

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Thursday, April 19, 1962.

The SPEAKER (Hon. T. C. Stott) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

**QUESTIONS.****SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: The South-Western Suburbs Drainage Scheme is vital for many of my constituents, particularly in the event of floodwaters or heavy rains (which I hope we shall have soon) and especially in the Ascot Park and Parkholme areas. Can the Minister of Works say when the next stage of this project will be commenced? I understand that one drain is to go from Goodwood Road to somewhere near the Morphetville racecourse, and another along the main road from Marion Road in a westerly direction towards the Sturt River.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I cannot give the honourable member an answer to his question as my department is not the constructing authority. My colleague the Minister of Roads and his department are controlling that matter and I will ask him to obtain a report. I think that he will be certain to write to the honourable member when he has a report that will assist.

**GRAPES.**

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Some viticulturists in the Barossa Valley have been unable so far to dispose of all their grape crop, particularly the doradillo type. Can the Premier say whether the Prices Commissioner has investigated this marketing problem and, if he has, with what result?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member approached me a few days ago about this matter. The Prices Commissioner has kept in close touch with it and, when the honourable member raised the question a couple of days ago, I asked the Prices Commissioner to look into it, particularly the two phases that have been mentioned—storage and finance. The latest information that the Prices Commissioner has provided suggests that there will not be much of a surplus in either the Barossa or Murray areas, other than possibly gordos on the Murray, and they can be dried. Certain winemakers are being contacted with a view to any necessary financial assistance on helping out in the case of a small surplus—the

Government is not being committed on this—and details of storage capacity are also being sought. It appears that some winemakers may need assistance from the State Bank, but in the main they will be approaching the bank direct. This, however, is in connection with the ordinary running of their business and not on surplus grapes. No great amount of additional finance should be involved if surplus grapes do occur and there is evidence that storage can be arranged to process any surplus. A base plan to handle any emergency is being prepared in conjunction with winemakers and, if necessary, a report will be forwarded. I will inform the honourable member of anything that arises regarding this matter.

Mr. CURREN: Yesterday I asked the Premier for a report on the price of wine grapes. Will he say whether the report of the Prices Commissioner will be tabled as requested by me or whether the information I desire will be made available by letter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have not had a chance to discuss the matter with the Prices Commissioner since the honourable member asked the question yesterday, but I have no doubt that I can forward a copy of the report to the honourable member. In fact, so that he may be brought up to date, it may be necessary to forward him all reports on the matter. I think I can provide the information which, I believe, has already been made available to other members.

**PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES.**

Mr. HUTCHENS: I understand that the Public Library has a player record lending department and that on occasions people have had to pay for records that have been returned in a warped condition. One of my constituents has complained that he borrowed a record, believing it to be sound, but on arrival at home discovered that it was warped. He returned the record and explained this, but was charged for it. I doubted the story and inquired and was told by experts that this could be so if proper facilities were not available for testing the records when they were returned. I understand that testing facilities are not available at the library to determine whether the records returned are warped on or the wane. Apparently they warp quickly when they are on the wane and one could take out a record in this condition and on arrival at home on a warm day find that it had warped. Can the Minister of Education

say whether record-testing facilities are available at the library, and, if not, will he ascertain whether the installation of such facilities is warranted in the interests of borrowers?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I am not aware whether testing facilities are available or not, but I will take the matter up with the Principal Librarian, and get replies to both questions.

#### MOUNT BRECKAN CENTRE.

Mr. JENKINS: Is the Minister of Education aware that the Mount Breckan Rehabilitation Centre, comprising about 29 acres, is available for disposal, and can he say whether the Education Department is interested in that land for primary school purposes?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I am aware that it is available and that officers of the Education Department have made a preliminary investigation of it. I understand that their first impression is that it is not suitable, but as the honourable member has raised the matter I will have detailed inquiries made and let him know in due course.

