

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Wednesday, June 21, 1961.

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

**PETITION: BEDFORD PARK  
SANATORIUM.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition) presented a petition signed by 46 electors in the district of Edwardstown. It stated that when the signatories, who were residents of the Burbank area immediately west of the sanatorium, became property holders in the locality there was no indication that the establishment would be used for other than hospital purposes, and that they were gravely alarmed about the Government's proposal to use the sanatorium as a reformatory, as this would depreciate the value of surrounding property and disturb the peace of mind of householders living nearby, who felt strongly about having such an institution in their area. The petitioners respectfully prayed that the House of Assembly act to prevent this injustice.

Received and read.

**QUESTIONS.****HOUSING FINANCE.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Yesterday, in a question about the Loan Council meeting and the funds that might be available for building, I asked whether there was to be any allocation of funds to the State Bank for the purchase of existing houses with reasonable equity. Has the Premier a reply?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government does not intend at present to use the money available to it for housing for merely changing the ownership of existing houses because such action would, in the opinion of the Government, have two detrimental effects. The first effect would be to dissipate the money available for housing without producing additional housing. Secondly it would mean that the unemployment position in South Australia would deteriorate because Loan funds which were allocated to us to stimulate the building industry would be used not for that purpose at all but for financing something of an entirely different nature. The Government does not intend to make any of its moneys available to the State Bank for the purchase of existing houses this year. In saying that, I do not mean that we will alter the present policy in relation to a person who has applied to the State Bank and who may obtain

temporary finance pending his application being dealt with. We do not intend to rule those people out.

**ELECTRIC POWER.**

Mr. COUMBE: Last year the Treasurer announced that investigations would proceed on the possibility of generating electric power on the south coast from the waters of St. Vincent Gulf by pumping water up and allowing it to run back at off-peak periods. Can the Treasurer indicate any further developments in this proposed undertaking?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Electricity Trust has sought the advice of overseas consultants in this matter. Although I have not actually seen their report, I am given to understand that it indicated that it would be possible to implement a proposition that would show a slight saving on capital cost. However, I think the Electricity Trust rather felt that the proposal did not show sufficient saving to offset disabilities in other directions. Actually, as a result of the investigation to date, the Electricity Trust intends to send two officers overseas to study closely similar schemes that operate in other countries. However, the general consensus of opinion at present is that any saving that could be made in capital cost would be more than offset in other directions, and that the proposition would not be feasible.

**HOLBROOK ROAD BRIDGE.**

Mr. FRED WALSH: For many years I agitated for a pedestrian crossing over the Torrens River at Holbrook Road because of the narrowness of the existing bridge, and subsequently for the reconstruction of the bridge. I am pleased to learn that the department is to proceed with the reconstruction of the bridge. Originally it was intended that the crossing would be closed to traffic during reconstruction, but I have since learned that it is still not clear whether the crossing will be closed. Can the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, say when reconstruction work is expected to commence and, secondly, whether the crossing will be kept open to traffic during reconstruction?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have a report from my colleague, the Minister of Roads, which, I think, the honourable member will find completely satisfactory in all respects. The Minister reports:

(1) Tenders for reconstruction of the Holbrook Road Bridge have closed, and are at present being examined. It is anticipated that a recommendation for acceptance of a tender will be submitted in July.

(2) A temporary crossing over the River Torrens will be provided.

(3) He is arranging with the Hon. the Minister of Education for the school committee and children to be told of the problems associated with the new construction work and requesting their full co-operation in seeing that children frequent the area only for the purpose of getting to and from school and use only the pedestrian crossing which will be provided.

#### CITIZEN MILITARY FORCES.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: During the last Parliamentary recess I received a letter from a teacher in the Education Department, who was also a member of the Citizen Military Forces, stating that he had had great difficulty in obtaining leave from the department to attend the annual camp of his unit held at El Alamein last April. Eventually, through the intervention of his commanding officer (Col. Lipman) he did obtain leave, but he wrote to me asking whether I could ascertain the Government's policy on this matter as there seemed to be some uncertainty. As it was a matter of policy, I made certain submissions to the Premier about the matter and received the usual courteous reply from him in which he said:

The Government has some doubt as to whether it would be wise for it to set about deliberately attracting persons to the Armed Services who would not be available when needed by those services. However, no firm decision has yet been made on the matter.

On April 18 I replied to the Premier's letter, respectfully making certain submissions and asking him whether he would refer them to Cabinet and whether the Government would be able to come to a speedy decision, but I have not heard anything since. Can the Premier tell me now whether or not Cabinet has reached a decision on this important matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Two points have to be considered regarding this matter. Firstly, we learned in the last war that there were certain categories of people who, immediately war was declared, would by manpower regulations be held in the essential jobs in which they were engaged because they were necessary for the maintenance of the community even in wartime. The Government has felt that, in those circumstances, it would be a waste of time on the part of the Army, and certainly not good policy from the point of view of the Government, to attract those categories to the Armed Services.

The second proposition is one which, if given effect to, in many instances would place a serviceman from the Public Service in a much more advantageous position regarding pay and

leave than a person serving alongside him who might come from private industry. Again, I think honourable members will agree that as far as possible the conditions of everyone serving should be made as near equal as possible. On the other hand, this Government does not want to impede—in fact, it wants to encourage and assist—the Commonwealth Government in regard to enlistment and the maintenance of its services. So it is not an easy problem.

In the case the honourable member has mentioned, when we are short of school teachers, to pull out a teacher from his normal employment to go to military training after that teacher has completed a few weeks previously a long term of leave (I think about six weeks at Christmas) is obviously not very realistic. I think the brigadier concerned is coming to see me soon to see whether it is possible to get a solution for the various interests concerned.

#### IRON ORE DEPOSITS.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Can we take it from the Treasurer's answer yesterday in relation to the partial lifting of the ban on the export of iron ore that the Commonwealth Government has made a survey of future Australian requirements of iron ore, has reserved certain deposits for purely Australian use, and has permitted the Australian States the right to export iron ore from any deposits other than those reserved? Furthermore, can he say what period has been regarded as necessary for keeping such reserves and can he give any other details concerning the method of estimating those requirements?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As far as I know (certainly as far as South Australia is concerned) the Commonwealth Government has had no correspondence on this matter with the State Governments. The position may not be the same in the case of Western Australia, for I believe the Western Australian Government has for some years been actively requesting that it have the right to export from certain mineral deposits. In South Australia neither have we made any request for permission to export iron ore nor were we consulted in connection with the lifting, or the partial lifting, of the ban. I have no knowledge of the Commonwealth Government's requirements in this matter except those that have been publicly stated in reply to questions in the Commonwealth Parliament and printed in the Commonwealth *Hansard* and circulated through the press. As far as I know, the

position is that the Commonwealth Government found that the fact that there was no reward whatsoever for any prospecting in iron ore led to the position that no-one was interested in examining or looking for additional resources of iron ore because there was nothing to be gained from it. As the honourable member knows, that position applied in his own district until the State Government undertook certain work.

Therefore, the purposes of the lifting of the ban, as I understand them (I make that qualification) are: (1) to encourage the investigation by various authorities for the further finding of iron ore; and (2) to increase the export income, if possible. The State does not apply for a licence, nor is it granted to the State: it is granted to the exporter. It is a matter between the Department of Trade and the exporter concerned, but the basis upon which licences will be granted is that the deposits must be deposits that have been recently discovered. If they are substantial, the amount allowable for export will be limited to a proportion of the total amount, and only in cases of very small and otherwise uneconomic propositions from the point of view of development will the complete ban be lifted in any area. I answer the question with the limitation that I am only now relating what has been reported in the press and in Commonwealth *Hansard*.

