

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, May 3, 1960.

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

**DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.**

The SPEAKER—I notice in the gallery a distinguished visitor, His Excellency the High Commissioner for India. I ask the Treasurer and the Leader of the Opposition to escort His Excellency to a seat at the right of the Speaker's chair.

His Excellency Shri Samar Sen, High Commissioner for India, was escorted by the Honourable Sir Thomas Playford and Mr. O'Halloran to a seat on the floor of the House.

**QUESTIONS.****COAL FREIGHT RATE.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I refer to a recent press report that the freight rate on coal from Leigh Creek to Port Augusta has assumed prominence before the Federal Public Accounts Committee. Can the Treasurer say whether there is any danger of the agreement between the Commonwealth and the State on the freight rate on this coal being abrogated, to the detriment of South Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I saw the report referred to by the Leader. The history of this matter is that before the Leigh Creek coalfield was opened up the Government of this State negotiated with the Commonwealth Government and obtained a firm agreement on a price for the cartage of Leigh Creek coal, which was 7s. 2d. a ton delivered at Port Augusta. When the Menzies Government came into power it asked for an alteration of the rate although it was a binding agreement that could have been enforced. Sir Garfield Barwick reported to the State Government that it was an enforceable agreement but the State Government did, in view of all the circumstances, alter the price, with the agreement of the Commonwealth, to 11s. 6d. a ton. In addition, we provided that, if there was an increase in the wage rate, the increased wage would be reflected in a further increase in the freight rate on the coal traffic. The fact is, however, that this is a highly profitable freight and the reason why the Commonwealth Government has refused to pay the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner is that he has not been able to produce figures to show that it is anything but a highly profitable freight. Although in the last three or four years there has been an increase in wages,

no claims have been made on the South Australian Government for an increase in the rate on coal—again, because it could not be substantiated that this freight was unprofitable. In fact, the train, which is manned by three people up and three back, in the course of 17 hours earns a revenue of £2,300—a good earning by any railway standard.

We have a firm agreement and have departed from the agreement to the extent of allowing a variation upwards because of cost inflation, but the agreement can be enforced and is a perfectly fair agreement. When we get the larger tonnages contemplated with the new power station coming into operation, we shall have a justifiable claim for some reduction. There is no fear that this agreement can be abrogated because it is perfectly legal and can be enforced.

Mr. HEASLIP—Although I appreciate that the coal, coming in train-loads, would not require much handling, there is a big disparity between the coal rate of 11s. 9d. and the ordinary freight rate of about 34s. a ton. In view of this disparity, can the Premier say whether, if coal can be carted at 11s. a ton profitably, stock freights and ordinary freights could be reduced below 34s. a ton?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The rate of 34s. a ton is the common rate charged by the Commonwealth Railways and applies to miscellaneous lots. For instance, it would apply if the honourable member sent down one ton of coal from Leigh Creek. The contract is for regular train loads of not less than 4,000 tons. The train is loaded at Leigh Creek within three hours because of a high degree of organization. Ordinary miscellaneous traffic is a different proposition because it is more costly, more wasteful of space, and not organized in the same way.

**ADDRESS IN REPLY.**

The SPEAKER—I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to receive members for the presentation of the Address in Reply at 2.10 p.m. today.

At 2.07 p.m. the Speaker and members proceeded to Government House. They returned at 2.23 p.m.

The SPEAKER—I have to inform the House that, accompanied by the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's Opening Speech and by other members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented to His Excellency the Address

adopted by this House on April 28, to which His Excellency has been pleased to make the following reply:—

I thank you for your Address in Reply to the Speech with which I opened the second session of the thirty-sixth Parliament of South Australia.

It will be my pleasure to transmit your warmest congratulations to Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, and her fiancé on their betrothal.

I am confident that you will give your best attention to all the matters placed before you.

*Questions resumed:*

#### RHINITIS IN PIGS.

Mr. NICHOLSON—Much discussion has taken place in my area and throughout the State about the easing of restrictions on suspected rhinitis cases in the pig industry announced last week by the Minister of Agriculture. I realize how serious this disease has been. Will the Minister of Agriculture state to what extent the restrictions have been eased, what this will mean to pig breeders, and what he intends his inspectors to do in the next week or two in relation to suspected cases?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—On the Notice Paper is a Bill to deal with this subject, and this will be fully explained later. The difficulty of diagnosis of rhinitis is so serious that we can now say the infection is ineradicable in this State. Perhaps I am using a little imagination, but I think it rather corresponds to the more serious respiratory diseases of human beings and that it is as difficult to deal with as Asian flu. The department had nearly 150 properties under quarantine and no pigs could be sold from them except for slaughter, although most were healthy and were simply known to have been possible contacts with diseased pigs. It became clear that continuing to hold all pigs in quarantine was imposing an unnecessary burden on pig breeders. Like most other diseases under the Stock Diseases Act, rhinitis is now a notifiable disease. This means that anyone who has or suspects rhinitis in his herd must report it and obey the instructions given under the Act. For practical purposes, the diagnosis of rhinitis is difficult; it may be said that the sneezing of a pig is the nearest presumption one can get in diagnosing it. The actual firm diagnosis is much more difficult and is a laboratory job, and that is why the situation has been changed in this respect.

#### MITCHELL PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Can the Minister of Education say when the primary school at Mitchell Park is likely to open?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The new primary school buildings at Mitchell Park are nearly completed. Some painting remains to be done in one of the buildings, floor coverings have to be made, and the final inspection has to be made. Water, sewerage and other services are already connected. The grounds have been surfaced, access paths have been made, and fencing has been erected. The Director of Public Buildings anticipates that the school will be completed and ready in every respect by the end of June this year. The main access is on the east side of the school grounds, where a short side road leads in from Renown Avenue. This short street of about 50yds. is rather difficult at present, but it is hoped that it will be put in order before the school is taken into use. It is expected that the school will be established, and the buildings taken into use as from June 27, which is the date when mid-year enrolments in primary schools take place.

#### COAT OF ARMS IN COURTS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—During the discussion on the Loan Estimates in 1957 I raised the question of the exhibition in our court rooms, both metropolitan and country, of the Royal coat of arms, and suggested that in each court room the Royal coat of arms should appear. At that time the Treasurer said that the matter would be looked into, and subsequently I was informed that steps were being taken to ensure that the Royal coat of arms appeared above the magistrate's bench in every court room. I know from my own knowledge that it has so appeared in some court rooms. However, yesterday I was in the court room at Norwood—the centre of a very populous district where a court is required—and I was disappointed to find that there was no coat of arms in that court room. Will the Minister of Works take steps to ascertain the reason for the delay, and also arrange for the Royal coat of arms to be placed in that court room and in any other in which it has not already been placed?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will look into the matter.

#### MATERNITY CASES.

Mr. HUTCHENS—It was reported to me today that medical officers at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital had been requested to discharge maternity cases eight days after birth, the reason stated being the shortage of staff. Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Health, say whether this is correct, whether there is a shortage of staff, and, if that is so, whether the authorities are refraining from

advertising in the *Nurses' Journal* for nurses to replace staff leaving that hospital?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I should be surprised if what the honourable member has said is correct, as I certainly have never had the matter placed before me in that light. I have always understood that a patient is discharged from hospital when, in the opinion of the medical officers that patient, whatever the case may be, is able to be relieved from hospital attention and to go home under normal conditions. I will obtain a report and advise the honourable member in due course.