#### WATER RATES.

Mr. LAWN: Can the Minister of Works say what the Government's policy is when a person is in arrears with payment for water services?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: In collecting water rates the method used is first to send out the normal account; if that is not met a subsequent account is rendered; and if the payment is not made within a reasonable period a further approach is made. In every case, before any action is taken to restrict the water supply the ratepayer is given every opportunity to make some payment or arrangement to pay that is acceptable in the circumstances to the department. The Chief Revenue Officer is charged with the duty of collecting all revenues and in extreme cases where the ratepayer continues in default (they are extreme cases as a rule) the department has the right to restrict the supply. However, the department is always most reluctant to restrict or cut off supplies. We ensure that sufficient water goes through the ratepayer's service to work toilets so that sanitary conditions are not affected, but the restrictions have to be such that they point out to the ratepayer that he is really in default. Some action has to be taken to bring it to his notice, so the restriction is such as to prevent him from watering his garden, except with only a trickle of water. We are

most reluctant to curtail supplies, but if they are curtailed a disc is usually inserted somewhere in the meter mechanism to restrict the supply. Some ratepayers have tampered with those instruments and that constitutes a breach of the Act and renders them liable to prosecution. Summarizing, the Chief Revenue Officer has a duty to collect rates but the department always takes care to see that the ratepayer has every opportunity and, if there are any ameliorating circumstances, they are taken into account before action is taken.

#### COOMANDOOK AREA SCHOOL.

Mr. NANKIVELL: As a 33,000-volt high tension line has been constructed to within a chain of the new area school at Coomandook, will the Minister of Works obtain for me an assurance from the Chairman of the Electricity Trust that the trust will try to connect this school as speedily as possible, and, if possible, to do it when the line is live as far as Coonalpyn?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will bring the honourable member's question before the notice of the Chairman of the Electricity Trust and ask for a report. I presume, of course, that an application has been made for the service.

#### PENSIONERS' LAND TAX.

Mr. TAPPING: Recently a deputation of pensioners from Semaphore waited on me regarding land tax and handed me a letter signed by 75 pensioners directed to the Treasurer. The letter stated:

We, the pensioners of Semaphore and district, lodge this petition to you for the abolition of land tax for pensioners.

I was asked to tell the Treasurer that the Act provides that if the tax is £1 or less nothing is payable, but that in most cases the rates paid by this type of person, because of the class of house he has, amount to between £2 and £4 a year. Will the Treasurer consider the request of these people?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the honourable member lets me have the letter I will examine it and see if it is possible or advisable to take some action. This is not an easy problem as there is only a narrow margin between a person who is receiving a pension and one who is not. In fact, many people in the community may not be so well off as those who are accepted for a pension, so we would have to look at the matter to see that the proposed action, if any, would be fair to all sections of the community. If

the honourable member lets me have the letter I will make some close investigation and inform him in due course whether it is possible to give some amelioration.

#### FLY SCREENS FOR SCHOOLS.

Mr. QUIRKE: Over the last couple of years several excellent school buildings have been erected in my country areas. However, they have one marked deficiency: they lack fly screens. As far as I know, fly screens on windows are found necessary for every habitable dwellinghouse yet apparently they are not considered necessary on school buildings, although the fly does not discriminate between a school and a house. Where sanitary conditions are somewhat primitive, as they can be at schools where there is no water supply, the fly can be a menace. Will the Minister of Works consider providing fly screens for schools erected without them and for all future schools?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I shall be happy to get a report from the Director of Public Buildings on the honourable member's question, but the matter raised is of some considerable moment. Solid construction schools may be somewhat easy to screen, but generally they are not the type about which the honourable member is mainly concerned. The prefabricated type of building constructed at the Finsbury workshops has, as I think he knows, big wide windows, and louvered windows fitted in the enclosed verandah or corridor. This is general practice in this type of school, and the classroom doors are almost invariably open when school is in session. If screens were provided, they would have to be on the doors as well as on both types of windows for the full length of the building. Also, in order that they would be effective, close attention by teachers and children would be necessary to see that the doors were kept shut. The cost of the job would be enormous, and replacement and repair would also be a heavy item. I will ask the Director of Public Buildings for a report on the whole matter so that we can look at it, and no doubt I will discuss the matter with the Minister of Education to ascertain his views. That having been done, I think the matter would necessarily go to Cabinet for a policy decision.

#### NORTHERN WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. HEASLIP: On March 7 I introduced a deputation from Wirrabara to the Minister of Works concerning a water supply for that

town from the main coming from Caltowie to Booleroo Centre. I was pleased to know that, as a result of the deputation, Wirrabara would ultimately get a supply. However, there are several alternative routes that the pipeline could take from the Booleroo main to Wirrabara. The people living between those two towns are very much up in the air regarding water supplies—whether they have to sink bores or put down dams to obtain water. The Minister promised to obtain a report as soon as possible on what the route would be. It would be a great help to the people along that route, wherever it is to be, if they could know in advance what it will be, for it would save their going to the expense of probing for underground water or erecting dams which they would have to do if they were not on the main. Has the Minister obtained that report?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Engineer-in-Chief appreciates, as I do, that this is a matter of some moment to the honourable member's constituents in the area. I assured the honourable member that I would obtain a report from the Engineer-in-Chief as soon as I could on the route the proposed line would follow. As the honourable member has said, it is a question of deciding which route from the present main leading to Booleroo the main to Wirrabara will follow. I have not yet obtained the report but I will do so as soon as I can so that the honourable member may be advised and his constituents know accordingly what the route will be.

