

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, May 11, 1960.

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

QUESTIONS.**WOOL SCOURING.**

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

A new wool scouring process worked out by the C.S.I.R.O. and applied commercially for the first time in the world, was the most significant advance in the woollen industry for many years, the Premier (Sir Thomas Playford) said yesterday.

The plant was opened by the Premier and, amongst other things, he said:—

Stronger fabrics and garments would result from the new process, which was about four times faster than the old soap-soda cleaning method.

Then Mr. Michell, the chairman of the company where the plant is being installed, said:—

In the long-run, this development could mean millions of pounds for Australia.

In South Australia, particularly in the northern areas, much foreign matter is contained in wool, particularly in bad seasons. The result is that considerable freight cost is involved in transporting wool to the Adelaide market. Will the Premier have inquiries made to see whether a similar plant could be established at strategic places in South Australia so that the wool could be clean-scoured there, thus avoiding the cost of freighting to the Adelaide market what is virtually rubbish?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—When we talk of reduced cost of the ultimate product to the consumer, any saving is an advantage and I will have the honourable member's question examined in that light. Speaking generally, I am not a wool technician and do not pretend to be an expert, but this method is entirely new and, as stated in the *Advertiser*, has never been introduced, at least in a large way, in any other part of the world. The method is to degrease the wool with a solvent and then to jet the wool as it passes along a belt. The whole process takes only five minutes and has the added advantage that fibres of the staple wool remain almost parallel. Therefore, it is very much easier to card and to comb later on because it is not tangled up, as so frequently happens in scouring. Wool processed in this way is probably half an inch longer, as half an inch of the wool is retained because of the processing method. It is an extremely interesting

process and I am sure that, if the Leader of the Opposition would be prepared to go to Michell & Sons to look at the process and discuss it with them personally, the firm would be anxious to examine any suggestion he might make.

Mr. O'Halloran—I shall be happy to do that.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think that the Leader, as a wool man, will be impressed with what is taking place. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization evolved the process on a laboratory scale, but in my opinion the credit for this process goes to South Australians. After all, it is one thing to produce on a small scale a system in the laboratories; it is another thing to put it into a large-scale plant and make it work. This plant was manufactured for Michell & Sons Ltd. by the firm's own workmen in its premises. In my opinion the way they have developed this particular process is a great credit to the officers of that company. I will have the matter examined and advise the honourable leader in due course.

KING WILLIAM STREET.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I notice that the press reported the other day that the Engineering and Water Supply Department was to lay a new main in King William Street. I also note the new lighting system installed in King William Street, the pulling up of the tramlines and the taking down of the poles. Now the Postmaster-General's Department is working in King William Street. All this has caused much traffic congestion. Would it be possible for the Engineering and Water Supply Department to work two shifts a day or work over the week-end so that its work, which according to the press will take three months to do, will be expedited?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am sure that the Engineer-in-Chief is anxious to avoid any unnecessary congestion in King William Street during the course of this necessary work. I have not discussed with him the precise plans for its implementation, but will direct the honourable member's remarks to him. The programme as outlined by the honourable member is designed to be completed so that any necessary work on the surfacing of the roadway can be done later without further disturbance. I understand that the water main is to be laid approximately down the centre of the street. If that is so, that is in line with the previous obstruction to traffic—namely, the tramway poles. However, I will discuss with the

Engineer-in-Chief what the honourable member has suggested to see if it is practicable and if it would or would not add materially to the cost of the work, which is very costly in any case. The Engineer-in-Chief is anxious to keep down his costs, consistent with the minimum obstruction to traffic using the road.

FORBES SCHOOL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I wish to read a resolution, a copy of which I have received from a responsible organization in connection with the Forbes primary school. It is headed "Forbes primary school, Thomas Street, Forbes," dated May 10, 1960, and addressed to me. It says:—

This meeting comprised of representatives from the Forbes School Committee, Welfare Club, Mothers' Club and Fathers' Association, resolved that Mr. Frank Walsh, M.P., should ask the Minister of Education in the House that the Forbes primary school buildings destroyed by fire on May 6, 1960, be replaced by classrooms of solid construction and not by temporary portable buildings of any inflammable material.

The meeting voiced the opinions of parents, expressing concern at the danger to which the children were subjected when housed in temporary timber-framed rooms.

The letter was signed by the secretary and president of the committee. Will the Minister of Education state whether it will be possible to accede to the request of the committee to have these classrooms of solid construction?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I answered much the same question that was directed to me by the honourable member yesterday of his own volition. I then said it would not be practicable to replace the existing classrooms with solid construction buildings in the time available because 700 primary school children were involved and we considered that it was in their best interests that they should be accommodated at the same school and with the same teachers so that they would not lose contact with their school and teachers during the next term this year. I said, however, that the very large new solid construction infant school was, I hoped, the first instalment of another larger solid construction building for the Forbes school. Answering the specific question, it will not be possible to comply with the request in the time stated.

BERRI HIGHER PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. KING—Some time ago I made representations on behalf of the Berri higher primary school committee for the acquisition of land under the control of the Minister of

Irrigation and adjacent to the school property. Has the Minister of Education reached a decision?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Following on a request from the honourable member and from the local school committee, consideration has been given to the allocation of approximately 2½ acres of land adjacent to the present school reserve for school purposes. The Minister of Irrigation has intimated that approval will be granted to the request when a survey has been completed.

PATHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. HUTCHENS—In reply to my question on notice yesterday concerning the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Premier stated that the services of the pathological department would be available to private doctors on the payment of appropriate fees when their patients were being treated as in-patients in the hospital. However, I am informed by a private doctor that under no circumstances can medical prescriptions for in-patients of private doctors be made up at the hospital pharmacy. Will the Premier therefore take this matter up with the Minister of Health with a view to providing this service on the payment of an appropriate fee, thus ensuring prompt attention to those patients and assisting in their recovery?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

METEOROLOGICAL MAPS.

Mr. HARDING—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question concerning the availability of special meteorological maps of the South-East?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—These maps are not available. I understand that the ordinary meteorological districts map is readily available and I think there is so little difficulty in finding out from that map where the boundary is that printing a special map showing hundreds is hardly warranted.

REAL PROPERTY DOCUMENTS.