#### WOMEN ON INSTITUTE COUNCIL.

Mrs. STEELE—Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked some time ago regarding the appointment of women to the Council of the Institute of Technology?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Council of the new South Australian Institute of Technology, appointed earlier this year, consists of 15 members, five of whom were elected for a term of three years, five for two years, and the other five for one year. Unfortunately, I think no consideration was given to the question of the appointment of a woman or women to this Council. It was clearly overlooked at the time, certainly by myself, and I am certain by the then Council of the School of Mines and Industries, and although there are no women among its 15 members I assure the honourable member and the public that there is no objection in principle to such an appointment; but it is clearly not possible to appoint a woman to the Council at present. However, I shall give the matter my personal consideration, when making recommendations to Cabinet as to the possibility of appointing a woman or women to the Council when a vacancy occurs.

#### UNIFORMITY OF SCHOOL BOOKS.

Mr. LOVEDAY—From time to time I receive complaints from parents who come from other States regarding the fact that they have to purchase new books for children attending primary schools in this State. They complain not only of the expense but of the fact that to some extent the continuity of study by the students is destroyed. Can the Minister of Education say whether any serious thought has been given to endeavouring to obtain some degree of uniformity in books needed at primary schools, and if not, will he consider this question with a view to achieving some uniformity?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—This matter has been considered from time to time and dis-

cussed at numerous conferences of directors of education and also by the superintendents of the various branches at their interstate conferences. As the honourable member knows, the Education Departments are State departments and the courses of study vary from time to time in the various States. I think something has been done to bring about a degree of uniformity, but I do not think it is possible to get anywhere near as clear uniformity as the honourable member or as many of the parents from other States desire. As the matter has been raised I will again refer it to the Director, who will be meeting his fellow directors in Sydney fairly soon, I think during this month, and ask him to raise it again.

#### BEACHPORT SCHOOL.

Mr. CORCORAN—Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked previously about the progress of plans for the new primary school at Beachport?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The provision of a new school at Beachport has had to be deferred for the time being pending the establishment of an area school at Kangaroo Inn, for which I have already given approval in principle. When this area school is established, it is likely that more than a third of the children now attending Beachport school would transfer to it. However, I can assure the honourable member that the claims of Beachport will be fully re-considered when the position at Kangaroo Inn is known with greater certainty.

#### COUNTRY ELECTRICITY TARIFFS.

Mr. NANKIVELL—Has the Premier obtained a reply to the question I asked on April 19 about electricity tariffs for Karoonda, Lameroo and Pinnaroo hospitals?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Assistant Manager of the Electricity Trust reports:—

Because of the high cost of providing electricity supply to Karoonda, Lameroo and Pinnaroo special electricity tariffs are to be charged. Although these tariffs are a reduction on those at present applicable in these towns they differ somewhat from the Electricity Trust's standard tariffs. Special arrangements will be made to allow the hospitals to use electric cooking but because of the different characteristics of the various hospitals a single tariff has not been established. A satisfactory method of charging has been arranged for the Karoonda District Soldiers Memorial Hospital and special arrangements will also be made for Lameroo and Pinnaroo before these towns are supplied with power by the Electricity Trust.

## SOUTH-EASTERN CLOSER SETTLEMENT.

Mr. RALSTON—Last year district councils were circularized and invited to submit information about undeveloped and under-developed land within their districts suitable for development for closer settlement purposes. Recently the Minister of Lands said that only nine councils out of 33 had replied in the affirmative. Can he say whether any of the nine councils mentioned were within the electorates of Mount Gambier, Millicent or Victoria, and, if so, will he indicate the names of the councils and the acreage suggested as suitable by each council?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS—I shall have to get information regarding locality and area, but from memory I do not think any submission was received from any of the councils in the districts mentioned by the honourable member. However, I will get a full report.

## STRATHALBYN SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Mr. JENKINS—Recently the board of the Strathalbyn Soldiers Memorial Hospital and I made representations to the Minister of Health to have the hospital subsidized. Will the Premier ascertain whether the Minister of Health has considered the matter and come to a decision?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

## HOLBROOK ROAD BRIDGE.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked about the reconstruction of the Holbrooks Road bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Roads advises that it is planned to reconstruct the bridge during 1960-61.

## COUNTRY ABATTOIRS.

Mr. KING—My question is related to a paragraph in the *Meat Industry Digest* of February 1960, which gives the impression that the State Government will subsidize the establishment of country abattoirs if the Industries Development Committee reports favourably, and that the first 75 per cent of the cost will be borne by the company. As I do not think that accurately sets out the position, will the Premier indicate the correct position?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The conditions under which the Government will assist country abattoirs have been stated publicly on a number of occasions. Through the Housing Trust it will provide the necessary housing for employees in the

industry. It will provide for a reasonable quota of meat to be sold in the metropolitan area to enable the industry to have a share of the home consumption price, which is much better, in many instances, than the export price. It will see that the necessary utility services, such as rail connections and electricity and water supplies, are available to the industry. Subject to a favourable report by the Industries Development Committee, the Government either provides a measure of financial support or approves a financial guarantee under the Industries Development Act for the establishment of the industry. There has never been any stated percentage in relation to the amount of money to be provided. Recently the Industries Development Committee recommended that a substantial amount of the necessary finance be provided under a State Government guarantee. The industry put up a substantial amount, but not a large percentage of the cost of the proposed industry.

Mr. King—There is no direct subsidy.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—There is a big subsidy in being able to get a large percentage of the finance needed at Government rates of interest. In itself that is a subsidy that is eagerly sought by many industries and enables things to be done that could not be done otherwise. There is no direct loss to the taxpayer under the proposal because it envisages the industry paying an interest rate equivalent to that paid by the Treasurer on Loan money.

## LATE ARRIVAL OF MELBOURNE EXPRESS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply to the question I asked recently about the late arrival of the Melbourne express?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Railways has forwarded the following report from the Railways Commissioner:—

The running of the overland express between Tailem Bend and Serviceton can be maintained to timetable schedule when the express is hauled by a single diesel locomotive. Because of the very substantial savings which can be effected by single locomotive operation, it was decided some time ago to reduce the number of locomotives on the express from two to one. It is true that a single unit cannot do as well as a twin unit in picking up time lost from other causes, but the effect of this has not been sufficiently great to warrant a re-introduction of the second locomotive. The railways are handling the problem from the point of view of eliminating the delays at their source.

With regard to the suggestion that tandem working of engines is unsafe from the point

of view of the fireman having to pass from one engine to another, it should be said that since the introduction of this working additional safety chains have been fitted to both "900" and "930" class locomotives. Although the fireman has to stoop to enter the doorway in the nose of the locomotive, this is not considered to be hazardous. Actually, the floor heights of the mating locomotives are the same and it is not necessary for the fireman to use the moveable buffer platform, which is some inches lower.

