not more than two years due to retrenchment would not be deemed to affect continuity, so that in the case mentioned the whole of a retrenched officer's service before and after the break counts for long service leave. Some cases are now coming to light in which employees were retrenched a good many years ago and although desirous of securing re-employment in

the public service did not succeed in doing so until after the lapse of two years.

The Government has been asked to grant long service leave to such employees based on the total amount of their service; but where the break exceeds two years, service prior to the break cannot at present be counted. The Government, after consideration, has decided that in some cases where the break exceeds two years it would be just to grant leave, provided that the break was due to retrenchment and the employee sought and obtained re-employment as soon as was reasonable after the retrenchment.

The Bill is therefore an enabling one providing that in cases where the Public Service Commissioner certifies that an employee who had been retrenched sought and obtained re-employment in the public service as soon as was reasonable after the retrenchment, and has had at least one continuous period of 10 years' service, the whole of his service before and after the retrenchment may be taken into account, in computing his rights to long leave. Each case will be considered on the merits. The Bill is prospective in the sense that it applies only to employees retiring after it comes into operation.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—I support the second reading of the Bill and am familiar with the circumstances surrounding its introduction. The matter has been a subject for discussion in trades union circles for some years. In the main, the difficulty arises out of the considerable retrenchments in the public service during the great depression period, particularly of men who were young in the service at that time. There were apprentices who were retrenched and who later rejoined the railways at the earliest opportunity. In 1954 we improved the position to some extent by an amendment to the Act providing that those who rejoined the service within two years were entitled to long service leave considerations, but that was an unsatisfactory way to overcome the difficulty. Whenever we set a time limit in legislation of this nature there is always someone just outside who suffers an injustice. The Trades and Labor Council recently waited on the Minister of Industry and Employment and explained the position, and as a result the Bill has been introduced. Under it, instead of a hard and fast time limit, each case will be considered on its merits and the injustices of the past will not be repeated. It is regretted that the Bill must be prospective because there must be many men who left the service and who could

have been assisted, but there are no means to cover them now.

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

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

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

PULP AND PAPER MILLS AGREEMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION FUND BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

RENNIS IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

HOSPITALS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 18. Page 1785.)

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—This is another Bill with which I find myself in agreement. It increases from seven to ten the number of members of the Advisory Committee associated with the Royal Adelaide Hospital. One additional member, who will be the chairman, will be appointed by the Governor, one by the Royal College of Physicians, and one by the Royal College of Surgeons. I understand that both those bodies have asked for a considerable time for representation on this committee, because they believe it would facilitate the committee's work.

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

[Sitting suspended from 4.10 to 8.10 p.m.]

STATE BANK ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

PUBLIC SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

SUPERANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ANIMALS AND BIRDS PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

FIREARMS BILL.

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the House of Assembly's amendment.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council with the following suggested amendments:—

No. 1.—Page 2, line 29 (clause 4)—Leave out "striking out" and insert "inserting the words 'and allowance' after the word 'payment'."

No. 2.—Page 2, lines 30, 31 and 32 (clause 4)—Leave out all the words after the expression "subsection (1)" in line 30.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move that the amendments be agreed to. They are purely drafting amendments to clauses that contain consequential amendments. The clause was based on an early draft of the Bill, and the need to alter consequentials was overlooked.

Suggested amendments agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the House of Assembly's amendment No. 6, but had disagreed to amendments Nos. 1 to 5.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—Amendments Nos. 1 to 5 all deal with the same matter. They give corporations power to appoint deputy mayors in the absence of the mayors. The Legislative Council has disagreed to those amendments. Its reason for disagreement is, "Because the amendments are opposed

to the principles of the Local Government Act." I am unhappy about that because surely the principles of the Act are to establish local authorities to carry out certain powers in controlling their own affairs, and a properly elected council should not be hampered by red tape. I realize that the objection is that the deputy mayor at certain times will carry on the functions of the mayor and that the mayor is normally elected by a vote of ratepayers, but Mr. Riches' amendments did not provide for a deputy mayor to supersede the mayor: they provided for someone to carry on when the mayor was not present. The Government did not oppose the amendments because it realized they did not place an obligation on a corporation to elect a deputy mayor but merely gave it that right. I recommend that we insist upon our amendments.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I agree entirely with the Premier's remarks. For many years a number of municipalities have appointed deputy mayors to enable the smooth working of affairs entrusted to them under the Act. There is no authority under the Act for such appointments, but there is no prohibition on their appointment. If we accept the Legislative Council's disagreement it is obviously an instruction to municipalities that in future they will not be able to appoint deputy mayors.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I opposed Mr. Riches' amendments when they were introduced and still do because the people elect a mayor and I do not think corporations should elect a deputy to a mayor so elected. In the past corporations have appointed acting mayors and I cannot see why that situation should not continue. In some councils the senior alderman automatically acts and in other circumstances the council nominates a person in the mayor's absence. A deputy mayor should not be elected by a council, for then there would be two permanent positions in local government, and I do not think that applies anywhere else in Australia. No valid argument has been put forward why there should be deputy mayors. The Government opposed the appointment of deputy mayors in the first place. I was chided for not calling for a division on this question, but I will call for one tonight. Certain honourable members turn turtle very easily.