#### IRON ORE DEPOSITS AT WARRAMBOO.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Has the Treasurer, representing the Minister of Mines, any information regarding the iron ore deposits at Warrambo? Drilling has been carried out there and I should like to know the quantity and quality involved.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is no outcrop of iron ore at Warrambo. The geophysical survey undertaken by the Commonwealth Government and the States disclosed a high magnetic anomaly in that area that could very likely be associated with iron ore deposits. It was upon those grounds that the Government made available a fairly substantial sum for a drilling programme to be carried out. The work is proceeding but I have not seen any reports to date that would indicate the value of the area. I think it has been definitely determined that the magnetic anomaly is associated with some type of iron ore, but it is not known whether it could be commercially useful or whether the grade would be sufficiently high. The estimated tonnages have also not been determined yet.

#### FLINDERS PARK INFANT SCHOOL.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Parents of young children in the Flinders Park area are anxious to know when the new infant school will be available. Has the Minister of Education any information on this, and can he explain the methods used in estimating the potential enrolments of a school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Tenders are likely to be called for the new infant school at Flinders Park in August this year. No difficulties are anticipated in having the school completed in good time for use in February, 1963, which is the target date. The method of ascertaining the potential enrolment at a particular school is briefly as follows: when a new school is likely to be required at a given time (say two, three or four years hence) the superintendent concerned, with the assistance of the inspectors, makes a careful check of the district and in conjunction with the local council, the Housing Trust, the Town Planner and all other available sources of information, estimates the number of houses, especially new houses, already in the area or likely to be in the area the school is to serve when the school is taken into use. From past experience we know the average number of children who are likely to attend our primary schools and our secondary schools from any given number of houses; after due allowance has been made for any special factors as, for example, the establishment of new industries or the proposed establishment of church schools. This estimate of probable enrolments is checked against the enrolments of any nearby schools and due allowance is made for any children who may transfer from these nearby schools. Proper allowance is also made for the potential growth in the district the school is to serve. As a result of these investigations it is possible to estimate with some accuracy the size of the school required. This estimate is then related to the standard designs for schools in the Department of Public Buildings and a schedule of requirements prepared accordingly.

#### HEATHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. SHANNON: There have been rumours in the Heathfield area that the plan for the new high school there is nebulous and that there is no certainty the high school will be built. Parents of children who will attend that school have been advised to arrange to send their children elsewhere which, I should imagine, is the very thing the Education Department wants to avoid. To satisfy the people who are vitally interested in this

matter, will the Minister of Education say whether or not the proposed new high school will be included in the coming year's programme of works and whether it will be ready for occupation on the appointed day in 1963?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I hear so many idle rumours about so many projects that I take little notice of them, as I am sure does the honourable member. I assure him definitely and positively that tenders for the new Heathfield high school will be called either in August or September and I expect that the school will be completed and ready for occupation and use by February, 1963. I am sure it will prove a great boon to the residents of all the surrounding hills districts who will have children requiring secondary education. The honourable member, as chairman of the Public Works Committee, has seen the plans and specifications of this proposed new school and he will realize that structurally and architecturally it will be a great asset to the Heathfield district.

#### THIRD PARTY INSURANCE.

Mr. McKEE: It was reported in the *Advertiser* of May 18 that the Premiums Committee had adjourned to a date to be fixed its examination of two matters referred to it by the State Government after recent increases in third party motor vehicle premiums. I understand the committee is considering whether no-claim discounts should be granted to accident-free motorists and whether the margin between premiums received by insurance companies and the amounts paid out in claims should be reduced. The chairman, Sir Edgar Bean, said that the committee's completed report would be submitted direct to the Government. Has the Premier received that report and, if so, what is the committee's decision?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Premiums Committee announced fairly substantial increases in compulsory insurance rates some time ago. Cabinet examined this matter (and I had my own investigating officers personally examine it) and submitted additional questions to the committee for further investigation. The first was whether it would not be fairer to the driver of an insured vehicle to receive some bonus for a no-claim policy. I point out that claims can only arise, in third party insurance, where there is negligence on the part of the driver, and it seemed to the Government that there was a strong case for considering some bonus to the driver who was not involved in accidents. Incidentally, the Government realizes that the proportion

of accidents is so high that it would probably be impossible to load the whole increase on the negligent driver because it is doubtful whether he could meet the whole of the resulting premium. We thought, however, there was room for a bonus to be made on a no-claim policy.

The second matter referred back to the committee was that the ratio of collections as against claims in South Australia was provided at the rate of 20 per cent, which was higher than that provided in any other State. In some of the other States this type of insurance is unprofitable. The ratio of claims to the collections of premiums barely covers the costs of the claim without allowing anything for administrative costs. We certainly do not expect the insurance companies to work for nothing, but with compulsory insurance we feel that 20 per cent is possibly too high and that it should be examined because this is not the sort of business a company has to chase: it is business that comes to the company without any problems. I have not received a report from Sir Edgar Bean because I understand one member of the committee was not available for some time—he was either abroad or ill—and it was not possible to consider these matters. I hope the position will be cleared up soon.

#### DUCK SHOOTING SEASON.

Mr. JENKINS: I have been told by members of the Strathalbyn branch of the Duck Shooters' Association that during the period between the opening of the duck shooting season in South Australia and the opening of the Victorian season about 50,000 birds are estimated to have been slaughtered. I cannot vouch for this, but if the Minister has heard this statement and if there is any truth in it, has he considered bringing the two dates into line to avoid the depletion of ducks in our State?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have not heard anything like this. I should think it is somebody's estimate, but I will get an estimate from the Director of Fisheries and Game. The possibility of having the two duck shooting season opening dates set together has been discussed on and off for years. South Australia's opening date, which is specified in the Act, is always on the same day and cannot be altered except by amending the Act. In Victoria the opening date is altered by either regulation or proclamation. I do not think it is altered frequently, but as a rule there is a difference of about seven days. There is

undoubtedly competition from Victorian shooters in South Australia on the opening day, but undoubtedly South Australians go to Victoria and shoot on the opening day there. I do not know how much harm is done by this, but certainly the opening few days of the season attract duck shooters more than any other part of the season. Every time any alteration has been suggested a crop of protests has come from the other side by people wanting the date to be left as it is. It is pointed out that large areas of the State are not affected by Victorian shooters, that duck shooters like to arrange for holiday parties well in advance, and that under our Act they know where they stand. The matter has not been resolved any differently so far but, if the honourable member wishes, I will consider the matter again. We have not been pressed lately to alter the Act.

#### JERVOIS BRIDGE.

Mr. TAPPING: I direct my question, relating to the Jervois Bridge, to the member for Onkaparinga in his capacity as Chairman of the Public Works Committee, and wish to link my name with that of Mr. Ryan, the member for Port Adelaide, as this bridge is between his district and mine. On a recent inspection members of the Port Adelaide City Council, on looking under the bridge, found to their amazement that much of the understructure was in a state of decay. I saw the photographs myself and was alarmed at the situation. When I asked the honourable member a question last year he was good enough to tell me that his committee had the co-operation of the University, which was going to construct a model of a tunnel that could be used under the existing bridge. People in the district felt that if such a system could be adopted it would overcome their troubles to a great extent. Will the honourable member give a progress report on this matter?