#### TYRE PRICES.

Mr. HALL—Until recently, there has been a price war in the country districts in regard to tyres for all sorts of vehicles. Discounts up to 25 per cent off new prices have been offered. The companies supplying the tyres have since ruled that this must cease or the retailers will not obtain supplies. In doing so, they have ensured that there will be a good profit margin; but they have now reduced the retailers' margin and, therefore, taken unto themselves a higher wholesale price. Are the Premier and the Prices Commissioner aware of this, and is the price in keeping with present-day costs or exorbitant?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—This matter has been investigated by the Prices Commissioner. As some questions are involved in it, I will advise the honourable member, probably tomorrow.

#### SAFETY ISLANDS.

Mr. TAPPING—Has the Premier a reply to my recent question on the construction of safety islands in the metropolitan area?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—My colleague, the Minister of Roads, reports that upon receipt of an application from a council the Commissioner of Highways gives his approval for the council to construct a traffic island if he is satisfied that the island is necessary for traffic regulation and will be constructed so that, as far as reasonably possible, it will not endanger vehicles driven on to or against it. At the same time, attention of the council is drawn to the necessity of providing adequate lighting at the island. Lighting, to illuminate traffic islands, is considered to be street lighting, and at present, under section 26c of the Highways Act, the Commissioner of Highways is empowered to spend not more than £5,000 per annum to provide or assist in providing street lighting. This amount is at present fully committed for the lighting of Anzac Highway and Port Road. The Commissioner of Highways applies uniform principles in his examination of

traffic island design before giving his approval, but the resultant treatment of intersections cannot be absolutely uniform due to differing traffic flows and shapes of intersections. One of the main reasons for installing traffic islands is to control the paths of conflicting traffic movements without being unduly restrictive, and it is considered that recently installed traffic islands accomplish this. The Commissioner of Highways has no power to direct the alteration of islands constructed prior to the amendment of section 358 of the Local Government Act.

#### SCHOOL BOOKS.

Mr. DUNSTAN—I have had complaints from people in my district about the delay in receiving rebates in respect of school books for children in departmental secondary schools. I find there has been no delay whatever at the school in my district but it appears that the passing of the accounts through the Accounts Branch of the department occasions a delay and some parents have not yet received their rebates. Can the Minister of Education say whether his department can speed up the procedure or whether some different method of giving these rebates on school books can be arranged so that there is not this delay at the beginning of the year?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I am sorry to hear of the present complaint about delays. I have not been made aware of any recently but some time ago I did receive complaints, both individual and from the executive of the Teachers Institute, who had discussions with the executive officers of the Education Department. Certain instructions were given and I thought that all delays had been eliminated but, as the honourable member has drawn my attention to alleged present delays, I shall be only too pleased to take up the matter again and see if the procedure can be speeded up. I do not think there is real cause for any substantial delay at present.

#### EXPRESS CROSSING.

Mr. HARDING—The night train from Adelaide to Mount Gambier arrives at Bordertown before the Melbourne to Adelaide express train. It is then shunted, apparently, backwards and forwards, even across the highway and over points, and this certainly disturbs any rest that passengers may expect to have. In my opinion there are better crossings than the Bordertown one that would not necessitate shunting over points and roads, either

at Wolseley or at Wirrega this side of Bordertown. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Railways to take up this matter with the Railways Commissioner, to see whether a better crossing place can be arranged for the Blue Lake express and the Melbourne to Adelaide express?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes; I will make inquiries.

#### PORT PIRIE WHARVES.

Mr. McKEE—Last November I asked the honourable member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon) as chairman of the Public Works Committee a question about the Port Pirie wharves reconstruction scheme. He then told me that his committee was anxiously awaiting the return of Mr. Meyer (General Manager of the Harbors Board) from overseas. He explained that on his return he hoped that his committee would proceed without further delay. Can the Minister of Works say whether there have been any further negotiations on the wharves reconstruction scheme for Port Pirie and, if so, what stage they have reached? If not, can he give the reasons for the delay in this most important work?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—To my knowledge there has been no unavoidable delay in considering this project, which I point out is still with the Public Works Committee. Therefore, until the committee is able to report—and I use the word “able” advisedly because I know that the committee has been doing its best to complete its consideration and bring down a report—I can give no further information. At present the committee is actively engaged on the bulk handling of wheat aspect of the Port Pirie harbor reconstruction scheme and, in fact, took evidence only this morning on that. Mr. Meyer saw me last week in regard to matters he intended to mention to the committee and on which he had prepared evidence. I think it is understood that, as in a project of this nature we are planning for requirements of industry for some time to come, it is necessary to hear and have fully sifted every possible aspect. If the honourable member believes there has been a delay, I point out that it has been solely for that purpose, and from what I know of negotiations the time has been well spent in discussing with the industries concerned the requirements and the best way to meet them in the interests of industry and the State. The Harbors Board and the Government are anxious to finalize this matter but I believe the right course is being pursued in fully consulting the interests.

Indeed, as time has gone by, various new factors have emerged in discussion that have been brought to light by discussing facets of the problem and various new alternatives that have been suggested. I suggest that there is no undue delay, that the committee is actively pursuing its inquiries, and that the industries concerned and the Harbors Board are proceeding and will in due course evolve what I think will be a scheme completely satisfactory to all concerned. After all, that is the desired objective.

#### RIVER TORRENS STORAGE DAM.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Some years ago a proposal to construct a new storage dam or reservoir on the River Torrens in the Gorge was discussed. I think at one stage it was before the Railways Standing Committee but subsequently the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline took precedence over other means to provide water for the metropolitan area. Will the Minister of Works state whether consideration has been or will again be given to referring the proposal for a new reservoir on the River Torrens to the Public Works Standing Committee for investigation and report?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—From time to time it has been said that the Engineer-in-Chief's Department has been examining all possible sites for reservoirs in the Adelaide Hills to augment the metropolitan water supply, and various projects are currently under consideration. No project is being considered at the moment although some publicity has been given to one or two possibilities that are being examined, but which are not at the stage at which they can be referred to the Public Works Standing Committee. It is considered that there are, perhaps, other things of greater urgency at the moment, and the investigating staff of the department is busily engaged on other projects. The storages on the Torrens system are not being neglected and as soon as we can carry out the necessary investigations I will look at the matter and refer it to Cabinet with a view possibly to referring it to the Public Works Standing Committee.

#### MANOORA-WATERLOO WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. NICHOLSON—Will the Minister of Works state whether anything is being done in relation to the water supply in the Manoora-Waterloo area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Speaking from memory, this matter was examined at the

request of the late Mr. Hambour and schedules of ratings were prepared and investigations undertaken into the quality of water. These matters had been made ready for the late member for Light to convey to his constituents and to consult with them. I should, therefore, be pleased to make available to the honourable member the material that has been prepared so that he can take up the matter with those people at the point where his predecessor left off.

Mr. Quirke—Is Watervale included in that survey?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I think it is, but I will get information on that.

#### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION: DOCTOR'S FEE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Recently a man employed in the building industry who had met with an accident during the course of his employment told me that he had received accounts from a doctor who had treated him. He was treated by this doctor because it was not convenient for him to attend the Royal Adelaide Hospital and, because the doctor was not a member of the British Medical Association, his charges were £1 1s. a visit. It seems that this is now a matter between the insurance company with which the employer is insured and the doctor. Will the Premier state whether there is some way to overcome such problems and whether doctors who are not members of the British Medical Association could advertise that fact so that people entitled to workmen's compensation would not go to them? Will he state whether there is any way to safeguard these people?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Although I do not know the facts, I would think workmen's compensation was payable in accordance with the Act to any person irrespective of whether he was treated by a member of the British Medical Association or any other fully qualified medical practitioner. Nothing in the Act requires an injured workman to attend any particular doctor but there is a provision for medical expenses to be paid to any qualified doctor. That is as far as I can take the matter without knowing the precise facts and the matters at issue. It may be (although I do not know whether this is the case) that the person consulted a specialist and was charged above the normal fee.

Mr. Frank Walsh—No.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—If the honourable member will tell me the name of the person and the insurance company I

will make some inquiries and I have no doubt that I will be able to advise him precisely about the matter. Offhand, I would say it has nothing to do with whether or not the practitioner was a member of the British Medical Association; I am sure that position would not be tenable under any circumstances.

#### MAN IN BLUE.

Mr. HUTCHENS—From reports I have received and observations I have made it appears that the *Man in Blue* is on duty at the Adelaide Railway Station on only five days a week to enable people to inquire and receive assistance on their travel. However, during the week-end people who use the railways are denied his services and must go to the stationmaster's office for information. Further, at the week-end notification over the amplifying system of the departure time of trains is left to a female and, with deference to the opposite sex, I think her voice is comparatively weak and does not command the same attention as the voice of the *Man in Blue*. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Railways whether some adjustments can be made to enable the services of the *Man in Blue* to be made available at week-ends to assist travellers and thus encourage a greater use of the railways?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes.

#### SCHOOL CAMPS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked last week on whether it was possible to have school camps during school hours?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Director of Education has provided the following report:—

As you are aware, there is an increasing belief at the present that insufficient time is being allotted to regular school work, and this is particularly the case at the secondary stage. A number of prominent citizens have spoken on this matter in recent months, not only in South Australia, but in other States. Unfortunately there are many interruptions to normal and regular school work. In spite of these, the staffs of each school are expected to bring the students up to the same high standard of achievement. It is impossible to do this if further substantial inroads are made into normal teaching time.

I have from time to time been quite happy to approve or to recommend for your approval the attendance of groups of children at school camps during school time, when these children were under a particular hardship or disability. This applies, for example, to those who come from under-privileged homes or to those who are severely retarded mentally. In these two instances, and perhaps in others like them, it

may well be considered that the undoubted advantages of school camps out-weigh the loss of time involved and the consequential harmful effects on their school progress.

I have discussed the matter with the Director, and I can assure the honourable member that every encouragement will be given to school parties to take part in school camps at week-ends and in vacations. However, it is considered that, in general, it is undesirable for these camps to occur in the already restricted time available for normal school work. The only exception to this is in the case of children from under-privileged homes or those who are severely retarded mentally. In the case of these two groups, it is considered that the advantages of school camping may outweigh the loss of time involved. That is a general statement of policy but it does not rule out consideration being given to any special application made at any time.

#### SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—On April 7 I asked the Premier whether anything was being done in relation to the south-western suburbs drainage scheme and in reply he said he understood that £25,000 had been made available for some of the work. Will the Minister of Works obtain a report from his colleague, the Minister of Local Government, setting out the full details of the programme up to the present and stating when it is expected that tenders will be called for the work?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes.

#### MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL.

Mr. RALSTON (on notice)—What was the average number of days of bed occupancy per patient for each of the years from 1948-1949 to 1958-1959, inclusive, at the Mount Gambier General Hospital?

The Hon. Sir Cecil Hincks, for the Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The following table sets out the position:—

Year.	Average number of days of bed occupancy per patient.
1948-49 . . . . .	9.73
1949-50 . . . . .	10.79
1950-51 . . . . .	9.04
1951-52 . . . . .	8.96
1952-53 . . . . .	8.75
1953-54 . . . . .	8.62
1954-55 . . . . .	9.05
1955-56 . . . . .	8.50
1956-57 . . . . .	8.45
1957-58 . . . . .	8.08
1958-59 . . . . .	8.03

#### BUSES ON BIRKENHEAD BRIDGE.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—

1. When is it proposed that Municipal Tramways Trust buses travelling to Semaphore and Largs will be diverted over the Birkenhead bridge instead of Jervois bridge?

2. What types of buses will be used?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The General Manager reports:—

1. It is expected that the Semaphore and Largs bus services will be diverted over Birkenhead bridge as from June 26, 1960.

2. In order to preserve "through" running without the necessity for passengers to change buses at Black Diamond corner, the trust hopes to operate trolley-buses over the Birkenhead bridge. However, there are a number of problems associated with this move which are currently being examined by Highway and Trust engineers. It is expected that a decision will shortly be made as to the practicability of diverting trolley-buses over the Birkenhead bridge.

#### TRANSPORT COUNCIL FEES.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice)—What amount was paid as remuneration for the services of members of the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council pursuant to section 9 of the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council Act, 1954-1957, in each of the financial years from 1954-55, to date?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The following amounts were paid as remuneration for the services of the Chairman and members of the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council:—

1954-55—£133. (From March 3 to June 30, 1955.)

1955-56—£640. (The remuneration of the Chairman, Mr. Justice Hannan, was fixed as from October 25, 1955, whilst the two members received £200 per annum for the full financial year.)

1956-57—£750.

1957-58—£750.

1958-59—£750.

1959-60—£375. (6 months to December 31, 1959.)

#### DEATH OF MR. G. HAMBOUR.

The SPEAKER—I conveyed to Mrs. Hambour, by letter, the motion of condolence recently carried by this House, and have received from her the following reply:—

Would you please convey to Sir Thomas Playford and Mr. M. R. O'Halloran, M.P., also all members of the House, our sincere thanks for your expression of sympathy on our recent sad loss.



SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION  
COMMITTEE.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved—

That Mr. J. S. Clark be discharged from attending the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation and that Mr. J. J. Jennings be appointed in his place.

Motion carried.

## PARLIAMENTARY DRAFTSMAN.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved—

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

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION  
BILLS.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved—

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

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

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

That Messrs. King, Millhouse, and O'Halloran be representatives of the Assembly on the said committee.

Motion carried.

## SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer), having obtained the suspension of Standing Order No. 44, moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair, the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech and a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion carried.

In Committee of Supply.

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

(1) That a Supply be granted to Her Majesty.

(2) That towards defraying the expenses of the establishments and public services of the State for the year ending June 30, 1961, a sum of £18,000,000 be granted: provided that no payments for any establishment or service shall be made out of the said sum in excess of

the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the financial year ended June 30, 1960, except increases of salaries or wages fixed or prescribed by any return made under any Act relating to the Public Service, or by any regulation or by any award, order or determination of any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe wages or salaries.

Motion carried.

Resolutions agreed to in Committee of Ways and Means and adopted by the House.

