

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, October 3, 1961.

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

### QUESTIONS.

#### FOOTWEAR.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about the quality of inner soles in certain shoes?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. I referred this matter to the Prices Commissioner for investigation and he reports as follows:

The two manufacturers of the shoes in question in common with the majority of leading footwear manufacturers in Australia are now using an American synthetic cellulose product for their footwear insoles. This material is one which has been widely accepted by manufacturers in America and other countries and is regarded by the footwear industry as being at least the equal of leather for insole purposes. Shoes incorporating this type of insole are also claimed by manufacturers who use it to be equally repairable with shoes having leather insoles. This claim has been endorsed by a number of the larger shoe repair factories in the State, which between them handle over a thousand pairs of shoes each week incorporating the American synthetic insole.

One repairer did complain, however, of a tendency for some synthetic insoles to break up under repair, but when several soles were stripped down in the presence of a departmental officer the insoles showed no signs of breaking up. Although the quality of the material appears to be perfectly adequate under all normal conditions, the risk of occasional insole failure cannot be ruled out entirely, either in synthetics or in leather. However, there is no question of an inferior substitute for leather being used by the manufacturers concerned. These two manufacturers have produced between them some 650,000 pairs of shoes since changing over to the new material and have not found any increase over and above the normal rate of insole failure experienced with leather insoles. In addition it is the policy of both companies to meet and adjust any fair complaint to the satisfaction of the wearer.

#### DESALINATION.

Mr. COUMBE: Recently I referred to the question of desalination, about which much interest is evinced by the public. I understand that a Government officer, while abroad, recently investigated this subject among others. Can the Minister of Works say whether, since this officer's return, a report on his investigations is available or, if not, when it is likely to be available and whether it will be made public or available to members?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The officer to whom the honourable member undoubtedly refers did not go overseas primarily to investigate this matter, but he did include it among other investigations he was making for the Government. He was concerned particularly with the membrane method of desalination, which is primarily applicable to the improvement of brackish water rather than to the treatment of sea water and other saline waters. I have not seen any report he may have submitted to the Engineer-in-Chief; in fact, I am not sure whether he has returned, but I have seen communications that have come through from time to time about his discoveries. I will inquire whether a report has been presented and, if it has, about what it contains. If it contains anything significant, I shall be pleased to let the House have the information.

#### NEW POWER PLANT.

Mr. TAPPING: In last Saturday's *News*, under the heading of "South Australia to get another Power Plant" appeared the following article:

A new major power station for South Australia, to be bigger than any other in the State, was announced by Premier (Sir Thomas Playford) last night. Sir Thomas, who was speaking at Loxton, did not divulge the site for the proposed power station, but said he hoped it would be operating in 1967.

Can the Premier give the House any information on this matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No. The Chairman of the Electricity Trust has discussed this matter with the Minister of Works and me and will submit preliminary notes during the next week or two. Arrangements have been made to meet the expansion that will take place in this State up to 1966. As the honourable member may know, the last proposal was for Osborne, where a 60,000-kilowatt unit, to operate in 1966, was contracted for some weeks ago. A much larger plant, to operate after 1966, is now being considered. As a result of discussions between the Chairman of the Electricity Trust, the Minister of Works and me, more definite notes will be submitted to Cabinet in due course. No decision has yet been reached on the locality or size or, as far as I know, on the type of plant.

#### AGRICULTURAL YIELDS.

Mr. HEASLIP: Although nine months of the year have passed and rainfall has been far below normal, feed has made satisfactory growth and stock is in fair condition. Last Saturday we had an all-time record heat for

September, and I am greatly concerned about our agricultural production, particularly of cereals. As press reports have referred only to scattered districts, will the Minister of Agriculture give more information about the prospects of our agricultural areas, particularly regarding cereals?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This morning I received the following report from the Senior Agricultural Adviser:

The below-average rainfall in most parts of South Australia since April, the poor sub-soil moisture reserves and the lack of a useful follow-up rain after the hot dry windy weather of the past fortnight have adversely affected crops and pastures and reduced potential yields. In the eastern districts of the lower and upper north, central Eyre Peninsula and in parts of Yorke Peninsula and the Murray mallee crops are growing well and, provided that useful rains fall within the next week or two, yields could still be above average. In western Eyre Peninsula and many of the lower rainfall coastal districts of the State crops have thinned out considerably and yields will be low. At the present time indications are that overall State wheat and barley yields will be slightly below average if we get normal or better spring rains, beginning within the next week or two, but if rains are delayed beyond this, or spring rains are light, then crop yields could be 25 per cent or more below average. Last week's hot winds dried out clovers and caused annual grasses to run into head prematurely. At present feed is adequate but unless spring rains fall soon and in useful quantities then hay cuts will be light, and feed in many districts will be insufficient to keep stock going until the "break" next year.

#### FIRE FIGHTERS' COMPENSATION.

Mr. RALSTON: Some time ago I asked a question of the Minister of Agriculture regarding compensation payable under section 36 of the Bush Fires Act to a fire control officer or crew member who might be injured while fire-fighting. I understand the Minister now has a reply from the Crown Law Office.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have a report from the Crown Law Office which states:

The answers to the questions as now framed by the honourable member are, in my opinion, as follows:

1. If an injured person is receiving an average wage of £25, is the council under any legal liability to ensure that he will receive £25 a week during his incapacity? Answer: No.

2. Is the council liable only to the maximum amount (if that amount is applicable) provided for wages under the Workmen's Compensation Act, which I think from memory is £14 5s.? Answer: Assuming by wages the honourable member refers to weekly payment of compensation, yes, if he has a wife or child under the age of 16 years totally or mainly

dependent on his earnings. The weekly payment to a workman not having a wife or child under the age of 16 years totally or mainly dependent on his earnings shall not exceed £9 15s. a week.

In my view, the effect of section 36 of the Bush Fires Act is to apply the relevant provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act to the persons and councils mentioned in that section, but to substitute a somewhat artificial basis of computation of compensation which may differ in terms of the section from the actual basis used under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

#### URANIUM.

Mr. McKEE: In view of the uncertainty of the uranium industry, employees at Radium Hill and Port Pirie are greatly concerned about the future. Can the Premier say whether the special committee set up to investigate the industry has completed its investigations, and, if it has, has he a report for the House?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Through my secretary I received a message this morning from the chairman of the committee (Mr. Justice Chamberlain) that the committee had completed its investigations and was in a position to submit a report, except for one thing. Some time ago the committee asked me to take up with the Commonwealth Government the question of Commonwealth policy regarding the maintenance of the uranium industry in Australia. At the committee's request, I wrote to the Prime Minister seeking that information. That reply has not yet come to hand. I believe the committee will find it necessary to report in the absence of the Commonwealth communication, if it does not come to hand very soon, because there is a great air of uncertainty about the industry at present and everyone associated with it obviously wants to know what its future will be. I think that, in any event, the report will be available within a few days.

#### SPRINGBANK ROAD BRIDGE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: From time to time over the last few years I have raised in the House the question of renewing the Springbank Road bridge over the main railway line at Clapham in my district. I understand that it is now proposed to carry out this work. Can the Minister of Works indicate details of what will be done and when a start is likely?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, has received a report from the Commissioner of Highways that plans of the bridge are in the course of preparation, that they are expected to be completed in December this year, and that tenders will be called early in 1962.

**TANTANOOLA HOUSING.**

Mr. CORCORAN: Some time ago I asked a question of the Premier regarding the building of houses at Tantanoola by the Housing Trust. Has the Premier obtained the report that he promised?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: A report from the Housing Trust states:

So far, seven houses have been completed at Tantanoola. Five of these are occupied and the remaining two should be occupied within two to three weeks. The trust's builder at Tantanoola is completing a contract at Millicent and will be available to undertake further building at Tantanoola shortly. At present the trust has three more applications for houses and will continue to build at Tantanoola so long as an effective demand exists.

**BALAKLAVA MILL.**

Mr. HALL: Local residents and I are very much concerned regarding the future of a flour mill at Balaklava. I understand this relatively modern mill has been a very efficient milling concern, but that, due to many factors in the milling industry—a business failure at one time and, it would seem, overproduction in many instances—it has been held since the war under the control of the local milling association and has stood idle. It is now strongly rumoured in the district that the mill is to be dismantled and, if it is, it would then be entirely lost to the milling trade. As it is favourably situated to receive wheat, particularly quality wheat, can the Premier say whether the future of this mill can be investigated, perhaps by the Industries Development Special Committee that has been set up by this House? I do not know whether such an investigation is practicable, but many people believe that to dismantle this mill would be a retrograde step.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is a long history behind this activity. In the first place, the mill was erected to supply flour for export and, as far as I know, it has never had an appreciable local trade in its flour at any time during its life. When the exports of flour fell, the mill was closed by the company that owned it and has remained closed except for, I believe, three or four years during the last war. Other than that, it has been closed down for almost its entire life.

Our overseas export of flour has been limited and it has, I think, been more economic to mill flour on a three-shift basis in the mills that are operating rather than in a number of mills on a one-shift basis, for in those circumstances the overheads are much greater. However, I

do not object to the matter being investigated by the Industries Development Committee and will refer the matter to its chairman (Hon. L. H. Densley).

**ELECTRONIC BRAIN.**

Mr. FRED WALSH: Has the Premier a reply to my question of September 19 about the cost of an electronic computer purchased by the Electricity Trust and its effect on the retrenchment of employees?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Mr. Huddleston (Assistant Manager of the Electricity Trust) reports that, because of the continuing rapid growth of the trust's activities, the introduction of the electronic computer will not require any staff retrenchments. The cost of the machine with its ancillary equipment will be £140,000.

**EGG GRADING.**

Mr. LAUCKE: Has the Minister of Agriculture a report on the modernity and efficiency of the plant and machinery used for egg grading in South Australia?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The chairman of the South Australian Egg Board reports that, in reply to the question from Mr. Laucke on the system of egg grading used in South Australia, he takes it that it is not only the question of grading referred to here, but also the testing of eggs. Grading usually refers to the question of weights and testing applies to that of quality. In the metropolitan and country area there are six grading agents of the board, including one at Gawler. The question of the suitability of any particular type of testing and grading relies largely on the type of production which the particular floor has to handle. It should be first recognized that in South Australia it is estimated that approximately 60 per cent of the production of the State comes from sideline producers. Of the six floors operating in the metropolitan and country areas, three floors use both what is known as machine testing and grading, and also hand testing and machine grading. From the experience of the board in the out-turn of the quality of the eggs, either for export or for local trade, and after considerable checking of the two methods of testing, it is considered by the board that those in use in South Australia are the most suitable for the purposes of egg production of this State.

It is difficult to answer the question with regard to other States, because this again varies with the type of production handled by the board. It is known that at least two of

the other bigger producing States handle a considerably higher proportion of commercially produced eggs than South Australia does. It is also known that both systems of testing and grading are in use in these States. With regard to overseas methods of grading and testing eggs, the writer has had the opportunity to investigate these on two occasions and is still of the opinion that the methods used in South Australia are the most suitable for our local conditions.

#### UNIVERSITY LECTURER.

Mr. CLARK: I ask this question of the member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan) in his capacity as a member of the University Council. On Thursday last I addressed a question to the Premier seeking information on the Brenner case. Let me stress that I hold no personal brief for Mr. Brenner. I was simply asking the Premier whether he could obtain information about Brenner's exclusion from Australia because I believe that, as the university is, quite rightly, subsidized by the Government, taxpayers have the right to know the true situation. The Premier was unable to help me and advised me to seek information from one of the Parliamentary members of the University Council. As I like to take the Premier's advice, I am now doing that. Has the member for Norwood any information on this issue?

Mr. DUNSTAN: As far as I know at the moment, the university had an application and appointed Mr. Brenner after the Appointments Committee had investigated his application, and his background was known to the committee when it recommended the appointment. After the appointment was made and Mr. Brenner was due to arrive here, his name being painted on his door, the university was informed that he could not meet the requirements of the Immigration Department. More than this, so far as I am aware, the university at the moment does not know. If it does know, then I do not know at this stage.

There is to be a meeting of the Education Committee of the university on this matter on Thursday, and a meeting of the council (I anticipate for this matter) on Friday of this week. I can only say personally, because I was in Canberra at the time this matter was raised there, that I have been unable to discover any public reason for the action that has been taken. If it is an action that is concerned with Brenner's being a security risk, one would think that, he having now been exposed to a

refusal of admission to Australia for some security reason, there would be no harm in the Minister's now stating that reason publicly. There would be no danger to security if that were done. If, however, the reason is that the Minister regards a man with Brenner's background in Israel as being a person who ought not to be allowed to come into this country, then I would regard that as a grave infringement of academic freedom in this country. Members of the University Council may be able to give more information to the House after the meetings to be held this week.

Mr. HALL: I am amazed that the university authorities seemed to be satisfied with the explanations given by Mr. Brenner and that they did not in any way consider his statements about his past to affect his appointment. We are aware of the difficulties that have arisen at the Melbourne University where, I understand, Communists have made strenuous efforts to convert whole departments to their way of thinking by placing their own nominees in the various departments and positions. I am concerned that there is no political examination of appointees, as I understand was stated by the university authorities the other day. Can the Premier say whether the Government intends to continue its subsidy to the university while no investigations are made into the political background of applicants for positions on the university staff?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When the member for Gawler asked a question on this matter the other day I said that the Government had no representatives on the University Council and so I was not able to reply. Since then, as this had become a matter of public controversy, I made a verbal inquiry which yielded information completely at variance with that supplied by the member for Norwood this afternoon. It, of course, is a rather serious matter if the information given to him or the information that he has given to the House is not correct. It is a matter that this Parliament would obviously be concerned about. Under those circumstances I prefer not to answer the question without notice, but I will ask for a complete report from the university concerning the steps taken in investigating the suitability of this person for the proposed appointment. This is a matter of some public concern, having been raised here, and I will see that a complete report in writing from the university is made setting out specifically what checks were made to see whether this person was desirable, and what the results of those checks were.

## SHARK FISHING.

Mr. JENKINS: I have heard doubt expressed by the fishing interests in Victoria as to the value of the close season of one month during November on shark fishing. Does the Fisheries and Game Department intend to impose a ban relating to certain types of sharks in South Australian waters during November?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I do not think I have any information for the honourable member at present on this. All I can say is that no action is ever taken without careful discussion with the biologists, and any action taken is subject to much debate among biologists and commercial and amateur fishermen. However, I will look at the question, refer it to the Director of Fisheries and Game, and get his comment.

## WHYALLA LAND SALES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: On September 18 in Whyalla at an auction of 30 residential blocks of land only six were sold (although a few were sold subsequently) for prices ranging between £245 and £260. A few days later it was reported in the press that certain Crown lands in Whyalla were to be offered for major housing extensions. The press report stipulated the conditions of sale and said that the blocks would be priced at either £100 or £135. It was reported that Mr. Brookman had said that applications for the land would have to reach the Lands Department by October 17, and that any application from the South Australian Housing Trust for any or all of the allotments would receive favourable consideration from the Land Board. As far as can be ascertained, all of this land is at present occupied by the Housing Trust and is built on, consequently the article was most misleading, particularly when it referred to applications being lodged with the Lands Department by October 17. At yesterday's meeting of the Whyalla Town Commission an application for a building permit for a garage on one of these properties was received. The Town Commission has received at least 162 applications for building permits for the 187 blocks concerned. The press announcement created much confusion among prospective land buyers in the town. It is obvious that rates should have been paid on many of these properties last year, but in the Town Commission's assessment book the land is still in the name of the Lands Department. Will the Minister of Agriculture, as Acting Minister of Lands, see whether notices of this character can be made at a more appropriate and earlier date so that people are not misled

into thinking that such land is available for application and so that rates can be applied earlier?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The honourable member is correct when he states that much of the land has been built on. There are several aspects to this question and I think it would be better if I obtained a full comment on the question to clear up any doubts the honourable member has. I will try to get it by tomorrow.