Mr. TAPPING—My question concerns the routine connected with the Real Property Act, particularly the 18th schedule, which specifies among other things that an appearance shall be filled in by a Justice of the Peace who witnesses the signature. The Act provides that the Justice of the Peace must sign to the effect that the person who appears before him is well known to him. I have spoken to Justices of the Peace who have told me that it is difficult to subscribe correctly and truthfully

to these documents, and I have been in the same position. I have signed documents because of the circumstances although I have not known the persons well. The provisions affect people who have come from other States because of transfer of employment and those from other parts of the world who have changed property. Because of the circumstances, and because it is difficult for these people to find a J.P. to whom they are known, will the Minister of Education take up this matter with the Attorney-General to see if the Act can be amended to deal with the circumstances I have mentioned?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I should be pleased to do so. This is a real difficulty that I have experienced myself, particularly in relation to New Australians and comparative strangers from the Eastern States who have come here recently. This can be easily overcome if the person takes someone who knows him to the Justice of the Peace to introduce him and vouch for him, or he can go to some other Justice of the Peace who knows him personally. However, I shall be pleased to take up the matter with the Attorney-General and discuss it with him and to let the honourable member know in due course what, if anything, can be done to rectify the matter.

STREAKY BAY SCHOOL.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—Last year acquisition of a property for the Streaky Bay higher primary school was considered by the Education Department. Although it was not available at that time I understand it is available now. Further, a property near the school house is available and I understand that the department is negotiating to purchase it. Will the Minister of Education state what stage the negotiations have reached and will he expedite the matter so that the school building may be erected as soon as possible?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I am sympathetic to the honourable member's request and am endeavouring to expedite a solution. As the honourable member is aware, the allotment to which he refers contains certain buildings which would have to be demolished if the land were purchased by the Education Department as an addition to the Streaky Bay higher primary school grounds. However, the proposal is being actively investigated. An engineering surveyor from the Public Buildings Department is on Eyre Peninsula this week and will examine the site to see whether it is suitable for the purposes of the

Education Department. If so, the Land Board will be asked to value it at an early date. Immediate consideration will then be given to the possibility of purchasing the property.

PILDAPPA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question regarding the Pildappa water supply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Engineer-in-Chief reports that the investigation into the latest suggestion that a connecting main be laid from the Tod River system to Pildappa Tank is still in progress and alternative proposals are now ready for the preparation of estimated costs. When these are completed a revenue statement will be compiled and the matter will be submitted for further consideration.

PETROL SALES.

Mr. HEASLIP—I have from time to time received requests from country people, particularly people living a fair distance from the metropolitan area, on whether anything can be done regarding the purchase of petrol in the metropolitan area over week-ends. Many of these country people who come to Adelaide probably arrive some time on the Saturday afternoon, and as their tanks are practically dry at that stage they cannot use their cars until after the petrol stations open on the following Monday. I have been in the same position myself. As these people have requested me to find out whether anything can be done to facilitate the supply of petrol in the metropolitan area at the week-ends and on public holidays, can the Premier say whether the Government has anything in view on this matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—This matter has been raised over the years, as it seems to have given much difficulty from time to time. Cabinet considered the matter recently but reached no actual conclusion. In Victoria the position has been met by the installation of a limited number of self-service petrol pumps, but the Government here has been rather loth to sanction these pumps because a garage man normally provides more services than merely pumping petrol, and is available for servicing a car in many ways. During the next week or two this matter will be the subject of discussions between the Minister and the Chamber of Automotive Industries, and under those circumstances I say no more than that the matter is being

considered and that I hope a conference can be arranged in due course, as it is a matter of some moment. On the other hand, to maintain a 24-hour service is very costly and, particularly where labour is employed, involves some hardship both to the employer and the employee. I will see whether some arrangement can be made whereby service can be given to meet the cases mentioned by the honourable member.

PORT PIRIE BULK HANDLING.

Mr. MCKEE—I understand that the General Manager of the South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. (Mr. Sanders) told the Public Works Committee that he expected to have the silos completed in Port Pirie and ready for operation by November, 1962. Can the Minister of Works say whether this work will include completion of the wharf reconstruction and the deepening of the harbour, as well as the removal of the railway lines from Ellen Street at the same time?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The honourable member may be correct in saying that certain evidence was tendered to the Public Works Committee by the General Manager of Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd., but I do not at first hand possess that information. As soon as the committee has completed its deliberations on that subject it will no doubt advise the Government of its findings. All I can say on the general question at the moment is that the Harbors Board has endeavoured—I think with reasonable success—to carry out its part of the works of any project such as this at a time which coincides with the completion of other necessary works by other authorities. I believe that the General Manager of the Harbors Board would be able to carry out his part of this project by the date mentioned, if that were in fact the date upon which completion was desired; but until I have the full report of the Public Works Committee on these several matters I am not able to say exactly what the plans of the Government, in respect of finance, and of the Harbors Board, in respect of the physical carrying out of these projects, would be. As soon as I receive the report I will be better able to give the honourable member a considered reply.

STATE BANK LOANS.

Mr. HALL—Has the Premier any further information on the number of personal loans that have been negotiated with the State Bank?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I am informed by the Chairman of the State Bank

that up to the present 670 personal loans have been granted by the bank, and the amount advanced is £262,430. I understand that the bank set aside £500,000 to cover this project so, although the scheme has only operated a short time, it has already had considerable use. I think the scheme is proving very beneficial because the borrower can buy without any commitment as to where he buys. He can also get the lowest possible price for the goods he wishes to buy, and I think that is the reason why the scheme is much more popular than, for instance, certain hire-purchase schemes.

GUN LICENCE FEES.

Mr. RALSTON—The decision of the Government to provide, within the framework of the Fisheries and Game Department, a section devoted to the conservation and propagation of wild life has met with general approval throughout the State, especially from members of gun clubs who realize the importance of this policy and wholeheartedly support it. Apparently to provide additional finance for this proposal, gun licence fees have now been raised from 5s. to £1, but for such an excellent project no shooter would cavil at the increase. Can the Minister of Agriculture say what additional amount of money these increased fees will realize, and whether the Government intends to spend this on the wild life project?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I could easily get for the honourable member the amount of money collected from gun licences in recent years and what the amount would be if the same number of licences were taken out at the new fee of £1. Certainly, the total amount would be greater, provided the same number of licences were taken out. Of course, there is no guarantee that that will be the case, but certainly the total amount would be greater than the immediate cost of paying for wild life officers. In addition, other expenses have to be considered; for instance, those officers have to have some means of moving about the country. However, in any case, I expect that there would no doubt be at least adequate revenue from gun licences and game licences to pay for that wild life section, with probably a safe surplus. I am glad to hear that gun clubs welcome the establishment of the wild life section. At some earlier meetings I was urged by members of gun clubs in this direction. I also point out that gun licence fees had not been increased for about 30 years prior to the present increase, a fact which I think every gun club member will probably realize.