Bill introduced by the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford and read a first time.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

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

The Supply Bill now before the House is in the usual form for Bills of this nature. The amount of supply requested in the Bill is £18,000,000. The increase over last year's appropriation of £9,000,000 is due to the fact that Parliament has been called together at an earlier date than has been usual of recent years, and it is anticipated that Parliament will be in recess for the first six weeks of the financial year. We are experimenting by having two sessions this year and I believe it will greatly assist Ministers in the preparation of financial measures for next year. As members know, at this time of the year the annual Loan Council meeting is due to be held, and not only does it discuss Loan matters, but in many instances current revenue matters. Also, at this time of the year we usually have conferences in connection with Commonwealth-State agreements that come up for review from time to time. For example, the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement now has a limited life and within a few weeks a conference will be held in Adelaide to deal with the matter of the finance needed for housing purposes during the next five-year period. The experiment of having a session early in the year must assist the State's economy because it enables the Government to apply itself much more carefully to the preparation of the Estimates than would be the case if the Ministers had to attend Parliament House at the same time as they were preparing their financial estimates. Because of the two sessions this year the appropriation now is about equal to the two Bills we had last year. Clause 3 provides for the payment of any increases in salaries or wages which may be authorized by any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe salaries or wages.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—I do not intend to speak at length, because I agree that the Bill should pass, but I am pleased with the Treasurer's remarks about the two sessions of Parliament this year being an advantage to the Government, particularly in relation to financial matters. This indicates that considerable wisdom does come from the Opposition in this Chamber because for some years now it has advocated two sessions in the one year. We have had this trial period, and I will assist the conduct of business as much as possible by not saying any more on this Bill.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Edwardstown)—I support the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition. I am concerned about the conference to be held soon on the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. If there is one matter in this State that needs serious attention it is the matter of the finance that can be made available to people wanting to purchase houses. The Treasurer knows that on the market there are many houses which have been in existence for years and upon which finance cannot be made available for their purchase. This is not in the best interests of the many people who desire to live in Adelaide. Houses erected 20 and 30 years ago are of substantial quality and more consideration should be given to the matter of their purchase.

The SPEAKER—I do not know that the honourable member's remarks are pertinent to this Bill and I suggest that he confine his remarks to it.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I notice that this is "a Bill for an Act to apply out of the general revenue. . . ." I do not know whether the Bill contains a reference to the housing conference mentioned by the Treasurer but if he introduces that matter into this debate I believe that every member has the right to be heard on it. The Bill does cover the purchase of houses, and the Treasurer knows that many people want to purchase existing houses but are denied the right to get finance for that purpose because the lending authorities will not receive applications. The housing position is in a turmoil. Even if the matter of the conference does not come within the scope of the Bill, I hope that the Treasurer will see when the conference assembles that serious attention is given to the matter I have raised.

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

#### DENTISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

That the Dentists Act Amendment Bill, 1959, be restored to the Notice Paper as a lapsed Bill pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act, 1934-1959.

Motion carried.

The SPEAKER—I point out to members that this Bill became a lapsed Bill during the last session. It has now been restored to the Notice Paper and the debate on it will continue from the stage it reached last year. At that stage the member for Onkaparinga had obtained leave to continue his remarks. I now call on the honourable member.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga)—I ask leave to further continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I want to explain a few matters mentioned in the Supplementary Estimates. I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that the debate be adjourned today so that members may consider the Estimates and deal with them at an appropriate time, perhaps tomorrow or Thursday. There is nothing very controversial in the Supplementary Estimates.

When presenting the Estimates to the House on September 24, 1959, I stated that the adverse season had forced the Government to budget for a deficit, but that to keep the deficit within reasonable bounds the proposed expenditures of all departments had been carefully reviewed to ensure that all reasonable and proper economies should be observed. The majority of departments will be able to function within the limit of expenditures then proposed and some are expected to achieve a saving against the estimate. However, it is apparent that a few departments will not be able to continue to give a full and efficient service unless some additional funds are provided and therefore Supplementary Estimates have been introduced. While providing additional funds for some of the larger departments, the opportunity has been taken to include some smaller provisions for special payments and grants which were not foreseen when the Estimates were prepared. In total the Supplementary Estimates amount to £625,335.

I shall now give members an explanation of the amounts required:—

**HOSPITALS DEPARTMENT: £194,000.**—This amount is required to provide for salaries and wages and general running expenses at the present level which is somewhat higher than the level envisaged when the Estimates were presented. The opening and staffing of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has proceeded very smoothly and more rapidly than was expected earlier in the financial year. Increased expenditures have been incurred for running expenses at Royal Adelaide Hospital, in particular for drugs, food and X-ray services, while at both Parkside Mental Hospital and Mount Gambier Hospital the number of patients has been greater than anticipated.

**CHIEF SECRETARY—MISCELLANEOUS: £7,400.**—A sum of £2,000 is provided as a grant to the South Australian Olympic Council to assist in sending South Australian athletes to the Olympic Games to be held in Rome in September. A record number of contestants from South Australia is included in the team and the target of £12,000 has been set for this State to raise. To meet the costs incurred by the committee appointed by the Government to inquire into the fruit canning industry an amount of £2,400 is required. Owing to the extreme shortage of water on the Peterborough-Cockburn line, water has been carted by rail to supply private consumers in Oodlirra, Yunta, Mannahill and Olary. To relieve private consumers of part of the very high cost, Cabinet has approved of the Government bearing costs in excess of £1 per thousand gallons for water brought by rail to these areas. An amount of £1,000 is set aside for this purpose.

The World Refugee Year Appeal is a world-wide effort to help those people who were displaced from their homes by the upheavals of war. Many of these people are still homeless and living under conditions of poverty in the refugee camps of Europe, in Hong Kong, the Middle East and Greece. The aim of the Appeal is to assist the refugees to return to their homelands, to establish a normal life in the countries in which they are now living, or to emigrate to new lands with opportunities for progress. It is proposed to contribute £2,000 to the Appeal.

**PUBLICITY AND TOURIST BUREAU AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT: £1,550.**—An amount of £1,550 is included to cover payments towards the cost of illuminations and decorations for the Adelaide Festival of Arts. I believe that all members will be gratified at the public response to this festival, the results of which exceeded all expectations.

**LANDS DEPARTMENT: £35,450.**—During this financial year senior officers of the Lands Department have been engaged on an internal investigation designed to bring about substantial economies in the cost of operating the department, and in anticipation of the potential savings the proposed expenditures for the Department for 1959-60 were set down at £35,000 less than actual expenditures for 1958-59. With the additional provision now sought, expenditure will be no greater than actual expenditure in 1958-59, despite increased rates for salaries and wages and the rising cost of supplies, so that it can be seen that the investigation is achieving results even though the Department is unable to contain its expenditures within the original estimate.

**ENGINEERING AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT: £291,000.**—The cost of pumping from bores to supply the metropolitan area and of pumping through the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline to supply the northern areas has been heavier than was anticipated when the Estimates were presented. General maintenance work has also been more extensive than was estimated.

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT: £500.**—It is the Government's desire to provide in the Loan Estimates for 1960-61 funds for the commencement of 30 new schools which have not yet been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. So that the committee may have sufficient time to consider and report on these projects before the introduction of the Loan Estimates, it is desirable that the Public Buildings Department speed up work on the preparation of sketch plans and evidence to be given before the committee. To enable this to be done it will be necessary for quite a lot of extra work to be carried out by several officers who are not eligible to receive overtime. The Government proposes to grant a bonus to these officers.