## DECIMAL CURRENCY.

Mr. HARDING: Recently the Commonwealth Treasurer, Mr. Holt, returned from a conference of Commonwealth Ministers on finance. He has said that the British Chancellor of the Exchequer was interested in Australia's plans regarding decimal currency and that if Britain joined the European Common Market she would be the only member without decimal currency. Can the Treasurer say whether the Commonwealth Government has a policy on decimal currency and, if it has, whether he agrees with it?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am not aware of any policy, but I will see whether I can get a reply for the honourable member.

## BIRKENHEAD BRIDGE.

Mr. TAPPING: Some time ago a deputation waited on the Minister of Roads and urged that his department promulgate regulations to stop the frequent opening of the Birkenhead bridge. It was pointed out that because the Tramways Trust buses were using that bridge and because the traffic on LeFevre Peninsula was increasing the hold-ups were too frequent and too costly. The Minister promised to consider the matter. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Roads for a report?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague has not sent a report to me as yet, but I will direct the honourable member's question to him and ask for a report.

## MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. RALSTON: The Mount Gambier high school council has expressed concern about the requirements of the high school, especially the playing field and toilet facilities. Last week I asked the Minister of Education when tenders would be called for building this high school, which was recommended by the Public Works Committee to be completed by February, 1963. Is the Minister able to give any further information?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The construction of 34 new schools has been planned for commencement during the 1961-62 financial year. As it was found to be beyond the financial and physical capacity of the Public Buildings Department to cope with the whole of this programme, the Director of Education was requested to prepare a priority list. He did so, and this was supplied to the Director of the Public Buildings Department. The Mount Gambier high school is low on the Director's priority list, simply because he does not consider it as urgent as those placed above it. In the circumstances, I regret that I cannot say when construction will commence. The Director gave the highest priority to areas in which there was either no school or no adequate school, and had to put lower on the list areas where a school, even though inadequate, existed. I think that later in this financial year I shall be able to say when work is likely to commence, but, as I do not know the position, I cannot take the matter any further at this stage.

Mr. RALSTON: As concern was expressed by the City Council 12 months ago about toilet and shower facilities at the sports ground, will the Minister inquire about these?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to do so. It may be possible to provide them before the main building is constructed.

#### TEA TREE GULLY SCHOOL.

Mr. LAÜCKE: With the increase in student numbers at the Tea Tree Gully primary school, an extension of toilet facilities is necessary. As I understand that the Public Buildings Department has been investigating the requirements at this school and that decisions have been arrived at, can the Minister of Works report on the matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Approval has been obtained for additional toilets and the provision of a soakage bore at this school. Funds are available for the work, which will be commenced by departmental labour next week.

#### SMOKING.

Mr. HARDING: This morning's *Advertiser* contained an article about smoking, which stated:

About 200,000 senior school children in Victoria will soon receive a leaflet "Shall I Smoke?" during Health Week. The leaflet, issued by the Victorian Health Education Committee, discusses the problem of smoking and lung cancer.

Has the Minister of Education seen this article? If he has, has he studied it? If not, will he study it and make a report?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I read the article with great interest. The leaflet was issued by the Victorian Health Education Committee; therefore, it would have been issued under the authority of the Minister of Health and not of the Minister of Education. The press article concluded as follows:

"Since you cannot be sure it is safe to smoke, it is safer not to smoke."

I take it that that means a total prohibition on smoking, whereas the Education Department advocates temperance, and not necessarily prohibition, in such matters as drinking and smoking. Many years ago, when teachers were specifically instructed to give lessons on temperance, a chart on the evils of intemperance was displayed in classrooms, and a book entitled *Talks on Health and Temperance* was among those set for study for the Junior Teachers' entrance examination. Later, a course under the heading of *Morals, Citizenship and History* listed temperance as a topic for grades 4 to 7, but there was no special stress upon it. The 1944 course, however, which was "intended to be suggestive rather than prescriptive", made no mention of moral lessons or temperance, unless they might be taken to be embraced in "health and hygiene talks". In 1960 a more specific list of topics under the heading "health" was prescribed for the primary school course. One topic is "drinking habits". A copy of the list was circulated at the time but nothing was said about smoking and, as far as I know, there was no proposal for any leaflet to be issued or any information to be disseminated in our schools suggesting a prohibition on smoking.

If I might be permitted the liberty of making a personal observation on the spur of the moment, several years ago I was a heavy smoker of cigarettes, probably an intemperate smoker, but when I had an illness about seven or eight years ago my doctors, who were smokers themselves, said it would be wise for me to cut down on the habit and reduce the number. Knowing that I did not possess the will-power to cut down on the number, I decided to cut them out altogether. I do not know whether I am better or worse as a result of it, but I think it would be somewhat hypocritical on the part of the Education Department to issue a leaflet advocating the total prohibition of smoking, because some of the most senior and responsible officers of the department are heavy smokers and they puff smoke over me when they come in to discuss their problems with me.

PORT MACDONNELL SLIPWAY.

Mr. CORCORAN: I recently asked the Minister of Agriculture a question concerning the Port MacDonnell slipway. I may not have put the question the way I should have done, and when I said I was confused I meant that I was at a loss to understand which Minister I should address the question to because, although the allocation of funds is the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture, the work is in the hands of the Minister of Marine. I did not intend any more than that, and I think the Minister misunderstood me. I now direct the question to the Minister of Marine, who, I understand, is the appropriate Minister.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member is correct. The funds for the control of fishing havens in the Loan Estimates are controlled by the Minister of Agriculture, who in this case allocated the necessary funds for the work. Immediately that was done the Harbors Board, as the constructing authority, prepared plans and specifications for the job, and this morning I saw a report from the General Manager of the Harbors Board which I had sent to my colleague (Mr. Brookman), but which had not reached him when he left his office this morning. The information is that the planning is virtually completed. The matter has been in hand all the time, although no visible work has been occurring on site because the work has been done in the Harbors Board drawing office. The board expects that the target date for the completion of the work—June 1962—will be adhered to, and the honourable member can expect to see work on site shortly. The matter has been receiving attention and good progress has been made.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CITY OF ENFIELD LOAN) ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Bill taken through Committee without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

THE ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 28. Page 984.)

CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH.

Hospitals Department, £6,255,111.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): There appears to be a difference between the administration of the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth

Hospital. Over a period of many weeks, during the absence on leave of the Director-General of Medical Services, I undertook to obtain certain information from the Minister's department. I made certain representations for a reduction of fees charged to people receiving social service benefits. To my surprise, some weeks later the people on whose behalf I was making representations received other forms to complete, instead of those forms being sent to me. As I had taken up the case I naturally expected to have the opportunity to complete this matter. I am still awaiting a reply as to whether or not this matter is to be favourably considered. Had the Royal Adelaide Hospital been involved I am certain that I would have had a reply and that the matter would have been attended to in a quarter of the time it has taken in the case of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Can the Treasurer say whether there is a separate control for some parts of the administration? When I sought other information, I was told that the Administrator was too busy, which meant that I then had to go to the Director-General, who did not hesitate to indicate firmly that, while he was the Director-General of Medical Services, any reasonable request for help by any member of Parliament would be met. Apparently, there is some long drawn-out procedure at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that I do not understand.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): So far as I know, there is no difference in administration between the two institutions. They are both under the same Minister and the same board.

Mr. Frank Walsh: I understand that.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Therefore, I assume that for some reason or other the Leader's application was not dealt with in the normal way. However, if he will give me a copy of this letter, I will see that it receives proper attention.

Mr. TAPPING: I noticed recently at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that four clerks were working in the small room where people were asking for extension of time to pay debts and had to present their cases in the presence of other people. It appeared to me that the office accommodation needed extending. Will the Treasurer ascertain the position?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. Line passed.

Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, £910,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Recent inquiries at the Bedford Park home have revealed that only females have taken up compulsory residence there. Although I presented a petition against this place's being administered by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, from information I have received from the Government it seems that selected boys are to be sent from Magill to Bedford Park. As yet there are no male boarders but apparently there is still much vacant accommodation there. If the Government has decided that this piece of land shall be used for the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department and that these boys are to take up residence there, what has caused the delay if that is still the intention? Was it absolutely necessary to use this property for this purpose? How many girls have now taken up residence there?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government has decided that the Bedford Park area, less a small area reserved for the Education Department and another area reserved for open space, shall be made available to the Adelaide University, which has been informed that it can go ahead with its planning on the assumption that, as soon as it wants the title transferred to it, it will be so transferred. But the university was not ready and did not desire to use those premises for some time. In those circumstances, as the buildings were there and there was some delay in getting buildings for the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department to house children (and particularly some of the less seriously delinquent children) the Government decided that, rather than leave the buildings unoccupied, it would use them pending the university's requiring them. These buildings will ultimately be used as university college accommodation, particularly for country boys. In the meantime, rather than leaving them unoccupied and deteriorating, they are being used temporarily by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department.

Mr. Frank Walsh: How many children are there?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I could not say offhand, but I can find out how many are there and how many it is proposed to accommodate there. The university has been told that it can proceed with its planning and I have no doubt it has commenced to prepare its programme.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I understood that certain buildings were to be erected at the Glandore children's home for use as receiving

type accommodation while children were waiting to appear before the Juvenile Court. Can the Treasurer say when the erection of these buildings will commence or whether the home will remain as it is for a long time? I remind him that the building programme was examined by the Public Works Committee and approved.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That matter will be dealt with in the Loan Estimates. As far as I know the building programme is proceeding as planned. However, I will get the information for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Department of Public Health, £318,700; Public Service Commissioner's Department, £88,044—passed.

Miscellaneous, £2,725,500.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Two amounts of £1,000 each are proposed for appearance money for bands at the Tanunda band competitions and the Adelaide highland games. The Northern Areas Band Association, comprising bands from Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie, holds annual competitions to which bands come from other parts of the State, including Tanunda. Will the Treasurer consider making a similar provision for this association?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The amounts provided are for appearance money. In one instance, I know that many competitors came from other States because appearance money was available. As this is the first time that I have been asked about the association mentioned, I shall examine the proposal and inform the honourable member.

Line passed.

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Attorney-General's Department, £51,291; Crown Solicitor's Department, £54,185; Parliamentary Draftsman's Department, £8,291—passed.

Public Trustee's Department, £105,650.

Mr. RALSTON: I draw attention to the need to establish a branch of the Public Trustee's Department at Mount Gambier to serve this ever-growing area. The people in the South-East expect the same services that can be obtained in the metropolitan area. This department is most efficient in handling small estates and the charges are extremely lenient. Many dependent wives and children receive compensation payments through this department. To indicate the increasing number of accidents arising from forestry operations, I understand that as from October 1 the insurance premiums for workmen's compensation have increased



from 137s. per £100 to 175s. Obviously more men are being injured and more compensation claims are requiring attention. It would be a great benefit if a branch of this department could be established at Mount Gambier. It would be within easy access of those people needing its services. Mount Gambier is easy of access to all parts of the South-East, but people from the South-East now have to come to Adelaide to achieve what could be done in a branch office at Mount Gambier.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON (Minister of Education): I appreciate the honourable member's remarks, in which he expresses a high opinion of the efficiency and economy with which the Public Trustee and his officers administer this department; I share his opinion. I do not think the proposal for an office at Mount Gambier is practicable at present; however, I think it is a constructive suggestion for the future, and I shall be pleased to take it up with the Attorney-General who, I have no doubt, will discuss it with the Public Trustee.

Line passed.

Supreme Court Department, £100,443; Adelaide Local Court Department, £59,302; Adelaide Police Court Department, £48,785—passed.

Country and Suburban Courts Department, £102,421.

Mr. LOVEDAY: I draw attention to the need for a resident magistrate in the expanding northern areas, where the load on the justices of the peace, many of whom have had no legal training, is becoming increasingly heavy. Will the Minister of Education indicate to the Attorney-General the need for a resident magistrate in the northern areas to cater for Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to discuss the matter with my colleague at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. TAPPING: Will the Minister indicate whether it will be possible to inaugurate a court in the Semaphore district? Because of the growth in this district, particularly on LeFevre Peninsula, the people should have the convenience of having a court at Semaphore rather than have to go to Port Adelaide.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to submit the honourable member's representations to my colleague.

Line passed.

Coroner's Department, £6,163; Registrar-General of Deeds Department, £209,164—passed.

Miscellaneous, £27,532.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Can the Minister say what is meant by "Licensing polls—fees and expenses"?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: This provision is for payment of fees and expenses in connection with local option polls held in June this year.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Local option polls are held only every three years but if any change were made the Act would have to be amended, and, in view of the lack of interest in these matters, I wonder if we are getting real value for our money.

Mr. Quirke: Rub it out and start again.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I would be happy to have a referendum on this matter. Probably more applications for local option polls will be made in three years but, even if they are carried, a memorial can still be presented. There is an element of doubt in my mind as to whether we are getting real value from these provisions. When I caused certain voting figures to be taken out I discovered that they were very low indeed compared with the numbers on the rolls. This means that people who desire a hotel in an area can be out-voted by those living five miles or more away. People who have these voting rights should make better use of them, because these things are being carried on from year to year and involve expenditure. We should have a reasonable return for the expenditure that is involved. Even when the option is carried, there is still another hurdle to get over with the memorial. The question arises as to whether there should be a referendum of the people on this matter, but the Opposition is not able to suggest a referendum because it involves Government expenditure.

Line passed.

#### TREASURER AND MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION.

Treasury Department, £36,447; Superannuation Department, £55,818; Motor Vehicles Department, £228,443; Agent-General in England Department, £44,543; Land Tax Department, £121,784; Stamp and Succession Duties Department, £43,246—passed.

Publicity and Tourist Bureau and Immigration Department, £286,263.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I am concerned about the Oaklands Estate. I cannot see anything about that subject in these Estimates, but I understood that when the land was purchased for the south-western districts hospital a certain section would be reserved for tourist purposes

and placed under the Tourist Bureau. From time to time I have endeavoured to ascertain how far the Government intended to go in the matter, and I understood that the Town Planner was to be requested to draw up a suitable plan for a recreation reserve. However, the Director of the Tourist Bureau seems to have changed his mind, for he has now intimated that the land should be developed by the local council. Our pioneers deserve recognition, and what better way of affording that recognition would there be than by creating such a reserve? I do not know whether the Treasurer had anything to do with this apparent change of policy. Can he say whether land is to be reserved for a free-way adjoining this site, because if it is it seems that the hospital site will have to be reconsidered? From a tourist point of view there would not be much value in the area if a free-way were to go through or alongside that land.

These matters concern the people of the area and are also of vital concern to the local council. Another matter that arises is the straightening of the Sturt Creek in this area. In fact, so many matters are wrapped up in this question that some information should be provided. Is the Treasurer prepared to back the policy of the Government enunciated in this House that the Town Planner would be called in to plan a suitable type of tourist reserve in this area, or has he altered Government policy to provide otherwise?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: True, the Government purchased a considerable area and reserved it for hospital and recreational reserves. That purchase was a good one because if the Government had had to purchase the land now it would have had to pay much more for it. Neither of those projects has yet been proceeded with. Taking into account current commitments, present indications are that it will be some time before they are proceeded with.

We have now many recreation reserves that have been purchased by the Government. Also, we have assisted some councils to purchase and develop areas for recreational purposes. In this case, no decision has been made. There will be no difficulty in the Town Planner preparing a plan. In cases where public authorities are concerned, we frequently ask the Town Planner to give expert advice about development. The pattern used in so many districts would be appropriate here: that the Town Planner should draw up plans for recreation areas, that they should be made available for

the council concerned, and that the Government should assist the council in their development.