Mr. SHANNON (Chairman of the Public Works Committee): I shall be happy to do so. Firstly, the Public Works Standing Committee is pleased that the Government has seen fit to accept its first progress report about constructing a low level crossing at the junction of the Old Port Road and the river to a point somewhere west of the river at Bower Road, and also a link from the Old Port Road down Church Street to Nelson Street to provide an alternative route for people using the Birkenhead Bridge rather than going up Commercial Road. From statements made and from my

information, I understand that these two recommendations are to be complied with. I point out to members, and particularly to the people of Port Adelaide, that it is desirable to have some alternative method of crossing the river when we come to the point where we put another structure on the Jervois Bridge site. This is referred to in the report. We have not shelved the problem of crossing the river at the end of St. Vincent Street. This matter is being actively pursued at the moment, and I will give a brief account of the latest information I have received from Professor Bull and his colleague, Mr. Culver, at the University, who are erecting an elaborate scale model of the proposed tunnel under the river at this point.

The model is being built on a scale of 20 to one, and will be 80ft. long. The construction of the tunnel has been completed. The tracks through it, which will be mechanically moved for taking model cars through the tunnel to give the designers an idea of the effect on the tunnel, have also been completed. The problem of ventilation has still to be resolved. This problem can be resolved, and from the Professor's statement to me I believe that it can be done economically so as to give absolute security to people driving through the tunnel that they will not be gassed by carbon monoxide. In fact, an instrument will measure the density of carbon monoxide in the tunnel at all times and will bring into operation ventilating fans. That will all be done mechanically so that the operation of the tunnel at all times is perfectly safe. These, of course, are important in view of the possibility of accident in the tunnel.

These are all time-absorbing problems and I do not think that we can expect to see the scale model, with all the necessary ancillaries, in operation to give a proper picture of what it will be like and how it will work for perhaps three or four weeks. Time is not so pressing as it once was. The condition of the Jervois Bridge is well-known to members of the committee. We know that the present bridge will have to be demolished, but it should be remembered that when it is demolished there will be no way of crossing at this point; it will be some time before there will be a method of crossing, whether under or over the river. We consider (I think wisely) that, with the alternative route which will finally be required by the density of traffic in the area, that third crossing will be needed. The Town Planner (Mr. Hart) made that clear when he appeared before us.

He recommended, I think, four or five crossings, but we are not going any further than considering three. However, we think a third crossing will be required ultimately. It will not be just a "fill gap" while we are doing something at the end of St. Vincent Street. That has to be done, but while it is being done the other bridge will provide in this area the service I think is essential.

#### EGG. MARKETING.

Mr. LAUCKE: Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether there has been any recent development in arriving at a co-ordinated and, therefore, more orderly approach by the various State egg boards to the movement of eggs from State to State?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Problems of egg marketing have been concerning all the State authorities, and they have been discussed in the Agricultural Council from time to time. Everyone would like to improve the present system to some extent. The recent Agricultural Council meeting held in Adelaide discussed the possibility of co-operating in the sale of egg pulp, as distinct from eggs in shells. Egg pulp is really the surplus over the sale of eggs in shells. Following that meeting, it was decided to hold a special meeting later on to discuss egg pulp marketing within Australia, and that meeting will be held shortly. In fact it was suggested two days ago that that meeting be held in Sydney next Tuesday, but I have not heard that confirmed. However, if it is to be held I shall certainly attend, and we shall see if we can take the discussions a stage further than the present situation.

#### SCHOOL FIRST-AID EQUIPMENT.

Mr. CLARK: Will the Minister of Education consider the question of the department's supplying to all schools under its jurisdiction complete first-aid emergency equipment similar to that which employers in industry are legally obliged to supply?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to consider the matter, but I do not know whether I shall be able to comply with the request. We have considered the matter from time to time and recommendations have been made to me, some of which have been put into effect, but I do not think that conditions applying in schools are on all fours with those applying in industry. However, I shall be pleased to discuss the matter with the honourable member, to make available to him the information in my possession, and to say what further can be done in the future.

#### SUPERPHOSPHATE PRICES.

Mr. HALL: Superphosphate has two prices at plants in this State: one price for superphosphate in new bags and an adjusted price for people who bring their own bags to be filled at the factory. This difference in this price is at present 1s. 9d. a bag. A new bag today costs more than 3s.—I do not know the exact price—and there is some doubt as to how high that cost will go, but it appears that the allowance on the old bag filled at the factory is only about half that of the cost of a new bag. It seems evident that the price of superphosphate in new bags must include the full price of the new bag, otherwise it would not be economical to the company. Can the Treasurer, as the Minister in charge of prices, say how it is that the full price for a new bag is not allowed to those who bring an old bag to be filled?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have not had the Prices Commissioner's explanation on this matter, but only within the last fortnight I visited one superphosphate works on another matter and I saw superphosphate being bagged. I was surprised, frankly, at the difficulty experienced in filling old bags and using old bags as against new bags because of the varying state of the old bags and the time it took to fill them. This matter was not discussed, but I saw the difficulties. A new bag can go straight on to the machine without any trouble and without examination, and this results in more efficiency in every way. I will refer the honourable member's question to the Prices Commissioner and ask him to make a complete investigation of margins.

#### MIGRANTS' HOUSES.

Mr. LAWN: The *Sunday Mail* of May 20 this year contains pictures of migrants arriving in the *Strathnaver*. An accompanying article contains these words:

Most of the migrants wasted no time in settling in. Many rushed to Elizabeth to inspect new homes. Some will start work on Monday.

I have received requests from people desiring to obtain trust houses. Can the Premier say whether these houses referred to are rental or purchase houses?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: For a considerable time the State Government has been making available in London a number of houses each month for purchase by British migrants coming to this country. Most of those migrants pay a substantial deposit. A Housing

Trust officer has been stationed in London to deal with their problems, and I believe that has been a valuable way of assisting people desiring to come to Australia by providing them with firsthand knowledge of what is available and helping solve their housing problems. Without having followed up the honourable member's question at all, I feel that they would be the people he has referred to, but they could be people in one or two other categories. For instance, under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement the State has agreed to make certain houses available for Commonwealth officers of certain categories, and as the honourable member has mentioned Elizabeth, it could be that those people were coming out to the Weapons Research Establishment and could have had houses allotted to them. Those people might have been specialists and it could be possible that rental houses were allotted under those circumstances, but under normal circumstances I know of no cases where migrants coming to the State have rental houses allotted to them on arrival here.

#### TAILEM BEND TO KEITH WATER SCHEME.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand the Minister of Works intended to refer the question of the Tailem Bend to Keith water scheme to the Public Works Committee at the end of May. Although I am sure there are good reasons for the delay in this matter, I and those more directly concerned would like to know the reasons, if any, for the delay in investigating this scheme. Can the Minister say when it is proposed to bring this matter forward for further investigation and report?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I appreciate the significance of the honourable member's question and I also appreciate that it has been some little time since this scheme was proposed and since the investigation began. The reason for that is largely twofold. In the first place, the work of the department in preparing the necessary specifications and plans for a number of large water schemes has been heavy. I instance in that respect the two big schemes that have been necessary to meet the requirements (and, incidentally, the deadlines) of two big industrial developmental projects in South Australia—the oil refinery south of Adelaide and the development at Whyalla.