**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: £48,619.**—An additional £35,000 is required to cover the general expenses of primary, higher primary, and area schools which have proved to be somewhat greater than estimated. The amount of £1,619 is provided for *ex gratia* payments of the monetary equivalent of long service leave to three members of the Education Department who began their careers as teachers but became public servants on promotion to inspector. Following the extension from 180 days to 270 days in the amount of long service leave which teachers may accumulate, the Government is considering the introduction of an amendment to the Education Act to cover the case of the

teacher who, on promotion, becomes a public servant. However, the three officers referred to are to retire in the near future and, pending a decision on a possible amendment, the Government proposes to make *ex gratia* payments. The Estimates also provide for additional commitments which have occurred for payments in lieu of leave to teachers, officers, and dependants.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION—MISCELLANEOUS: £30,000.—The University colleges themselves have raised more than £50,000 towards their building programme and the South Australian Government has contributed £40,000 to the University for that purpose. The Commonwealth Government agreed to contribute £80,000 towards University college buildings on condition that at least a corresponding amount was raised from other sources. A sum of £50,000 has already been claimed from the Commonwealth and passed across to the University. It was thought that the progress of building would be such that the remaining £30,000 of Commonwealth contribution would not be required until next financial year. With the present rate of progress on buildings it has been decided to claim the £30,000 soon, and this appropriation is sought so that the Government may pay the moneys across to the University as soon as they are received from the Commonwealth. Honourable members will see that from the State's point of view no extra expenditure is incurred by the taxpayer in this matter. It is merely to enable the Government to pass over to the University moneys due from the Commonwealth on behalf of the University. Appropriation is sought for several special expenses which are not specifically covered by the appropriation contained in the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories Act. An amount of £1,000 is required to cover the expenses incurred in bringing Dr. Coffey from the United States to be interviewed prior to his appointment as director of the laboratories, while £846 is provided for the insurance of buildings and fixed equipment. Whereas the council is responsible for the insurance of movable plant and equipment, the Government is responsible for the insurance of buildings and fixed equipment, which of course remain its property. A sum of £470 is provided to reimburse the laboratories for accumulated sick leave of officers. Officers who transferred to the laboratories took with them certain privileges, including that of sick leave accumulated during their period of public service. Since their transfer two officers have been unfortunate enough to require extended sick leave and the Government accepts

the financial responsibility for the leave taken out of that accumulated during their employment as public servants.

MINISTER OF ROADS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT—MISCELLANEOUS: £14,500.—An additional amount of £14,500 is required to meet the claims of district councils under the Electricity Supplies (Country Areas) Act. The Act provides that the Treasurer may make grants of half the capital cost of purchasing, extending or improving electricity undertakings, provided that the proposals have been investigated by the Electricity Trust of South Australia and approved by the Minister of Local Government. Payments have been made during this financial year to the district councils of Kimba, Le Hunte, and Streaky Bay. The additional provision will permit a grant to the district council of Murat Bay and a further grant to the district council of Le Hunte.

Honourable members will see that the lines included are, almost without exception, small lines that could not be anticipated when the Estimates were first prepared. They are more in the nature of rather unusual lines that have cropped up. They are not large but, in the aggregate, taking into account the increases granted in margins and in respect of one or two items of that description, they amount to £645,000, which is more than could be included in the Governor's warrant under the Constitution.

If I may, I should like to say a few words in addition to the explanation of the lines. I believe that the people of this State are to be congratulated upon the way they have faced up to what has been the driest period in our history. Examining the economic position of the State by any standard, we find it has weathered this drought extremely well.

Mr. O'Halloran—We have not yet come to the end of the road.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No; I know that. The rains that we have had are a break in the season. I realize that there is never any time when one can successfully predict the weather but, in the circumstances, I think we have weathered the drought in a way that would never have been considered possible a few years ago. Employment has remained at a high level and business activity has been very good. The State carried through the drought period an astonishingly large amount of stock. Speaking from my own observation—and I do not pretend to be an expert in this matter although I have had some country experience—I say that the stock in South Australia today, considering the

drought conditions, is in a very good condition. In all districts stock is strong and in good condition. Moreover, the adjustments we have had to make in the Loan account to meet the position have been made without any serious dislocation to employment and, as far as I know, there are no further unpleasant surprises ahead of us. Given a normal follow-up to the opening rains we can look back on this episode with considerable satisfaction at the way in which the State has gone through what I believe has been the most difficult drought season in history. I move the adoption of the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### POLICE OFFENCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### COLLECTIONS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES ACT (SCHOOLS PATRIOTIC FUND).

The Legislative Council transmitted the following resolution in which it requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly:—

That this House approves of the making of a proclamation under section 16 of the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act, 1939-1947, in the following form:—

SOUTH AUSTRALIA,	}	<i>Proclamation by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of the to wit. State of South Australia.</i>
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By virtue of the provisions of the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act, 1939-1947, and all other enabling powers, I, the said Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, being satisfied that money to the amount of seven hundred and thirty-three pounds three shillings and seven pence held at the Treasury to the credit and on behalf of the administrative board of the Schools Patriotic Fund, a body to which a licence had been granted under the said Act, for charitable purposes as defined by that Act, are not and will not be required for those purposes, do hereby declare that the said money, together with any interest accrued thereon, shall be vested in and transferred to the Chief Secretary, being the Minister of the Crown to whom the administration of the said Act has been duly committed, to be applied, as the Chief Secretary thinks fit, to the purposes and objects of S.P.F. Hostels Incorporated, a body duly incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1956-1957.

The making of this proclamation has been approved by resolution of both Houses of Parliament.

Given under my hand and the public seal of South Australia, at Adelaide, this day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1960.

By command,

Chief Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

#### STAMP DUTIES 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 Stamp Duties Act, 1923-1959.

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.*

This is a technical amendment to a Bill passed last year, and its object is to clear up doubts that might possibly arise in connection with the definition of a hire-purchase agreement for stamp duty purposes arising from a typographical error. The definition of "hire-purchase agreement" in the Bill which was enacted last year to provide for payment of stamp duty on hire-purchase agreements was designed to accord with the definition in the uniform Hire-purchase Agreements Bill. That Bill however does not define "hire-purchase agreement" exclusively—it does no more than provide that a hire-purchase agreement shall "include" transactions of the type set out. In the interests of uniformity it was intended to use the same formula in the Stamp Duties Amendment Act, but the word "means" was used instead of the word "includes." It might be suggested that by using the word "means" Parliament intended to limit the scope of the agreements to be subjected to stamp duty. This was, of course, not the intention. The intention was rather to provide that whatever the meaning of a hire-purchase agreement was, or was not, it was to include certain types of transaction which might otherwise be considered to be outside the scope of the definition. Clause 4 accordingly substitutes the word "includes" for the word "means" in the definition and makes the amendment retrospective.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE.

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

That Mr. Heaslip be appointed to be one of the representatives of the Assembly on the Joint House Committee in place of the late Mr. G. Hambour.

Motion carried.

