

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, May 4, 1960.

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

QUESTIONS.**RESERVE BANK BUILDING.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—My question relates to the erection of a large building at Victoria Square for the Commonwealth Reserve Bank. I understand that in addition to providing accommodation for its own banking facilities the bank is prepared to provide considerable badly needed accommodation for our own Public Service. Will the Premier state whether any progress has been made in negotiations?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The original proposal submitted to, and discussed with, the Commonwealth Bank provided for the Reserve Bank to erect a 100ft. square building of the maximum permissible height on the corner of Victoria Square and Flinders Street opposite the Treasury Building. This building was to serve the purposes of the Reserve Bank, which wanted two below-floor levels and two above-floor levels, and it also provided for a great deal of accommodation to be made available to the South Australian Public Service. Associated with this proposal were two difficulties. The first was that to get the required area it was necessary to close half of Moulton Street because, without its closing, there was not sufficient area for the bank to erect the proposed building. Although the City Council agreed to co-operate I felt it was not a particularly good arrangement because, in general terms, the widening of streets in Adelaide is, I feel, more progressive than narrowing them. Secondly, when the Commonwealth Bank Board examined the proposal it found that having a building 100ft. square did not lend itself to the economic use of the land or the building, and that it was not as effective as a rectangular building. In consequence, the Government entered into negotiations with the Oddfellows Lodge, which occupies the building adjacent to the Australian Workers Union Building. It has now agreed to purchase that building, and the Reserve Bank has agreed to extend its building an additional 15ft. in Flinders Street, and to relinquish from the agreement some of the land facing Victoria Square.

The agreements are now complete and the Commonwealth Bank has commenced testing the ground for the foundations. The proposal will mean that Moulton Street will be shifted eastward and that the Australian Workers Union

building will be adjacent to the new street. This will enable slightly more accommodation to be provided and a much more effective use of the accommodation. It also leaves much more room for our own building to be erected between the Reserve Bank and the area at present occupied by the Engineer-in-Chief. We do not intend to go on with the South Australian Government building immediately but the long-term leases we are entering into for the rental of the Reserve Bank building will speedily give much relief for the Public Service.

SALES OF SUIT LENGTHS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—In yesterday's *News* appeared the following statement:—

A group of plausible high-pressure salesmen was fleecing people all over South Australia with cheap synthetic suit lengths.

Later in the article it was stated that the salesmen were selling these suit lengths as woollen goods and that the sales were making serious inroads into the legitimate woollen tailoring trade. Undoubtedly, these sales must be affecting the wool industry and, naturally, the economy of the State. Has this matter been brought to the notice of the Minister of Agriculture and, if so, is any action contemplated to protect the public, the economy and the wool industry?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The promotion and advertising of wool is in the hands of a national body known as the Wool Bureau. If the honourable member gives details I will see that the Wool Bureau is advised of these and of any other information he brings forward. That is as far as I can take the matter except to say that, important as it is that our wool is properly promoted inside Australia, nevertheless less than 10 per cent of the wool produced in Australia is used here and much of the Wool Bureau's activities are concentrated on selling wool to overseas buyers. However, I will forward the information given by the honourable member to the Bureau.

AMERICAN WARSHIPS' VISIT.

Mr. JENKINS—I understand that warships of the American Navy will be calling on South Australia within the next few days as part of the Coral Sea Week celebrations. Will the Premier approach the Minister for the Navy or the American Consul and ask that the ships be invited to call at, or steam as near as possible to, Victor Harbour, either when coming or going?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will have that matter investigated for the honourable member.

PUBLIC RELIEF.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I understand that certain people would normally be entitled to assistance from the Children's Welfare Department but, because they have a television set, for instance, under hire-purchase, the children of that family have been denied the right of an adequate food supply by the department. In other cases people who have been on relief and have subsequently entered into a hire-purchase contract for a television set have consequently lost their right to further assistance. In the former case the television set could have been purchased prior to the husband's being committed to prison. Although I have not much sympathy with the family concerned in the latter case, can the Premier ask the Chief Secretary to investigate the matter and see that where these cases occur at least the children are entitled to the ordinary food requirements?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will have the matter investigated. I personally would not advocate, nor would I support, the use of relief funds for the purchase of television sets, because that is not the purpose for which those funds are provided by Parliament.

RUSSIAN SOFTWOODS.

Mr. LAUCKE—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question concerning the possible effects on our timber industry of the importation of Russian softwoods?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—A report from the Conservator of Forests states that the question of the import of Russian timbers into Australia is at the following stage. As the result of representations from Russian exporters, through their Australian agents, Montagu Meyer Ltd., it has been arranged that small trial parcels be sent to merchants in Brisbane, Newcastle, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide. The Adelaide merchants involved are Gunnensen LeMessurier Ltd. The timber in this case is called cedar, reputed to be of joinery quality, and the price ex wharf Port Adelaide would be 203s. 9d. per 100 super feet. This price is far too high to be competitive with local timbers and most other timbers imported from overseas. The timber is being shipped on the *Arafura* and is due to leave the port of export on June 20 next. The specifications are 1in., 1½in., 2in. and 3in. thickness and 4in. to 12in. in width. Lengths are

random from 9ft. and upwards. It is understood that in addition to cedar, possibly importations from Russia will include larch, redwood (equivalent to Baltic timber) and whitewood (spruce), although these latter species are stated not to be available at the moment. The Adelaide agents assure me that cedar importations will not interfere with existing trade in overseas and local timbers. The honourable member will be aware, of course, that there are no import restrictions on these timbers. However, I believe that a tariff inquiry to deal with the question of timber has been in process of being organized for some time and is likely to be held. In general, the price is not likely to affect radiata at all.