EARLY CLOSING ACT.

Mrs. STEELE—Certain items of food are already exempt under the Early Closing Act, which helps working women in particular who often have to prepare and cook a meal on their return home. Further, many shopkeepers must keep certain foodstuffs, not at present exempt, in a refrigerator, which is thereby visible to would-be customers, and the shopkeepers are embarrassed by having to refuse to sell such goods. In view of this, can the Premier say whether the Government will consider exempting additional goods, such as eggs, bacon, sausages, uncooked poultry and rabbits, in order that people might purchase them at any time?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The matter mentioned by the honourable member has been the subject of a deputation to the Attorney-General, and there have been counter representations by other trading authorities, but I am not sure of the precise items concerned. The Act dealing with the sale of exempt goods refers to cooked items and does not, as far as I know, deal with uncooked items. The department reported to the Government that in any case it is almost impossible to police the present law because every shop would need to have refrigerators for both exempt and non-exempt goods. Probably many shops are not complying with the law, and this session an amendment to the Early Closing Act will be brought down, which will increase the number of exempt items. The type of goods mentioned by the honourable member will certainly be included, but I will not tie myself down at the moment to the precise items. It is a matter for investigation. The amendment will be brought down for the reasons I have stated, in addition to those mentioned by the honourable member. The Act is difficult to police and there would be heavy expenditure by mixed businesses if they had to provide refrigerators for all items covered by the Act.

ANZAC DAY TRAVEL WARRANTS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on April 27 regarding the issue of Anzac Day travel warrants to ex-servicemen?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I made inquiries. The Government approved the expenditure of £10,000 for the purpose, and so far as I knew the usual procedure had been followed, but I was slightly wrong. The

Minister of Railways has forwarded the following report:—

Anzac Day travel warrants are not obtainable from the Railways Department, but from the Returned Soldiers' League in Adelaide. The State Secretary, R.S.L. Adelaide, advises as under:—

In connection with the Anzac Day march this year, instead of application being made to sub-branch secretaries, the sub-branches distributed application forms to those requiring free travel. Each applicant was required to fill in a simple form stating that he was eligible for the concession and forward same to the State Secretary, R.S.L. headquarters. When the *bona fides* of the applicant were established a warrant was issued and posted direct to the applicant at the address given.

The honourable member will see that there was a slight deviation in the procedure, but it was undertaken by the R.S.L. headquarters.

VICKERS MACHINE GUN.

Mr. JENKINS—Has the Premier obtained a reply to the question I asked on April 13 regarding a .303 Vickers machine gun being preserved in one of our museums?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Museum Director has submitted the following report:—

In reference to the above I have to say that the South Australian Museum (Museum Department) is a natural history and anthropological museum. We have no collection of guns, but do have a series of weapons used by primitive peoples. I have consulted the Director of the National Art Gallery who states that he is interested only in ancient guns of historical interest. I beg to suggest that the Curator of the Technicological Museum (now called the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences), Mr. Harley Hooper, be approached, as this museum would seem to be a more fitting repository than the South Australian Museum.

TRUST HOME TANKS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on April 27 regarding the installation of rainwater tanks at Housing Trust houses in the metropolitan area?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The chairman of the Housing Trust reports:—

The South Australian Housing Trust does not provide rainwater tanks in its houses now being built in the metropolitan area, although of nearly 8,000 rental homes in the area nearly 6,000 have tanks. The tanks have been omitted in order to keep the cost of houses to a minimum and to offset in some degree the many increases in costs over past years. The trust provides tanks in rental houses built in Elizabeth and other country areas, and it is not intended that this practice should be altered.

BERRI EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Education decided when arrangements can be made to introduce at Berri opportunity classes and an occupation centre for handicapped children?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—A site for the erection of suitable buildings to provide for two opportunity classes and a special senior class has been recommended by departmental officers on the present Berri primary school grounds. The design of the buildings, which will have to be of a special nature, is being considered. It is regretted that it is not possible to say at present when these buildings will be available for use. A number of inquiries have been and are being made in an effort to find a suitable property for the establishment of an occupation centre for severely retarded children.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—My question relates to the erection of timber-frame or portable buildings for school purposes. I believe that the timber flooring used in these buildings is in most cases anything from 12 inches above the ground. It has been pointed out to me that, when a fire does occur, it can occur on the floor and it can come from an extra up-draught that will assist it. Will the Minister of Works consider the advisability of solid construction flooring? I believe it could be achieved by precast concrete. If, for example, the buildings were 25ft. wide, or less, slabs could be constructed measuring 12ft. 6in. by, say, 6ft. or more. The slabs could be staggered, and three slabs could be used to cover an overall width of 25ft. They could be jointed with bitumen to provide for expansion one way or another. I ask that that suggestion be considered, for I believe it has merit: it would reduce the fire hazard.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—On the face of it, I would say without consultation that the honourable member's suggestion is well worthy of investigation. The present principle, of course, is that stumps are used. They have a sheet metal galvanized capping over them, and the floor structure of the building is put over the top of that. The idea is two-fold: firstly, to prevent the access of white ants upwards into the wooden structure of the building and, secondly, to discourage their ascent up the stumps by having free ventilation, which tends to keep the under-floor dry and ventilated and also reasonably well lit so that it does discourage the activities of termites. If the portability of the buildings

is to be retained, then it will be necessary to have some kind of portable concrete flooring, as the honourable member has suggested. It would not be possible to have solid flooring placed upon the ground. I will have the matter examined.