Mr. Frank Walsh: When is the Government likely to come to a decision?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the council is anxious to proceed with it I will take the matter up actively, and I have no doubt that the recreation portion of the land can be transferred to the council soon, if it is anxious to proceed with its development. I believe that the land in question is at the moment income-earning and is temporarily occupied.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I do not know whether this is the correct line on which to raise this matter of the development of a national park adjoining the Humbug Scrub area, not far from Tea Tree Gully. I have had communication from the people at Humbug Scrub, who are concerned that the considerable interest in that area built up in the public for some period may decline with the development of the adjoining park, and that, if the park is developed separately, there may be some falling off of public support from Humbug Scrub, consequently making the continuance of the sanctuary a difficult economic proposition. Have any arrangements been made or are any being contemplated to develop the park conjointly with the sanctuary at Humbug Scrub to make them sufficiently a joint proposition for there to be no competition between the two so that the benefits of both can be maintained to the public of South Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government is sympathetic to the maintenance of the sanctuary at Humbug Scrub. It has always been privately run and has never been supported by public subventions, but the Government has always regarded it as something that is desirable. I assure the honourable member that in no circumstances would the Government do anything detrimental to its continued existence. It was established by a great nature lover many years ago. Any honourable member who has been privileged to read his articles upon the various fauna and flora of our country will realize what a great nature lover he was. The park has been carried on in that way since then—I would assume with much sacrifice. However, the honourable member need not worry that the Government in any way desires to injure this sanctuary: in fact, the opposite is the case.

The new national park reserve area is under the control of the National Park Commissioners. It has been pointed out by the Town Planner

that, while adjoining the southern part of the metropolitan area is a park at Long Gully, no corresponding recreation area is available for the rapidly developing northern parts of the metropolitan area. Humbug Scrub has been developed and put under the control of the National Park Commissioners with the object of developing it along the same lines as the park at Belair has been developed. The same authority will be controlling it and a sum will be voted in Parliament in the same way. The honourable member having raised this question, I will take it up with the professor who is the chairman and a great nature lover himself. I am certain that new means of communication from the park to the sanctuary will be provided. If that is done, the park will be a great adjunct to the sanctuary and should support it rather than be something detrimental to it.

Mr. RYAN: The Treasurer has often explained the importance of and the need for the expansion of the Tourist Bureau. I see included in the first line under the heading of "Director" an amount of "£25 per annum allowance for travelling with and entertaining distinguished visitors". It seems ridiculously small. If that is to be the allowance, the Treasurer is trying to run this State cheaply. We on this side believe that we should not run the State "on the cheap" if we are to benefit it. Can the Treasurer say what this £25 is for? Unless it is for what I think it is for, I ask him seriously to consider enlarging it.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This is an entirely new line that did not appear on last year's Estimates. Its sole purpose is this. It frequently happens that the Director of the Tourist Bureau, when meeting somebody at the railway station or a distinguished visitor passing through, has to put his hand in his pocket for a small amount of money. There has never been any question of the Director's not being able to be recompensed for expenditure incurred in connection with functions or entertainment he provides. This amount is virtually petty cash to cover minor expenditures he incurs when meeting visitors to this State, and for which he has not in the past applied.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am disappointed that no specific mention is made of improvements at Windy Point, which is well-known throughout this State and in other States as the finest lookout in the metropolitan area. However, the amenities at Windy Point do not match its natural attractions. The surfaces of

the two car parks are in poor condition and the one kiosk is extremely old and the proprietor informs me that it is most difficult to carry on business therein. There are few other conveniences. These facts are also well-known. Some time ago I saw plans for the improvement of this area, but no money is provided in these Estimates. I know that the department has spent a considerable sum in purchasing a building in Sydney. That was necessary, but it seems a pity to spend a lot of money on getting people to South Australia if we neglect one of our peak tourist attractions. I hope that for the sake of visitors, for the sake of Mr. Perce Marshall, who has been in charge of the kiosk for about 16 years and who has done a remarkable job in the circumstances, and for the sake of those living in the metropolitan area who like to go to Windy Point for one reason or another, the amenities will soon be approved. Can the Treasurer say when this work is likely to be done?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Plans for this development were drawn up and had reached an advanced stage of consideration, but two matters interposed that needed attention and had to receive priority. In recent years many tourist spots have been developed at considerable expense, and I need only mention National Park, Wilpena Pound and Mount Lofty. The position was that in Melbourne and Sydney our officers were unsuitably accommodated. They were housed with other tourist bureaux and were working in cramped conditions. In one instance they were not allowed to advertise their presence in the building, and members can appreciate the disability arising from that. That situation did not reflect creditably on the State. An office was purchased in Melbourne and, as a result of proper publicity, business increased by 40 per cent. Similar circumstances applied in Sydney, but, because of tenancy conditions there, we had to purchase a building. It has been a good purchase and the rents obtained from the subletting of the unnecessary parts of the property are sufficient to cover the interest on the purchase price and the maintenance costs. However, those two arrangements necessitated the delaying of other works. The expenditure of this department has been increased by 10 per cent, which is far more than many other departments have been able to get. Plans have been drawn up for Windy Point and they will be proceeded with as soon as the necessary finance is available.

Mr. SHANNON: I compliment the Government on fostering the work of this department. The Director is an excellent officer and is well-known to most members. The additional expenditure on advertising is warranted when compared with the revenue it attracts to the State from tourists. I commend the Government for providing a toilet block at Loftia Park. It was badly needed and is greatly appreciated. However, we want a swimming pool at Loftia Park, particularly as many school children in nearby areas are not conveniently provided with opportunities for learning to swim, especially during the Christmas vacation when the swimming campaign is operating. An amount of £164 is provided and that will probably be sufficient to commence planning for a swimming pool, but I hope that it is the Government's intention to provide this desirable tourist attraction with a swimming pool, because it will be money well spent. I am not going to argue that priorities are not important, but I should appreciate information as to whether the Government intends to proceed with this project.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The £164 is for drawing up plans.

Mr. KING: I, too, commend the Government for supporting the tourist industry. I have been reliably informed that in the last 12 months over 2,000,000 people travelled in various ways in Australia and that they spent £250,000,000, that 77,000 people went overseas and spent about £35,000,000, and that 84,000 people came to Australia and spent about £18,000,000. As, on the exchange basis, we lost about £17,000,000 on overseas tourists, we should use every facility to attract people, not only to this State but to Australia. I congratulate the Government for assisting councils and those prepared to help themselves to build swimming pools; several have been built in my district. Also, through the assistance provided by the Tourist Bureau and the Town Planner, tourist facilities have been extended in my district. The Barmera people are spending £3,000 on Lake Bonney improvements, and this expenditure will be subsidized. I hope the Government will continue to provide this assistance, which has helped to increase employment and prosperity in river towns. The four community hotels along the river, which are of a standard as high as any in the State (if not in Australia), are heavily booked. We should consider spending money to attract people to South Australia rather than on helping to send people out of the State.

Mr. JENKINS: I commend the Government for providing money to advertise the State. The tourist trade is important for South Australia and particularly for the district I represent. I have received a letter from Mr. Nightingale, president of the South Coast Festival Committee, advising that his committee has been working for over two years to organize people from Goolwa to Encounter Bay and to get assistance from business people to promote this festival, which will be held from October 27 to November 5. All kinds of sporting events will be held. I do not know whether the Government has come into the picture, but, if it has not, it could do so by advertising the festival in other States. People in my district are becoming aware of the importance of the tourist trade, and I am pleased that the Government is thinking along the same lines.

Line passed.

Prices Control Department, £71,940.

Mr. RALSTON: This provision is nominal when considered in relation to the great benefits this department has brought to the State. Its efforts regarding the price of petrol have meant a saving of about £50,000 a year to people in the South-East. This has obtained for two years, and will continue. I support the actions of the Prices Commissioner and feel that, instead of being restricted, he should be permitted to extend his activities. The member for Burra said recently that the price of standard petrol in this State was the lowest in the Commonwealth. That that is so is because of the action of the Prices Commissioner. However, although the price is 3s. 3d. in the metropolitan area, it is higher everywhere else. For instance, it is 3s. 5½d. at Port Lincoln and Port Pirie and 3s. 6½d. in adjacent areas inland. In five ports in Queensland the price is identical, and there is no price control in that State; the permissible margin of profit is negotiated between re-sellers and oil companies. In some cases the re-seller's premises are owned by the company. The only South Australian port at which the Prices Commissioner sets the price of standard petrol is Port Adelaide, where the price is 3s. 3d. He has no control over premium grade petrol, and we find that the margin of difference between the price of standard petrol and that of premium petrol in Adelaide is easily the highest in Australia. That margin in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Hobart is 3½d.; in Brisbane it is 3d.; and in Adelaide it is 5d. That is probably why more standard petrol than premium petrol is sold

in South Australia, whereas in all the other States the sales of premium petrol are substantially greater than the sales of standard petrol. The other States, by arrangement with the Commonwealth Government and the associated oil companies, have more freight-free ports, and there are five such ports in Queensland. These are ports which in the oil business are known as ports at which the landed cost will apply.

As there are three freight-free ports in New South Wales, three in Victoria, three in Tasmania and only one in South Australia, it is about time the South Australian Government, either of its own volition or through the Prices Commissioner, made some approach to have both Port Lincoln and Port Pirie brought into the same category as all the other deep-sea ports at which there are seaboard bulk storage installations. Can the Treasurer say whether the Government has considered bringing Port Pirie and Port Lincoln into the same category as all the ports on the eastern seaboard of Australia to which I have referred?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This is an involved matter because it does not affect only the towns of Port Lincoln and Port Pirie. The Prices Commissioner, for some five or six weeks now, has been investigating charges being levied in those places, but he is not yet able to make any firm recommendation.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am afraid that I cannot agree with the overall conclusions of the member for Mount Gambier on this matter. I express my disappointment that this line, for what it is worth, has risen from £66,204 to £71,940. In years gone by the trend has been the other way, but now it has taken a turn for the worse. It is ironical that the Prices Department, which boasts how it keeps prices down in South Australia, apparently cannot keep its own prices down. I draw that conclusion from the figures, and express my disappointment that that should be so.

Mr. FRED WALSH: I, too, cannot entirely agree with the member for Mount Gambier, although I agree with him regarding the extension of the powers of administration of the Prices Department. I think that the trouble arises because of the restricted nature of its powers, and to some extent through its intervention in certain disputes over prices. We had an example of meat prices being decontrolled and the public's being assured that no unfair advantage would be taken, whereas we know that the contrary has been the case. The

same applies in another instance that I will mention.

I am concerned about the recent action of the Commissioner in approving the increased price of soft drinks. I do not know how he reconciles his attitude on this occasion with that which he adopted when the question of a one penny increase in the price of soft drinks sold from a refrigerator was raised. A complaint on that occasion was quite rightly made, firstly in this House and, at about the same time, by the Prices Commissioner who wrote to the Retail Storekeepers' Association pointing out that it was creating a breach of an assurance that had been given by the association that prices of soft drinks would not be raised until such time as he or his department had been consulted.

Since then the position regarding the increase of a penny a bottle on soft drinks coming from the refrigerator has been somewhat ambiguous. It would appear that last week the Prices Commissioner conferred with the retailers and the soft drink manufacturers and by some stretch of genius decided instead to increase the price of drinks all round, for that is what his decision amounts to.

The heading in last Saturday's *Mail*, "Chill Charge Off, but some Drinks Prices Rise," is almost laughable. True, the increase of one penny a bottle for drinks coming from the refrigerator is not to be imposed, but at least people would have had the option of buying non-refrigerated drinks, whereas now, irrespective of whether people want to consume the drinks straightaway or take them home, they still have to pay the extra penny a bottle. I am amazed at the Prices Commissioner's attitude on this matter. It may be argued by the soft drink manufacturers that they have to meet certain increased costs, possibly as a result of the basic wage increase, but I know from my own experience that most other industries have absorbed that basic wage increase.

The soft drink manufacturers in this State applied to be bound by the Commonwealth (eastern) award, which is lower than the award applying in South Australia, but their application was rejected by the wages board and the State Industrial Court, and subsequently the decision was confirmed on an appeal to the Commonwealth Conciliation Commissioner. A further appeal to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission was also rejected. This year those manufacturers adopted a different method and, instead of going through the usual procedure in this

State, they applied direct to be bound by the Commonwealth (eastern) award covering this industry. As a result of their action, the Commissioner agreed to bind them by the Commonwealth (eastern) award, and the union appealed to the Commonwealth Conciliation Commissioner, who reversed the position to what it was two years previously. He rejected the appeal.

The result is that the soft drink manufacturers in this State will be able to produce more cheaply than hitherto because they will be able to employ female labour at a reduced rate, when we wanted a higher rate. They rejected our application for an 85 per cent margin, as operates in the wine and spirit industry where only a few females are employed. There is virtually no limit on the employment of females in South Australia. They will be able to work shift work. That means much to people like the Coca Cola Company who have been working shift work in the past but who have been compelled to pay penalty rates of time-and-a-half after five o'clock irrespective of what time work has been started or finished.

By this new arrangement where they will be covered by the Commonwealth award, they will be able to produce more cheaply than in the past. Yet the Prices Commissioner virtually agrees with the employers and the retailers that the prices of soft drinks shall be increased by a penny a bottle in a number of lines. Other lines will revert to what they were originally. For instance, bottles of Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola previously selling at 6oz. for 5d. and 10oz. for 6d. will revert to 6oz. for 6d. and 10oz. for 8d., while 10oz. of Woodrooffe's, previously at 7d., will rise to the normal price of 8d. a bottle. I know of no price-cutting war with Woodrooffe's. There was one between Pepsi Cola and Coca Cola, but it did not apply to Woodrooffe's. However, that is an argument within their own association.

Mr. Bockelberg: Somebody has to pay for the television advertisements!

Mr. FRED WALSH: Yes, but the women and children (and particularly the children) should not have to pay for them. Can the Treasurer explain this reversal of policy by the Prices Commissioner in view of what he said in his letter to the retailers' association—that the department considered that the retail prices being charged prior to the announcement made by the association (that is, the increase of a penny a bottle for refrigeration) were

the maximum warranted for any soft drinks sold in shops? That was only a few weeks ago, yet the Prices Commissioner agrees to this price rise.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When the report to which the honourable member refers was made, the Prices Commissioner had not investigated the prices of drinks. He was objecting, and still objects, violently to the suggestion of a refrigeration charge of one penny a bottle. He has tried to have that charge removed because he believes that, if such a charge is accepted in the cool drink industry, it will become a feature of all our merchandising in the future, and every seller with a refrigerator will be charging additional amounts, when he should be selling an article in a proper condition with no extra charge. When the Prices Commissioner investigated the cool drinks industry, he found that there were (in only some places, incidentally) some margins that warranted an increase. This industry is not under price control, but he got an agreement with the retail vendors that they would withdraw their refrigeration charges subject to a small increase in price. The Prices Commissioner is as anxious as is the honourable member to see that everyone gets a fair deal.

Mr. Fred Walsh: Why doesn't he consult people other than those producing the drinks?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have observed his work over a long period. He is a remarkably capable officer with a good staff, and he has done a good job in the interests of South Australian consumers. For instance, the price of petrol has been consistently 2d. a gallon lower here than in all other States. When so many millions of gallons of petrol are used in this State, think of the terrific benefit to the community. However, I will get a report for the honourable member from the Prices Commissioner on the reason for his decision. I am sure that, as far as he is allowed to release information under the Act, he will be able to assure the honourable member that his decision is fair and proper.