#### LEAVING HONOURS CLASSES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: The Minister of Education will be aware that last year the Whyalla Technical High School Council received an assurance that a Leaving Honours class would be established at that school this year, but unfortunately that has not been done. It seems that more than 20 students will remain at the end of this year and require a Leaving Honours class. At present there is a fully qualified staff that would be able to handle such a class. Can the Minister give an assurance that a Leaving Honours class will be established there next year?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: First, I am not aware that an assurance was given last year that such a class would be established this year. I accept the honourable member's statement that that assurance was given, but the honourable member knows that the question of fifth year classes is in a state of flux at present. For nearly two years now a committee set up by the Council of the University of

Adelaide has been investigating the matter; I thought it would have been disposed of by the end of last year, but it was not, and I was assured early this year that it would be April or May before the matter was disposed of. During April I have inquired but I cannot obtain any satisfaction from the university authorities as to when they are going to conclude their deliberations satisfactorily. It is embarrassing to me, to the Education Department, and to many interested parents and students throughout the State. I do not know whether they will be Leaving Honours classes or what the particular designation will be, but the Education Department will be able to establish fifth year classes in many country areas next year where there are a sufficient number of qualified students. I cannot say anything more definite than that at present.

#### RIVERTON ROADS.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Will the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, obtain for me a statement of the Highways Department's intention regarding future work upon that part of the Rhynie-Balaklava road that lies within the boundaries of the Riverton District Council?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I appreciate the specific nature of the honourable member's question which will ensure that my colleague knows precisely what it is that he is called upon to ascertain. I will refer the question to him and request that he convey the answer to the honourable member in writing while the House is in recess.

#### HENLEY EAST SEWERAGE.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Last year I raised the question of the sewerage of the unsewered areas east of Henley and Grange and the Fulham Park area towards Seaton. I pointed out the difficulties people were having in disposing of the effluent from overflowing bores. At that time the Minister advised me that a £500,000 plan for sewerage a large area south of Royal Park, including Seaton and Fulham Gardens and the district east of Henley and Grange, was being prepared. The Minister went on to say that a report on the proposal by the Engineer for Sewerage was expected to be submitted within about three months and that the plan would be referred to the Public Works Committee for inquiry. In view of the difficulties of the people, during the winter months particularly, can the Minister say when the plans will be completed and submitted to Cabinet for consideration?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am not able offhand to answer the honourable member's question directly, but I will obtain a report for him and send him a letter containing that information.

#### RITALIN.

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Premier, representing the Minister of Health, a reply to the question I asked yesterday regarding dangerous drugs?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. I have taken this matter up with my colleague and as a consequence I have a report from the Director-General of Public Health which I will make available to the honourable member in due course. The report is as follows:—

Relaxa Tablets.—A brief report regarding the control of the drugs in these tablets was received from the United Kingdom in which it appeared that these drugs together with several others were restricted pending further consideration; no further report has come to hand. The control of the tablets has been discussed many times by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Poisons Schedules Committee and the South Australian Food and Drugs Advisory Committee; no unanimity on restriction to prescription can be obtained and only Queensland has so restricted the tablets. In South Australia restriction is not at present favoured because it is felt that most patients use them wisely and that the few cases of abuse that occur would occur with other drugs if Relaxa was not available without prescription. In addition there has undoubtedly been a falling off in the illegal demand for the barbiturate drugs because drugs of the Relaxa type are available without prescription. Restriction to prescription does not necessarily stop all abuse; there are still cases of abuse of the barbiturates which have been restricted to prescription for many years. The barbiturates are considered to be more dangerous than drugs of the Relaxa type.

Ritalin.—This anti-depressive drug has come under notice and has been recommended for restriction to prescription by the Poisons Schedules Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council. New Poison Regulations based on the uniform schedules have been finalized and are at present being set up by the Government Printer; gazettal may be expected within the next two months.