I take the opportunity of saying, however, that, although there is obviously still some fire risk in wooden buildings, the position so far has indicated that there has been some definite cause of these fires. What cannot be ruled out, especially in regard to the fire that occurred at the week-end, is the possibility that these fires have been deliberately started. In so far as previous inquiries into other fires have indicated, it appears that attempts have been made deliberately to ignite buildings. The fires have not occurred when people have been in the precincts. That lends some colour to this suggestion, and that possibility has not been overlooked in this case. However, so far as the question goes, I will discuss it with the public buildings authorities to see whether or not it has practical application and a reasonable basis.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Will the Minister of Education state what types of material have been and are being used as linings in portable timber frame classrooms?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Minister of Works is more familiar with this problem; he has been dealing with it and has made some detailed investigations.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Generally speaking, the lining is a product known as Caneite or a similar material. Some of these materials are made in Australia and some are imported, and there are various qualities even within the product known as Caneite. From what I understand and from what I have seen the lining material is similar to Caneite. Other materials can be used for lining but the question is whether they lend themselves to the lining of this type of building. Hardboard, which is a good product although more costly, could be used. Fibrous plaster, which according to a certain authority is eminently suitable, could also be used. Most of these materials are suitable for the purposes for which they are designed. These rooms are designed to be quickly erected and to be portable; they are prefabricated, and are designed so that they can be erected on site. That is why the suitability of materials is important. After examining all the possibilities, and taking all the factors into account, the Principal Architect decided that the material being used was the most satisfactory for all purposes.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Having in mind the Minister of Works' statement that all factors regarding the suitability of various types of material for lining temporary classrooms had been considered by the Public Buildings Department, can the Minister say what tests, if any, have been made of the types mentioned in the Minister's statement and other suitable lining material to ascertain their respective degree of inflammability and, if such tests have been made, will the Minister furnish the House with a full report of those tests?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am not aware offhand what tests have been made in respect of the inflammability of various materials, but such tests would need to be conducted, if possible, in the atmosphere in which the materials are utilized. The raw material is not used in a building; it is painted and treated by various means, so that it no longer is the material which it is in the raw state. All those factors are variables when one is considering the aspects of the question the honourable member now raises. I am not aware of any particular tests being made, but I point out that I see no real value in them because (a) alterations in the materials are effected when they are used and when they are treated with paints and other things, and (b) these materials are widely used in all classes of buildings other than school buildings. They are used in country homes, in office buildings, and in places where their properties are, of course, subject to conditions of use similar to those when they are used in school buildings. I have no doubt, however, that what I said previously is correct, namely, that all these properties of the materials were considered by the authorities when they designed the buildings. If the honourable member wishes it I will inquire to see what tests have been made. I will not ask the Director of Public Buildings to carry out tests which in his opinion—and probably mine—are of no value. However, I will discuss the matter with him to see whether he thinks any useful purpose will be served by the honourable member's suggestion.

GLENCOE-KALANGADOO ROAD.

Mr. HARDING—Reference has been made to building and maintaining an all-weather road between Glencoe and Kalangadoo railway station. On the closing of the narrow gauge railway line between Wandilo and Glencoe West I think there was an understanding that there would be an all-weather road established and maintained between those two centres. I

understand that questions have been asked in another place, and that the Minister of Roads has prepared a report. Will the Minister of Works obtain a copy of that report and bring it before the House tomorrow?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I should be very glad to accede to the honourable member's request but do not see any point in my obtaining a report that he himself can obtain either by consultation with his colleague or from *Hansard*. He might seek a copy of the report at first-hand.

CROYDON BOYS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. HUTCHENS—I notice that recently tenders were called for the construction of the Croydon boys technical high school. I am not sure what the closing date was but should like to add that the school council appreciates the work that has been done in regard to adult education at this school. Accordingly, I should like to know if the building is being constructed and if tenders have been let so that this valuable work may continue?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Tenders closed on April 26. Cabinet approved on Monday of the acceptance of a tender from Constructions (Broken Hill Pty. Ltd) for the erection of a new building for the Croydon boys technical high school. The builder expected to complete the school in about nine months' time. It will be erected on the Torrens Road-Brown Street corner of the school site and will cost approximately £130,000. The building will be mainly a two-storey structure of light steel framework with external walls of pre-cast concrete slabs with a single storey administrative wing. Provision will be made for 10 classrooms, drawing rooms, laboratories, art rooms, administrative section, library, shelter, ablution and toilet facilities.

YEELANNA TO COOMABA ROAD.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—A bridge has been constructed over the salt creek between Yeelanna and Coomaba, and an all-weather road was promised. I understood it was to be completed by this winter. Can the Minister of Works say whether any progress has been made on that road, and whether it will be completed before this winter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—From my knowledge of that locality, I think that the bridge is well on the way towards completion. So far as the road between Yeelanna and that point is concerned, I know that certain funds are suggested as being made available

for it, I think, by way of a grant to the district of Lincoln in the forthcoming year; but it would not be possible to commence and complete that distance of roadway by this winter, which, unfortunately (or perhaps should I say, fortunately) is already with us. I can assure the honourable member that I am interested in that road, from the point of view of my own constituents, just as his constituents are, and I will keep the matter alive so that the undertaking which I believe was given may be carried out at the earliest possible moment.

KORUNYE CROSSING.

Mr. HALL—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question about the installation of railway warning devices at the Korunye crossing between Mallala and Two Wells?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Roads reports that lights at the railway crossing would be the responsibility of the South Australian Railways. The Highways Department, however, will in the near future carry out a survey to ascertain if an improvement to the curves can be made.

MILK VENDORS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Representations have been made to me by certain milk vendors residing in my area and operating in the district of Adelaide. Will the Minister obtain information on what the future holds for these vendors because of the reducing population and the gallonage they are losing? Will he also ascertain how many vendors are engaged in the industry and under the control of the board, how many of those vendors own their own rounds, how many work leased rounds and how many own leased rounds?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will do my best to obtain information in order to give the honourable member a reply tomorrow.

LABORATORY WORKERS' WAGES.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Premier a reply to a question I asked on April 27 relating to marginal increases in wages for employees of the Australian Mineral Development laboratory at Thebarton?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have been advised by the Director of Mines that employees paid in accordance with Federal awards have already received appropriate increases. A recommendation for marginal adjustments for other employees will be submitted to the Laboratories Council at the next meeting to be held on May 11, 1960.