COMMONWEALTH AID FOR EDUCATION.

Mr. CLARK—A report in this morning's *Advertiser* hints at Commonwealth aid for education, and quotes the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Downer), who, I take it, was acting as the Government's spokesman in a debate in the Federal Parliament yesterday, as follows:—

We are continually thinking about the problems of education. . . . As circumstances and financial commitments permit, I have no doubt more will be done to supplement the action of States on education.

Has the Premier any knowledge of any proposed Commonwealth assistance to the State Governments for education, and, if not, will he comment on the statement?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Some time ago the Commonwealth Government took an active interest in education at universities. Even prior to that, the Chifley Government, I think, introduced a fairly extensive list of scholarships for students at the universities which have been of great benefit to many students who otherwise would probably have been denied the opportunity of university education. That action supplemented the scholarships given by the State, with the result that at present any really smart boy is able to go to a university, almost without any outside support and irrespective of the means of his parents. However, I think the honourable member's question related more closely to primary education, and, as far as I know, the Commonwealth Government has never taken any steps to deal with the question of specifically assisting the States in primary education. It has made certain tax reimbursements to the States, but they were, of course, to cover the whole of the services of the States and were not earmarked for any particular purpose. I think the debate the honourable member refers

to was in relation to some special amount to be made available to the States for education. I know of no Commonwealth proposal along the lines indicated by the honourable member.

LAND SETTLEMENT ON EYRE PENINSULA.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—In view of the fact that 45 or 50 people are now awaiting land on Eyre Peninsula, and most of them can either finance themselves or be financed by their fathers, would the Minister of Lands seriously consider cutting up some of the fauna and flora reserves on Eyre Peninsula, consisting of about 250,000 acres, much of which is good land and within a reasonable rainfall area?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS—During the last six weeks 16 blocks have been cut up and offered for application, and in addition a number of blocks (I think six in all) are now open for application. Much of the area referred to in the fauna and flora reserve is very poor quality land, but as the honourable member has mentioned these localities I will have the Land Board investigate the matter and bring down a report.

WALLAROO HOSPITAL.

Mr. HUGHES—Towards the end of last session I asked the Minister of Works a question relating to urgent repairs required at the Wallaroo Hospital in the underpinning of the western wing. I understood at that time that a complete set of plans had been prepared showing the points at which underpinning should be undertaken, the method of underpinning, the materials to be used, and a suggested programme for the work to be carried out; that Cabinet had approved an expenditure of £23,000; and that tenders would be called for the work as soon as possible. Can the Minister state whether tenders have been called, whether a tender has been accepted, and, if so, when it can be expected that the work will commence?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—It is correct that the renovations at the Wallaroo hospital were carried to the stage mentioned by the honourable member. Since that time, however, it has been necessary to consider a proposal to do additional work on the nurses' home. These investigations have now been completed and the Director of Public Buildings informs me that tenders for all of the work will be called next week.

FIRE FIGHTING ASSOCIATIONS.

Mr. HARDING—Last week I attended the annual meeting of the Naracoorte Fire Fighting Association, which has the most modern fire fighting equipment of any association in the State. I have been asked to ascertain when the fire fighting associations can expect to get copies of the consolidated Bush Fires Act, and whether meteorological maps of the upper and lower South-East, showing the Hundreds in each area, are available for purchase by fire fighting associations. Will the Minister of Works get a reply for me from the Minister of Agriculture?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will do that.

WHYALLA INDUSTRIAL SITES.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Does the Minister of Lands know whether the sale of the old aerodrome at Whyalla to the Lands Department has been completed? Can he give a tentative date for the calling of applications for industrial sites, and indicate the date of their allocation?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS—This question follows on one previously asked by the honourable member when I informed him that the documents were with the Broken Hill Proprietary Company. Since then I have found they were with the company not in Adelaide but in Melbourne. They have now been signed and are in the Crown Law office for verification. As soon as they are returned to the Lands Department applications for the land will be called immediately. I cannot give the honourable member the exact date, but I will ascertain it for him as soon as possible. We realize how urgent is the matter of calling for applications. The whole area has been surveyed and everything is ready for direct action.

TYRE PRICES.

Mr. HALL—Has the Premier obtained a reply to the question I asked yesterday regarding the sale of tyres and tubes?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Prices Commissioner has furnished me with the following report:—

New trading conditions announced for the rubber industry concern tyres and tubes only. An orderly marketing scheme has been introduced to eliminate excessive discounting and unfair practices in the trade. It was first submitted by the rubber industry to the Prices Commissioner and thoroughly examined and amended by him before being put into effect.

The new conditions have been designed to—
(a) eliminate cut-throat trading at the expense of smaller resellers, including garagemen.

(b) avoid the possibility of a price increase on tyres and tubes.

Some traders had been selling tyres and tubes at excessive discounts in order to attract business away from competitors. This had caused chaotic conditions in the industry as other traders were faced with either losing sales or meeting these discounts which, if they did, meant little if any profit. The new trading conditions would make it possible for all resellers, including service stations, to sell tyres on equal terms. Profit margins provided for under the scheme are substantially the same as previously, but, if a trader continued to give discounts, his volume discount or rebate would be reduced. This would have the effect of reducing his margin. With regard to the cutting off of supplies, under no circumstances would manufacturers refuse to supply tyres to any trader. The Prices Commissioners of Queensland and New South Wales have also concurred with the scheme.

CEMENT ASBESTOS PIPE INDUSTRY.