#### BROOKERS (AUST.) LTD.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Premier may recall that last year I asked a question relating to the take-over by Foster Clark of Brookers (Aust.) Ltd., particularly with respect to the payment of money owing to the growers. My colleague the member for Chaffey (Mr. Curren) and I have discussed this today. We are most concerned about the position, whether the growers will receive any of the money that has been owing to them over some years. I understand

that in all about £70,000 is owing to the growers for fruit supplied in the 1958-59 season. Can the Premier say whether any arrangement has been made concerning the payments of accounts from that firm?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have no specific knowledge on this matter. I know that there were meetings of shareholders and, I believe, of creditors, before the sale to Foster Clark of the undertaking was approved, but it will be necessary for me to get a report on the matters the honourable member has mentioned. I point out to him that this is a private company and, if it is at fault, the matter normally comes under the bankruptcy laws and not necessarily under the control of the State Government. However, I will get a report for the honourable member. There were, of course, many liabilities of the company outside the liabilities to the fruit-growers. I know, from some correspondence that came to my notice, that large amounts were involved where canmakers were concerned.

Mr. Bywaters: The State Government has a direct interest in this firm.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The State Government has no direct interest in this firm and no direct interest in Brookers. All the State Government has done (and that was on the recommendation of the Industries Development Committee) has been to advance certain sums as a security to the firm to enable it to carry on; but that does not make the Government liable for all the debts of the company.

Mr. Bywaters: But the Government had a representative on the board.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government had a representative upon the board of the company in connection with the advances made, but it is a private company and the Government has never taken the view, nor is it legally possible for it to take the view, that, because it makes an advance to assist a firm to carry on, it is automatically responsible for all debts that that firm may have entered into prior to the advance being given. So I cannot hold out any hope at all that the Government can make itself responsible (nor has it any power to do so) for making advances to satisfy private debts. I will get a report for the honourable member and advise him as far as it is possible to know just how much dividend will be coming to the various sections of the creditors.

## OIL.

Mr. COUMBE: The recent oil strikes in Moonie in Queensland have centred the attention of the Australian people on this industry that is so important to Australia, and in South Australia it has certainly heightened the desire for oil to be found in this State. Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Mines in this House, tell the House that the Mines Department is giving all possible assistance to the industry within this State, and can he inform members of any hopeful possibilities in this industry?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In the course of discussion on the Supplementary Estimates yesterday, I said that the Government was at present organizing a second scientific team for seismic exploration. The first was most successful and disclosed some important structures in the work undertaken. The department does only broad-scale investigation, leaving to private companies the following up and the more closely arranged survey. But, as a consequence of work on the Government's part, there is, for instance, a bore actively being undertaken at present about 30 or 40 miles south of Innamincka. The latest report I had on that was that the drill was down to 5,000ft. and going ahead satisfactorily. I assure the honourable member that the Government is most anxious to assist. Indeed, if honourable members will look at His Excellency's Speech, they will find that the Government itself intends to get a boring plant to examine some areas that at present are not being scrutinized, and that could be of considerable interest. This work will be costly and probably, if we are going to do anything really useful, £500,000 a year will be needed. I think this will be an extremely good investment.

## BOOK ALLOWANCES.

Mr. RYAN: Provision is made for assistance in the buying of school books to parents of students in needy circumstances, but in primary education only. At the beginning of this school year I was approached by parents who could be classified as parents in needy circumstances with children attending secondary schools. Upon representations to the schools concerned and the Education Department, I find that there is no provision whatsoever for school books for those students. They are then thrown on to charity in order that they may further their secondary education. Will the Minister of Education have

this matter investigated with a view to rectifying this position and placing those students in the same position as students attending primary schools?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The honourable member is aware that very substantial, if not generous, assistance is granted to students in secondary schools in the provision of the necessary books.

Mr. Ryan: I mean above the £8.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The report I have from the Education Department is that that substantially meets the cost. I have a written report from the Deputy Director of Education (Mr. Griggs) who has a lifelong experience in these matters. It is the most recent report I have received from him. He uses the words "practically meets the full cost of the books". The honourable member having raised the matter and therefore having raised the doubt in my mind, however, I shall have it re-examined and let him know the result in due course.