Mr. KING: I pay a tribute to the work of the Prices Commissioner and his staff, especially the way in which they conducted their inquiry into the wine industry with the co-operation of both sides of the industry—the growers and the winemakers. Both parties were able to submit confidential information that they knew would be treated in confidence by the Prices Department because its officers worked under an oath of secrecy. This ushers in a phase of commercial arbitration new to this State, where the parties that have to

resolve their differences can take them to a person with some authority to endorse his decision; at the same time he can receive evidence from both sides in secrecy. In this case, the findings of the Prices Commissioner were acceptable to both parties, the growers and the wine-makers. They have been honoured and accepted by all concerned. The wine industry generally is grateful to the Prices Department for its work. Whatever happens to the department in future, the principle of arbitration so established will be a useful one to be followed in commercial disputes.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £6,137,641.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The provision for "Municipal Tramways Trust—Contribution towards working expenses" is £30,000, which is the same as that provided last year. The matter of rear destination signs on buses has been aired in the Adelaide City Council and I have strong feelings on it also. I do not know how many members have habitually run for buses stopping in front of them, but I have on occasions. The City Council has often taken this matter up with the Tramways Trust but its applications have been rejected, allegedly on the score of expense. The figures given for fitting these signs seem incredibly high and, soon after a high estimate was given, little pennants advertising the Festival of Arts appeared on buses. Similar pennants could be used as destination signs and they could be seen from the rear. Although only a small matter, this is important to people travelling on buses including many people living in my district. The trust should again examine this matter sympathetically. I know the trust is doing its best to keep costs down but I cannot believe the cost of these signs would be as high as the estimates. The benefits to be derived by the patrons would far outweigh the cost involved and there would probably be increased patronage for the buses.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINISTER OF  
REPATRIATION.

Lands Department, £898,000.

Mr. LOVEDAY: When large numbers of blocks are made available to the Housing Trust a notice usually appears in the *Government Gazette* advertising the sale. The Acting Minister of Lands recently said, in connection with such a sale, that any application from the South Australian Housing Trust for any or all of the allotments offered for sale would receive favourable consideration from the South

Australian Land Board. Whenever a notice advertising such a sale appears in the *Government Gazette* the trust always gets all the blocks. Therefore, it appears to be a fiction that these blocks are available for public allotment. Rather than waste the time of the public would not the Acting Minister of Lands agree that it would be better for the blocks to be allotted straightaway to the Housing Trust and be done with it?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Acting Minister of Lands): I will obtain a statement on this matter for the honourable member and that should explain the situation.

Mr. Loveday: This point is additional to that raised in my question today.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will note that. I believe the objection to the system of allotment is that favourable consideration will be given to the Housing Trust and therefore the question is why should the land be advertised at all if the trust is to get it. This practice results from a long standing custom in the Lands Department and, although it is probably well-founded, I do not know its origin. War service land settlers are allotted blocks on which they may have been living for two years. When the block is gazetted it is described in detail and applications may be received for it according to the land laws but the advertisement states (in italics) that favourable consideration will be given to an application by a named person who is the man living on the block. He would, in almost every case, get the block.

The origin of that form of notice probably goes far back into Land Department practice. No doubt it stems from a desire to make land allotted absolutely free from improper influence and to leave it open to the Land Board for allotment completely free of such influence. That is the only explanation I can offer but I gather the suggestion is that it would be better not to let people think they had a chance of getting a block when the Housing Trust was sure to get it. Some private blocks advertised for sale were not trust blocks and I believe some were taken up, but they were few.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Mypolonga people and I were disturbed last week when the Treasurer said that it was no longer the policy of the Government to provide extra plantings for Government projects, but that private irrigation schemes would in future carry out this work. This matter was broached four years ago and was favourably considered by the Minister of Lands, who is at present overseas.

The promise was given that this work was likely to be carried out. The scheme went to the Agriculture Department for a survey and we were told that the survey was satisfactory and that 250 acres would be used. The people in the area cannot get to the river for private plantings because that is a Government area. They cannot carry out a private scheme because the reclaimed swamps are there. Mypolonga already has a pumping plant. This year additional plantings were made at Berri and Moorook. Will the Minister again refer this matter to the department and express the keen disappointment caused by the Treasurer's reply to my question last week? If the Minister can comment now, I shall be grateful.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: True, additional plantings have been made in other areas. However, I do not think the honourable member is correct in saying that the pumping plant is adequate for the new area proposed at Mypolonga.

Mr. Bywaters: I did not say that it was adequate, but that it was there.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The pumping plant would be inadequate to cope with the enlarged area proposed, and further heavy expenditure would be involved. The economics of the proposal are causing the Government concern. What the Treasurer meant, and what is incontestable, is that the heavy private plantings proceeding at various parts are incurring no loss to the taxpayer, but that this scheme would show a heavy loss to the taxpayer. The scheme has not been rejected, but its economics must be improved. True, the people could not plant this land privately and the project is for a Government extension. Before we can undertake any enlargement of the area the economics must be improved. New pumping facilities would be needed in addition to the plantings. I hope that this reply will help the honourable member's consideration of the problem, even though it does not take the position much further. We are doing our utmost to get a satisfactory scheme.

Mr. KING: I point out that the additional plantings at Berri are within the confines of the existing Berri irrigation area and that the increased plantings will be watered from the existing channels and the existing pumping station, and will not incur the Government in any additional expense. Expenditure will be incurred by the growers who will have to put in the pumping plants to water their high lands, which previously were not capable of irrigation because they were above the channels. In

the early days this settlement was watered by gravity, the land being below the channels. Similar circumstances apply at Renmark, Barmera, Moorook and elsewhere. Strictly speaking, they are not additional areas being brought into production. Will the Minister obtain a report on the progress being made into the investigation of the slight alteration to be made in the channels taking water to the Monash section of the Berri irrigation area? There is a bottleneck there which, until opened, restricts plantings, and a number of growers' applications have been delayed pending the investigation. The Hon. C. R. Story has referred to the need for access to the river from land six miles from the river where the river frontage is held by private persons who may prevent someone with good irrigable land from obtaining water with a private pump. If access to water is denied them much land which could be brought into production will remain in an arid state.

Line passed.

Government Motor Garage, £41,412.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: About a week ago I asked the Treasurer about legislating for the fitting of safety belts in motor cars. The Treasurer endorsed the wisdom of such provision and said that safety belts would greatly enhance the safety of those wearing them and the chances of their escaping serious injury in the event of accident. He said that the evidence strongly favoured their use. Can the Minister say whether the Government is prepared to give a lead in this matter by having safety belts fitted in the vehicles used by Ministers and by the Leader of the Opposition, because, of course, their lives are of particular value? Whilst the Government might not be prepared to introduce legislation for their compulsory use it would be a fine gesture, in leading the way towards the general use of seat belts, if those vehicles could be fitted. We all know the long distances these vehicles travel, often in the country and at high speed, and it would be appropriate to fit them with safety belts.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: It has been suggested that all Government vehicles should be so fitted with seat belts. I think that the Minister of Roads is particularly interested in this question. To my knowledge, no decision has yet been reached regarding Government vehicles for which it would be very expensive to adopt the practice. I consider the honourable member's suggestion a good one and no doubt



any of the Ministers or the Leader of the Opposition could have the belts fitted if he so desired. I am having seat belts fitted in both the front and back seats of my private car, because I am convinced of their great value. I think that every motorist should at least consider having them fitted.

*Mr. Millhouse interjecting.*

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: It is rather irritating to have the honourable member interjecting when I am trying to answer his question. Probably consideration will be given to the fitting of these safety belts in Ministers' cars. I emphasize that these cars are driven by professional drivers and in my view they are far more efficient than the average private driver. I will bring the suggestion before the Government. I am sure that if the Leader of the Opposition wanted safety belts, he could have them fitted in the car provided for his use.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I am concerned with the expenditure that may be involved if these safety belts are fitted to all Government vehicles, which would include those of the Highways Department, the Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Lands Department, the Police Department and so on. I do not know where the practice would stop. I hope that Mr. Millhouse already has these safety belts fitted in his own car. So long as I have the discretion to apply for safety belts for the car provided for me by the Government, the privilege will not be abused. At present it is not my intention to incur any further expenditure by the Government, although I favour safety belts in cars, provided they are used. I had hoped that Mr. Millhouse would set an example, but I understand he has not had these belts fitted in his car. It is most essential to have these belts in cars, particularly when children are carried.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I rise to make two apologies, the first to the Minister for my interjecting. My interjection was one of indignation in his so writing himself down as to suggest that the cost of installation of safety belts was too high compared with the value of his own life. No discourtesy was intended. My other apology is to the member for Onkaparinga, who obviously needs a seat belt also.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £214,879.

Mr. SHANNON: For the purchase of land at Mount Lofty, £3,025 is provided. Does this relate to the Mount Lofty annexe? If so, can

the Minister say what area is involved and what stage development has reached?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I cannot give the information immediately, but I will obtain it. On the Notice Paper is a Bill dealing with the Botanic Gardens Act and, when I give the second reading explanation, I shall get some information about this. This sum relates to the Mount Lofty annexe.

Line passed.

#### MINISTER OF WORKS.

Public Works Department, £8,608—passed.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, £4,169,200.

Mr. FRED WALSH: The area of land adjoining the Torrens outlet between Tapley Hill Road and the sea is leased by the department to a person who, in turn, charges for grazing horses on it. I have received several complaints from residents that they have not been able to sleep because of the noise made by dogs chasing horses and barking in the early hours of the morning. I took up this matter with the Minister, who investigated it, and, as a result, approaches were made to the person who leases the land. The lessee promised to remedy the position, but nothing has yet been done by him or by the council. Subsequently, I was asked for an interview by a lady who was concerned about the effect of this nuisance on her health. As only a small amount of revenue is involved, I think the conditions of the lease should be reconsidered and perhaps a dog-proof fence erected.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: What about shooting the dogs?

Mr. FRED WALSH: That would be all right if no charges were laid. About 12 months ago, when dogs were attacking sheep in the hills, there was considerable public outcry, but this nuisance was eliminated because the dogs were destroyed. I have been told that the horses have been seriously injured, but probably the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals does not know about this. If the conditions of the lease cannot be altered, I think it should be cancelled, as only a little revenue comes to the department from it.

Line passed.

Public Buildings Department, £193,061.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Can the Minister of Works say whether the department has sufficient draftsmen and other highly skilled officers to carry out the Government's programme in relation to school buildings or whether assistance has to be obtained from outside architects? Is the staff available to carry out the

Loan programme? Also, was the department able to obtain overseas labour?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Works): During the time that I have been Minister of Works we have had great difficulty in getting sufficient staff to keep pace with the rapidly expanding building programme. Officers have been sent overseas in an attempt to recruit technical staff and they have been partially successful, but the number of resignations by our professional officers has almost balanced the number of overseas recruits obtained. In the last year, however, the staff position has remained much more stable. Outside architectural firms apparently have been able to fulfill their staff requirements without advertising, and consequently there has been less inducement for members of our staff to leave to go to other employment. I have not gone into the matter statistically with the Director of the department, but whereas almost every week Mr. Slade told me of his staff difficulties, and would say that several more of his professional staff had resigned in the last week, he has not reported such an occurrence to me for some time. During the time that staff was short we were able to make reasonably satisfactory arrangements with outside consultants to assist us. They are ever ready to assist when we need their help. We can cope reasonably well with the demand in connection with professional staff. We have largely standardized the design of school buildings, which has enabled us to have a greater output of plans and specifications than would be the case if each school had to be designed and specified individually. The position here is satisfactory and I think it will continue for at least the present year.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: What is the position in regard to tenders? Does the Director review all tenders before reporting to the Minister? I know that some contractors have been unable to meet their obligations to the department after signing contracts. Are the tenders competitive? Is there selective tendering, or is the lowest tender accepted? We have been told that it has been difficult to retain all the employees at the Finsbury workshops because of difficulties with timber buildings. What would be the chance of organizing a labour force to carry out major works on school buildings? Such a proposal, if adopted, could be given a reasonable trial in the hope that the work could be done more quickly, and that there would be a continuity of employment. Irrespective of the Government, there is an obligation on it to provide for the training of future

tradesmen and I can see no alternative but to give the training under departmental administration. In the past all our building work has been done by competent tradesmen. Some of our contractors have been "taken for a ride" in connection with past work, and I wonder whether further consideration has been given to building up a labour force within the department.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The building industry is anxious to secure any Government work that is offering. For that reason reputable and capable firms tender very keenly. There is no rule that the lowest tender must be accepted. Before accepting any tender the department investigates whether the tenderer's qualifications as a builder are satisfactory and whether he has the finance to carry out the work satisfactorily. The only labour force of any significance within the department is at the Finsbury workshops. Stemming from that, certain gangs attend to maintenance work, and work on prefabricated buildings. We have been reluctant to dispense with good tradesmen, and they are good at Finsbury, and we want to keep them employed as long as we can. Despite the difficulties, steps are being taken towards that end.

Line passed.

Government Offices, £251,163; Cemetery, £19,045; Public Stores Department, £122,913—passed.

Aborigines Department, £525,546.

Mr. KING: I commend the Minister for the way he negotiated the take-over of the Gerard Mission Station, situated between Berri and Barmera, from the United Aborigines Mission. This mission station probably offers the greatest facilities that have ever been available in South Australia for training aborigines, not only in the skills required in the fruit industry and in the district generally but also as a way of assimilation. People of that district have generally accepted the aborigines at their face value; they have accepted them into their communities in a way which, I think, has shown the way of assimilation. We have in the district the Upper Murray Association for Aborigines' Welfare, which is supported by all the civic and church bodies, Rotary, Apex, and a number of interested people who are prepared to weigh in behind this movement and to give it all the support they possibly can.

I think I am quite safe in assuring the Minister that if this station is regarded not

so much as a reserve but as a training institution he will have the full support of the people along the Upper Murray. The opportunities presented for development are very good, for the land there is some of the best still undeveloped on the River Murray, and if these aborigines can be trained to help in the development of that land they will become more valuable citizens and will acquire a feeling of citizenship which they have really earned and to which they are entitled. Can the Minister say whether it is possible to push on with the programme of development envisaged by the farm committee that was operated by the welfare association in conjunction with the aborigines mission, and can he announce any appointments to the staff of the aboriginal reserve?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I appreciate the honourable member's comments regarding the successful negotiations with the mission authorities for the take-over of the activity there. I very much appreciate the work the honourable member himself did on the committee of people in his area which was of very material assistance in bringing about this state of affairs. There is no doubt that he can take much credit for the fact that we were able to bring negotiations to a successful conclusion. Regarding the programme of development there, it is recognized—in fact, I have already made some comments to this effect—that in this property we have an opportunity quite unique, so far as our South Australian reserves are concerned, for the training of aborigines in various skills, because it brings us for the first time into the horticulture and irrigation field and all the various activities which might be linked to these basic facilities.

I believe that in time to come this will be one of the principal stations in this State. It will be called a reserve, not because it is intended that it will be merely a reserve but because all our legislation uses that terminology and it is necessary to so define it in order to have some effective control of the way it is utilized by natives and other people. I can assure the honourable member that the department and I hope that in due course we shall be able to make it a real training institution in every sense of the word. Whether or not we can precisely keep up with the programme outlined by the farm committee I could not say, because it is a question of finance. As the honourable member will appreciate, the annual vote for aborigines has gone up by an astounding figure year after year. It is

a department which probably has had a greater degree of assistance from the Treasurer than any other department, with the possible exception of the Education Department, and our expenditure this year will be of the order of £500,000, which I think is more than double what it was when I took over the department only three or four years ago.

Mr. King: It can be revenue producing.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I agree, and I hope it can be revenue producing, but I think the honourable member would be interpreting the Government's intention correctly if he said that our first desire was to make it a training institution. Whether or not it can pay its own way remains to be seen, but that is not the primary consideration.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I wish to refer to the continued payment to the Aborigines Department of social service payments due to aborigines in this State and the department's decision thereafter as to what should happen to those moneys. I firmly believe that aboriginal people will not learn to use their own moneys unless they are given the opportunity to use them and, if necessary, to use them unwisely if they choose to do so. It seems to me that the aboriginal people should be entitled to their social service payments just as any other person in this community ought to be entitled to those payments, and to make the disbursements from them upon their own decision. Originally, apparently, from the statements in the Commonwealth House, that was the intention of the amendments to the Social Services Act: payments were to be made to aborigines in the same way as they were to be made to other people in the community. However, in South Australia the aborigines on reserves have their money paid to the department, and the department then decides, apparently according to the formula worked out by the Children's Welfare Department in relation to people in its institutions, that the aborigines should be paid upon that basis and that they should make a special application for any further payments.