SWINE COMPENSATION ACT  
AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Swine Compensation Act, 1936-1954. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I move—

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

This Bill is required to deal with infectious rhinitis disease of swine and, in order to give the House the full information on this subject, I will speak in somewhat greater detail than might usually be warranted. The reason for the existence of the Swine Compensation Act is that pig owners may be compensated when their pigs have to be destroyed on the order of the authorities. The funds collected under this Act are derived from a stamp duty on all sales of swine excepting store pigs and studs sold by private treaty. The rate of collection is 1½d. in the pound. The owners are compensated for pigs ordered to be slaughtered up to a maximum of £30 per animal. The fund at June 30, 1959, stood at £92,566. Expenditure authorized in this Bill as a debit against the funds is about £1,500 to date.

There are a number of diseases which are present in the State and are practically ineradicable. The policy of the department, in the event of an outbreak, is to order slaughter with compensation where necessary and to control movement of pigs from the herd. The diseases definition in the Act covers a number of ailments which have appeared in South Australia, and from which advantage to the industry is derived by the above actions. This policy is widely supported by pig owners of the State.

The list of diseases is as follows:—tuberculosis, swine fever, infectious pneumonia of swine (including swine plague), swine dysentery, swine erysipelas, and swine paratyphoid (necrotic enteritis). I am moving to add to this list infectious rhinitis, and also to provide that the Governor may by proclamation include other ailments in the disease definition. I shall describe the circumstances leading to this Bill. In November, 1959 a disease of pigs in which sneezing and nasal discharge were present was reported. On November 10 a stock inspector examined the piggery and reported unusual features, including sneezing and nasal discharge. The next day a departmental veterinary officer visited the piggery and suspected rhinitis. The Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science studied specimens and supported the diagnosis. However, to be quite sure,

specimens were flown to England to the veterinary laboratories at Weybridge, England. Subsequently the diagnosis was confirmed from England. The disease had never been known in Australia before. The Government was faced with a difficult position. Power to order destruction of diseased pigs exists in the Stock Diseases Act. Compensation is not payable under that Act. In fairness to owners and to ensure their full co-operation, it is desirable to pay compensation. As rhinitis is not specified in the Swine Compensation Act the fund which exists for this type of compensation could not be used. As a matter of fact, it could be debated that the fund could be used as the disease could be called a form of pneumonia. Parliament was not sitting at the time and there existed no machinery for including the disease in the Swine Compensation Act.

The Government decided that the urgency of the situation demanded the use of Treasury funds, and it was decided to approach Parliament at an early date to seek inclusion in the Swine Compensation Act. I believe that the Greek word "rhinos" means "nose" and "itis" means "inflammation" so inflammation of the nose is really all that is specified by "rhinitis." Swift measures to contain the disease were undertaken, but as fast as properties were visited more outbreaks were located. Methods of swift diagnosis so urgently needed are not available anywhere. The Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science is at present working on this problem. The position was that about 150 properties were under quarantine and there is evidence of much wider contact with the disease. We have called conferences of interstate and Commonwealth health authorities. The first was held on December 15 last and the latest on April 6. The conclusion, which now seems wise, was that the quarantine policy should be modified and that future control measures be similar to that of other diseases, such as most of those mentioned in the Swine Compensation Act. It must be recognized that the infection is ineradicable. The position is not greatly different from the more serious respiratory diseases of humans.

It is just as important that compensation be payable under conditions of control, as it was in the earlier efforts to eradicate the infection. There is one important aspect of the whole matter that I have not yet mentioned. The origin of the disease cannot be given with certainty. It is considered likely that it was brought to this country by imported animals.

In recent years the only pigs imported to Australia have been the Landrace breed—20 of these were imported in 1957-58. However, no importations were direct into South Australia. There have been no importations at all since 1958, and a total ban has again been imposed by the Commonwealth. It has occurred to our departmental officers that the disease could possibly exist in other States. However, the authorities in those States tell us that it does not occur. It is also postulated by some that it is not a new disease at all, but simply a benign chronic form of rhinitis that has existed in Victoria, and possibly elsewhere, for several years.

Mr. Jenkins—Is the disease widespread or does it apply to any particular area?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I believe it has occurred in practically every part of the State where pigs are kept, with the possible exception of the lower South-East. It is argued that this disease newly introduced to the susceptible South Australian population has caused the epidemic. These opinions are respected by our officers. It is hoped that they are correct. In order to give our neighbours every chance possible to keep the disease out, I recently telegraphed Ministers in other States putting the latest position to them. There has been much discussion on the responsibility of Landrace pigs in this regard. The following comments may therefore be of interest. The Landrace pigs imported to Australia mostly came from Ireland. Information available suggests that it is possible these animals could have carried rhinitis. I do not know that Landrace pigs are any more susceptible than others to the disease. Certainly many different breeds of pigs have been affected in South Australia. The economic effect of the disease is described by Mr. Irving, the Chief of the Division of Animal Husbandry, as follows:—

There is no doubt that the disease, as it occurs in South Australia, is the cause of economic loss on affected piggeries. The extent of losses on any piggery may depend on the co-existence of other diseases, and the level of husbandry practised. It is a low grade disease, which will add to the burdens of the industry. In United States of America it is considered to be responsible for a 7 per cent decrease in growth rate, and a 7 per cent decline in conversion efficiency (St. George). In the United Kingdom, it has been responsible for neo-natal mortalities of up to 50 per cent (Done). The existence of the disease on several of the best piggeries in the State, where husbandry is at a high level, will provide some early evidence on the economic effects of the disease.

Mr. Irving has reported on the April, 1960, conference of Commonwealth and State officers in its discussion on the merits of control or eradication in the following terms:—

The occurrence of the disease in recent weeks in herds which have had no outside contacts for several months, greatly complicates its epidemiology, and renders effective control virtually impossible.

While it was agreed that the attempt to contain the disease by quarantine of affected piggeries, and tracing of contacts has been justified in the early stages, it was unanimously agreed that, on available evidence, there is now no hope of either controlling the spread or eradicating the disease from this State.

The following is the Parliamentary Draftsman's report on the Bill:—

Its purpose is to extend the definition of "disease" in the Swine Compensation Act. That Act provides for the establishment of a fund from the proceeds of a stamp duty from which compensation is payable where swine or carcasses are condemned because they are suffering or suspected to be suffering from disease. Section 4 of the Act defines "disease" for the purposes of the Act. The definition does not cover the disease known as infectious rhinitis, an outbreak of which recently occurred. In an endeavour to contain and prevent the spread of this disease, destruction was ordered, giving rise, not unnaturally, to claims for compensation, which the Government has felt should be paid. I do not think that any objection will be taken to the inclusion of this disease within the Act and the Government feels confident that Parliament will grant the necessary authority to cover payments which have already been made.

The particular disease to which I have referred is covered by clauses 3 (a) and 5 of the Bill, the latter clause operating to give retrospective effect to its inclusion in the principal Act. At the same time the Government is of the opinion that the definition clause should be extended by the addition of diseases declared by proclamation and this amendment is effected by clause 3 (b) of the Bill. Clause 4 inserts in the principal Act a new section empowering the Governor to declare additional diseases by way of proclamation or to remove any proclaimed disease from the list.