HOUSING FINANCE.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Some builders have complained to me recently that in the building of houses for sale they are experiencing considerable difficulty because, whereas until recently people who chose to buy houses (which are being built cheaply and well in this State at the moment by private builders) could get temporary finance pending a decision by an institution on granting mortgage finance, they cannot do it now because applications are not being accepted by institutions under the Homes Act that grant finance of this kind. In consequence, some builders face having to go out of business very soon because they cannot get any satisfaction about reasonable finance being available for the houses they are building. Will the Premier say what is the policy of the Government on this score and whether there is any likelihood soon of staving off what promises to be a depression in the building industry?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member's word "depression" is perhaps a little exaggerated. The sums made available for housing by the Government this year and the number of homes built this year are by far the greatest in the history of this State. I think the total amount made available through all agencies of the State Government and semi-governmental activities is about £21,000,000, which is by far the greatest amount ever made available in this State's history. On the other hand, I think the total number of houses that will be built this year will be increased by about 2,000, so to suggest that there is any depression in the building industry would not be in accordance with facts. I have made inquiries from time to time; I inquired recently and found that the full resources of the building industry were being used. That was the result of a thorough investigation, and it showed that there was no surplus labour in the building trade unemployed at that time. It also showed that a full use of building materials commonly used in the State was being made. As far as policy is concerned, the two institutions have both stopped taking applications because they have more than sufficient applications to cover allocations of money for this financial year. They have not paid out all the money they have and are still approving a considerable number of applications each month. In fact, yesterday I signed 30 or 40 applications that had been approved by the Savings Bank, and these will come before Executive Council next Thursday. I think the State Bank is paying

out about £45,000 a week. It has not used all its available money, but on the other hand it has considered that it would be unwise to take applications ahead of time. I have some reservations regarding temporary finance business, because some temporary finance being made available for houses is extremely costly. I can show honourable members flat rates of temporary finance for the waiting-over period that are nothing short of exorbitant, and I personally am not particularly interested in encouraging that type of transaction, which is so tremendously costly to the applicants.

Mr. Quirke—That would not be through the Savings Bank or the State Bank.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—No. The reason these banks have had this big flood of applications is that they are prepared to lend up to £3,000 over 40 years on a five per cent deposit, which is an effective contract unequalled anywhere else in Australia today. I would hesitate to apply additional money to this activity at this stage (in the last two months of the year) because until we get our Loan allocation for next year I think it would be rather injudicious to prejudice what might be vital works which are the real obligation of the Government next year, namely, the contracts already let for hospitals, schools and other undertakings. However, if after the Loan Council has met—probably early next month—the Government could see some possibility of an extension, I certainly would not hesitate to increase the appropriation to these two authorities to enable them to become a little more up-to-date in granting applications.

SPRINGBANK TEMPORARY HOMES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Premier a reply to my recent question regarding the Springbank temporary homes?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Arrangements have been made for the removal of the debris resulting from the demolitions so far carried out, and this work should be completed within the next two months. It is expected that the remaining Army huts at Springbank will be vacated and removed before the end of 1960.

TAILEM BEND TO KEITH WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Works any further information on the proposed water scheme from Tailem Bend to Keith, and if he has not, will he obtain up-to-date particulars by tomorrow as to when the scheme is likely to be submitted to the Public Works

Committee and the direction it will be likely to take, especially in relation to the Hundreds of Burdett and Seymour?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) asked me in private this morning the same question. I know that both the honourable members are interested in this project, but I am not able to say today when I can bring down the desired information in complete form. I have discussed the matter with the Engineer-in-Chief, who has informed me that possibly within the next two weeks he will be able to submit something concrete to me in respect of the whole matter, but, until he has completed the last remaining investigations into the proposal, I think it would be premature to advance any further information. I will obtain a report from him in due course.

PENSIONERS' HOSPITAL CHARGES.

Mr. RALSTON—I recently requested the Premier to investigate an account for hospital fees presented to an age pensioner who had been a patient at the Mount Gambier hospital. I understand the Premier has investigated this matter and now has a reply.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes; the case referred to by the honourable member concerns a patient who was admitted to the Mount Gambier hospital in the middle of March for 12 days. A ledger account was raised for 48s. per day, representing full charge of 60s. per day, less Commonwealth benefits 12s. per day, and the patient, on discharge, was handed an account for £28 16s. She completed a questionnaire form applying for a remission of fees which disclosed that, in addition to the widow's pension, she was in receipt of a superannuation pension. The patient's account was reassessed on the basis of the information supplied, and in accordance with the scale approved by Cabinet, at 16s. per day, namely, a total of £9 12s. The balance of 32s. per day (or £19 4s.) was approved for remission. The information supplied by this patient indicates that ordinarily she is much better off than a pensioner in receipt of the basic pension of £4 15s. per week only. However, if she should have difficulty in making the payment of £9 12s. outright, she should make an arrangement with this department to pay the account by instalments. Apparently the patient had been of the opinion that she was unable to insure, but I am now informed that she is eligible for insurance, and for the amount of 9d. a week she can in future be covered for the full amount of hospitalization, and as she appears to be a chronic case I would suggest

to the honourable member that he advise her to enter the National Health insurance scheme. For the payment of 9d. a week she would be covered and free from all anxiety in the future.

MATERNITY CASES.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Premier a reply to my question of May 3 concerning the discharge of maternity cases from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital eight days after birth?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The administrator of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital reports:—

No patient is discharged from this hospital except on the basis of medical opinion, even though in some instances a patient may request that she may be permitted to go home earlier than the medical staff consider proper. Each patient is treated as an individual and in some uncomplicated cases the patient is permitted to leave the hospital at the end of eight days if the medical officer agrees. In others she is retained considerably longer than this period. Although it is proving difficult to obtain staff as maternity trainees (they are, of course, general trained), it is not true to say that staff is not being advertised for. On the contrary, advertisements are appearing throughout Australia and overseas.

DRIP-DRY WOOLLEN SHIRTS.

Mr. BYWATERS—Recently I asked the Premier a question regarding price control on drip-dry woollen shirts, and the Premier promised to take the matter up with the Prices Commissioner and bring down a report. If he has not the report today, will he try to obtain it by tomorrow?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

STRATHALBYN PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. JENKINS—Can the Minister of Education inform me when the Strathalbyn primary school will be completed, and when it will be available for school use?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I think the construction of the building is well advanced, but I do not know when it will be ready for use. I will obtain the information as soon as possible, and I have no doubt that the building will be opened with due ceremony.