The sort of thing that can arise in these circumstances can be easily outlined in one particular case which I have had recently of an aboriginal lady who, I think from memory, lives in the district of the member for Albert. She is aged 70 and she has due to her some £70 in social service accumulated payments from the Aborigines Department. The department refuses to pay her that money. When

I asked the Minister about this in this House he told me that these moneys were the aborigines' moneys and that they could have them upon application, but the department refuses to pay this cash out to this old lady, and the reason it gives for so doing is that it is prepared to make payments in kind; that is, it will give orders for specific clothing or specific food for her use. But the officers say that, if they pay the £70 to her, they have not the slightest doubt that she will give most of it away to the many relatives who hang around where she lives, so she herself will not benefit from these social service payments. I cannot see why she should not be allowed to disburse her own moneys as she chooses. I cannot think that we shall have the board's stated policy adequately carried out while people in the aboriginal community have this paternalistic attitude taken to them by the department, which decides in its wisdom what is good for aborigines not exempt from the Act—that they should not have the right to disburse their own moneys not in the department's hands. I had hoped that, after the initial steps taken in this matter and the protests raised, in due course something would evolve, that the department would not continue with this business but would gradually relax the control that it had exercised over social service payments. As far as I can judge from the cases that have come to my notice, I cannot find that this is so. I have had numbers of complaints from people on the reserves that they have difficulty in ascertaining the precise amounts due to their credit. Sometimes they have to make trips to Adelaide for this purpose. I cannot see why they cannot be paid their moneys in the same way as other people in the community are paid theirs.

I come now to regulations under the Act. To obtain exemption from the Aborigines Act one has to apply to the board unless the board of its own volition decides that it should grant exemption. If the board refuses, then by subsection (4) of section 11 there is an appeal to the local magistrate to decide whether the board's decision shall be upheld or not: and this appeal shall be had in the manner and in the time prescribed. The Act was passed in 1939 and no regulations prescribing the manner or the time of the appeal have yet been promulgated. Indeed, I think some appeals are pending at the moment but there are no regulations to provide the procedure by which the courts are to decide them. Precisely where that leaves the courts has yet to be decided.

I cannot think that this is a satisfactory position and it appears to me from cases that have come to my ken that many aborigines until recently were not aware that they had a right of appeal from the board's decision, if it was adverse to them, on their application for exemption. I hope this unsatisfactory position will be changed shortly. Maintenance of the present exemption provisions is undesirable but, while the Act remains as at present, at any rate the regulations should be there to provide all rights to aborigines that they could have under the Act. Can the Minister of Works give me any information on these matters?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As regards social service payments, the department has taken the view (and properly, I think) that it should carry out the terms of the Act. If the honourable member will look up the purposes for which the department was established and the responsibilities of its officers, he will find that it is difficult for them to measure up to their responsibilities under the Act if at the same time they take no interest in the welfare of the aborigines themselves. In other words, the purposes are to protect them from exploitation and to assist them to establish themselves. Those two points of view are at variance. How are they resolved? If we say, "We have no interest in the aborigines' welfare", it is easy: we do not have an Aborigines Act at all and we let them find their way in the world as well as they can. But that would be disastrous for most of them.

If the honourable member has specific cases (he has cited one today where he maintains that the department has withheld moneys that are the property of the pensioner), I shall be happy to investigate them to see whether or not in my judgment the department has acted fairly or wisely. Usually, when I have had occasion to examine these things I have found that there are two sides to the story and that there is some reason that honestly actuates the department in taking its view. Regulations concerning appeals are now in hand, but I will check up on it and ensure that appropriate steps are taken.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I thank the Minister for his reply. I certainly did not mean to imply, as he apparently has inferred, that I considered there should be no aboriginal legislation at all.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I did not infer that.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I realize it is not agreed with by the Native Welfare Sub-department in the State of Queensland. So far as I can judge, that is one of the few places where agreement does not occur on this. The modern view of aboriginal legislation is that there should be assistance to aborigines for their assimilation or integration into the community but that there should not be special protection legislation for aborigines as such. There is a difference between "protection" and "assistance". There is no reason why there cannot be a special aborigines department doing everything possible to assist the aborigines in their development and integration into the community. It is most desirable. It exists now in Victoria, and it is the form of legislation recommended by the director in Western Australia, too. The Northern Territory Welfare Ordinance is tending in this direction as well. But that is quite different from the business of maintaining protection of the aborigines by saying that they are not to have the same rights as other citizens, and that they may have their property or their children disposed of by an administrative decision of the department. In my view, that is undesirable legislation that produces the results I have already indicated. I have no doubt that, in the particular case I have instanced, the department was acting in what it thought was the best interests of the pensioner concerned, but I do not consider that she is in a different position as regards her rights from that of other pensioners in the community who may choose to disburse their moneys unwisely. They are their moneys, and it is for them to decide how they shall spend them, either for their own use and benefit or for the use and benefit of the people to whom they are going to give them.

I refer to the line concerning the Koonibba and Gerard Missions, and I am delighted to see that the department is to take over the Gerard Mission. That is eminently desirable and is a great augury for the future. The work done by some people, originally at Gerard, and the work of the Upper Murray committee is laudable but obviously this work should be undertaken by the department which has the backing of Government finance. We have left necessary desirable assistance and development of aboriginal groups to missions with insufficient capital money and income generally to be able to do the job they feel they need to do for the people. This situation exists in relation to Koonibba.

For some years I have had discussions with officers of the Lutheran mission about

Koonibba. The officers do not believe, and I think they are right from all reports, that the mission can continue undertaking the responsibility for the development of the people of this area. They have not sufficient money or trained personnel for the work that should be done and, what is more, they are desperately anxious for the future because it appears that opportunities of employment for the people on the stations are decreasing and in time plans may have to be made for the employment of a substantial portion of the group away from the area and in places where employment opportunities are more satisfactory. As things stand they have not sufficient capacity to do the kind of vocational training and development work that they see is necessary for the development of this aboriginal group and, to a lesser extent, this applies to Yalata also. I believe that the view they take is that it is desirable that they should have an opportunity of looking after the spiritual development of these people but not that they should have on their shoulders the responsibility for the whole development and integration of these two aboriginal groups.

This appears to me to be far more properly the duty of the Government and the action taken by the department in relation to Gerard should be extended to other mission stations where agreement can be reached with the mission bodies involved. That is, that the missions will still have the right to continue work in spiritual guidance and development of the population but the practical work of development will be in the hands of the Government which has more finance for the provision of facilities and trained officers than is the case with the missions. I do not know how far the Lutheran mission has gone in discussing this with the Minister, but I have now had more than one representation from the mission people over a period for something of this kind for the aboriginal groups in future. Can the Minister say whether such a proposal has been considered? What is the policy of the Government for the development of the reserves in future?

Mr. NANKIVELL: Last year when discussing the line relating to the Point McLeay mission station I brought to the Minister's notice the fact that Narrung would be within the metropolitan milk licensing area. Some 4,000 acres of country is held there and if the station were run properly and the herd were built up and operated as a dairy, instead of working at a loss of about £60,000 annually, it could be a paying proposition in the same way

as the member for Chaffey suggested that Gerard mission could be if it were developed. If nothing has been done in this direction, will the Minister obtain a report for me to indicate whether, in view of what I said last year, consideration has been given to improving the dairy herd and developing the dairy side of Point McLeay to make it a revenue earner rather than a liability?

Mr. LAUCKE: It is pleasing to see increased allocations to this department each year. The approach to aboriginal welfare in South Australia is indeed well founded and reflects great credit on the administration of the Government. Government help over the years to Koonibba and Yalata has been keenly appreciated. I have been told from time to time of the confidence in the reception given to all applications by the mission when money is sought. Difficulties confront the missions in keeping pace with modern requirements in providing nurses and educational activities, but regarding all these things for which a greater amount is sought from the Government I heard nothing but complete praise and satisfaction for what has been done.

I have every confidence in the Minister who directs the affairs of the department and, similarly, those who direct the affairs of the missions have complete confidence in him. As the requirements of the missions increase and approaches are made, the officials will receive the courteous attention they have received from the Minister in the past. I pay a humble tribute to the Minister for his work in the interests of the missions that have done so much for the natives in recent years.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Several lines indicate the transfer of authority at Coober Pedy to a welfare officer. I regard that as an improvement in arrangements. Can the Minister say whether it would be possible to appoint a welfare officer to Andamooka? It will only be when welfare officers are at both opal fields that progress will be made in many directions. I suggest that the Government should take steps to train suitable young aboriginal men as welfare officers. This would indicate a great confidence in aborigines and in their ability to do that work. I do not suggest a lowering of standards, but there are young aboriginal men who would be capable of such training, and their appointment as welfare officers would be a step in the right direction.

Mr. BYWATERS: I agree with Mr. Nankivell's statements about the potential of Point

McLeay, but I point out that the Auditor-General's report reveals that it costs £29 17s. 2d. a year for each native at Point Pearce compared with £135 19s. 10d. at Point McLeay. Can the Minister explain this big difference in cost? Is it related to the fact that Point Pearce has prospered agriculturally whereas Point McLeay has not?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The member for Murray will find, if he examines the accounts, that the discrepancy in costs at Point McLeay compared with Point Pearce is due entirely to the fact that Point Pearce has had a wonderful grain year. It is in marginal country and when the season is kind it produces astonishing crops. The member for Whyalla suggests the appointment of a welfare officer to Andamooka. The Government recognizes that that is desirable, but the annual expenditure on this department is increasing so rapidly that we cannot meet all the demands and we must do what we can with the finance available. We are faced with a heavy developmental programme at all mission stations and, whilst I agree that Point McLeay has a potential, it costs a lot to establish a dairy with the necessary cattle. I assure the honourable member that the suggestion will be further examined.

My relations with the mission authorities, particularly the Lutheran missions at Koonibba and Yalata, have been extremely cordial and open-handed since I have been in charge of the department. I think I enjoy the complete confidence of the Lutheran Board, and, indeed, of the Presbyterian Board in respect of Ernabella. They know that my door is open and that at any time they can discuss any matter, great or small, with me, and that I am happy to see them. I have always dealt with them directly and not through any other agency, and I propose to continue so to deal with them. They have problems that are well-known to me, and they can freely discuss them with me. I visited the missions at Koonibba and Yalata recently. Indeed, I have made it my business to visit every aboriginal mission in South Australia, most of them twice or more. The only mission I have not visited is at Nepabunna. I stayed with the superintendent at Yalata for three or four nights and went over the whole station. I think I can claim a first-hand knowledge of all our mission stations.

Line passed.

Public Works, £1,485,100; Miscellaneous, £75,000—passed.

## MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Education Department, £12,739,381.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: An article in this evening's *News*, attributed to the Minister of Education, states that there is a big lift in adult education in South Australia. However, I am concerned about the use of school buildings for adult education. I understand that school cleaning is undertaken on a contract basis, and there is no problem in schools where adult education is not provided. However, in technical high schools a variety of subjects is available for adult education. Apart from languages and arts, carpentry and metal work are taught. These are particularly useful to young people who have not had prior training and who want to become proficient in the use of tools, but I am concerned about the cleaning of these classrooms. I presume that the classrooms are cleaned before the daily lessons commence.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Cleaners at technical high schools where adult evening classes are held normally clean the woodwork and metal shops during the day, but because of these classes it will be necessary to clean the rooms after the classes terminate at night. Can the Minister of Education say what the cleaning contract involves and what amount is paid to these people? Do they receive extra because they clean the rooms twice in the one day instead of once?

At a parade of youth clubs last Saturday the Minister said he proposed to make available to youth clubs certain school grounds. I have already raised the question of the use of school ovals, but the Minister indicated that he could not find any ruling regarding the governing of these matters. Is it because the Treasurer happens to be interested at the moment and desires that these things should be done immediately, or is it Government policy to make this accommodation available if councils are not prepared to permit the use of their ovals? If the councils agree to make them available, who will supervise any organized sport conducted on them?

I have good reason to believe that there is an embargo by certain councils on the use of ovals at week-end, whereas in other areas there are no such obstacles. Is there to be any increase in staff if school buildings are made available for use by members of youth clubs? I should favour school rooms being hired provided that proper care was taken. Some new areas have no halls available for meetings, and

consequently it is only reasonable that an approach should be made for the use of school rooms on the condition that proper care is taken of them.

I am concerned regarding matters relating to the Forbes, Ascot Park and South Road schools. Both the Forbes and South Road schools have portable buildings. A letter I received from the Education Department indicates that consideration is being given to substituting buildings of solid construction where enrolments justify such action. The Forbes school already has accommodation in solid construction for almost 1,000 children, excluding the infant school, which has been up about three years. No further addition is being made to the original school, which had only 320 children when it was opened. The primary school has about 1,750 to 1,800 children enrolled. In a letter from the department I was informed that there was evidence of a decline in enrolments. The department is still making plans for the Forbes school. That indicates that still more families may live in the area and that, therefore, more children may attend the school. I doubt whether it would be possible to accommodate 750 children in the timber-frame school rooms.

I was also informed that there was evidence of a decline in enrolments at the South Road school, that some timber rooms had been removed, and that when circumstances permitted a solid construction school would be considered. That is not a happy picture for my constituents in this area, as vacant land still exists in Clovelly Park, which is in the area served by the South Road primary school. Surely people who have taken an interest in school affairs and have grassed the school oval are entitled to some consideration in this matter?

On another occasion I said that, because of the time lost in travelling to and from the Forbes school to attend woodwork classes, special purpose classrooms were necessary at this school. Surely once we raise such matters we should be able to expect a more satisfactory reply? Children from this school must go to either Morphettville Park primary school or Plympton high school, and this is not fair to teachers or students. I repeat that we cannot spend £6,000,000 this year on school buildings, which is borne out by a letter I received about the Edwardstown school. In this letter, dated September 20, I was told:

The amount of £102,000 mentioned by myself is the total estimated cost of the project, not the amount provided for this year for this

school. The Public Buildings Department has completed all preliminary work for this school and is ready to call tenders. Until very recently it could be assumed that the school would be completed by February, 1963, but, because of the financial position, it has been necessary to defer calling tenders.

This afternoon the Minister told the member for Mount Gambier that some schools had a higher priority than others. Although a provision for this school appeared in last year's Loan Estimates, this letter indicated that it was likely that it would be ready by February, 1963. What is the reason for the alteration? Is it because the Minister has received instructions from the Treasurer or Cabinet that priority must be given to ovals or to classrooms for adult education? Whatever the reason, the children are being deprived of necessary amenities. The Minister has new areas in his electorate and knows about builders becoming insolvent while building schools. In view of what happened regarding the Seacliff primary school, he can appreciate my position. Although money is voted for the work, we are told the work cannot be done this year or next year. I must have been correct when I said earlier this year that the sum provided for school buildings in this year's Loan Estimates could not be spent. This Government is saying that certain works will be done, but I am sure that these works will not be carried out until a Labor Government is in office.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON (Minister of Education): I have been somewhat at a loss to understand what particular line or lines of these Estimates we have been discussing: whether we have been discussing Revenue or Loan Estimates or alternating between the two. However, the Leader has raised several important matters that warrant my comment. Cleaners are supplied under one or two systems. (I understand that the Leader was referring in each case to the larger metropolitan schools.) In the larger primary schools cleaners are engaged on contract: they generally contract to clean between 7,000 and 8,000 square feet of floor space. The headmaster of a school endeavours to arrange with them that the work is staggered with the least possible inconvenience to cleaners. In any event, they do not clean the same room twice in one day.