The development south of Adelaide has entailed much work in planning and progress in respect of the Myponga dam scheme and

its ancillary pipe works northward. The Whyalla project has entailed much planning and replanning in the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline and the new extension from Lincoln Gap to Iron Knob, which the Government has undertaken to have completed by June, 1962. I do not want the honourable member or his constituents to assume that the Government regards the requirements of industry as of greater significance to the State than the requirements of the development of land for the use of primary producers, but I think he will appreciate that two big industries were available to this State providing they could have the services I have outlined, and it was necessary to have all those works completed before they were, in fact, of service to the industries concerned. I do not think the honourable member will disagree with the emphasis that has been placed on those projects. Similarly, I think he will agree that the Tailem Bend to Keith water scheme is wanted to serve a large area which is at present in the developmental stage, and that the full water requirements of that land will not be evident possibly until some years from now. The arranging of the work within the department has conformed to those requirements generally.

The second factor is that the scheme in itself is a big one and difficult to plan efficiently: it covers some distance; it roams over flat terrain; the diameter of the pipes required will be large and therefore the cost for each mile will be extremely high. It is absolutely essential, in order to make it an economic proposition for the landholders concerned, that it be planned with the utmost care. As the honourable member knows, that has entailed the consideration of several routes to supply water by gravity as far as possible over the longest possible distances to avoid duplication, and to terminate each stage at a spot of terrain high enough to allow the flow to a further point. All those things require much planning. But the planning has been completed and I am expecting any day to have before me the department's recommendations to place before Cabinet for its consideration so that they can go to the Public Works Committee for investigation.

#### RAIL CONCESSION FARES.

Mr. RICHES: The pensioners in my electorate are pleased with the Government's decision to provide two rail concession fares a year to Adelaide on South Australian railways. They have been asking for that for a long time. I

have been asked by pensioners served by the Commonwealth railways to make representations to see whether similar concessions can be granted on the Commonwealth railways. It has been suggested that those representations would come better at the Treasurer's level than from any other source. Will the Treasurer be willing to take up the matter with the Commonwealth Railways Department on behalf of the pensioners served by those railways and to make the necessary representations to that end?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, I will take up with the Commonwealth Minister for Transport the question that the honourable member has raised. I will set out in detail the concessions granted in South Australia and the method of administration so that he will see that it will not involve the Commonwealth in any great administrative problem. We have made it a simple operation in South Australia. I will ask the Minister for Transport to consider this matter and will advise the honourable member in due course.

#### BOLIVAR TREATMENT WORKS.

Mr. RYAN: Last year during the debate on the Loan Estimates I raised the question of the new Bolivar treatment plant and was advised that it was a six-year plan: the first year preliminary, the next four years the metropolitan area being subdivided into four sections, and the final year seeing the completion of the transfer. As the first year (the preliminary year) has now passed and we should be entering into the first part of the metropolitan area scheme, is the Minister of Works now able to say which section will be the first and which the second to be taken from Islington and transferred to Bolivar?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am not able to inform the honourable member in precise terms about the matters he has raised. The first year's work, as he has indicated, is largely planning and development of the scheme generally. That has been proceeding according to plan, and specifications for much of the plant and equipment necessary for the treatment of sewage are well advanced. The first thing, of course, that is necessary is to proceed with the main trunk sewer that will take the sewage of these new areas. Until that reaches the point of discharge at the works and until machinery is available at the works to receive it, connecting up areas to the system cannot be considered. The honourable member will see that that is absolutely essential. I will refresh my memory on the progress made and

the details of the plans for each of the stages of construction, and let the honourable member have more precise information, if available, in answer to his question. I point out to him that no spectacular results can be expected regarding linking up the areas of the metropolitan area or any other ancillary parts until the machinery operates and the trunk sewer is provided to serve these areas.

#### LOXTON BLOCK REVALUATIONS.

Mr. STOTT: Can the Acting Minister of Lands supply me with the latest information about the revaluation of blocks in the Loxton soldier settlement area? Have any revaluations been concluded; have any variations been made; have the revaluations been considered on the basis of lower prices for fruit; where they have been made will they be adjusted in accordance with the latest findings; and how many settlers have received their valuations?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will get a reply and let the honourable member have it as soon as possible.

#### MOUNT GAMBIER APPRENTICE TRAINING.

Mr. RALSTON: My question arises from a question I asked last year regarding Mount Gambier apprentices and vitally concerns the Mount Gambier Council of Trade Unions. Apparently, where an area is declared for apprenticeship training, apprentices are obliged to attend training sessions at periods during the day and in the evening. Power machinery is used for apprenticeship training in automotive engineering, carpentering and joining, fitting and turning, and in the electrical trades. The question of workmen's compensation arises. Apprentices must travel between their employers' premises and the training centre. Should an apprentice be injured in the course of attendance at apprenticeship classes or during travelling, do the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act apply to day and evening classes equally and, if not, at which classes does the Act apply? Can the Minister of Education also indicate whether it will apply equally should an apprentice be injured at either of the day or evening attendances? If it does not, why not?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The honourable member referred this matter to me last year and I had investigations made by the technical branch of the Education Department. Some aspects of the subject were referred to the Crown Solicitor for advice. However, when



the docket came to me I did not consider that all aspects had been properly put before the Crown Solicitor and therefore he did not give his opinion on one or two relevant matters. The honourable member has now posed the problem fully and correctly and I will get a considered reply and advise him by letter as soon as possible.

#### DRY CREEK SEWERAGE.

Mr. JENNINGS: My question concerns the extension of sewerage to the area known as Dry Creek but which, according to the current trend to more elegant names, is referred to by many residents as Burford Gardens. The Minister of Works will know the area to which I am referring. Can he ascertain when sewerage will be extended to the area? A point I should make is that recently a new factory was established there and it was immediately connected with sewerage, despite the fact that houses in the same area have been waiting for sewerage for a long time. I assure the Minister that this was not conducive to cordiality in the area. When he gets a report will he also ascertain the circumstances that enabled the factory to be connected to the sewerage system?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: From memory—and I stand subject to correction—I think the factory made special arrangements with the department about connecting its premises to the sewerage system and it paid a substantial portion of the cost. From that point of view the department could hardly refuse to attempt to meet the wishes of the industry. I point out to the honourable member that had the industry not been connected to the sewers or had it not agreed to assist to finance the cost of connection there would have been much greater reason for complaint in the area. However, the sewerage of that area and the area west of it (which comes within the Woodville Corporation boundaries) has given much concern because of the prevailing conditions there. Until the trunk sewer to the Bolivar treatment works has been constructed we have nowhere for receiving the sewage. I can assure the honourable member that at the earliest possible moment steps will be taken to relieve the situation.

#### MOORLANDS COAL.

Mr. BYWATERS: In view of the large extensions of electric power supplies along the River Murray and through the Lower and Upper South-East can the Premier say whether

the Government will consider putting a power station at Moorlands coalfield to burn the coal which, I understand from a previous report, can be used economically if burnt on the site?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This proposition has been considered frequently and the Government has spent many thousands of pounds in investigating the project, including getting advice from German experts about the economic winning of coal from Moorlands. All reports reveal that the project would not be economic. It could only be carried out with a big increase in the cost of electricity and I am sure that the Electricity Trust would not, while costs are so important, contemplate the proposal.

#### RADIUM HILL EMPLOYMENT.

Mr. CASEY: The most essential factor for any community is security of employment, and I am sure the Premier would agree with that. Will he assure me that the employees and business people at Radium Hill, who are under a cloud of insecurity at present due to the existing contracts, will be guaranteed employment and security at Radium Hill after the contracts expire next year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government has two experts overseas now examining this matter. As the honourable member said, the contracts let to us expire at the end of the year, and we are investigating the matter, but until the report is available I cannot take the matter any further.

#### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Earlier this afternoon the Minister of Education said a new school was to be built in the hills. I have written to the Minister of Works requesting that locally produced fibrous plaster sheeting be used instead of Gyprock, which is imported from another State, in school construction, and in one case I am awaiting his reply. In the sub-contract for just over £3,000 for the Seacombe High school there was a difference of £100 in favour of the imported material. If the Government is sincere in trying to find full employment—

The SPEAKER: Order! I hope the Leader will not debate his question.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I am not debating it. Does the Government believe, as I do, that the people of this State should be fully employed? Will the Minister of Works say

whether the specifications for this school provided for fibrous sheeting to be used instead of Gyprock or any other lining material imported from another State?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have received correspondence from the Leader and have discussed the matter thoroughly with the Director of Public Buildings. It must be borne in mind that the base material for both these products comes from South Australia. I think the Leader may have overlooked that.

Mr. Frank Walsh: Not in the least.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think I am correct in saying that South Australia is fortunate in being probably the only large-scale source of gypsum in and around the southern parts of the Commonwealth and that, as the raw materials come from this State, the manufacture of Gyprock provides employment for South Australians. I accept, however, that the product is manufactured elsewhere, and I concede the Leader's point about fibrous plaster being manufactured within South Australia. The conclusion I reached, after discussing the matter again only yesterday or the day before with the Director, was that we should insist on every tenderer providing in his tender alternative prices for Gyprock and fibrous plaster.

Mr. Frank Walsh: They were stated in this case.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am not so sure; I think this was discovered afterwards in discussions. However, in order that there should be no doubt about it, we have agreed that tenderers provide alternative prices in their tenders. I think the Leader will appreciate that if the department were to insist that all materials used were to be of South Australian origin, without any qualification, the department would probably be "taken for a ride", as the tendency would be for local prices to increase beyond reasonable limits.

Mr. Frank Walsh: Be your age!

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am being my age, but I know what human nature is, and I think that is a fair assumption. However, it is Government policy that reasonable preference be given to materials of South Australian origin and, to ensure that that is done within reason, I have given the necessary instructions, which the Director of Public Buildings will carry out, that all tenders will contain alternative prices for both materials. If the price of fibrous plaster is within reasonable limits, it will be used.

#### WESTBOURNE PARK SCHOOL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On May 25 I wrote to the Minister of Education asking that portable classrooms be provided at the Westbourne Park primary school. As I understand that no classrooms have yet been provided, will the Minister say when they are likely to be provided?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I am advised that it is not intended at present to provide additional normal classrooms at the Westbourne Park primary school. There will be a slight increase of, I think, about 40 children in the July intake, but there will also be a decrease, so that the total enrolment will be almost the same in July as it is now. It is therefore considered that the accommodation at the school is, and will be, adequate for requirements.

#### NUCLEAR POWER STATION.

Mr. McKEE: It was reported in the press on April 27 that three British atomic energy experts would have discussions in South Australia about the possibility of establishing a commercial nuclear power station. In view of the limited supplies of coal at Leigh Creek, will the Premier indicate the Government's opinion regarding setting up a nuclear power station in this State soon?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As far as I know, the three experts mentioned in the press report did not visit South Australia. They certainly did not come to see me, and I know nothing of their visit. The latter part of the question falls into the same category as the question I previously answered. We now have experts overseas examining the whole of this question, and until we have their replies I could not venture any suggestion upon it. The most recent information I have had from other sources is that, although there has been some improvement in nuclear power stations and their efficiency has been steadily increasing, it has not in fact been increasing as quickly as the efficiency of ordinary thermal stations—coal or oil burning stations. I am led to believe that at present a nuclear station is still unattractive as a power generation project in competition with ordinary orthodox fuels.

#### MURRAY RIVER ACCESS ROADS.

Mr. STOTT: Adjacent to the banks of the River Murray are what we call 22 links alongside the river. For the past 20 years there have been access roads from different localities to these 22 links where people can

go fishing or picnicking at week-ends. It has come to my notice that the Lands Department is closing some of the access roads and either selling or leasing the reserves close to the banks of the river. In the absence of the Minister of Lands, can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the department is closing some of the access roads and either selling or leasing some of the reserves? People in the river districts are concerned about the position and have asked me to get this information.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I shall obtain the information for the honourable member.

#### CONDEMNED HOUSES.

Mr. TAPPING: It has been brought to my notice that in the northern part of my electorate there are at least 29 houses which have been condemned, pursuant to an order of the Port Adelaide Local Board of Health. In company with Dr. Cherry (the Health Officer of the Port Adelaide council), the Town Clerk and Mr. Williams (the Health Inspector), I visited many of these houses some weeks ago and found that they were certainly sub-standard and most unhealthy to live in. The problem is that although most of these people have applied for Housing Trust houses the average time they have waited has been only about three years. In view of the trust's policy that people in the metropolitan area who require a Housing Trust house must have waited five, six, seven or even eight years, these people are in a hopeless position. In view of the circumstances, particularly from the health angle and the desire to clear sub-standard houses, will the Premier discuss this matter with the Chairman of the Housing Trust to see if a special dispensation may be granted to this type of applicant?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Housing Trust does its best to meet all these emergency circumstances that arise, but obviously it cannot give an open cheque that it will automatically provide a house for everybody who may be evicted for any reason, because that would undoubtedly encourage many evictions.

Mr. Tapping: I was referring to condemned houses.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The trust has never agreed to make a *carte blanche* arrangement that it will automatically provide a house for the occupants of a house that has been condemned. I cannot accede to the honourable member's request. The trust tries

to meet all emergencies as and when they arise. I think nearly every honourable member opposite at one time or another has brought forward an emergency case, and such cases have been dealt with. I will submit the question to the chairman of the trust for his considered report.

#### DECIMAL COINAGE.

Mr. LAUCKE: Has the Premier any information regarding the probabilities or the possibilities of the introduction of decimal coinage to Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No, other than what the honourable member and all honourable members probably know from the reports in the press and from those published by the special committee that investigated the matter. This matter has been investigated by the Commonwealth Government, and the report that has been tabled recommends that decimal coinage should be introduced. As far as I know, the Commonwealth has not yet announced any policy. I point out to honourable members that a heavy cost would be incurred in the changeover. All the present accounting machines would have to be scrapped or radically altered. In addition, there is the big problem of having to print notes to meet all the circumstances. I know of no decision by the Commonwealth Government and, frankly, I would be rather doubtful whether an early decision would be made.

#### TEACHERS' ALLOWANCES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: In view of the Minister of Education's reply to me on March 16 regarding special allowances for teachers in outback areas, can the Minister say whether the Public Service Board has yet decided this matter and, if so, what the decision is?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The Public Service Board has not made a decision, but it instructed special investigating officers of the Public Service Commissioner's Department to examine the matter thoroughly. A long report was made by the Secretary of the Education Department to the Director, who in turn made a report and recommendations to the Public Service Commissioner. Both these reports were referred to the board, which caused investigations to be made by its own officers. A little while ago the Public Service Commissioner sent back to the Director of Education his officers' fairly lengthy reports and conclusions, which in some respects were at variance with the Education Department's views. The Director discussed the matter with me

informally, and he has now made further representations to the board. I think that only this week he is having discussions with the Public Service Commissioner. The position is still in a state of flux. There is a difference of opinion between the two departments as to what alterations should be made. They agree that there should be alterations but there are different localities and different rates. When I have some conclusions on the matter I shall let the honourable member know because I am as interested as he is in the problem.