LAND SETTLEMENT.

Mr. RALSTON—My question relates to land settlement for civilian application in the electoral districts of Millicent, Victoria and Mount Gambier for the years 1948 to 1959 inclusive, and for 1960 up to the present. I exclude from my question properties allotted under the Commonwealth War Service Land Settlement Scheme. Can the Minister of Lands say

whether any land has been acquired under the provisions of Part X of the Crown Lands Act? If so, what was the area acquired, where is the land situated, and what was the cost? Can he also say how many closer settlement blocks have been allotted under that part of the Crown Lands Act, and where they are situated?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS—Obviously much research is necessary to obtain the information required. I point out that about the years 1946 to 1948 when the soldier settlement scheme was beginning to rise to great heights, an intensive survey of the South-East was made. Members will agree that the landholders in the South-East were most generous in offering land for soldier settlement. Most of the land that would have been suitable for civilian settlement today has been used for soldier settlement purposes. I shall endeavour to get the information required by the honourable member.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Will the Minister representing the Attorney-General ascertain the reason for the delay that occurred in a matter referred to the Public Trustee? The person concerned, whose name I can give the Minister, died in August, 1959, and I understand that probate was granted in January, 1960. The estate consists of a house which has been vacated and which is to be auctioned some time this week. Delay has occurred in the office of the Public Trustee and I think the reason should be investigated. Can the Minister ascertain whether the Public Trustee has adopted the practice of limiting the number of applications he will deal with, and is there an upper limit of £3,000? Does he farm out cases for members of the legal profession to examine? I believe there could be a speeding up in the administrative work of the department.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—If the honourable member will let me have the name of the estate I shall be pleased to take up the matter with the Attorney-General with a view to an investigation being made into the case mentioned. Generally, the Public Trustee has from time to time been short of staff and there have been changes amongst the more experienced officers. The staff needed for the office of the Public Trustee is not an ordinary clerical staff, and the senior officers must have a highly specialized knowledge. In addition, the Public Trustee has complained from time to time that there have been substantial if not serious delays

amongst members of the legal profession to whom he has assigned certain estates. I understand that in the past the practice has been for him to let out cases to members of the legal profession not because of any complexity but merely because of the gross value of the estate. During the last few weeks the matter was taken up by the Public Trustee with the Attorney-General, who in turn referred it to Cabinet for discussion. I will refer the matter to my colleague for investigation on the particular point, and for recommendations on the general question.

BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG—During the past year the Government provided £750 towards the work of the Bush Church Aid Society on Eyre Peninsula. In view of the excellent work being done by this society in that area, can the Premier say whether it will be possible to increase the grant to it?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Speaking from memory, I believe that the amount included in the Estimates this year was £1,000 and not £750, and that recently the amount was approved for payment to the society. In addition, the honourable member knows that the society had an accident to its aeroplane, and after the society had collected the insurance and made such other arrangements as were possible in connection with the matter it was considerably out of pocket and was faced with fairly heavy expenditure. The society applied to the Government only a week or 10 days ago and Cabinet approved a special grant being made towards the cost of attending to the damaged aeroplane. Speaking from memory, I think the amount was either £500 or £750, but I will check and let the honourable member know.

MARION CORPORATION BY-LAW: SALE OF BREAD.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham)—I move—

That By-law No. 7 of the Corporation of the City of Marion in respect of the sale of bread, made on June 22, 1959, and laid on the table of this House on November 10, 1959, be disallowed.

This is the first of three motions that I will move for the disallowance of by-laws promulgated by the Corporation of Marion. They arise out of a new set of 27 by-laws made by the Corporation and laid on the Table of this House last November. Of the 27 by-laws only those mentioned in the motions on the Notice Paper are recommended for disallowance. The first deals with the sale of bread. On the Joint

Committee of Subordinate Legislation is the Honourable A. J. Shard who has a specialized and intimate knowledge of the sale of bread. Mr. Shard said to Mr. Bradley, Town Clerk of the Corporation of Marion:—

Regarding the sale of bread, the matter of dough weights is out-of-date because of an Act of Parliament passed about four years ago.

Mr. Bradley replied "Yes, we have discussed that matter ourselves." Mr. Shard then said:—

I think it would be agreed that this by-law should be disallowed with your consent.

Mr. Bradley agreed and accordingly the motion for the disallowance of the by-law was agreed to by the Joint Committee.

Motion carried.

MARION CORPORATION BY-LAW: BUILDING.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham)—I move—

That By-law No. 25 of the Corporation of the City of Marion in respect of building, made on June 22, 1959, and laid on the table of this House on November 10, 1959 be disallowed. This by-law is a zoning by-law and there has been much opposition to the actual areas that the corporation wants to zone. I know that the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Frank Walsh) had much to do with the opposition raised. Bearing that in mind the Joint Committee arranged for representatives of the Corporation to give evidence to the committee. The Town Clerk (Mr. Bradley) and the Chief Inspector attended, and Mr. Bradley explained the difficult position in which the Corporation of Marion finds itself. He said:—

The growth has been outstanding. In the last six years we have had more houses built in our area than in any other area in the metropolitan area.

He then went on to explain that at the same time factories had sprung up in different parts of the city and were dotted all over the place, which made it extremely difficult to define residential, heavy industry and light industry zones acceptable to everyone. Apparently the opposition heard of by the Joint Committee had also been expressed to members of the Marion council because in his evidence Mr. Bradley indicated that the council was prepared to consent to the disallowance of this zoning by-law so that a fresh one could be re-drafted after consultation with all interested parties. It is hoped that the fresh by-law will meet the objections of people interested in this matter. I asked Mr. Bradley:—

I understand you this way, that the council is prepared to have this by-law disallowed and

in moving for its disallowance the council would be happy for us to tell Parliament that that is the case, that in view of the objections you are quite happy that it should be disallowed for you to start again.

Mr. Bradley replied:—

Yes. These people have raised the objections. If they are prepared to come down to us we shall be prepared to discuss the position with them.

I know that the council wants the by-law disallowed as soon as possible because its officers are in the process of drafting a fresh by-law, but until the present one is disallowed they cannot proceed with the fresh one.

Motion carried.