In the larger secondary schools, including the 14 technical high schools and the high schools in the metropolitan area, there are full-time caretakers, and they work as they see fit. The head of the school works in with the cleaners to the best of his ability, and the

work is staggered. There should be no need for the extra work to be done, because the 14 technical high schools are used as adult education centres. There is no reason why any rooms should be cleaned twice on the same day. All the caretakers in the technical high schools are efficient and conscientious, and if they have one fault it is that they are over-conscientious and of their own free will, without compulsion, they work sometimes unnecessarily after the adult education classes have ended. Because of this, rooms may be cleaned twice in the one day. I think some schools are in the area represented by the Leader of the Opposition. These caretakers are efficient and zealous, and they do the extra work voluntarily. There is no real reason why they should work the extra time.

There is the opportunity to make use of craft centres and the skilled instructors by people who want to learn more about a particular calling. There has been a tremendous demand for adult education in recent years, particularly since the high schools have also been used as adult education centres. In 1946, before this practice commenced, we had about 8,000 enrolments, but since conversion we have about 26,000. The Leader of the Opposition would not like to be misunderstood by members or people outside. He would not want them to think that he was in any way decrying the expansion of adult education.

Mr. Frank Walsh: I support it.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The Leader of the Opposition raised the question of the greater use of school buildings and recreation grounds for youth work. He raised that matter with me about a year ago and then I was willing to help, but their use on Sundays clouded the issue. Cabinet reaffirmed a decision made some years ago, that they should not be used that day, but we have gone a long way to meet the wishes of the Leader of the Opposition. A scheme is now in process of being evolved between the National Fitness Council and departmental officers, and it will go a long way towards providing for the use by thousands of young people between 14 and 24 of many recreation ovals now used in school hours. To a large extent they are unused at other times, particularly on Saturday afternoons. I think this applies also in relation to school halls and buildings. There has been a tremendous increase in the cost of building these fine and well-equipped school buildings, and it is uneconomic for them to be used only during the day by a relatively few



people. In other parts of the world school buildings are used during the day by one lot of people and at night by another. Subject to proper control and supervision I think we could make better use of school buildings and ovals for our youth and adults.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the schools at Forbes, South Road and Edwardstown. I strongly agree with his remarks about the Forbes school, because it has far too many prefabricated classrooms and not enough solid construction rooms. It is the largest primary school in the State and the enrolment is far too great for one school. Too great a strain is placed on the headmaster in supervising a large staff and about 1,700 children. Whenever possible we should build schools where the maximum attendance will be about 1,000. When a school is too large the *esprit de corps* is lost. We should not have too many prefabricated classrooms at one school. I should also like to see the South Road school converted to solid construction. Edwardstown is one of the several schools that we are very anxious to proceed with as soon as possible.

I do not want to keep repeating myself, but we have a programme of 34 new schools that have been approved by the Public Works Committee, by Parliament, and by Cabinet, and it is beyond the financial or physical resources of the Public Buildings Department to complete or even commence them all during this financial year. In order that there could be no charge of political bias or influence, the Director of Education was requested by the Treasurer to draw up a list of strict priorities as he saw fit. The Director sent that priority list to the Director of the Public Buildings Department, and as far as I know it is being complied with in the commencement of the building of these schools. I hope that the financial position will improve sufficiently to enable a greatly accelerated rate of the letting of tenders later in the year. As much as I desire to agree with the Leader, I strongly disagree with the statement he has made on two or three occasions recently that we shall not be able to spend our £6,000,000 during this financial year. I am sure my colleague, the Minister of Works, and I could very well do with about £2,000,000 more to spend during this year. I assure the Leader that the best and most economical use will be made of the £6,000,000 allotted for school buildings, and that every penny of it will be expended during the financial year.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I commend the Government, and particularly the Minister, for the

announcement of a policy for a wider use of school buildings and facilities, particularly as it applies to youth. When speaking the other day the member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Balston) said that only £500 was being allocated to youth work. I have had a look at these Estimates, and if what the honourable member said is correct I should like the Minister to explain how it is that £11,160 is to be spent this year on the Director and staff of the National Fitness Council, and how in the Miscellaneous lines £12,000 is allocated. That indicates that about £23,000 is being made available this year to the National Fitness Council. Can the Minister say whether that is correct?

Mr. TAPPING: Page 79 contains an item "Replacement of material and equipment destroyed by fire", and six schools are mentioned. The sum of £4,192 was spent for the Taperoo high school, and I assume that that relates to the replacement of fittings, furniture and equipment, for the cost to the State for the replacement of buildings at that school, as distinct from the sum I have just mentioned, was about £28,000. On behalf of the high school council I express concern at the fact that just prior to the fire last February a suggestion was made that the school have departmental permission to install a burglar alarm. I consider that had the permission been given the fire would not have occurred, because it was proved beyond doubt that the two youths who broke into the school set the fire going from inside the school. If this type of burglar alarm advocated by the school council were agreed to by the Education Department it would be a means of avoiding such occurrences in the future. Although nothing of that nature has occurred for some months now, these things have a habit of repeating themselves, and we should do all we can to prevent them. The Taperoo high school council has played its part in co-operating in this matter.

The council and I were relieved to hear that the department had appointed a panel of experts to find ways and means of combating fires and/or vandalism in the future. I think the panel comprises the Commissioner of Police, the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, and the Director of Education. Over the last three or four months I have asked whether progress reports of this committee were available, but so far the Minister has not been able to give me any report. I have been approached by the school council to ask that the Government urgently consider this matter and at

least allow the school council to put its burglar alarm proposal into effect. When the council first discussed the matter of a burglar alarm an expert demonstration was given by the people who supply the equipment, and that demonstration proved entirely satisfactory. The cost involved is less than £80. I maintain that an expenditure of £80 to avoid such occurrences as I have mentioned is well warranted. Can the Minister say whether any progress report of this committee's activities is available?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I have advised the honourable member that an informal committee, comprising the Commissioner of Police, the Director of Education, the Director of the Public Buildings Department and the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, was appointed by the Government and requested to advise informally as to any suggested improvements. The committee has met from time to time and has made several reports to the Treasurer; several of its recommendations have been put into effect and others are still being investigated. I have nothing further that I can add at this stage, but I shall endeavour to obtain further information for the honourable member as soon as possible, for I know he is as interested in the matter as I am.

Mr. LAUCKE: I also compliment the Government on its action in allowing the utilization of school ovals by larger numbers of the public than has been able to have access to these grounds in the past. I regard the approach to allowing sporting bodies, particularly youth clubs, access to school ovals as a major advance in meeting the need for more playing areas throughout the country. If we could have co-operation between schools and youth organizations it could well be that by a dual action it could lead to better sporting areas and facilities at schools, bearing in mind that these grounds would be used for not just five days a week but for six days, the sixth day being taken by youth organizations. I regard this new approach to school oval usage as something especially good, and I commend the Government for proposing to make these areas available to other than school children. For the replacement of material and equipment destroyed by fire in schools over the past year, I note that in the year ended June 30, 1961, a total of £10,497 was paid out. Can the Minister of Education say whether any insurance is taken out by the Government against such losses as these?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Yes, there is.

Mr. McKEE: The learned gentleman with whom I discussed the junior college system that operates in America seemed to think it worked satisfactorily. No doubt, the larger population in America would have a bearing on that but possibly something could come of it here. These junior colleges are two-year institutions set up as screening or distributing agencies for higher education. They give the students an opportunity to find out what they really want to do and enable the parents to determine whether it is worth their while sending them on to further education and whether they are capable of it. Has the department considered this type of scheme for South Australia?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Yes, we have. I have read several reports on this matter. One interesting one was supplied to me by Prof. Spooner of the university, and another by Mr. Bone, the Assistant Superintendent of Technical Schools, both of whom have studied the system operating in America where it seems to be successful. It has much to commend it. In fact, that is the type of college that we envisage for Whyalla. Some time ago I went to Whyalla and had a discussion with the directors of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Ltd., in company with the Director of Education, the Superintendent of Technical Schools, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, the President of the Council and the Director of the Institute of Technology. We canvassed the whole question and agreed in principle that a technical college should be established as soon as possible at Whyalla to meet the particular needs of that locality. We hope that that will be the pattern for perhaps some further ones in other parts of the State in future. For example, one may be established later at Mount Gambier. I do not want to develop this discussion at any length, other than to repeat that I agree with the arguments raised by the honourable member and with those put to him by some eminent and well qualified persons.

Mr. CLARK: On page 78 I notice a reference to expenses in connection with official openings of schools—£2,000. Last night I had the pleasure of attending the first meeting of the council of the Elizabeth boys technical school. As the Minister knows, many schools have been opened in Elizabeth in recent years. I was reminded that, of all the schools built there, only one, the Elizabeth South primary school, has been officially opened. Can the Minister say whether official openings will eventually be held for the other schools in that

area or whether the number of new schools is now becoming so great that it will be impossible officially to open all of them?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The official opening of schools is left largely to the school committees, the high school councils or the school welfare clubs (depending on which particular type of school is concerned). Nine times out of ten I receive a request from the ruling body of a school asking me officially to open the school or, if I myself cannot do that, for a senior officer or some other suitable person to do so. It is seldom that an official opening takes place without such a request from the body concerned. Many schools have been opened, but not officially. There is no set rule about it. We are willing at any time to comply with a request, but we do not force any formal official opening on any body of people interested in the particular school unless it desires and requests it.

Mr. KING: I compliment the Minister of Education on the wide range of educational facilities now available to country students, facilities so long enjoyed by city students. I refer particularly to adult education, and the opportunity classes and occupational centres that have been made available I think for the first time in the country in this present year. I thank the Minister also for what he has done for the under-privileged class of children known as the mentally retarded. The Upper Murray child occupation centre was opened and commenced work this week with nine children, who are very happy in their new surroundings. The Minister is to open the centre officially on October 30. Being able to cater for this section of the community that needs special educational facilities is an indication that the State is reaching some maturity.

I come now to the conditions under which student teachers are engaged under bond and what happens sometimes when they have to leave the department for various reasons. I have in mind a young man recruited from one of the high schools and taken on as a student teacher. After about 12 months he was advised that it would be not to his advantage or that of the Education Department for him to continue. He was informed that it would be a good thing for him to resign. I believe the master wrote out the resignation for him. It was accepted and he had to repay some of the bond, which represented a hardship to him and his family. He had been recruited in good faith and had accepted the position in good

faith, yet he found that through poor assessment of his ability to teach (perhaps on his own account and that of the department) he had to leave that vocation and take on work for which he was more suitable. But he was left with that liability, which he or his parents had to meet. Another class of student teacher may go to the college to become a secondary school teacher. I have in mind a young man who spent four years at the college achieving a good scholastic record. Instead of going to the Education Department he did the only thing possible in the circumstances: he resigned, accepted a Commonwealth scholarship, and went to the university. This State Parliament votes certain money for the university. This young man will remain at the university for some years and will do some work done by teachers, namely marking papers, for which he gets extra remuneration. However, he will have to pay back a large sum because he received assistance as a trainee teacher. His services will be available to the State through the university but not through the Education Department. In his case, too, that will mean hardship. The number of people who can qualify for these examinations is small and, instead of being encouraged to take on the high positions, they should be asked to think twice before incurring that liability. Has the Minister thought of those two types of cases and does he desire to comment?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Firstly, student trainees do receive great privileges in relation to their free tuition from some of the best teachers in the State and in the way of free books. They are much more privileged than the average student at the Adelaide University, the Institute of Technology or elsewhere, and every one of them is given the fullest information in advance before he or she signs up to become a student. They realize all the conditions of the bond. The amount involved in their two, three or four-year free tuition at a teachers college and the university is considerable and it would be unfair to the large majority of other students at the university and elsewhere if we did not insist on this bond. Every application for relief in whole or part from bond is considered on its merits.

I am rather surprised to hear about the first person to whom the honourable member referred and that, after it was strongly suggested to him that he resign or after he was asked to resign, he should be called on to pay his bond. Only recently I have had instances where the

Superintendent of Recruiting and Training has recommended through either Dr. Penny (head of the Kintore Avenue Teachers College) or Mr. David (head of the Wattle Park Teachers College) that students were not capable of carrying on either through lack of mental ability or teaching capacity and therefore it was not worthwhile persevering with them. It was recommended to them that they should resign, and because it was put in that way it was then recommended to me that the Government should not insist on a bond.

If the honourable member gives me particulars of the case he referred to I should be pleased to consider it in relation to similar cases. As to a student transferring from teaching in the Education Department to teaching at the university, there again it would be worthwhile investigating whether we could do something because I have had somewhat similar instances where, for example, a student went through his course and then found he would be more suitable to join the Police Force rather than carry on with teaching. He did that and proved to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Police that he was doing an excellent job as a policeman. He had been called on to pay his bond but we considered, as a matter of Government policy, that he should be allowed to continue there. On his transfer from one branch of the Government to another we would not insist on the bond if he undertook to give the same years of service in the other department as he would have done in the teaching service. Every application is treated on its merits and every application must come to my table. I am prepared at any time to give an application my personal consideration.

Mr. QUIRKE: I have spoken previously about country boys wishing to be apprenticed to certain trades. There are many qualified tradesmen in the country who are able and willing to take apprentices but they find it difficult to do so. Apprentices can be attached to master craftsmen in the country and can undertake correspondence courses but there is a tremendous wastage. Some get through; some do not make the grade. Those who do not make the grade fail in the main because they are not under the oversight of a qualified craftsman all the time. Apprentices in the city go to the trade school every week but many masters of country apprentices do not have time to give the necessary extra training to the boys. The result is that the lads are working in shops under someone else and the master hardly ever sees them. The lads often become

discouraged and end up not very good material either half-trained or not trained at all.

These boys could come to Adelaide to put in a fortnight here but they are supposed to make up for the months they spend in the country with one fortnight's practical application at the trades school. That is not sufficient. Previously, they could go to Port Pirie but wherever they go it is necessary for them to find board. I am interested to hear of the possibility of technical colleges at Whyalla and Mount Gambier, but there are many boys living between those towns who would make excellent tradesmen if given an opportunity. Throughout the country there is much wastage of good material in boys who would be willing to undertake an apprenticeship. They have skill and if they had a reasonable opportunity of persisting and obtaining tuition they could succeed. Sometimes their parents are unwilling that the boys should be permanently away from home in the city at a most impressionable age. Hostel accommodation is attached to the teachers' training colleges at Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong and Melbourne. At Bendigo and Ballarat the hostels are for trainee teachers from the country who have no persons in Bendigo with whom they could board. Those trainees who come from Bendigo live with their parents.

I suggest that at a technical school in the mid-north (I could suggest Clare or any other town strategically situated) hostel accommodation should be provided for boys who are learning trades. They could be apprenticed to country tradesmen and spend a week or a fortnight at the school every quarter. I realize that such accommodation would not be cheap, but the ultimate benefit to the State from these additional tradesmen would more than compensate for the cost. It is necessary to cater for country boys to prevent what is at present a wastage of men. If a farmer has four sons, they obviously cannot all remain on the farm and it frequently is not possible to train them all for professions. Would the Minister care to express an opinion on my suggestion?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I believe the suggestion is excellent as a long-range project, but as a member of the Public Works Standing Committee the honourable member knows that our resources are stretched to the uttermost at present. We have a huge school-building programme and we cannot consider projects such as he envisages for the time being. I shall be pleased to further consider it and to discuss the matter with him. I could not

think of a more desirable centre in which to have one of these institutions than Clare.

Line passed.

Libraries Department, £246,000—passed.

Museum Department, £50,680.

Mr. BYWATERS: Can the Minister say whether a Director has been appointed to the Museum yet?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: No. It was unfortunate that a most excellent person who was recommended and appointed to this position, afterwards, for purely personal reasons, felt obliged to resign or retract from the appointment, which placed everybody in a difficult position. Up to the present no recommendation has been made to me for the appointment of his successor. I am indebted to the honourable member for raising this matter because I will take it up with the Public Service Commissioner to ascertain the present position and I will inform the honourable member in due course.