Mr. McKEE—Has the attention of the Premier been drawn to the report in yesterday's *News* of the establishment of a cement asbestos plant at Elizabeth by James Hardie & Company? Will he say why the claims of Port Pirie were overlooked in this matter, what inducements were made by him to the firm in order to establish the industry at Elizabeth, and whether any inducements were offered to the company to establish its plant at Port Pirie?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am not in a position to make a decision on behalf of the company. Any decision it makes in regard to establishing industries in this State is a matter for the company itself, and when it has made a decision it is proper for the company to announce it. For about four years we have been earnestly soliciting this company to come to South Australia because the pipes it makes are extremely valuable to us in the reticulation of water in rural areas. The pipes make possible the reticulation of water in many areas that could not be serviced otherwise. Up to the present we have had to bring the pipes overland from New South Wales by road, which is costly, and as they are light and fragile it has always involved us in fairly heavy losses through breakages. The Government welcomes the establishment of the industry in South Australia. The installation of the plant will be costly and it will require a large outlay of money to make it a profitable venture. Recently the company said it was prepared to consider establishing in South Australia and we submitted a proposition to it. That proposition has been considered and approved by our Industries Development Com-

mittee and it certainly has the approval of the Government. The proposition provides for the lease of land and the erection of a factory in the Elizabeth area. The company did not express to me any desire to go to Port Pirie but the honourable member has my assurance that if it had done so the Government would have done its utmost to facilitate the company in that regard, although probably the most convenient place for the establishment of the industry is where the biggest weight of the pipes will be used. I think the company has established the industry in probably a central position in this State, so as to serve the whole of the State rather than one section. However, I can assure the honourable member that no attempt was made by the Government either to prevent the company from going to Port Pirie or in any way to lessen the desire to assist it had it gone to Port Pirie. The location of the industry is one that the company having looked at the proposals submitted to it, must decide for itself, if it goes on with the proposal, which I hope it does because it is important to South Australia, particularly to our rural areas.

NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL.

Mrs. STEELE—The first stage in the construction of the new Norwood High School is now nearing completion, and in fact, as planned, timber buildings to house first-year girls and boys have been occupied since the commencement of the current school year, even though this has been carried out under difficulties. As at present the Norwood High School is being conducted in two parts, which, of course, presents certain administrative difficulties, can the Minister of Education say whether plans to complete the school with the addition of buildings of solid construction have been prepared for the consideration of the Public Works Committee and, if so, when it is expected that the completion of the school buildings will be put in hand?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The plans are being prepared but have not yet been submitted to the Public Works Committee. They are for one of many schools which I hope and feel confident will be submitted to the Public Works Committee at the earliest possible moment. I am hopeful and confident that, as usual, the Public Works Committee will deal with them with the greatest expedition but I cannot give any more up-to-date information at present. My colleague, the Minister of Works, reminds me—I did not like to say this without his saying so—that, with the

approval of Cabinet, he as Minister of Works has made special arrangements with the Director and professional officers of the Public Buildings Department to expedite this very necessary work, which will probably, as a result, be two or three months ahead of schedule.

PORT ADELAIDE GIRLS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. RYAN—Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Port Adelaide girls technical high school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Director of the Public Buildings Department has advised me that it is anticipated that tenders will be called in June of this year for the erection of the school.

MAIL SERVICES.

Mr. NANKIVELL—I have received letters signed by the residents of both Culburra and Yumali complaining of the unsatisfactory mail services since the inauguration of the south-eastern Bluebird railcar service, which now stops only on alternate days to pick up mail instead of daily, as under the old service. Will the Minister of Works representing the Minister of Railways take up this matter with the Postmaster-General's Department with a view either to improving the service by reverting to the old time table or, alternatively, finding an alternative mail contractor to deliver mail between Taillem Bend and Bordertown?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—As the honourable member appreciates, the control of mails is not within the ambit of the State Government. I presume that the Railways Commissioner has some difficulty in marrying up his desires, on the one hand, to serve the people along the line at each station and, on the other hand, to provide rapid transport for through passengers on long journeys. However, as the honourable member has framed his question in this way, I shall be pleased to contact the Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs in Adelaide about the problem.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE ROOF.

Mr. QUIRKE—It is commonly held outside this Parliament that the members thereof lead a sheltered existence. However true that may be, over the last five years it has been a rapidly diminishing factor, and the last rains have proved conclusively that the shelter is not as good here as is thought by people outside. Over the last five years the roof of this place has been leaking and has now deteriorated to

such an extent that in places the water pours through and is doing damage. If this continues, much more damage will be done. Has the Government plans—it is not a patchwork job, I can assure honourable members; something drastic has to be done—for repairing the roof, or has it ideas of issuing waterproof clothing to maintain the protection that members are popularly supposed to have?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The honourable member having raised the matter, I will look at the building myself and also get the Director of the Public Buildings Department to send officers to make a detailed examination, preferably after heavy rain so that the damage may be more easily located. I do not want to comment on the more facetious side of the question, except to say that some people outside would possibly say members of Parliament are wet enough anyway and could not be any wetter! I will have the matter examined and a report made available.

SOUTH-EASTERN CLOSER SETTLEMENT.

Mr. RALSTON—Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my question yesterday concerning land suitable for development in the South-East?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS—The Director of Lands reports:—

The District Council of Robe was the only council within the electorates of Mount Gambier, Millicent and Victoria to suggest areas which may be suitable for further development. The land referred to by the Robe Council comprises scattered areas in the Hundreds of Waterhouse, Ross, Bray and Smith. The matter has been referred to the Land Board for investigation and report.

I regret that yesterday I did say that, as far as my memory served me, no submissions had been sent in from those localities, whereas Robe did make a submission and we immediately sent plans to them asking them to mark on the plans where these areas were. We have not received those plans back. The Land Board is investigating it.

ELECTRICITY FOR KAPUNDA AND BAGOT WELL.