Mr. O'Halloran—Surely you will not let your own House down?

Mr. HAMBOUR—No, but surely I am allowed to stand by my convictions. Other members indicated they were opposed to the appointment of deputy mayors, but Mr. Riches'

amendment was carried. I will test the sincerity of those members tonight.

Mr. JENKINS—I believe we should allow the appointment of deputy mayors, for Mr. Riches' provision will only legalize what councils have been doing for years. The Victor Harbour Corporation has had a deputy mayor for 10 years at least, and he relieves the town clerk of much responsibility. When the mayor is absent it is essential for someone to act for him.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Mr. Hambour tried to draw a distinction between a deputy mayor and an acting mayor, but the dictionary definition of "deputy" is a person appointed to act for another, a person who is deputizing or acting. As Mr. Jenkins pointed out, it is essential for someone to act for the mayor when he is absent so that the council does not have to call a meeting to appoint someone.

Mr. QUIRKE—If we turned all deputy mayors out to grass it would not matter much, but this House passed an amendment that was disagreed to in another place. In all my experience here, the practice has been to support the Leader of the House when another place disagrees with one of our provisions, and that is what I shall do.

Mr. RICHES—The Act provides that in the absence of a mayor a council shall appoint one of its members to be chairman of the meeting, so this provision does not cut across the principles of the Act, but a deputy has to perform other functions in the absence of a mayor. Many councils have appointed a deputy mayor. Port Augusta Corporation has had a deputy mayor for 26 years, and all the deputies have rendered valuable service. Mr. Hambour said he did not think deputy mayors had been appointed in other States, but the Federal Government has laid down that naturalization ceremonies can be performed either by the mayor or the deputy mayor of a council. Therefore, I surmise that other States have deputy mayors. The Port Pirie, Wallaroo and Victor Harbour Corporations have deputy mayors, and the Adelaide City Council has recommended to the Municipal Association that deputy mayors should be appointed.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford—Deputy mayors get no concessions or privileges.

Mr. RICHES—They get nothing at all. I hope the Committee will stand behind its amendments. It has been said that some members do not like local government bodies appointing an acting chairman because it may lead to the appointment of a deputy mayor.

Deputy mayors have already been appointed to advantage. I was astounded by the argument put forward by Mr. Hambour who objects to a council appointing a deputy mayor, but agrees to a mayor appointing his own deputy.

Mr. HAMBOUR—The difference between a deputy mayor and an acting mayor is that the deputy is a permanent appointment for one year, whereas the acting mayor acts only in the absence of the mayor. Mr. Riches said that Port Augusta has had a deputy mayor for some time. That was not provided for under the law and therefore the appointment was illegal. He acted during the absence of the mayor. The mayor is appointed by the ratepayers generally, whereas a chairman is appointed by the council.

Question "That the House of Assembly's amendments be insisted upon"—declared carried.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Divide.

While the division was being taken—

The CHAIRMAN—Standing Order No. 219 says that should there be only one member on the side of a division, the Speaker, without completing the division, shall forthwith declare the decision arrived at; therefore, the decision has been arrived at.

Amendments Nos. 1 to 5 insisted upon.

PROROGATION SPEECHES.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

That the House at its rising do adjourn until December 16.

In doing so may I first express to you, Sir, on behalf of members, my appreciation of the manner in which you have conducted the proceedings of this House. Not only through this session, but ever since you were appointed to your high and honourable position, you have maintained the dignity of your position and the House, and established a reputation for impartiality and fairness. I assure you that you have the utmost goodwill of all members, who express appreciation to you for all you have done during your occupancy of the Chair. I also express to the Chairman of Committees our appreciation of the way he has carried out his duties. His job is not easy, because on the one hand he has to provide sufficient latitude to enable members to express their views, and on the other hand, although in Committee there is no limitation on the number of times a member may speak, it is desirable to keep the debate relevant to the subject under discussion.