#### PORT AUGUSTA SALT FIELD.

Mr. RICHES: My question deals with the development of the salt leases near Port Augusta. I understand from press reports that a new company has been formed, with the Government having some membership in it, to continue the operations of the Solar Salt Company. Can the Premier give any information regarding the future plans for developing the area and the extent to which the Government is associated with the project?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The position is that for a considerable period there has been a dispute regarding the legal rights of the various parties to the leases of the salt pan which the honourable member has mentioned. I think it is at Curlew Point. The matter was involved from a legal point of view and as a consequence no authority could go forward with any degree of confidence that it had any rights to the leases. For a considerable period the matter has been held up. The honourable member, as a member of the Industries Development Committee, knows that an application to the Government was sent on to the committee for investigation and that it sent out a questionnaire. I do not think it received a reply. The matter lapsed because the people concerned had in the meantime assigned their interests to other financial groups. The matter was held up for a considerable period because of the legal difficulties about the titles of the leases, but I am pleased that the problem has now been resolved. After a considerable time the various parties concerned finally agreed that they would form a new company and that whatever were the legal rights they would be vested in the new company. The basis on which the company was formed was that both sides to the controversy should have the right to nominate two directors, and they asked whether I, as the Treasurer of the State, would nominate another director, to be the chairman of

directors. I agreed to take the responsibility. The new company has been formed and I have nominated Sir William Bishop, who was for many years Auditor-General of this State, as the chairman of directors.

I have also informed the company that subject to Parliamentary approval, and subject to a satisfactory contract being obtained in Japan, the Government would be prepared to consider the establishment of loading facilities at the salt field to permit the quick dispatch of ships. In my opinion, and it is only an opinion, it would be profitable to get salt exported to Japan at the price that country is at present paying. Japan purchases about 2,000,000 tons of salt each year and gets it from as far afield as Egypt, Spain, Israel, and America. The price paid for the salt would be, in my opinion, profitable for the exploitation of the Port Augusta field. It would be profitable to get an industry of that description going, so I have informed the company that, subject to the necessary trade connections being set up for the sale overseas of worthwhile quality salt, the Government would be prepared to ask the Industries Development Committee to report on a guarantee being given to enable loading facilities to be provided. They are absolutely essential to the success of the project, and probably they would cost between £350,000 and £450,000. That is the present position. The company became effective only last week, but already I think preliminary investigations have been made regarding the Japanese market. Sir Cecil Hincks, who is abroad, has been particularly requested to make some first-hand inquiries into the possibility of opening up this market.

#### NARACOORTE SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. HARDING: Can the Minister of Education say whether plans and specifications for the Naracoorte South primary school have been completed, whether the school will appear on the Estimates for this year, and whether it is planned to have it ready for use in February, 1963?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: It is premature for me to give this information. The Loan programme of works is at present under consideration and as soon as it is completed I shall be pleased to let the honourable member have the information. I join with him in the hope that the school will be ready for occupation by the beginning of 1963.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

Mr. LAWN: I have been informed by the secretary of the Vehicle Builders Federation of South Australia of a complaint by one of its members. He was employed by a firm at Woodville and met with an accident about 1959, which resulted in a hernia. He received workmen's compensation and recovered from the operation. He was re-employed by the company after the operation, but subsequently left of his own accord to take employment at Keswick with another firm. During the retrenchments that have taken place this year he was retrenched on March 9. In May he went to the union office and complained that he had applied for a job in the South Australian Railways Department and that on completion of the examination by the railways medical officer was advised that his application for employment would be rejected because the examination revealed that he had an operation for hernia and was unsuitable for employment in the railways. Can the Premier say whether it is Government policy that any workman or female worker who has had an operation for hernia is in the future unsuitable for Government employment, and if that is Government policy will he consider amending the Workmen's Compensation Act to include hernia as a disability in the schedule to the Act?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the honourable member will let me have the name and address of the person concerned so that I can check the circumstances, I will forward him a report in connection with the matter. To my knowledge policy in this matter has never been discussed.

### GAWLER ELECTORATE.

Mr. CLARK: The number of electors on the electoral roll for the district of Gawler as at June 1 was 17,916. The next two largest country districts were Mount Gambier with 8,908 enrolments and Stuart with 7,931 enrolments. As the total enrolments for Mount Gambier and Stuart are exceeded by over 1,000 by the Gawler enrolments, will the Premier consider introducing amending legislation this session to bring the enrolment in the Gawler district more into line with the numbers in other country electorates?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The question involves Government policy and I will have it examined to see if I can give the honourable member an answer in due course.

### DEPOSITS ON HIRE-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.

Mr. RYAN: Yesterday I asked the Minister of Education, representing the Attorney-General, a question dealing with possible prosecutions or action by the Government against hire-purchase firms advertising on a no-deposit basis, which is not in accordance with the provisions of the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act. Has the Minister a reply to that question because today's newspapers contain numerous advertisements of a similar nature?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The Attorney-General was not, in the short time at his disposal, able to give me a very long reply but I discussed the matter with him this morning and he informed me that some of the advertisements referred to by the honourable member had been brought to his notice. He had caused action to be taken to prevent a repetition of the publication of any advertisement not in accordance with the provisions of the Act, was closely watching the position, and was having the provisions of the Act properly policed. He also informed me that similar problems have arisen in some of the other States and at a conference of Attorneys-General held in Brisbane last week evasions and alleged evasions of the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act were discussed and consideration was given to any necessary remedies. On behalf of the Attorney-General I assure the honourable member that if any inherent weaknesses in our Act are disclosed Cabinet will consider any necessary amendments.

### POLICE TRAINING BARRACKS.

Mr. FRED WALSH: I was pleased to learn that the Police Department was taking over Fort Largs as a police training barracks and I cannot imagine a better site because I believe it will be fitting for the department to transfer the barracks to Fort Largs. Having regard to the praiseworthy project undertaken by the City Council of developing and beautifying the parklands for recreational purposes in view of the ever increasing need for further recreational areas, will the Premier inform me what is the policy of the Police Department regarding the present Thebarton barracks and its future use? Is it intended to continue using them or is it intended to return them to the City Council so that the land may be reclaimed and used for recreational purposes?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I confirm that the first part of the question is

correct. The State Government has agreed to purchase from the Commonwealth, at a cost of £130,000, the Commonwealth asset at Fort Largs. The Police Commissioner has reported extremely favourably on the site for use as a police training college and that site will take the place of a project that had been previously acquired at Northfield in the district of the honourable member for Enfield. In that area the Government had made available a fairly large area of land for a police training college. Fort Largs provides buildings already erected, and in many circumstances is a more desirable project than the one the Government proposed for Northfield.

I shall obtain a report on the second part of the honourable member's question and let him have it in due course.

#### TIMBER PRICES.

Mr. RALSTON: Recently the Victorian Government, as a result of allegations made by the Leader of the Opposition in that State, referred to the Crown Law authorities the question of restrictive practices in the timber industry in Victoria. At that time certain interested parties from South Australia were mentioned as being parties to some agreement on price control of timber. Can the Minister of Forests inform the House if the South Australian Government, through the Woods and Forests Department, is party to any form of price-fixing arrangement with private milling interests in South Australia on the wholesale and/or retail price for radiata timber sold in South Australia or for that matter elsewhere and, if not, what are the marketing arrangements for the wholesale or retail sale of radiata products from State mills operated by the Woods and Forests Department?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The position in South Australia is that the Prices Department has often investigated the timber industry and has conferred with the industry on the margins and prices that should apply. With regard to the second question, it has always been the policy of the South Australian Government to provide timber, particularly timber for flooring boards and cases, at the lowest possible price. I believe that there is an arrangement that the resellers will not charge more than a certain margin upon the wholesale purchase price. I am not quite sure of that, so I will check the point. Any arrangement that has been made is wholly in the purchaser's interest.