MARION CORPORATION BY-LAW: POULTRY.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham)—I move—

That By-law No. 27 of the Corporation of the City of Marion in respect of poultry, made on June 22, 1959, and laid on the table of this House on November 10, 1959, be disallowed. Members may remember the spirited debate we had in this House two or three years ago on a City of Adelaide by-law concerning poultry, when certain views were expressed as to the size of poultry runs and enclosures in various instances. Under clause 2 of the present Marion by-law the area laid down for each bird, 10 sq. ft., was in the opinion of the Joint Committee too large. When we discussed the matter with the Town Clerk, the Hon. A. J. Shard said:—

It would not cause any great deal of hardship to resubmit it. I do not like it and I know Parliament does not like it because it has refused other similar by-laws.

Mr. Bradley said, "We can resubmit it." I then said to him:—

I think it might be wise, if it is not too inconvenient to the council, to resubmit it.

Mr. Bradley agreed. I submit the motion for this reason, and also because the by-law contains the power of dispensation which has been frowned on from time to time by this House.

Motion carried.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT REGULATION: TRAILERS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham)—I move—

That Regulation No. 65 under the Road Traffic Act, 1934-1958, in respect of the coupling of trailers, made on February 18, 1960, and laid on the table of this House on March 31, 1960, be disallowed.

The object of regulation 65 is to ensure that trailers are adequately attached to motor vehicles. The method of attaining that

object has been to provide for safety chains in addition to draw-bars and couplings. I am sure that no honourable member of this House and no-one who made representations to the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation on the matter would quarrel with the object of the regulation, which is, of course, to improve safety on the roads. But many complaints have been voiced about the method of achieving it, and especially about the sizes laid down in the regulation for the safety chains themselves.

Evidence was taken by the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation, from which it appears that regulations have been made by the Government on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Police. Advice was sought of Senior Constable Swaine (who was in charge of the matter), of the Police Department and of Mr. A. J. Robinson, a senior lecturer at the University of Adelaide. Mr. Robinson was kind enough himself to come and give evidence on this matter. I may say with all respect that he was a most excellent witness. In the evidence on this matter, he says:—

As far as I am concerned, the history of the case is that Detective Swaine came to see me to ask for some suggestions as to the sizes of chains that might be suitable to prevent trailers breaking away from trucks, if the main coupling itself should break. I had nothing to go on myself but had some consultations with some of my fellow members at the University, as a result of which I decided that a reasonable approach would be to make each of two chains of such a strength that they would break at or about three times (that is the operative consideration) the loaded weight of the trailer. That was the basis of my suggestions.

He goes on to say that he made some tests and then he deals with the hooks (the rams-horns, as they are called in the regulation). He says:—

So the sizes of the hooks were made so that, when the load was three times the loaded weight of the trailer, they failed altogether. Fundamentally that was all there was to it as far as I was concerned. As far as the factor "3" was concerned, that was definitely purely a matter of opinion on my part. I thought that "3" was a reasonable number to select.

Honourable members can see that it was solely upon his advice that the sizes of the chains specified in this regulation were laid down. Mr. Robinson honestly said that he could have been easily mistaken in his opinion, because at page 30 he says:—

As I said before, this is a matter of opinion. If you put it to me, would I object, as it were,

to suggesting "2," I would say "Not at all." This is one of the difficult problems to answer in these questions.

I then questioned him—

You only have your own opinion?

And he said:—

In effect, yes. I did discuss it with other people. I would not object to "2" at all if there were evidence to suggest that "2" might be better than "3."

That was the position that Mr. Robinson quite frankly put before us, and that was, as I have said, the basis of the specifications laid down in the regulation.

The weight of evidence from other witnesses who came before the committee, such as representatives from the South Australian Road Transport Association, the Chamber of Manufactures and the Royal Automobile Association, was that a factor of "2" was the appropriate one to work upon. In support of this, we were given an extract from a memorandum of the Standards Association of Australia, which also sets that out as the appropriate factor. It is obvious, I think, that, if the sizes are calculated on the basis of a safety factor of "3" rather than "2," then the chains are much larger than would otherwise be the case. In fact, the evidence put before us was that the sizes of chain laid down in this regulation were far too big. As the chains are too big, so also the rams-horns attached are too big. It was suggested in evidence that, rather than concentrate on the chains, more attention should be paid to the strength of the coupling itself. But, apart from that consideration, honourable members who care to peruse the present regulation will see that semi-trailers, jinkers, and pole type trailers are included, and it has been said in evidence by the police representatives, Senior Constable Swaine and Inspector Wilson, that it is impossible to apply the regulation to them. In fact, it would be necessary to amend the present regulation that has been laid on the table of the House.

This is what Inspector Wilson said at page 38 of the minutes of evidence. I asked him:—

Could you explain how these chains could be used for semi-trailers?

He said:—

That matter was queried when the regulations came to us, and it has been discussed with the Crown Law authorities, and we were going to recommend an amendment to delete the word "semi-trailer."

That is the second ground that the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation had for moving the disallowance of this particular

regulation. Firstly, the size of the chains has been set on a basis that is against the weight of evidence; and, secondly, the regulation as it stands would need amending anyway to exclude semi-trailers. Accordingly, I move for the disallowance of this regulation. I may add that the Government has now referred the matter to the State Traffic Committee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I would not recommend that the House disallow this regulation but for one or two factors other than those mentioned by the honourable member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse). For a long time, the State Cabinet has been concerned that trailers and semi-trailers have not been in a state that we believe to be safe. In those circumstances, grave and great havoc could be caused to innocent bystanders or other people. I am not prepared to accept the approach that the honourable member is making in connection with this matter. To say "So-and-so will probably get by" is a type of reasoning that does not appeal to me. I should prefer to have a safety factor in this matter rather than be just on the borderline, because no-one can say what the strain on a chain will be, or what it will take, at any given time. It depends on the strength of its weakest link. There should be a safety chain. However, I am not opposing the disallowance of this regulation, because I know that since we made it moves have been made interstate to get a proper Australian standard that will operate. Until we made this regulation, we could get nobody to move at all on it, but now I am advised by Sir Edgar Bean, who was out of this State last week, that there is antipathy towards getting some formula for the couplings of these vehicles, to ensure that they will be safe.