Mr. Speaker, you have carried out your duties very ably, and that fact is realized and appreciated by all members.

We are privileged to have in this House officers of the highest calibre, and I know that the Clerk of the House and his Assistant will not feel that I am overlooking them if I single out now for special reference Sir Edgar Bean, the Parliamentary Draftsman. Sir Edgar has been the Parliamentary Draftsman for many years. His duties are very difficult and heavy, and carry tremendous responsibility, for when members indicate a desire to move an amendment it always falls on him to give it practical effect in words. Draftsmen are not made, they are born; they are a rare species, and it is difficult to secure them. In Sir Edgar we not only have an ideal Parliamentary Draftsman but an ideal man—simple, friendly, helpful, modest: a man for whom nothing is too much trouble. With all his attainments, which are very high, he is at all times prepared to listen to every member and give practical effect to his desires. More than that, his advice is always available, and is always worth listening to, so he has ceased to be so much a servant of Parliament as a friend of all members. I shall feel his loss from Parliament if I am privileged to be here after the election. Members of the Opposition require the assistance of the Parliamentary Draftsman more than the Government. We all wish Sir Edgar and Lady Bean many happy years of retirement, and I would like to place on record that every member esteems the service he has given to Parliament and, in many ways, to the State.

To the two Clerks of the House I also express appreciation. They are the people who really understand Parliamentary practice and the Standing Orders, and if members are in difficulties about how to do something or how to stop anyone else from doing something, they are the people who can give the necessary advice. We all thank these two officers for their assistance. The Parliamentary Librarian and his staff and the messengers of this House are very great helpers and friends. We need to give special thanks to the *Hansard* staff for the way they give expression to our thoughts. There is no doubt that *Hansard* reporting is of a very high order. Its accuracy is extremely high, and members do not have to worry about checking the reports of what they have said. We are also extremely well looked after by the catering staff. It is a good thing to remember just how much they contribute to

the successful management of this place, and I am certain that members know and appreciate the very devoted service they give.

I know that members opposite will not take it amiss if I thank my colleagues for their assistance they have always given me as leader of the House. Members opposite may not know that when Parliament is sitting administrative duties fall very heavily on the Ministry because, not only have the ordinary administrative duties of the State and the ordinary matters that arise from day to day to be attended to, but Ministers have a considerable amount of other necessary work. I place the utmost reliance on my colleagues, who are at all times prepared to undertake additional duties. This makes it extremely pleasant for me as leader of this House, and easier for me to carry on what would otherwise be a difficult job. I thank my colleagues for their great assistance and loyal co-operation in all matters of Cabinet that come before Parliament.

No less do I wish to thank the Leader of the Opposition. It is a good thing in our Parliamentary system that, while it is Her Majesty's Government that administers the State, it is Her Majesty's Opposition that watches the Government and sees that it does its job. Unlike some Parliaments, where the Opposition has the job of being critical without being helpful, our Opposition has the job of nicely balancing whether it should support the Government or oppose it on any matter. It should never oppose the Government purely on party political grounds, but should judge the matters that come before Parliament according to their effect on the general welfare of the State. I believe that in the South Australian Parliament over a number of years that predominant note has been struck. On many occasions I have noticed that for a whole session the Opposition has not completely opposed any Bill introduced by the Government. It has sought amendments, and has sometimes objected to certain phases of a Bill, but it is noticeable that on most occasions it has been able to express support for Bills and in many instances has assisted in having them passed. If I were in the Opposition I would feel it my duty to help to make the functions of government successful; I believe that is the duty of all Oppositions. I thank the Leader of the Opposition and his Party for the practical effect they have given to all measures. In this Parliament we have been singularly free from personalities and from any attempts at breach of

privilege, and I believe that no member has ever felt that any remark he makes under privilege in this House, outside the Chamber would ever be repeated to his prejudice. I believe that represents a high standard of political conduct, and I express my appreciation of it.

The members of my own Party have been extremely helpful to the Government. They have expressed views on the issues of the day as they saw them. They have supported the Government, and have moved amendments successfully on many occasions. Over the last three years they have played a significant part in the affairs of the State. I thank them for their assistance in the House and for their great assistance to the Party of which I have the honour to be a member.