Mr. RALSTON: Can the Premier say whether I would be correct in assuming that

although most building materials are subject to price control *pinus radiata* is not, and that the uniform price—because I understand it is uniform—at which the Woods and Forests Department and private millers market this timber is by mutual arrangement?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will get a report from the Prices Commissioner and let the honourable member have it soon.

#### PROVISION OF SERVICES.

Mr. JENNINGS: I wish to deal with the question of the establishment of various State services in the new suburbs around the northern perimeter of the metropolitan area extending from the Lower North Road in an easterly direction across to the River Torrens. In those new suburbs there has not been, to my knowledge, one additional fire station, one additional police station, or an ambulance station established. I know that position, particularly the lack of a fire station in this area with such a high proportion of timber-frame houses, has caused a certain amount of anxiety amongst residents. Will the Premier say if the Government has any plans to establish these services more centrally in that area?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As the honourable member knows, the fire services are not under the control of the Government although the Government does provide fairly heavy subsidies towards their establishment and maintenance. The Fire Brigades Board is largely made up of local government and insurance company representation but I believe that the Government does nominate the chairman of the board. However, local government and insurance offices are largely responsible for the conduct of this particular matter. The question was investigated recently with regard to Elizabeth, and the investigation probably took into account the areas mentioned by the honourable member. I will get a report for the honourable member from the Fire Brigades Board, and also take up with the Chief Secretary the question relative to police stations.

#### MYPOLONGA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BYWATERS: Last year an amount of £20,000 was placed on the Loan Estimates to provide for a stock and domestic water supply for the settlement of Mypolonga. I was informed that this matter had been referred back to the department for another estimate, because the cost was considered too high. I am receiving continual inquiries as to when this work is likely to be started. Can the

Minister of Agriculture give any idea what progress is being made with this scheme and if the information is not now available will he communicate with me after the House rises?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will do that.

#### BULK HANDLING AT PORT PIRIE.

Mr. STOTT: The Public Works Committee has tabled its report regarding the building of a wheat silo at Port Pirie, involving alterations to the harbour and expenditure by the Harbors Board. This will enable the bulk handling company to proceed with its part of the work. Can the Treasurer say whether the money will be made available on the Estimates to enable the Harbors Board to carry out its part of the work during the next financial year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: For a considerable time the Harbors Board has been spending much money at Port Pirie in dredging. The Loan Estimates are now being prepared and will be submitted early, and it is expected that a line will be included for the work at Port Pirie.

#### GLEN OSMOND SCHOOL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question relates to the Glen Osmond School. In February I made representation to the Minister of Education regarding the clearing and fencing of land adjacent to the original school premises bought by the Education Department. I have since received a letter from the secretary of the school committee stating that there had been no visible progress on this work. Will the Minister make investigations to see if it can be done in the very near future?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall be very pleased to do that.

#### INDUSTRIES IN COUNTRY.

Mr. McKEE: In the *Advertiser* of May 18 it was stated that the Minister of Industry (Mr. Rowe), when addressing a meeting of the S.A. Automobile Chamber of Commerce in the Burnside town hall, said that the future of South Australia was very bright and that overseas interest in the establishment of new industries in South Australia had never been greater. He also said that despite current short-term difficulties, the long-term view of the State's progress was very bright, and that the Government had £60,000,000 worth of new industries "on its plate" for the next two years. In view of the urgent need for decentralization, will the Government endeavour to

interest some of these industries to establish in country areas, as, because of unemployment amongst young people in the country, most of them have to seek employment in the metropolitan area? Can the Treasurer say whether any of these industries will be encouraged to go to country areas?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: One of the pleasing features of the advancement that has taken place in industrial activity is that a large proportion of it is associated with country development. I think that members will be pleased that this is the case. The development taking place in a number of country centres is phenomenal. As to the honourable member's district, I have reason to know that the Broken Hill Associated Smelters have prepared a programme for advancement in that area. Quite recently by letter I offered to make myself available at any time to the general manager of the company to discuss certain problems that may arise in connection with that development.

#### OUTER HARBOUR ROAD.

Mr. TAPPING: On two occasions I have directed questions to the Minister of Works concerning the urgent need to duplicate the Outer Harbour road, generally known as the Victoria Road, which proceeds from Birkenhead bridge in a northerly direction. On each occasion I have been informed that other works were considered more urgent. I have received a letter from the Port Adelaide City Council asking me again to press the matter to see if the Government would do something about giving it early attention, because the Lady Gowrie Drive is only a light-duty road with a load limit of three tons and there has been a big increase in housing and industries along the Victoria Road which makes the need for its duplication more urgent than it was a year ago. Will the Minister of Works take up the matter with his colleague, the Minister of Roads?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

#### FAR NORTHERN ROADS.

Mr. LOVEDAY: I draw the Minister of Works's attention to his reply to my request concerning the need for attention to certain roads in my electorate—those from Port Augusta to Lake Everard, Pimba to Andamooka, and Pimba to Parakyliya. Has the Minister yet received a report from the Engineer-in-Chief or the Minister of Roads?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I believe that the latter two roads will still be maintained

by the Engineer-in-Chief under an arrangement between his department and the Highways Department and that the road from Port Augusta to Lake Everard is included in the area transferred to the Highways Department, under an arrangement which will come into force as from July 3. I will ascertain whether this road is included. I have not recently had any report on the condition of, or maintenance work on, any of those roads. I will check and see what work has been and will be done.

#### UMEEWARRA MISSION.

Mr. RICHES: My question relates to the necessity for an additional school building at the Umeewarra Mission. I have been bringing this to the notice of the Minister of Works for some time. For a period of three years, the Minister will remember, he was good enough to accompany me on visits to the mission. As these hospital facilities at Port Augusta are becoming better known amongst the aborigines and the population of Port Augusta is increasing, overcrowding at the schools is becoming more serious rather than lessening and, whatever building is provided in the town for educational purposes, I am convinced that a new building at the mission is an absolute necessity now. I know that this subject has been investigated by four or five officers from various departments, but the situation is still allowed to continue. Can the Minister of Works say when an additional school building is likely to be erected there?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I say at the outset that there is no obligation upon the department to provide such a building, but the department has helped all the missions and mission schools catering for aborigines. I feel that that point should be made at this stage in order that that practice may be known in its correct context.

This matter has been raised on several occasions. I accept the honourable member's point in that regard and, when an additional building is available, I shall endeavour to see that it is taken to the school and used by the school authorities there. I have also said once or twice in the House that it is the ardent desire of the department and the Government that all those aboriginal children that can possibly be educated at ordinary State schools—and there are first-class State schools (both primary and secondary) at Port Augusta—should be so educated. I stand firmly by that statement because I believe that the assimila-

tion of the aborigines into the ordinary South Australian way of life can best be begun at the primary school level. If we do not succeed in assimilation at that point, we have little chance of succeeding at any other point in the life of the aborigine.