Mr. NICHOLSON—Will the Treasurer get a report from the Electricity Trust on the progress made on the Kapunda and Bagot Well tableland electricity extension project, and when it is likely to be completed?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

WOOLLEN SHIRT PRICE.

Mr. BYWATERS—Recently I was told that drip-dry woollen shirts were on the market

and, being anxious to patronize local industry, I went to a men's outfitter with the idea of purchasing one. I was told that the shirt was a Whitmont, and that its price was £5 19s. 6d. This price was too high for me as a member of Parliament, so I did not buy it. I asked the price of a substitute and was told that it was only £3 19s. 6d. Will the Premier investigate this matter to see whether these shirts are under price control? If they are not, and if it is necessary for them to be brought under price control, will that be done?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—If the shirt mentioned by the honourable member is woollen I would say offhand it is not under price control. A case was put up some time ago that the control of the prices of woollen goods was making the market less attractive and was one of the reasons why they were not being sold. I will have the matter investigated, however, and obtain a report from the Prices Commissioner. If the honourable member will give me the name of the shirt and the retailer, I will have a check made to see how the price is worked out.

KERBING CHARGES.

Mr. FRED WALSH—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked recently relating to local government charges for kerbing?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Minister of Local Government advises that the Town Planning Act provides that subdividers of land within municipalities and certain district council districts shall provide a 24ft. sealed metal roadway but no mention is made of water tables and kerbing of footways. Councils are empowered by the Act to construct roadways, water tables and kerbs in any public street and on completion of the respective works a council may recover from adjoining owners such part of the cost as it thinks fit, but the total amount payable shall not exceed 10s. a lineal foot frontage irrespective of whether the work is done at different times or for any of the different purposes. In general, the minimum cost of constructing a light type of 24ft. sealed roadway would be £2 a running foot, kerbs and water tables a further 10s. each side and asphalt footways a further 5s. each side—total cost of not less than £3 10s. a running foot.

Mr. Fred Walsh—I have since learned that the subdivider has agreed to pay the council charges.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The total amount that the occupier of the land can be charged is 10s. a foot.

MOTOR VEHICLES DEPARTMENT: COUNTRY OFFICES.

Mr. RICHES—I understand that the Motor Vehicles Department is now considering decentralizing some of its operations. An announcement to that effect has met with much satisfaction and support in the north and I have been asked by the Corporation of Port Augusta to tell the Premier that it strongly favours such a move. Will the Premier state whether officers of the department could be sent into the north to investigate the possibility of establishing a registration centre at Port Augusta?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The position regarding decentralization of motor registration is not simple. Quite clearly, the cost of establishing an office to register motor vehicles in every country town would be excessive and could not be entertained from the point of view of the benefit that would be derived therefrom. I do not want it to be assumed for one moment that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles will be able to establish a registration centre in every country town; clearly that could not be accepted because, due to the cost involved, much money that would otherwise be spent on roads would be used in collecting registration fees. A registration centre in any district does not serve the whole district, as we have found from a close examination. For instance, assuming that a registration centre were established at Port Augusta, it would certainly not serve people at Port Pirie or Whyalla as it would be much easier for them to post applications for registrations to the Registrar in Adelaide than to travel to Port Augusta.

Mr. Riches—How do they manage in other States?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—In some other States registration is undertaken by local districts as their contributions to roads. This means that most of the money for roads is collected by metropolitan councils and that it is spent in the metropolitan area, and a small amount goes to country districts. Western Australia is a case in point. Because of the large areas of country districts compared with the metropolitan area and the sparsity of motor vehicles in the country as against the density in the city, we have never accepted that as a fair apportionment of the revenue. I will have the honourable member's suggestion examined, but in my opinion it is not practicable to establish registration centres everywhere throughout the country. This would

not be efficient from the point of view of the registration system and would be more costly, not to the Treasury but to the funds now provided straight to road funds.

Mr. HARDING—When inquiring will the Premier ascertain the reaction of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to the application made, I think, by the South-Eastern Local Government Association at its half-yearly meeting?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not know what statement the Registrar made. I can investigate this matter for the honourable member, but I have made a statement of Government policy. The Government is not prepared to have large sums of money going from the road fund to establish offices which it does not believe to be more effective than the present system.

PILDAPPA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Can the Minister of Works say whether the Engineering and Water Supply Department has yet had an opportunity of examining the proposals for a cheaper method of supplying the Pildappa area with water?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have not yet received a reply on that matter, but I will refer the question to the department for further investigation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: PUBLIC RELIEF.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—This afternoon I asked the Premier a question relating to the Children's Welfare Department. If I conveyed to the Premier the impression that I favoured the department's paying for television sets, I wish to correct that impression. If a person with a wife and children commits some breach of the law for which it is necessary for him to be imprisoned, and prior to the imprisonment that family was purchasing a television set on time payment, I believe that the wife and children should not be denied the necessities of life that would normally be provided for them by the department.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

(Continued from May 3. Page 373.)

In Committee of Supply.

Grand total, £625,335.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—The total of the Supplementary Estimates presented to us this year bears a very

marked resemblance to those presented to us for the past few years, in that the total amount each time is approximately £600,000. For instance, in 1957-58 the figure was £627,339, in 1958-59 it was £646,715 and this year it is £625,335. I did expect a slightly different picture this year on account of the adverse seasonal conditions and the recent marginal adjustment to wages. However, the present Government evidently considers that its practice of past years of looking around at this time of the year to see where it can spend another £600,000 is to be continued.