Line passed.

Art Gallery Department, £26,620—passed.

Miscellaneous, £3,377,175.

Mr. NANKIVELL: An amount of £12,000 is provided for the National Fitness Council. Is the Minister in a position to reply to my earlier question regarding grants for youth work?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The honourable member referred to statements by the member for Mount Gambier that the only amount provided for youth was £500. That was a new line which appeared last year for the first time and was a specific grant of £500 to the South Australian Youth Clubs Incorporated. That line has been repeated this year. Of course, a much larger amount of £12,000 has been granted specifically to the National Fitness Council. Within three years the grant to the council has increased from £7,000 to £12,000. As I announced at the rally of the South Australian Youth Clubs Incorporated on Saturday morning, the Treasurer has asked me to explore avenues to see whether the facilities of the Education Department cannot be made available, or more readily available, to the National Fitness Council, youth organizations and youth welfare organizations so that they can be used to the best advantage, subject to proper control and supervision.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY.

Department of Labour and Industry,  
£120,747.

Mr. COUMBE: I am interested in expanding the Industries Assistance Branch. At present

a number of boards and bodies—in fact, the whole of the Agriculture Department and sections of other departments—are devoted to research and improving primary production and organizing marketing. I agree with that policy and wish more could be done. However, why cannot more assistance be given to secondary industry to help those engaged in the factory production of manufactured or processed goods? I refer particularly to technical assistance, not necessarily financial assistance, because today the net value of factory production exceeds the net value of primary production in South Australia. That is astounding but true. About three times as many people are employed in factories of various types in this State than are employed in rural production. The Industries Assistance Branch today comprises a consulting engineer, Mr. Dean, who renders valuable assistance and who is highly qualified, an assistant consulting engineer and three assistants, who are draftsmen and designers. To the best of my knowledge they comprise the sole means of providing technical assistance to secondary industries.

Today the call in Australia is to produce and to buy Australian goods. We also have the call to export. We are doing everything possible to foster the exportation of our primary products and we also have a small export of secondary products. We can increase the export of our secondary products only by taking advantage of research and developmental projects. Some industries are unable to take advantage of processes that have been developed. I am suggesting that if the Industries Assistance Branch could be expanded it could give more technical assistance to industries so that in turn they could become more efficient and self-supporting and they would then be able to assist in the export market. A number of industries in Australia are not as proficient as they should be and to some extent they rely upon the Tariff Board for protection. I believe not in inefficient industry, but that industry should become as efficient as possible.

I do not for a moment claim that Australia will become a major secondary-producing country. We are chiefly a primary-producing country, but we must get more secondary industries to balance our economy so that they can play their part alongside and be complementary to our great primary-producing industries. The officers of the department referred to are held in very high esteem. They have done a valuable work by assisting many industries and have put some on their feet

that otherwise would have collapsed from the lack of know-how in their field.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The honourable member has made a very powerful plea, which I shall be pleased to refer to my colleague. I agree with him that there has been such tremendous advances in industry during recent years that virtually it has amounted to an industrial revolution in this State. The net value of our annual secondary production is in fact greater than the net value of our primary production, but whether it is intrinsically more valuable to a community is a matter of opinion. I think we have now obtained a balanced economy by the increase in our industrial output. At one time we were a primary producing State—hewers of wood and drawers of water. Previously, if we suffered a dry season we were in dire straits, whereas a couple of years ago when we ceased to be a claimant State we successfully withstood the severest drought in the recorded history of the State. Without in any way reflecting on the importance of our primary industries, we should in every way foster our secondary industries by all the technical assistance that can be provided to them. I shall be pleased to place the honourable member's request before Cabinet.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £1,790—passed.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FORESTS.

Minister of Agriculture Department, £6,937—passed.

Agriculture Department, £847,014.

Mr. BYWATERS: Many agriculturists are concerned about the future of their industry. In the last few days there has been a sharp decline of an additional 4d. a dozen in the price of eggs and many poultry farmers in my district are feeling the pinch. Pig farmers also find that today's prices have dropped considerably compared with those enjoyed a few years ago and that the cost of production exceeds their income from the sale of pig meats.

The member for Chaffey (Mr. King) said that big producers of fruit were having trouble disposing of their produce. I took out figures of imports of agricultural produce from the information published by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics for the years 1959-60 and 1960-61, and was astounded at the large sums. Last year, meat (including fish) valued at £13,334,233 was brought into this country. This is a considerable increase over

the previous two years, the figures for which were: 1958-59, £1,834,042; and 1959-60, £10,106,737. All these meats could be produced in this country.

Mr. Quirke: Would fish be the biggest proportion?

Mr. BYWATERS: It would represent nearly half, and poultry played an important part. Most of these imports are coming from America, Canada and the United Kingdom, although some are from Italy, Denmark and other European countries. Imports have increased because of the complete lifting of import restrictions, and on this score I think the Government has something to answer for to the primary producers. I do not know why some of these imports should be allowed into this country at the expense of our primary producers. The following table shows the value of certain imports:

Import.	£
Grains or Cereals . . . . .	192,179
Biscuits . . . . .	267,659
Onions . . . . .	91,214
Potatoes (mainly from New Zealand)	50,685
Fresh beans . . . . .	299,589
Fresh peas . . . . .	117,575
Other vegetables (dried, salted or concentrated) . . . . .	151,681
Fresh frozen peas . . . . .	805,506
Fresh frozen beans . . . . .	35,862
Other fresh frozen vegetables . . . .	11,308
Gherkins in brine . . . . .	31,814
Onions in brine . . . . .	57,697
Tomatoes (paste, pulp or puree) . .	271,910
Smyrna figs . . . . .	49,973
Fruit pulp . . . . .	20,084
Preserves (including cherries in brine and other preserves in over one gallon jars) . . . . .	120,261
Citrus juices . . . . .	121,273
Olives . . . . .	172,417
Jams and jellies . . . . .	142,117
Peel . . . . .	315
Pickles, sauces and chutneys . . . .	92,260

Total . . . . . 3,103,379

I point out that the biscuits could be made here and that we export fruit pulp.

Mr. Hall: What sort of cereals are they? Some could be the soya bean, couldn't they?

Mr. BYWATERS: Other cereals are mentioned, but I have purposely left them out. All the things I have mentioned are grown in this country by industries now starting to feel the pinch, so this matter could be taken up by the Agriculture Department on a Commonwealth level.

Mr. Quirke: Our dried figs are unsaleable.

Mr. BYWATERS: That is so, and the purchaser does not get them cheaply; some middle man is getting the extra profit to the detriment of primary industries. Imports of these

items have increased in the last two years, and this must concern all associated with primary industries. All members who represent districts associated with primary production must be worried now to see young men who have entered primary production in a small way, many having borrowed money to start, not getting much out of the business yet still having to meet their commitments. If the Minister does not know about these things, his attention should be drawn to them so that some approach could be made by this and other State Governments to the Commonwealth Government to see whether something could be done. The only answer to the egg problem is for all States to get together and form a Commonwealth Egg Board.

Mr. Harding: Wouldn't that exploit the consumer?

Mr. BYWATERS: I do not think it would, because today, as the member for Barossa knows, one State may under-sell other States. This is not in the best interests of producers, who are concerned only about making a living and who will drop out rapidly if they cannot do so. In the meantime, however, some will get hurt and will go out of business at a great loss. Apart from that, this is damaging to the State and the whole of Australia. It is in the interests of all concerned to have a stabilized industry with orderly marketing. This has been proved to be advantageous, but we must have it on a Commonwealth and not a State level.

Mr. KING: I have been interested in the dried fruits industry for about 30 years. When the fig industry got into difficulties it was my duty to prepare for the Fig Growers' Association a case pointing out what was likely to happen to the industry unless it got relief. I went to Melbourne and Sydney on behalf of the association to appear before the Tariff Board which had had referred to it a request that a duty be placed on imported figs to enable the local figs to be sold at competitive prices. So far our efforts have been unsuccessful. The Tariff Board reported that the industry was not entitled to protection, and even suggested that the existing duty be taken off. The Commonwealth Government decided not to adopt the report in full and said that the duty of 4½d. a lb. should remain. I have taken up the matter of protection for our fig industry with our Treasurer and have for him a complete set of statistics showing the quantities of figs that have come into Australia over some years. Under the old system the average consumption of figs was 124 tons

a year, about half of which was supplied by Australian growers. When import licensing was lifted, figs from Turkey and other overseas countries were sold at half the price at which Australian figs could be sold after growers had to pay Australian wages, water rates, etc. Under Australian conditions we could not sell the figs profitably. Today we have a large quantity of figs on hand. Some growers still have 1961 figs in the sheds. We are living under a set of double standards. Everyone is trying to get as much as he can for his services, and we are trying to produce and sell figs as cheaply as we can. The industry, which has existed for about 50 years, supplied figs to the defence forces during two wars. During the last war the United Kingdom naval forces and the American forces, as well as our own, depended on the South Australian industry for the supply of figs.

The member for Murray may have found some instances of overcharging for figs, but over a wide range of samples we have found that Turkish figs are sold at prices far below those at which the Australian figs can be sold. On the consumption side we have an artificial position. When people want to get rid of unwanted stocks they reduce prices, but when this is done and there are large sales it should not be said that they represent normal consumption. We do not agree that the present consumption rate of 300 tons a year is the real consumption figure.

I also mention the citrus growers in relation to the Woods and Forests Department. I was amused to hear the member for Mount Gambier say that the citrus growers owed a great debt to the case-making industry in the South-East. I inquired to see to what extent State enterprise played its part, and what dependence there was on private enterprise for success. The Auditor-General's report shows that nearly 50 per cent of the logs were used by private enterprise. Although it is not mentioned in the report of the department, in addition to the 130,000 acres of State forests, private forests covering 35,000 acres produce timber of the same quality for the same purposes. I telephoned the association of users of *pinus radiata* and learned that, although much of the timber is used in the building industry, a considerable quantity is used in the making of fruit cases. There is a happy relationship between the State and private enterprises where the two work together to mutual advantage. The people of Mount Gambier are as indebted to the river growers as

the river growers are indebted to the people who produce the timber for cases. Although the good Lord in His wisdom helped the trees to grow by sending rain at no cost, the price of a case has increased from 1s. 3d. to 3s. 3d. landed at the packing shed.

The use of the timber in the dried fruit industry appears to be on the decline, yet our production of fruit is increasing. On October 27, we shall be opening a carton factory at Berri, which will need over 2,000 tons of paper products. The canning fruit industry, which to a large extent is replacing the fresh fruit and the dried fruit industries, will also use cartons. The citrus industry used picking boxes made from timber from the South-East, but today these boxes are being discarded and replaced by portable 25 to 45-bushel containers, which can be handled automatically by fork-lifts on the properties and at packing sheds, and which deliver the fruit in far better condition. The carton makers are working hard to provide a container that will move the goods to the market as well as do the cases. Up to now they have not been able to do that in the experiments that have been made, but they are not giving up. I compliment the Radiata Pine Association on its work in attempting to further the use of *pinus radiata*.

I maintain that there is no cause for equanimity in the timber industry regarding the case position, for the growers of citrus and other fruits who use these pinus cases have to find the cheapest way they possibly can of getting their fruit to the market, and if the case industry has to suffer then it must do so. We shall still have to use pinus cases for the export of citrus to New Zealand, Hong Kong, Colombo and elsewhere, but overall that will be a smaller proportion of our total pack. As time goes on there will be—and there is going on all the time—an increase in the plantings of citrus in the Upper Murray, which is very suitable for such plantings, but the trend will be to follow what has happened in Florida and California, where more and more of the citrus fruits are being canned as single strength juices or processed into frozen concentrates, neither of which requires boxes. In both instances cartons are used.

Our sales of timber, therefore, will be in bulk rather than hand processed, and we shall be going in for logging and converting our timber into pulp or paper for the manufacture of cartons rather than the usage to which it is put at present. We are going through a period of change in an attempt to meet the competitive conditions of the market and the

changed demands follow a change in consumer habits, namely, the demand for citrus juices in single strength or frozen concentrate. When we look a little further we find that the timber industry markets most of its products through private enterprise. We cannot call a fruitgrower anything but a private enterprise man; he forms his co-operatives, and they are another form of private enterprise, but like any other form of private enterprise it gets a little slack and inefficient without competition and, of course, that reflects back on the grower. The same thing can happen in any Government department: if it has no competition it will get slack too. As I pointed out previously, in addition to the State forests we have a large area of private forests, and the Minister might consider whether it might not be a good idea if more of the later plantings were to be put in the hands of private enterprise, perhaps in the form of grower co-operatives to handle them, in order to have that element of competition that makes for efficiency and keeps costs down.

I am told that there are more than 40 mills handling the products of the South-Eastern forests and that the industry in the South-East is worth £75,000,000. That figure will no doubt continue to increase as long as the industry can compete on the market and find a sale for its products. Even the brewing industry uses the products of the South-Eastern forests. I do not suppose anyone, in his wildest stretch of imagination, would regard the brewing industry as a State enterprise, although perhaps some would say it should be. That industry uses 280,000 returnable wooden crates. While travelling around the country I have seen crates made not of pinus or any other timber but of tubular steel. Then there are firms like Pope Products and General Motors-Holdens that use millions of super feet of fitches for crates, and the South Australian railways use a tremendous quantity of this timber for sleepers. Much work and research is being done by the Woods and Forests Department and the timber industry and, as I said before, particularly by the Radiata Pine Association, in finding various uses for our timber products. We must continue to do that sort of thing. I do not think we should allow the occasion to pass without answering the comments that were made by the member for Mount Gambier, nor do we want his patronizing comments that the fruit industry has to thank the timber industry in the South-East. It is the fruit industry that is helping to keep the timber industry on its feet today.



Mr. NANKIVELL: In speaking to the Budget the Treasurer took a long time to explain the workings of the Agriculture Department. Last year £809,000 was allocated to the department and only £710,000 was actually spent, and the previous year showed a similar picture. On looking into this matter a little further it becomes quite obvious that most of the money that has not been spent was allocated to the control of the fruit fly. We should be grateful to the Horticultural Branch and to the eradication scheme as originally implemented by the present Director of Agriculture. So far the scheme has been singularly successful and we can only hope that it will remain so, because it has been of great benefit not only to the fruitgrowers of this State but also to the overall production of the State from the point of view of our fruit industry.

This money seems to have been reallocated to these protective measures, and as a result of the efficiency of the scheme it does not seem to be employable for general purposes. However, I make it clear that this money is allocated for agriculture, and there is another side to agriculture as set out under the functions of the department as outlined in the Auditor-General's report, namely, the provision of an advisory service to the rural producers of the State. This has been an excellent service in the past, but I think we have to get down to tacks and realize that the service we have had in the past is not adequate to meet present requirements. When speaking on the Address in Reply debate I pointed out that the problem in Australia at present, and one that we often overlook, is that we have a £462,000,000 debt on the primary industries. It is a thing that we cannot afford to overlook because, as mentioned today by the member for Rocky River, this season, although it opened well, does not look like finishing well. We should be expecting from our advisory service not just the information that we have had in the past on husbandry methods: we should be making much faster progress than we are on developing a service which gives advice and information on farm management problems, such as what shall be produced, how much shall be produced, and how the best resources of the farm can be utilized in order to keep the farmer efficient and, what is more important, financially sound.

In 1958 we made a start on a service of this kind in the department with the appointment of Dr. Alan Dawson. At that time the department was under the directorship of Dr. A. B.

Callaghan, and, in a talk he gave on the whole approach to agricultural advisory work, he said:

It is proposed to use economic specialists to backstop District Advisers and to develop the whole farm approach to advisory work with a team of agricultural, soils and livestock officers at the Jamestown regional office. Much detail has still to be worked out. There will be difficult problems to overcome both within the department and with farmers.