I hope all honourable members will enjoy many years of good health and happiness. They will have an opportunity to meet together before the festive season, for there will be a function at which I hope all members will be present, but if any of them cannot be there I express to them now, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, best wishes for the Christmas season. Unless something unforeseen occurs requiring Parliament to be called together urgently, this is the last day of sitting of this Parliament. There will be an election next year, but my Party will not indulge in personalities during the campaign, and I wish every member the best of good luck at the election.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—I second the motion, and endorse the sentiments expressed by the Premier regarding you, Mr. Speaker, and the Chairman of Committees. You have both acted wisely and ably in discharging your duties, and on behalf of members on this side of the House I tender to you, Sir, and the Chairman of Committees, our thanks for the manner in which you have protected the rights of the Opposition. I thank the Clerk and his assistant for the advice they have freely given when sought by myself and other members of the Opposition. I join with the Premier in his special reference to Sir Edgar Bean, who will not be with us when the new Parliament assembles next year. He has been here for so long that he has almost become an institution, and, as the Premier remarked, his advice has been freely available to the Government and to the Opposition too. It was readily available to determine whether it would be wise to move that certain things should be done, and his long experience, great

knowledge and ability have enabled him to draw my attention to certain traps and pitfalls I may have fallen into had I pursued my own merry way. I am pleased his services to the State will be recognised by the Government in the not distant future, and all members of my Party who can be present at that function will be there to show their appreciation of a lifetime of service to this Parliament.

I have had much experience of catering staffs in other Parliaments, and I believe the services rendered by our catering staff are the best available in any Parliament in Australia. The messengers are courteous and obliging, and indefatigable in their desire to serve members. I cannot find words to express adequately my appreciation of the able services rendered by the *Hansard* staff. They probably will, for they have been finding words for me for years. Sometimes I go into parenthesis for a considerable period, though eventually I usually return to the subject, but they make my speeches at least coherent to read, even when they are not coherent to listen to, and my admiration of the *Hansard* staff grows as the years go by.

I thank the Premier and his Ministers for the many courtesies they have extended to me when I have made inquiries about matters of public interest. They have enabled me to make information available not only to my own constituents, but to people in other electorates too. I thank the members of the Government Party for their many kindnesses. Sometimes it may have paid them to be kindly because my Irish wit can be caustic. However, I have not had any reason to use it much, so it may be getting rusty, but it is still there. This is not a threat or a promise, but the Leader of the Opposition should not be provoked too much.

I cannot find words to express adequately my appreciation for the loyalty and co-operation of the members of my own Party and for the sound advice they have always given me. I pay a well-deserved tribute, though not as handsome as it should be, to my private secretary, Mr. Henry Brown. He investigates all matters referred to him most thoroughly. Something which may satisfy me is not good enough for him, and he always keeps me on the right track. He keeps me out of arguments in which I might otherwise ultimately become involved in my desire to take short cuts towards objectives. I express my sincere thanks to him.

The Premier pointed out that before the House meets again, unless there is an untoward happening, there will be an election, and, of course, there could be a change of Government, but I do not want to raise that issue now. We are celebrating the end of a successful session and we look forward to the Christmas season. I look forward to something better in the year that is to come, and although I appreciate the Premier's remarks about happenings at election time, neither I nor any member of my Party will indulge in any personalities then. We believe in certain principles and we stand or fall by our espousal of them at election time.

If I have overlooked anybody in my expressions of appreciation I ask him to accept my apology. In South Australia we have a Parliament that is worth while. It is one of those singularly British institutions that have stood the test of time, and I hope that it will always do so. To a greater or lesser degree the will of the people prevails. In this session I have been impelled to be somewhat vocal but not against the Government because it has often given effect to what members on this side believe in. Let us go on in this happy way. I wish all members a happy and holy Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year.

Mr. STOTT (Ridley)—I endorse the remarks made by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. You, Mr. Speaker, have performed the duties of your high office with great decorum and dignity. You have seen important events take place during the life of this Parliament. I recall your outstanding speech at the celebration of 100 years of responsible government in South Australia. We have seen the presentation of that traditional Parliamentary instrument, the Mace, which has come to us from the House of Commons. On that occasion every member was proud of the way you carried out your duties—with great dignity and presence of mind, well worthy of a State such as South Australia. The Chairman of Committees has a much more exacting task to perform because Committee debates are a little more tense, but with his genial and pleasant manner he has always kept the debates in order. I appreciate the way in which you, Mr. Speaker, and the Chairman of Committees have conducted Parliamentary affairs.