I expected to see in these Supplementary Estimates amounts to provide for the salaries and wages of all the various Government departments which were increased by the recent margins decision. The present Government saw fit to have representation before the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission, to express alliance with the employers' representatives, and to express views on how the Government finances would suffer in the event of any increases in margins.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford—A clause in last year's Supply Bill enabled the Government to meet additional cost without further appropriation.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—That may be so, but I assume that what will happen is that the deficit postulated last year will be increased by the amount required to meet those services I have mentioned. However, in the Supplementary Estimates we are only told that the line "Chief Secretary, Salaries and Wages" is expected to increase by £32,000—that, apparently, is an item which is outside the orbit.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford—That refers to additional appointments and is a different matter; it does not represent increases in salaries.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—We are also told that the line "Minister of Lands, Salaries and Wages" is expected to increase by £22,000. That was mentioned by the Treasurer yesterday, when he said that the Lands Department vote had been reduced. The department had anticipated certain economies, and although those economies had not completely eventuated the department had been able to carry on with an amount no greater than that provided for the previous year. I point out that the figure of £22,000 only represents an economy which was made in the original estimates and could not be achieved so that we are left with only one figure, namely, the £32,000 for salaries and wages under "Part II. Chief Secretary."

If we are to believe these Supplementary Estimates, only £32,000 of the additional £600,000 required is to be paid for any increases in salaries and wages. I suggest that these supplementary estimates do not give us the true picture, and that increases in salaries and wages will be paid from the Governor's Appropriation Fund for the next two months.

Last year an amount of £145,000 was provided on the estimates for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Contingencies (Office expenses, etc.), but £203,460 was spent. No mention was made of the additional £58,460 in the Supplementary Estimates for that year. Apparently the Government considered that the £400,000 in the Governor's Appropriation Fund was sufficient to carry this type of expenditure then. This year, however, we find that at this hospital the Government at present has authority to spend £283,000 on this contingency line and that it proposes to spend a further £63,000. A very brief explanation we are given is that the opening and staffing of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has proceeded very smoothly and more rapidly than was expected earlier in the financial year. The expenditure has certainly proceeded more rapidly than predicted by the Government, but what I would like to know is whether the services we are obtaining from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are commensurate with this colossal increase in expenditure, or whether this is an indication of what future Governments can expect to pay in order to finance this grand scheme of the present Government.

The amount provided this year is about the same as those provided in previous years. I would have thought that in view of the additional and unforeseen expenditure caused by the drought conditions, namely, the increased cost of pumping water—

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford—The answer to that is that the Treasury control this year has undoubtedly been very much more strict than previously because of those very circumstances.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—That is an admission that the Treasury, after 21 years under the control of the Treasurer, has at last become more efficient.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford—I did not say "efficient"; I said "strict."

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The control which we may look for in the future may result in further savings; at least, I hope so. I do not agree entirely with the Treasurer's remarks that we have weathered the drought. I certainly think we have come through it very well,

but we have not yet reached the end of the road. Certainly, the seasonal conditions are much more propitious now than they were a fortnight or three weeks ago, but we still have a considerable distance to travel before we can confidently predict that the State will have a good cereal season and a good pastoral season. However, I think I can say with complete confidence that all members will agree with me when I express the firm hope that this will be the case.

I particularly draw attention to the Supplementary Estimates dealing with the Chief Secretary's Department. Under the heading of "Mental Institutions, Mental Hospital, Parkside," an amount of £25,000 has been included to cover office expenses, provisions, medicines and medical comforts, equipment, etc. Does that cover all mental institutions or is it confined to the Parkside institution?

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford—I think it covers the whole department. Another explanation would be that the item has been included, and that the excess warrant covers the other side of the department's work.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I had the impression that when we referred to mental institutions we meant the Parkside institution and that the other institutions were under the control of the Director of Mental Health. I understood that the general cover was the reference to the Parkside institution. In view of the considerable expenditure that we had to incur because of the drought these Supplementary Estimates are acceptable, and I offer no objection to them.

Mr. TAPPING (Semaphore)—I notice that £500 is to be paid as a bonus to officers of the Public Buildings Department for urgent and special work. I do not oppose the expenditure of this money, but I hope that it is sufficient for the purpose intended. There is a tendency for some of our responsible officers, particularly those in this department, to work too hard and suffer a breakdown in health. That was evident about a year ago when one of our principal architects had a severe breakdown because of doing too much overtime. I hope we have enough architects now to perform this responsible work. Some time ago it was reported that the department was short of architects and I think it was due mainly to the inducements offered by private enterprise. When these architects left a greater burden was thrown on to the remaining officers, and I am glad the position has been to some extent rectified. We should see that officers who work

overtime are properly compensated, but more particularly we should see that we have enough staff to obviate the need for overtime work.

First line—CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH: Hospitals Department, £194,000—passed.

Miscellaneous, £7,400.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Premier say whether the Fruit Canning Industry Inquiry Committee has yet presented a report and, if not, when one is likely to be submitted?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—The committee has been working extremely hard and in its inquiry has visited other States for the purpose of investigating methods adopted in the canning industry there. It has not yet presented a report but I expect to receive one very soon. The fruit canning industry is of great importance to South Australia because the fruit-growing industry depends so much on having an outlet for its surplus fruit. The industry has a secondary value that is more important than is generally recognized. I think there is now a better trend on the overseas market and this year sales have been better than previously, but the margin between cannery costs and overseas prices is still unprofitable. As soon as the report is available I will see that members get copies.

Line passed.

TREASURER AND MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION.

Publicity and Tourist Bureau and Immigration Department, £1,550—passed.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINISTER OF REPATRIATION.

Lands Department, £35,450—passed.

MINISTER OF WORKS.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, £291,000—passed.