The Minister also announced in the talk he gave this year that this work had been further extended to a group of South-East farms. This is an advisory service that has come almost too late. We cannot keep pace with the demands for advisory officers. Already we have lost two in the last few months to the Commonwealth Developmental Bank and we could lose another one soon. We have been short of these officers. The problem is not only that we cannot get them but also that we have no openings for them. The Wheat Industry Research Committee has been responsible for the appointment of additional advisory officers to bolster the service. Are we providing the service that we claim to provide in an advisory capacity? Unless we watch this particular phase, it will quickly run downhill.

It has done well in the past in supplying much information on husbandry methods. What we vitally need is advice on farm management matters. If anything can be done to speed up this by making more funds available out of this unspent pool for prevention rather than protection by providing attractive salaries to get men to go into agricultural rather than into other vocations, that will be all to the good.

Mr. HARDING: In the matter of eggs, we have our surpluses, over-production, low prices, shortages and high prices. That is always happening. No State Government can do anything about rectifying that: it is a matter for the producers themselves. If the producers in each State wish for some orderly marketing, they can band together and seek that from the Government representing them, whether Liberal or Labor. That must apply in all States. The producers in the larger States are jealous of their opportunity to market in those States. For 21 years I have been the chairman of directors of a producer co-operative organization in this State, and for 10 years or more chairman of the marketing board, and I can say that after many years of organization we have found in this State that, although the producers are looking for orderly marketing, unless they co-opt their fellow producers in the other States and unless the producers in the

other States band together and ask their Governments for orderly marketing, we can get no Commonwealth assistance. Although I represent primary producers and others in this House, I maintain there is great danger that, with primary producers' boards, the cost to the consumer could be high because the producers on the board will see that they represent their producers and act in their interests. Therefore, efficiency of production is all-important and must be watched at all costs; otherwise, the people needing protection, the wage-earners, will suffer.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture): I cannot deal in the State sphere with import licensing and matters relating to competition from imports of primary products from overseas. That is clearly a problem that concerns the Commonwealth, which has firmly laid down policies on this matter which I do not intend to debate here. I merely point out that the Commonwealth has never acknowledged import licensing as a means of keeping our primary industries solvent. The original purpose of import licensing was to deal with our exchange problem, and it was left to the Tariff Board to deal with questions of overseas competition. When import licensing was removed, it no doubt laid our markets open to the importation of all sorts of products competing strongly with some of our primary industries. On the other hand, the Commonwealth has always argued that import licensing of itself has a strongly inflationary tendency and we should be interested in seeing that it is removed as quickly as possible. It is a matter with which I cannot deal here.

The poultry industry is undoubtedly having a difficult time. What happens to the poultry industry in costs and returns is what happens to nearly every sideline of primary industry at different times. Sidelines are notoriously uneven in their history. They come and go without much warning—and poultry as much as any other industry. It is an industry that people, rightly or wrongly, feel that they can enter without much capital. In answer to a question today, the Chairman of the Egg Board said that 60 per cent of our eggs were produced by sideline producers. That illustrates just what sort of an industry we have when that is the position. In other words, the majority are people not in the game for a living. That makes it difficult. In those

countries where we read about the great efficiency of the industries (as in the United States), the sideline producer plays a small part in an industry like poultry. He plays his part generally because some big company, combine or firm sometimes supplies him with chickens and feed and pays him so much a pound for his chickens when they reach the right weight. That, of course, is in the poultry meat industry. It is organized on a big businesslike basis. We are up against it because of the sideline nature of the industry here.

The Agriculture Department is not concerned with marketing. Its aim is to do what it can to help to make the industry efficient. It has a poultry husbandry research farm, which is also a demonstration farm, at Parafield. There much work goes into trying out new methods from overseas or from within our own country. Latest methods are demonstrated with various types of sheds and feeding methods. Various strains of birds are bred and demonstrated there. It is largely as a result of the work at Parafield that we have such a high standard of poultry production from the point of view of egg quality. The Chairman of the Egg Board was once in the Agriculture Department and his main concern is marketing.

Mr. Bywaters: He is a most efficient man.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Mr. Anderson has not been an officer of the Agriculture Department since I have known him best, but as Chairman of the Egg Marketing Board he has spent much time trying to iron out egg marketing problems in Australia. For many years he was Chairman of the Egg Producing Council and he has done what he can to bring about a national scheme for the marketing of egg products. There is much discussion about interstate "come and go" as it may be called, and it is undoubted that producers in each State deal directly with buyers from other States thus avoiding levies and all sorts of other charges. In that way eggs are sent across the border. Our own Egg Board charges are so much lower than those of any other Egg Board in Australia that one can scarcely imagine how it can improve the situation. We have heard that Mr. Anderson is interested in increasing the Egg Board's efficiency if he can, but he is at least ahead of the other boards in that respect.

There is a strong pull from interstate in both ways. That is natural, but not necessarily disastrous, although it has one bad feature

about it. For example, we may take the theoretical case of a truck loading eggs here, taking them to another State and then loading up with eggs there and bringing them to South Australia. Although that is possible with eggs I suppose it happens in almost every kind of interstate industry. Some Sydney people may prefer South Australian refrigerators while some South Australians may prefer Sydney refrigerators, and there is an exchange of products in that way.

The Egg Boards wish to cut that out and arrive at certain objectives in a national scheme. The first thing they are trying to do is to organize egg pulp marketing so that they are not under-selling each other in cut-throat competition. They have not been able to achieve that because each Egg Board has to get rid of a large quantity of eggs that its own State cannot absorb and some eggs have to be exported at lower prices. With these various pulls we find a lack of cohesion. One example occurred a few months ago when we had a conference in Adelaide of a number of Ministers from other States and they criticized South Australia for selling goods in New South Wales and Victoria. They had been listening to some of their advisers, but had not received all the information. While all this was going on I asked one of our own officers to go up the street and buy some interstate eggs. He was able to come back and show eggs marked with the stamp of authorities in other States which were under-selling South Australian Egg Board eggs in our own shops. That was a clear demonstration that all the Egg Boards are at variance. We are trying to rectify that position but I cannot give any good news that we have yet been successful. I can only say everyone wants to improve the situation. To summarize, the department will do all it can to improve the efficiency of egg production by giving good advice where required and the Egg Marketing Board will do all it can to see that its own producers market their eggs efficiently and with not too great overhead charges.

A number of other comments were made. The member for Chaffey mentioned the case industry. It is well known that competition in the fruit case industry has become much more intense over the last few years. That situation has not arisen in the last few months. The demand for building timber slackened off recently but the case industry has been competitive for several years and a large part of the production of our forests comprises timber

suitable for case timber. In the main there are three classes of timber. Firstly, we have the big log timber suitable for all kinds of milling. Case timber is particularly suitable for profitably using thinnings which comprise narrow diameters. That would not be suitable for flooring or weatherboard timber. We also have sub-case sizes which are suitable for pulping and fence posts and we have very low diameters down to two inches. We now intend using the accumulated waste (bark and sawdust) in the power station and in the proposed new industry near Mount Gambier. The forests have their sales representatives who travel throughout the fruitgrowing areas making contacts wherever they can. I know of groups of executives from the fruitgrowing industry who have visited the South-Eastern forests to familiarize themselves with case production and systems have been planned in the packing sheds to encourage the sale of case timber. Nevertheless cartons provide strong competition.

The member for Albert referred to the provision for fruit fly prevention. In every Budget some provision has to be made against the possible outbreak of fruit fly, and such grant cannot be used for any other purpose. Under normal conditions, with no outbreak of fruit fly, about £30,000 is required annually to maintain our permanent road blocks, temporary road blocks at the height of the season, and inspections at airports. A fruit fly outbreak could cost the State almost £250,000, but some annual provision has to be voted by Parliament.

It is easy to suggest that we are not moving fast enough in supplying farm management advice, but the department has done its utmost to develop this service. Our department has made progress that compares favourably with the progress achieved in any other State. That may not be a criterion in itself, but it is a pointer and a defence. Our progress has been solid and we have not taken a wrong turning, although it would have been easy to do so. Later the Agriculture Department hopes to employ more economists who may be stationed in country areas. Other States are planning to increase their complement of economists, but economists are not plentiful.

At present some district offices are used by departmental officers from the various divisions of the department. They use the same correspondence facilities, for instance. These offices are scattered about the country. They are not miniature departments, and each of the officers using them is responsible to his division in

Adelaide. Although our development has not been spectacular we are trying to get our officers fully versed in farm management. Before they can advise on farm planning they must be qualified and that is why work is proceeding at Jamestown. The officers are being brought into contact with farm management problems. It is easy for a technical officer to give technical advice, but it is not easy to give management advice. The department's economist has an assistant helping him and more assistants will be available in the next few months. In addition to studying problems that district officers bring to him, the economist has travelled around the country lecturing and talking to farmers, and he has rendered much valuable assistance. I am anxious that farm management be improved because bad management undoubtedly costs the State much more than any individual pest or disease. Everything that is said during this debate is read by my departmental officers so that if I have not answered any questions, the members concerned can rest assured that their questions will not be ignored.

Line passed.

Agricultural College Department, £133,753.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister say whether any applications have been received for the position of Principal of the Roseworthy Agricultural College?

Mr. LAUCKE: I sometimes wonder whether the public appreciates the work of the Roseworthy Agricultural College, which has been of real value to this State, particularly in wheat production. I stress the vital part the college has played over the years in giving to our wheat farmers varieties of wheat that have within them a correlation between the amount of protein and the quality of protein. For many years our wheats would test well in protein, but the quality of the protein was poor. This has improved only since the evolution of the weapon varieties: dirk, scimitar, javelin, claymore and such varieties. In the semi-hard wheat, the derivations or breedings from Roseworthy are the most popular in South Australia. Because of the types of wheat produced, we have a valuable market in New Zealand. When tested in the laboratories these wheats indicate a protein content that is invariably correlated in quality to the quantity of protein. We can increase our overseas sales extensively when there is a general appreciation of this correlation. Varieties like Gluyas were grown largely before the advent of the weapon

varieties and, although they had a high protein content, they were weak flour wheats. These days we have to compete with Manitoban wheats, which have a constant correlation, as have our weapon varieties. We can supply to the millers of the world a type of wheat they need to blend with Manitoban and soft varieties to produce a complete grist. Last year Australia produced a record crop of 254,000,000 bushels of wheat. This year the Canadian crop will be about half that of last year and this will enable Australia to be placed on the map in international wheat sales more than ever before. When we can supply wheats comparable in quality with Canadian wheats, then we can look forward to better export prospects.

Excellent work is being done by Roseworthy Agricultural College, Waite Agricultural Research Institute and Turretfield Research Centre, which are applying themselves to plant breeding. Roseworthy has done invaluable work for the viticultural industry. Its activities in the oenology field in collaboration with the Barossa Viticultural Experimental Station have been worthwhile in the interests of viticulture in South Australia, which produces 85 per cent of Australia's wines. We must have these experimental stations to enable us to produce varieties that will give greater returns to the acre and a wider variety of wines. They can play an important role by testing new and better bearing varieties of vines, and this will undoubtedly be in the interests of the State's economy.

Line passed.

Produce Department, £249,421; Fisheries and Game Department, £40,009—passed.

Chemistry Department, £69,309.

Mr. NANKIVELL: This department is finding it difficult to keep up with the amount of work placed upon it. It is also cramped for space and short of staff and lacks certain equipment to enable it to carry out work done in conjunction with the Agriculture Department. I hope that consideration will be given to improving its facilities.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £420,126.

Mr. LAUCKE: There is to be an increase of £3,000 on the amount provided last year for the volunteer fire fighting associations. Is this a more generous approach in the matter of a subsidy, or is it because of physical demand for more equipment? Is the value of these associations to the State recognized? We have a number of these keen organizations,

the members of which practise throughout the year, without personal reward, to become competent in fire fighting. Through their activities, there is a much greater feeling of security by primary producers, whose land could be defended in the event of fire. The amount voted is a moderate insurance premium for the protection of products that ultimately will benefit the State's economy. I therefore ask whether the £3,000 increase indicates a more liberal approach towards subsidies for these worthy organizations or whether it is due to greater physical demands for equipment.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Government is conscious of the good work done by the Emergency Fire Services. I know how much training and effort goes into their work, which appears so spectacular when there is a fire but which is preceded by much training and maintenance of equipment. The fund referred to is administered by a committee, and the £3,000 increase is matched by a similar amount from insurance companies.

Mr. RALSTON: Last year £21,068 was spent on demonstrations, research, fees and expenses of the Bush Fires Research Committee, and this year £35,800 is provided. Can the Minister say what results have been achieved and what research work is taking place?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I suppose the biggest expenditure under this item would have been for clearing land to do both research and administrative work on how to minimize the bush fire risk in certain localities. There have been two large projects in the Adelaide hills and one in the South-East. As far as I know, progress has been good, but it would take probably two years to evaluate the work. The land at Marble Hill, which was heavily burned out a few years ago, has been cleared in what was hoped to be an economical and profitable way. I cannot give any definite conclusions, but the rest of the work relates to research into the combustibility of certain herbage, tree plantings, hedges and so on. Some work has gone into the testing of desiccants for burning green grass, as in most districts grass is still green when the bush fire season commences. Also, the research committee has spent much money on advertising. I believe that publicity has been valuable, although that is hard to prove. However, interest has been stimulated by advertisements and other means, and fire prevention competitions have been conducted in various parts of the State with interesting results. This sums up

the outstanding results achieved by the committee. I shall be glad later to give any more information the honourable member requires.

Mr. HEASLIP: The sum of £50 is provided for the refreshments for emergency fire fighting organizations. Last year £50 was voted but nothing was spent. I pay a tribute to the ladies who provide refreshments for men who fight bush fires. Nobody who has not fought fires knows how much it means to come back to a central depot where sandwiches and a cup of tea are available. This seems a small sum for the purpose. Will the Minister say whether this provides compensation for the organizations that provide labour and refreshments?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Undoubtedly some provision was made for last season, but unfortunately several small funds can be confused. Many reimbursements were made in cases of emergency but, of course, it is impossible to anticipate reimbursements of cost of refreshments for fire fighters. After a big fire the Government gets accounts from various places; perhaps somebody has become excited and has bought a big quantity of food from a shopkeeper, who has done his best to meet the exigency, but nobody has paid him. The account then comes to the Government. We try to ensure that this expense is kept under reasonable control, as we shall never be able to reimburse people for refreshments. I will obtain more details for the honourable member.

Mr. HALL: There is a widespread feeling among members of the Emergency Fire Services that a badge would be useful for identifying members, for unifying the organization, and for morale. About a month ago I attended a regional meeting at which a strong plea was made for a badge for all members of the service in this State. At present fire control officers have an arm band, but although that is all right the officers are not likely to have it with them always. They maintain that it would be better to have a badge which they would always have with them, and which would provide quick identification. They would like the department to design a suitable badge and arrange for manufacture in bulk. They would purchase the badge at cost price. I believe that representations have been made in this matter in the past, but have been bogged down somewhere along the line. Recently I applied, and the matter is now being considered by the Police Commissioner, to meet the wishes of these worthy people who give their services in fighting fires. I hope the authorities will take action in the matter soon.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand that the Ridley centenary scholarship has been in existence for many years. At one time it was sought as a valuable assistance to a student, in most instances the dux of Roseworthy College, who wished to further his studies in agricultural science at the university. With the advent of the Commonwealth scholarship it may be that some years have elapsed since the Ridley scholarship was used. Can the Minister give me any information on the matter?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I do not know when the scholarship was last used and I will get some information.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

THE PARKIN TRUST INCORPORATED  
ACT AMENDMENT BILL (PRIVATE).

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

THE PARKIN CONGREGATIONAL  
MISSION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA BILL  
(PRIVATE).

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

APPRAISERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.17 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 4, at 2 p.m.