I know that my colleague, the Minister of Education, has had his officers examine the possibility of more children from the Umeewarra Mission attending the Port Augusta primary school and, in some cases, the high school. I do not want to derogate the efforts made by the mission workers, because I know they are valiant and self-sacrificing, but I want to be satisfied that all the children that could go to the department's schools at Port Augusta are attending there. So far I have not been convinced on that. There is the natural propensity on the part of the mission sisters to become attached to the children (and that is not unnatural) and not to part with them (and that, too, is only natural), but in the interests of the children that should not be allowed to happen. I shall be in close contact with the Protector of Aborigines in the next few days and endeavour to see what can be done. I shall also inquire of the Director of Public Buildings whether he can find a suitable building.

#### SOUTH-EAST TIMBER CONTRACTS.

Mr. RALSTON: Today's *Advertiser* carries an announcement of long-term agreements having been signed between the Woods and Forests Department of South Australia and two companies—the Australian Particle Board Company and Apcel Limited—for the supply of raw materials from State forests, totalling about 30,000,000 super feet a year. I am pleased to say that the Woods and Forests Department has been able to provide this, to the great benefit of decentralization of industry in the South-East. Can the Minister of Forests say whether these contracts contain a clause providing for periodical reviews of the price at which the raw material will be supplied and, if so, at what period of time the prices are to be subject to review?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: No, I could not give details of this price review. Rather than guess, I will get the information and let the honourable member have it.

#### FRUIT CANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Mr. BYWATERS: Following my question yesterday about the Fruit Canning Committee's inquiry, can the Treasurer say whether



from that report, which he claims is confidential—and I respect that—this committee will make recommendations affecting the future of the canning industry? I ask this because many growers in my electorate, where there is a small canning industry, are vitally concerned with canning generally. They have experienced much difficulty over the last few years. They were hoping that out of this committee's report would emerge recommendations that would benefit the industry.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As honourable members know, the Government in the last four or five years on the recommendation of the Industries Development Committee has made available large sums to assist canners to carry on. It was in that connection that the Government referred the question to the committee because it had been suggested to the Government that we were not entitled to carry on some firms that were continuing to make losses for, if we did continue to carry them on, it would seriously prejudice the position of other creditors or shareholders. So that the recommendations were in respect of certain firms and what attitude the Government should take in connection with assistance to them. That is the basis of the inquiry and that was the basis of the recommendations.

Regarding the firm at Murray Bridge that the honourable member has mentioned, that matter was referred to the Industries Development Committee, which is the only authority in South Australia that can recommend a guarantee or a loan from the Government in this matter. I believe that the application was not successful.

#### RIVER MURRAY DAM.

Mr. STOTT: Reference is made in the Governor's Speech to the proposed dam north of Paringa. I understand that at present some difficulties have arisen with the Victorian Government and that it may be necessary for the South Australian Government to compromise in order to get Victoria's approval for the dam site. Can the Premier say whether the difficulties that have arisen concern the supply of water or the payment of compensation to landowners?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: At present this matter is the subject of an investigation by the River Murray Commission. At a conference between the South Australian, Victorian and New South Wales Governments in Sydney (attended by the Commonwealth Minister for National Development as an

observer) it was decided to refer two questions to the commission for report before the subject was further considered by the States. One question related to an alteration which should be made in the River Murray Waters Agreement to enable a dam to be constructed, and the second was whether, from an engineering viewpoint, the South Australian proposal could be successful and should be approved. Ultimately I think we shall get agreement, but I point out that the River Murray Waters Agreement took 40 years to finalize and it may take some negotiation before an agreement about the dam can be reached. All we want from Victoria and New South Wales is permission to flood some pastoral land that at present is subject to occasional flooding, and for which we would pay full compensation.

Mr. Stott: Will South Australia have to pay full compensation?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, to the landowners for any disabilities they suffer. Obviously if it is a South Australian project we would be legally responsible for any damages accruing to the landowners. The commission's report should be available within three weeks to a month and we shall then be able to take up the matter more actively at a further conference.

#### LE FEVRE PENINSULA FIRE STATION.

Mr. TAPPING: Some years ago the South Australian Fire Brigades Board intimated that it would build a station on Le Fevre Peninsula, but it has not done so. Will the Premier ascertain from the board whether it intends to do so?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF OVALS.

Mr. RICHES: A few weeks ago the Premier announced that the Government was prepared to assist local governing bodies in establishing ovals. This announcement was received with interest by many councils. Can the Premier indicate how the Government is prepared to grant assistance and the method of applying for such assistance?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: For many years the Government has been prepared to assist councils in securing land for recreational purposes, which is somewhat different from the honourable member's interpretation of the announcement. We do not propose to build ovals and construct pavilions thereon. We are prepared to assist councils in securing land for recreational purposes. We will provide a grant of 50 per cent of the Land

Board's valuation for the purchase of the land. Applications should be made to the Treasurer.

#### RAILWAY DERAILMENTS.

Mr. STOTT: In the past few years there have been a number of railway derailments in various parts of the State. At one time derailments were rare, but now they are all too frequent. Will the Minister, representing the Minister of Railways, obtain from the Railways Commissioner his opinion of the causes of these derailments? Do they happen because the rails need reconstruction with heavier steel; are the locomotives too heavy; does rolling stock need to be modernized to cope with heavier freight and fast traffic? What does the Railways Commissioner recommend to overcome the problem?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will seek a report from my colleague. My first impression would be, however, that he would dispute the claim that derailments are increasing and have increased in the last few years, as from casual reading from the press I would think that that is not the case. However, that can easily be ascertained from the records of the Railways Department, and I will refer the whole question to the Minister for a report from the Commissioner.

#### LONG FLAT RAILWAY BRIDGE.

Mr. BYWATERS: About two years ago a request was made by people who owned land on each side of the railway line at Long Flat, a reclaimed swamp area near Murray Bridge, for a bridge over the railway line at a siding called Rabila. This request has been made to the Minister of Roads by letter, deputation and representations by the council, and correspondence has passed between the Highways and Railways Departments and the council. An estimate was made, tenders were called, and the quotations were double the estimates. Because of this and because the council was not able to meet its half of the cost, this work has not been proceeded with, and this has been a sore point with residents. Following on a further deputation, the Minister agreed to submit this matter again for further estimates, but a long time has elapsed since then. Will the Minister of Works take up this matter with his colleague to see whether it can be pushed forward and to see what is the possibility of erecting this bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

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#### PIKE CREEK WATER SCHEME.

Mr. STOTT: Some time ago settlers in the Lyrup district suggested damming up and using what is known as Pike Creek to provide more water for the Lyrup area. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether this proposal has been approved and, if so, when it is likely that work will commence?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: No, but I can get the information for the honourable member.

#### SCHOOL TRANSPORT.

Mr. STOTT: Some time ago I asked the Education Department to provide a transport allowance for a child outside the area recognized by the department for getting assistance to travel to school. I understand that because the child lives further than the distance allowable under the regulations the department was unable to grant the request. This child lives over seven miles from the school and the parents are unable to give correspondence lessons. This means, in effect, that he is without proper education. Will the Minister of Education look into this matter and see whether, under his powers as Minister, he can review the circumstances of this special case and give some assistance so that this child can be educated?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Yes, I should be pleased to ascertain whether I have a discretion that I can exercise. If I have, I will exercise it as favourably as possible.

#### SITTINGS AND BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

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

That during the present session, unless otherwise ordered, the House meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in each week, at 2 o'clock.

Motion carried.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved:

That during the present session, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after the six o'clock adjournment on Wednesdays, Government business take precedence over other business, except questions.

Motion carried.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to

prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech:

May it please Your Excellency—

1. We, the Members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the Speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.

2. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the Session.

#### SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of Sessional Committees.

#### SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.29 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 25, at 2 p.m.