Public Buildings Department, £500.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Regarding the matter raised by Mr. Tapping, under Public Service regulations officers receiving more than a certain salary are not paid for work done after usual hours. It is assumed that their salary covers any work done in this way, but in this case the officers concerned were doing much more than casual overtime work. They were engaged in doing organized work for the purpose of supplying information to the Public Works Committee. Under the circumstances the Government felt that they should receive this extra payment.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Education Department, £48,619; Miscellaneous, £30,000—passed.

MINISTER OF MINES.

Mines Department, £2,316—passed.

MINISTER OF ROADS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Miscellaneous, £14,500—passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

The Supplementary Estimates were adopted by the House and an Appropriation Bill for £625,335 was founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford, and read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is based upon the Supplementary Estimates which have been dealt with by the House. Clause 2 authorizes the issue and application of a further £625,335 from the general revenue to meet the expenses set out in the Supplementary Estimates. Clause 3 appropriates that sum and sets out the amount to be provided under each governmental activity. Clause 4 provides that the Treasurer shall have available to spend only such amounts as are authorized by a warrant from His Excellency the Governor and that the receipts of the payees shall be accepted as evidence that the payments have been duly made. Clause 5 gives power to issue money out of Loan funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth Government and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to meet the payments authorized by this Bill. I commend the Bill for consideration of members.

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

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION BILLS.

The Legislative Council intimated its concurrence in the appointment of a Joint Committee on Consolidation Bills.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

POLICE OFFENCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It has been the practice for some years in connection with persons charged with driving vehicles under the influence of liquor to take suspected offenders in the metropolitan area to the city watch house or the police station at Port Adelaide, according to the locality of the apprehension. This practice is designed to fit in with the availability of medical practitioners for the examination of persons charged. The Police Offences Act, however, by section 78 as it was amended in 1957, provides that, where a person is apprehended within 15 miles of the General Post Office, he may be delivered to either the city watch house or the police station nearest to the place of arrest. There are some doubts whether a person arrested may in all cases be lawfully taken to the police station at Port Adelaide since the amendment provides only for two alternatives, that is to say, the city watch house or the nearest police station.

The object of this Bill is to make it clear that a person charged with driving under the influence may be taken either to the city watch house or to the police station at Port Adelaide or to the nearest police station, thus making it clear that in any event such a person may be taken to the city watch house or Port Adelaide, irrespective of the place of arrest. Clause 3 accordingly inserts the necessary words for this purpose into section 78 (1) of the Act.

Honourable members will appreciate that, while this is a technical amendment only, it does have some purport behind it. It is obviously of the utmost importance, both from the point of view of the defence of a person who may be charged and also from the point of view of ascertaining the facts of a charge that may be laid, that the person should fairly promptly have the opportunity of examination by a medical officer so that he should have some say in the basis on which the charge may be laid. As for a number of years provision has been made for medical officers to be readily available close to centres, it would be foolish to bring a person from Port Adelaide to the city watch house when a medical officer was available at Port Adelaide.

Mr. O'Halloran—In fact, is it not only regularizing what has been done for some time?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes. It has been done for many years and, as far as I know, no objection has been raised to it by any person. It is done completely in accordance with the law, as amended.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—This matter has been considered in another place and well explained by the Premier in his second reading speech. We offer no opposition to the Bill.

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

STAMP DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from May 3. Page 373.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Edwardstown)—I have examined both the Stamp Duties Act Amendment Act of last session and the Treasurer's second reading explanation of this Bill. On certain information, the position appeared to be that some traders were offering goods on long-term credit with no deposit and no right of repossession. If that was so, this Bill corrects the position as regards the responsibility for paying the stamp duties as set out in section 6 of last year's Act.

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

COLLECTIONS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES ACT (SCHOOLS PATRIOTIC FUND).

Consideration in Committee of resolution received from the Legislative Council.

(For wording of resolution, see page 373.)

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

That the resolution be agreed to.

In November, 1947, this House passed a resolution approving of the making of a proclamation under section 16 of the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act, 1939-1947, declaring that a sum of £15,000 held by the administrative board of the Schools Patriotic Fund, a body to which a licence had been granted under that Act, shall be applied by that board to the purpose of providing and maintaining residential hostels in South Australia for scholars and students. Early in 1949 a body known as S.P.F. Hostels Incorporated, which is constituted mainly of representatives of the Education Department, was formed and incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act for the purposes *inter alia* of providing and maintaining residential hostels in or near the city for young female scholars and students and of applying that sum

of £15,000 in accordance with the directions contained in that proclamation. The administrative board of the Schools Patriotic Fund then went out of existence and the money was utilized in the purchase and establishment by S.P.F. Hostels Incorporated of the Adelaide Meithke Hostel for girls, which has since been maintained by that body.

In July last year there was a balance of £733 3s. 7d. standing to the credit of the administrative board of the Schools Patriotic Fund at the Treasury. As that board has gone out of existence and the money is no longer required for the purpose for which it was held, the Director of Education, as Chairman of S.P.F. Hostels Incorporated, has requested that that balance be now transferred to S.P.F. Hostels Incorporated to meet the cost of repairs to Adelaide Meithke Hostel and other necessary expenses connected with its maintenance. The request is a reasonable one and worthy of favourable consideration. Members will recall that the greater part of the moneys held by the Schools Patriotic Fund was obtained through the efforts of school children who, during the war years, collected large quantities of waste materials that were urgently needed and in short supply. Money received from the sale of those materials for re-processing, etc., was placed in the fund without being designated for any special purpose. The authority for the making of the proclamation, approval of which is sought by this motion, is contained in subsection (1) of section 16 of the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act, the relevant portion of which is as follows:—

If the Governor is satisfied that any moneys held for any charitable purpose by or on behalf of any body or association to which a licence has been issued under this Act are not or will not be required for that purpose, the Governor may, by proclamation, declare that the whole or any part of such moneys shall be vested in and transferred to the Minister to be applied to any purpose.