The new regulation will be much harsher than the present one and will probably be more costly but it will be accepted by all the State Governments in the interests of safety. These vehicles in many instances carry heavy loads and travel over steep grades, particularly through the Adelaide hills. In my opinion, they should be provided with adequate and positive safety connections. However, as an Australian standard is to be provided, which will be acceptable to all States, I do not propose to oppose the disallowance of the regulation, which will in due course be replaced by an Australia-wide standard.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—In reply, I should not like it to be thought, as apparently the Premier thinks, that the Joint Committee on

Subordinate Legislation is prepared simply to say that a factor of "2" will get us by whereas in fact a safety factor of "3" would be perfectly safe. As I said in moving the motion, nobody could possibly quarrel with the object that this regulation seeks to achieve. It is only that the weight of evidence that we had from the various parties indicated that a factor of "2" was in fact entirely safe. I should like to make that very clear.

Motion carried.

LAW OF PROPERTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS (Minister of Lands) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Law of Property Act, 1936-1958. Read a first time.

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its main purpose is to repeal those provisions in section 24 of the principal Act which prohibit the transfer or agreement to transfer freehold estates to aliens without the prior consent of the Minister of Lands. Those provisions, contained in subsections (2) to (10) inclusive of section 24 of the principal Act, were inserted in 1945 on the expiration of the Federal National Security Regulations governing this subject and the Government decided that a measure of control of ownership of land by aliens was warranted. Representations have been made from time to time to the Government to repeal the provisions, but it has remained the opinion of the Government that the legislation has not operated to the detriment of aliens but on the contrary has been to their advantage. Indeed, it has given aliens some protection from being rushed into contracts to purchase land without proper consideration. I may add that the legislation has worked very well on the whole and that applications for consent have been dealt with expeditiously.

However, the Government has now reached the conclusion that the provisions can be repealed without detriment either to the State or to aliens themselves and indeed the removal of the provisions will, I understand, bring South Australia into line with other States. Clause 2 accordingly repeals the provisions in question and its effect will be to leave section 24 in its original state, as enabling alien friends to hold and deal with real and personal property in the same manner as natural born subjects of Her Majesty.

At the same time the opportunity has been taken of effecting an amendment concerning

the jurisdiction of local courts in relation to questions between husband and wife as to the title or possession of property. Section 105 of the principal Act which relates to this matter enables a local court of full jurisdiction to adjudicate in such questions where the value of the property in dispute does not exceed £750. But in 1956 the Local Courts Act was amended and the jurisdiction of local courts was increased to £1,250. It is thus anomalous that, while the general jurisdiction of local courts embraces amounts up to £1,250 in the case of the particular disputes dealt with by section 105 of the Law of Property Act, the jurisdiction of local courts is limited to the old figure. Clause 3 removes this anomaly.

Mr. DUNSTAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

STAMP DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

LAND AGENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

DENTISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from May 5. Page 419.)

Clause 3—"Definition of dentistry"—which the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford had moved to amend by inserting at the end of subclause (2) "or by any person on the instruction of a registered dentist."

Amendment carried.

Mr. HALL—I congratulate the member for Mitcham on his opposition to this Bill last year. I believe the opposition was centred on this clause and I believe he did a great service to the industry in delaying the Bill until the matter was thrashed out. I think he will be well regarded for this by the industry in general.

Clause as amended passed.

Clauses 4 and 5 passed.

Clause 6—"Appointment of Disciplinary Committee."

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

To strike out "Disciplinary" and insert "Statutory."

This is in accordance with the previous decision of the Committee.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clauses 7 to 10 passed.

Clause 11—'De-registration.'

Mr. LOVEDAY—This clause could have some effect on licensed operative dental assistants. These men are not dental mechanics. Only five reside in this State and only one of these, to my knowledge, is employed at present. They were all doing operative work before the Act was passed but for various reasons some did not sit for examinations. The Premier has foreshadowed an amendment to clause 13 that will assist these people considerably, but licensed operative dental assistants are the type of people who would be employed by dentists having physical defects, as in the case of the man who is now working at Whyalla. Will the Premier state whether there is any likelihood that this clause will be used arbitrarily to deregister a person who has a physical defect and who is employing a licensed operative dental assistant? That would be a retrograde step, as the man who is now working is skilled, is an excellent dentist and does everything a dentist does.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member mentioned this matter previously and it was also the subject of a communication to me from Whyalla. The matter has been investigated and I entirely agree that the person concerned is carrying out his duties to the entire satisfaction of everyone. He is employed by a qualified dentist who has some physical handicap and is under close supervision. The amendment I shall move later is to cover the position if the employer, for some reason or other, ceases to carry on business; it is to enable him to carry on business with anyone else and not be under close supervision. I assure the honourable member that if, for any reason, the board took any action to dispossess these five people of their livelihood, the Government would immediately take action. The purpose of this amendment is to show that the Government intends that these people are not to be divested of their livelihood for any reason other than negligence, incompetence or offences under the Act. Now that it is publicly stated that it is the Government's intention that these five assistants shall be allowed to continue, and an amendment to that effect is included, I think that should cover the position. If not, Parliament meets frequently and the matter can be cleared up next time it meets.

Clause passed.

Clause 12—"Repeal of sections 28, 29, 31, 32, 32a, 32b and 33 of the principal Act."

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

After "of" to insert "and the third and fourth schedules to".

This is a consequential amendment.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 13—"Prohibition of practising dentistry without registration or licence."

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

In paragraph (a) to strike out "the word 'or' at the end of" and to insert "all the words after the word 'licensed' in".

I regret that I have not an explanation relating to this amendment, but the Parliamentary Draftsman assures me it is to cover the point raised by the member for Whyalla.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clauses 14 to 20 passed.

Clause 21—"Duties of dentists in relation to unregistered persons."

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have several small amendments in this and the following clause to remove the provisions in the Bill which would restrict the number of registered dentists employed by companies to the number now employed. The Dental Board has agreed that the proposed provisions for the control of dental companies can be eliminated, and the Government is accordingly not proceeding with those proposals. I move—

To strike out paragraph (d).

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 22—"Returns to be delivered by companies."

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I move—

In new section 48a to strike out "(1)" and to strike out subsection (2).

I have already explained this amendment.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clauses (23 to 31) and title passed.

Bill reported with amendments and Committee's report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.08 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, May 12, at 2 p.m.