I endorse the remarks made about Sir Edgar Bean's long association with Parliament. Not only has he attained great prominence because of his association with the South Australian Parliament, but when we travel to other States we learn that he is held in high esteem, not

only because of his duties as Parliamentary Draftsman here, but because of his great knowledge of constitutional matters. He has a very good knowledge of Commonwealth law and the sovereign rights of the States. His opinions on this matter of State rights are highly respected. I thank him for the great assistance he has given me personally. He has always exhibited a genial and friendly spirit when advising members.

The Clerks of the House have conducted their duties in a friendly way and they have been of great help to members. They have helped to make Parliament work efficiently. We are most fortunate in having such good messengers. Those responsible for selecting them made a wise choice indeed. Messengers have a hard task to perform. They have to run backwards and forwards at the behest of members, but it is done in a friendly way, and they have helped us considerably. The catering staff at times get a little irascible at having to work long hours, but with their co-operation members get by. The way in which they have catered for social functions has been a credit to this Parliament. That applied particularly when we have had visits from people of high rank, including Their Majesties the Queen and the Queen Mother. We can look back with pride to the way in which this Parliament has catered for Royal tours.

This is the last session of this Parliament and when the next Parliament meets three of our present members will not be with us. Sir Malcolm McIntosh holds a record for the number of years he has been a member of this House. He occupied the position of Cabinet Minister for many years with great ability. Mr. Ernie Stephens has been the member for Port Adelaide for about 25 years and he has fought hard for what he believes is right. He has always conducted himself with dignity and decorum when fighting for the principles he supports. Then there is Mr. Goldney. I think that Rufus should be regarded as the member for Balaklava rather than the member for Gouger, because Balaklava is his town. He fights for it and is well respected there. I wish them all good health in the future and great happiness.

I would express my appreciation of the way the Cabinet Ministers have carried out their duties. There have been some changes in the Cabinet during your term of office, Mr. Speaker, and although such changes can sometimes disrupt our Parliamentary institution

that has not happened here because the new Ministers have adapted themselves well to their positions. They have been asked some difficult questions at times, but they have always endeavoured to supply the information members desired. As members we have a responsibility to those who elect us and consequently we do our utmost to secure information for them, and I appreciate the manner in which Ministers have endeavoured to supply it.

This has been a most friendly Parliament. The new members have revealed force and wisdom. They were a little green in the early stages, but as they gained confidence they added to the value of our debating and made good contributions. We look forward to the Christmas period and the break prior to the forthcoming State election. At Christmas we try to forget the ties of office and look for relaxation with our friends. I wish every member a happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous new year. With the exception of those who are not contesting next year's election I hope that when we re-assemble we shall be able to look again upon the smiling faces of all present members.

THE SPEAKER—I express my sincere thanks to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Ridley for their kind words concerning myself and their generous references to the work which it has been both my privilege and duty to perform during the present session. Despite the fact that controversial matters arise from time to time for debate, the debate has seldom been acrimonious and this is due in the main to the restraint exercised by members generally on both sides of the House—a restraint that has been in the best traditions of the Parliament of this State.

It is to the outstanding credit of members that, despite the conflicting points of view expressed and the heat which may on a few occasions have arisen during the cut and thrust

of debate, the personal regard which members feel for each other has remained excellent and undiminished. In the performance of their duties in this Chamber members have attempted, in the words of Shakespeare, to “strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends.”

At this time I express my pleasure and thanks to honourable members for the courteous attention and consideration extended to me during the session. I greatly appreciate this. I also sincerely thank the Chairman of Committees and the two Clerks at the table for their assistance in the performance of my duties. I endorse the remarks of the three members who have spoken concerning the service rendered by these officers, and I associate myself with the tributes paid to the Parliamentary Draftsmen—particularly Sir Edgar Bean who leaves us tonight after a long period of excellent service here and to the State as a whole—the *Hansard* staff, the Library and Catering staffs and the messengers. It is true that in the conscientious discharge of their duties they have contributed in no small measure to the smooth functioning of our Parliamentary system. I hope that those members who are not in our midst tonight but who are recuperating from sickness may be restored to sound health and be with us again in the new year. May those members who will not be with us next year because of retirement enjoy many years of good health and happiness. In conclusion, I trust that the members of this House will take advantage of the Parliamentary recess and the festive season for a well-deserved rest. May yours be a blessed Christmas and may the new year be filled with happiness.

Motion carried.

PROROGATION.

At 10.08 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, December 16, at 2 p.m.

Honourable members rose in their places and sang the first verse of the National Anthem.