Subsection (2) of that section gives the force of law to such a proclamation and imposes a duty on persons concerned to carry out the directions contained therein. Subsection (3) provides that the proclamation shall not be made until a resolution has been passed by both Houses of Parliament approving of the making of the proclamation. The Adelaide Meithke Hostel is supplying a very great service to the community and I would recommend that members support that worthy cause by carrying this motion.

Mr. CLARK (Gawler)—I am very happy to support this motion, and I am sure all members

will be pleased to do so. I am pleased that the Minister saw fit to remind the House of the work done by the Schools Patriotic Fund during World War II; the money with which this resolution deals is virtually a residue of this fund. I well remember from personal experience what was done, because many was the bag of waste material that I stamped or supervised. The cause to which the money is to be put is an admirable one; I do not think any time should be wasted, and I am pleased to support the resolution entirely.

Resolution agreed to.

DENTISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from May 3. Page 370.)

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga)—I do not think I need remind members who were so caustic about the Government's bringing in this Bill in the dying hours of last session that, if the closing of this part of the session is to be when prognosticated, they will not have much more time than they would have had if they had continued the debate last year.

Mr. Millhouse—There are a few amendments on members' files.

Mr. SHANNON—Yes, but they are of an innocuous character. The member for Mitcham is trying to justify the attack he made on another body of professional people seeking to secure privileges already enjoyed by his profession. However, I do not think I need worry about that now as I believe he has seen the light.

Mr. Millhouse—I am satisfied because of the amendments on members' files.

Mr. SHANNON—I do not think the amendments will have a vital bearing on the matters that the Dental Association wanted to be brought before this House last year. For the benefit of the members for Norwood and Mitcham, I point out that it was the Dental Association and not the Dental Board that wanted this put before the House. The member for Barossa made it clear that he had had sufficient contact with members of the profession, other than members of the Dental Board, to know that this legislation was desired by dentists generally: I think he said by 99 per cent. Since I spoke last year I have received a number of letters and telephone calls commending the member for Barossa and me for supporting the Bill, but I have not received one complaint from any member of the profession. Possibly the member for Barossa would

have been correct if he had said 100 per cent because, if there had been one man out, we should probably have heard from him, as the odd man out is usually the most vociferous.

I commend this legislation because I think it will provide for the profession something that is in the interests of professional etiquette, professional status and, last but not least, service to the public. This House should always see that people who have formed themselves into an association, whether it be professional or otherwise, have the authority to give a service that is in the best interests of the people who need it, and that is what this Bill is designed to do. I shall not weary the House by going through the matter again, as members who wish can read the report of the debate that took place last year. I shall content myself by saying that, having had the opportunity of a more extensive inquiry among the profession, I am convinced that not only does the legislation receive the goodwill and support of the members putting it forward, but I have not heard any member of the public suggest that it will not be in the best interests of dentistry in this State. I therefore have great pleasure in supporting the second reading.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

SWINE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from May 3. Page 376.)

Mr. JENNINGS (Enfield)—In explaining the Bill the Minister said that he would speak in somewhat greater detail than was usually warranted, so might I even things by saying that I shall not speak in very great detail. This matter is certainly interesting to the House. I was most interested to hear the Minister say that he wanted to add rhinitis to the list of diseases under the Act, which he said were tuberculosis, swine fever, infectious pneumonia of swine (including swine plague), swine dysentery, swine erysipelas, and swine paratyphoid (necrotic enteritis). If he wants to include rhinitis in addition to the other diseases mentioned, he is welcome to it so far as I am concerned. I believe that the action the Minister had to take was properly taken, and it certainly will not encounter any objection from this side of the House.

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

SOIL CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from May 3. Page 377.)

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—This Bill deals with a very important subject, one that is very near and dear to my heart and I think to the hearts of all honourable members, irrespective of whether they represent metropolitan or country electorates. This matter especially interests representatives of country electorates who are brought into intimate association with the soil and have impressed on them the urgent necessity for protecting the soil to the greatest extent possible. Likewise, metropolitan members recognize that the land is primarily the source of all our wealth. Very often these products are made very much more valuable by processing in secondary industry; but primarily, whether in the form of agriculture, pastoral pursuits, mining and other activities such as horticulture, the source of our real wealth is the soil, and therefore it behoves us to take all steps necessary to protect it. In past days when such legislation as that we are now amending was not on the Statute Book much damage was done to the soil in certain areas, but since this legislation was passed there has been an improvement and in some instances one can say that the damage of past years has been almost entirely corrected.

The Bill before us does not make any substantial alteration to the principles that were set out in the parent Bill passed in, I think, 1954, although it does improve the provisions in some respects. For instance, the Act provides that districts may be added to, but may not be subdivided. Members will realize that if this legislation is to be effective and enable soil conservation districts to function as they should, it should be possible, in addition to adding to districts, to be able to subdivide districts where circumstances warrant such action. I understand that there is a case in point at the moment south of the Murray where, instead of having one very large conservation district, it would be advisable to subdivide it and have two districts.

Another problem that has been found to exist as a result of experience is the determining of whether, for the purposes of taking a poll, certain persons should be entitled to

vote. Under the Act it would appear that anyone who owns a block of land, even if it is a township block in a residential area, would be entitled to participate in such a poll. I do not think that was ever intended; certainly it is not practicable, and therefore it is proposed to alter the definition of "landowner" to provide that a person must own five acres or more. It is also proposed to tighten up the provisions to make it obligatory that those who may adopt careless land husbandry practices which destroy the effect of the good work done under soil conservation methods practised as a result of the creation of these districts should be liable to correct the damage created. For instance, the effects of soil erosion may be corrected, but subsequently a careless person may cause extensive damage.