The Government believes these additional provisions to be necessary. Indeed, the very fact which has moved it to bring in the Bill at all illustrates the necessity for the provision now sought. The disease of infectious rhinitis has not occurred at any time during the history of the State. It did not occur at a time when Parliament was in session. There is no reason why other diseases might not occur in future or that outbreaks should necessarily occur when Parliament is in session. Measures have to be taken in these matters without delay. It is embarrassing to any Government to be in a position where it cannot safely take urgent and necessary measures to prevent the spread of a disease in swine, pending the enactment of amending legislation. I have given greater detail than might have

been expected on such a Bill, but in view of the development of the disease I wanted to give the fullest information possible. I commend the Bill to honourable members.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Soil Conservation Act, 1939-1947. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I move—

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

Its objects are to simplify and clarify certain provisions of the principal Act and to prohibit persons from creating certain conditions by cultivation, burning off or stock grazing on their land as a result of which sand drifts on to other land causing damage to that land or loss to other persons. The principal Act has a provision whereby an additional area may be included in a soil conservation district but no provision exists whereby a district may be divided into two or more districts or whereby part of a district may be transferred to another district. Such a provision would be necessary and desirable, for example, if a district were constituted in the Upper South-East, to enable the Meningie area of the Murray Mallee District, for convenience of administration, to be transferred to that new district. This omission in the principal Act is remedied by a new subsection (7) added to section 6a by clause 3 and the short amendment of section 6c contained in clause 4 of the Bill.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in the interpretation of the expression "occupiers of land" in sections 6a (1) and 6c (1) of the principal Act. These sections provide as follows:—

6a. (1) At least three-fifths of the occupiers of land in any area may present a petition to the Minister praying that that area shall be constituted a soil conservation district.

6c. (1) If the Committee recommends that any additional area be included in a district, and the Minister is satisfied that at least three-fifths of the occupiers of land within the additional area consent to the inclusion of that area in the district the Governor may . . . declare that the additional area shall be included in the district.

In order to give effect to these provisions it is necessary to ascertain the number of "occupiers" of land in each particular area in question. It is not always possible or practicable to make a complete survey of those areas for that purpose, and it is felt that for the purposes of the Soil Conservation Act only

the persons who are concerned with soil conservation should have a say in the constitution of soil conservation districts. As occupiers of houses in towns and townships are not faced with the problem of soil conservation they are not concerned with the constitution of those districts, but unless they are excluded from the application of the expression "occupiers of land" for the purposes of those sections they still form a substantial proportion of occupiers of whom three-fifths have to be in favour of the proposal. The Government has therefore accepted the principle that the word "occupiers," for the purposes of those sections, should be defined—

- (a) with respect to land in municipalities and districts, as resident ratepayers who are owners or occupiers of ratable properties not less than five acres in extent; or
- (b) with respect to other land, as resident owners, lessees or managers of land of not less than five acres in extent used mainly for agricultural or pastoral purposes.

This principle is given effect in the new subsection (8) added to section 6a of the principal Act by clause 3.

The object of the new section 6j enacted by clause 5 is to place on persons who, by ill-considered or careless cultivation, burning off or stock grazing on land prone to sand drift, cause sand drift conditions detrimental to other land, the responsibility for the conditions they thereby create.

The existing provisions of the Act are considered adequate to enforce action to arrest sand drift when it becomes evident, but experience has proved that those provisions are not adequate to prevent damage due to ill-considered or careless cultivation, burning off or stock grazing, and after the Advisory Committee on Soil Conservation and several district soil conservation boards had considered a number of propositions relating to this problem the provisions contained in this clause were considered to provide the most effective solution.

Section 13j (2) of the principal Act empowers the Advisory Committee on Soil Conservation to do any act or work specified in a soil conservation order if a person bound by the order fails to do so. It has been rightly pointed out by the committee that if work is not done within a particular or specified time, further work might have become necessary because of the delay. Cases could occur, for instance, where because of delay in carrying



out orders to seed drift areas, those drift areas would extend, or where owing to urgency on account of seasonal conditions, bushing would be required. But the Act confers no power on the committee to do more than the person bound by the order failed to do and clause 6 of the Bill remedies that omission.

The proviso to subsection (1) of section 13n of the principal Act was enacted in the drought year of 1945 as it was feared at that time that because of the conditions at the time the Soil Conservator might be inundated with applications for soil conservation orders under that section. Most sandy areas where trouble is more likely to occur are now within soil conservation districts where the Sand Drift Act does not apply. Moreover, methods of control under the Sand Drift Act are not as appropriate for soil conservation as those under the Soil Conservation Act, and the need for this proviso now ceases to exist. Clause 7 (a) of the Bill accordingly repeals it.

Section 13n of the principal Act provides that, as regards land which is not within a soil conservation district or within a district for which no board exists, any person may apply to the Soil Conservator for a soil conservation order, and empowers the Conservator to make a provisional order. The new subsections (3), (4) and (5), added to that section by clause 7 (b), merely confer on the Minister the same power, as regards that land, as the Conservator has, thus making it unnecessary for the Minister formally to apply to the Conservator for an order which in any event (whether made by the Minister or the Conservator) would still be subject to confirmation by the committee.

That report of the Parliamentary Draftsman was prepared in consultation with the Soil Conservation Committee. Since the original legislation was introduced in 1939 fears have been expressed about its administration, but I believe that the last 21 years have shown, firstly, that the fears of any dictatorial or harsh administration, or any unfair or unreasonable administration, were groundless; and, secondly, that the Act has been a conspicuous success in contributing to the soil fertility conditions that exist in the State today. During the last 12 months we have been through a drought similar to the 1914 drought, but the amount of soil erosion in the State is comparatively small and is, I believe, very much less than that expected by many experts. Soil erosion exists widely

throughout the State today and is undoubtedly a serious problem. There is certainly evidence of its occurrence in various districts, but the extent of that erosion—and I believe all will agree—is very much lower than would have been the case had this Act not been passed, had the Soil Conservation Branch of the Department of Agriculture not been formed some years ago, and had the standard of farming and the general approach to soil fertility of the farmers not been so greatly improved over the last 20 or 30 years.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### TRAVELLING STOCK WAYBILLS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Travelling Stock Waybills Act, 1911-1956. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I move:—

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

When the Travelling Stock Waybills Act was amended in 1956 it was provided that it should be a defence to a drover charged with conveying stock within a hundred without a waybill if he proved that the stock were being conveyed in daylight for a distance of not more than 20 miles; in other words, stock could be conveyed up to 20 miles in daylight hours. This amendment was made to section 6 of the Act requiring drovers to carry and produce waybills. A consequential amendment was not made to section 5, which still requires every owner at the time of delivering stock to a drover to deliver a waybill. The law is thus anomalous because, while a drover may convey stock up to 20 miles in daylight hours without a waybill, an owner is required to provide the drover with a waybill whether the movement is to take place in daylight or otherwise. The object of this short Bill is to cure the defect by adding a further subsection to section 5 along similar lines to that which was added to section 6 in 1956. Clause 3 accordingly so provides. The new subsection is in terms almost identical with those of the former amendment, as it has been deemed inadvisable to depart from the language there used.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.44 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, May 4, at 2 p.m.