I have seen instances in my travels around South Australia where most landholders in a district have done their best to protect their properties, but another person, perhaps through greed by overstocking or overgrazing, or through his desire to get rid of stubble and other inflammable material to provide for easier cultivation, has not only damaged his own holding, but created drift conditions that affect his neighbours. It is now proposed to provide that such persons shall be liable to correct the damage they create. The Bill also repeals reference to the Sand Drift Act appearing in the original legislation. That is a worthy objective, because the Sand Drift Act, which was our first halting step to control erosion in South Australia, has not been as effective an instrument as is the Soil Conservation Act that is now being amended. Finally, I agree that the provision that, outside of areas where soil conservation districts have been established, it shall be possible for individuals who desire proper practices to be maintained in their areas to apply to the Minister or the committee concerned to have the necessary steps taken. That is a very necessary provision and has my wholehearted support, and this also applies to the whole Bill, which I trust will be passed.

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa)—I also heartily support the Bill and concur in all that Mr. O'Halloran has said. In my district, which is not a low-rainfall area, I find that soil erosion is becoming a real problem. The work done by the Agriculture Department in advising farmers respecting soil conservation through contour ploughing and so on has been greatly appreciated by landholders in the

district. Both wind erosion and water erosion have serious effects upon the productivity of our soils, and having in mind that our soils are our greatest national asset, anything we can do by legislation to ensure their continuance in a fertile state is important. I am pleased that this legislation has been brought forward and I support it heartily.

Mr. QUIRKE (Burra)—I, too, support the Bill, but there are one or two features of soil conservation that need looking into, and one relates to the provision for the taking of a poll. Usually, the taking of a poll embraces people in an area where damage has already occurred, but in the Bill we are providing that this shall apply to areas outside such districts. I think the time is approaching when soil erosion must be controlled in the interests not only of the State, but of Australia generally. There is generally a good reason why people should be asked to act against erosion, but often it is when much damage has already been done. If soil erosion is allowed to continue, the effects will be devastating. Usually, by the time a poll is sought, the position has become so bad that it is uncontrollable but it has probably been caused by the landholders who seek the poll. Much work has to be done after extensive damage has occurred and it must be remembered that damage may easily occur in high rainfall areas where sheet and gully erosion is common. That still occurs but it has been lessened greatly by the farming practices that have been adopted to rest the land and build up some coverage on it. Where that has been done the water run-off from the land has been slowed down. The principle of contour ploughing is to slow the water down and to spread it out. This year, owing to the complete loss of coverage on gullied land that has been under pasture for years, the land has been completely denuded and, if heavy rains fall, they will cause extensive gullying and, when the water gets into the clay and cuts into it, gully erosion proceeds at an alarming rate.

I do not oppose the Bill but I take this opportunity to say that as time goes on further amendments to this Soil Conservation Act may be necessary. I do not say in what way it may have to be amended but it will certainly have to be amended and it is as necessary that this provision should apply in high rainfall areas as it is that it should apply in areas where sand erosion occurs.

Mr. O'Halloran—It is more necessary.

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes. Sand can be held down by planting rye grass and other vegetation, and remarkable results have accrued from that action in the proclaimed districts and through action taken by individual farmers in districts other than proclaimed districts. In the heavy soil districts the devastation cannot be held down in any one year as it can be in sandy areas with cover crops of rye and other vegetation and that is because the damage done is so extensive that the reconstruction of the land is an extremely costly process. I am always emphatic on this point: no person, whether he holds a freehold title or not, is entitled to act in such a way on his property that he destroys it for future generations. No one is entitled to do that for he is a custodian for future generations. Immeasurable damage has been done in the past and can be done in the future.

Farmers generally are more awake to this problem now than they were in the past and they have done some remarkably fine work, but there is still the odd one in a district who takes no action at all and whose country is now being torn to pieces. It makes one cry to see what, through sheer neglect, is occurring on some properties in high rainfall districts. Not everyone is energetic enough or careful enough to prevent soil erosion by using contour banks that have been properly built and maintained. Some people, when they see a blade of grass on their property, are not content until they put eight sheep to the acre on it to eat that grass off. That practice can be seen in operation in many places in the country today and the people responsible for it are the people who will not do the right thing and who therefore, sooner or later, will have to be handled under this Soil Conservation Act. I support the Bill.

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

TRAVELLING STOCK WAYBILLS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from May 3. Page 377.)

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—This Bill is simplicity itself. It deals with one matter only but, in case there should be some person short of reading matter who might stumble on my remarks in *Hansard* in the future, I feel it incumbent upon me to show some knowledge of this legislation. The legislation, as most honourable members who were here at the time know, was passed as a corrective measure to prevent the stealing of stock and it has been effective in that respect. It is now necessary, if one desires to shift stock from point to point, to provide a waybill. An owner, if he is droving or transporting his own stock, must have a waybill showing where he obtained the stock, where he took them from and the point of delivery. If he is employing a drover the owner must provide the drover with a waybill.

The original Act provided the exemption whereby when stock were moved up to 20 miles in daylight it was not necessary for the drover to have a waybill, but Parliament omitted to provide that it was not necessary for the owner of the stock to provide a waybill. We therefore have the anomaly that a drover can take stock up to 20 miles in daylight without a waybill, but the owner of that stock is liable for failing to provide a waybill, and all the Bill does is to correct that anomaly. I therefore support the Bill.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.14 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, May 5, at 2 p.m.