Mr. LANGLEY: Residents of my district who have children in various secondary schools have told me that the Education Department's reimbursement for school books varies in the following schools: at Unley High School, the parent pays the full amount less £4 and receives the balance of £4 several months later; at the Adelaide Girls High School, the parent pays the full amount at the commencement of the year and receives £8 reimbursement some time later; children at other schools pay the net amount only at the commencement of the school year. Will the Minister advise me why a uniform system is not adopted throughout the department?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Firstly, I will just refer again to a statement, which I quoted from memory, made by the Deputy Director of Education who, as the honourable member knows, was a former Superintendent of High Schools. I stated that he said the cost of text books in secondary schools was substantially or practically met. Actually what he said was, "The Government now practically meets the total cost of text books for secondary education." That was a recent report to me on the subject. I have had complaints myself similar to those just voiced by the honourable member, and personally I see no earthly reason why a uniform policy should not be adopted. In fact, I understood that a year ago, as a result of complaints made at that time and of my discussions with the Director of Education, a uniform policy had been put into

effect last year. I am most disappointed in this breakdown in the policy and will take immediate steps to see that it is restored.

#### FRUIT FLY.

Mr. LAUCKE: Has the Minister of Agriculture any further reply to the question I asked yesterday about the fruit fly outbreak at Merbein?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Since the question was asked yesterday, I have ascertained that the outbreak at Merbein was discovered on April 6, and this State was informed by the Victorian authorities almost immediately. They have surveyed the situation. Some small outbreaks of less significance to South Australia have occurred, but the one at Merbein is the most important to us. As a result of that outbreak, we have taken on additional staff for inspection work. We have put road checks on other roads that normally do not have permanent road blocks, and we have been stopping traffic on some of those less important roads. Canning peaches are mainly concerned in the outbreak, although some apples have been infected. The South Australian authorities greatly appreciate the work done by the Victorian department, which has kept us closely informed of all events and which has been most energetic.

Mr. CASEY: Recently, like other members, I was alarmed at reports of a fruit fly outbreak at Merbein. I believe that last year there was also a slight outbreak at Broken Hill, through which a fair amount of traffic coming to South Australia from Mildura passes. As the Minister of Agriculture knows, there is a check point at Cockburn and at Yunta, which is farther down the line, there is a huge placard stating that fruit is not permitted to be brought into South Australia in any circumstances. Will the Minister take steps to have that sign removed and placed at Cockburn, which is a more convenient spot as the check point is situated there? I think this would greatly help those manning the check point and would also benefit motorists entering this State.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will discuss the matter of publicity on the roads for these road blocks but, in any case, I do not know that signs should be removed; we may put up more if necessary. Generally, road blocks are placed on main roads, but there is always the chance that fruit will be carried into the State on subsidiary roads. We have to take a chance in some respects there, as it would be impossible to block every road. These are

being covered by what might be called mobile check points rather than set road blocks, but the whole matter is constantly under surveillance. I will take up the honourable member's suggestion and see if something can be done with it.

#### CONCESSION FARES.

Mr. McKEE: I understand that the Government pays a 50 per cent subsidy on the cost of maintaining the Adelaide Children's Hospital and that parents in indigent circumstances can have their children treated free at the hospital. I do not criticize that, because I believe that should be done. However, there are many country people who are unable to take advantage of this free treatment because they are frequently forced to bring their children to Adelaide for treatment at the hospital and must pay their own rail fare as well as the fare of the child. I am particularly concerned with widows and invalid pensioners who are obliged to bring their children to the city for treatment. To enable these people in the country to enjoy the facility already enjoyed by metropolitan residents, will the Premier consider granting free rail warrants to them? I could supply him with specific cases from Port Pirie.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As I understand the question, it applies to parents of children—

Mr. McKee: Widowed or invalid pensioner parents.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Widows and invalid pensioners can, if they have obtained the necessary card from the Commonwealth railways authorities, travel twice on the railways without—

Mr. McKee: I know that, but my question concerns persons who have to travel monthly.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the honourable member will let me examine specific cases I will determine what appropriate action is necessary.

#### INGESTA MANURE.

Mr. HALL: In recent years much trouble has arisen in the Virginia area through the use of ingesta manure, a waste product of the Metropolitan Abattoirs, which has led to the breeding of flies and has resulted in a complete ban by the district councils concerned on its use. This is of great economic significance to vegetable growers in the area because this is, apparently, an irreplaceable manure for vegetable growing. Will the Minister of Agriculture request the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization to examine

this manure to see whether flies can be controlled and whether it can be used with the approval of all authorities concerned?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I shall discuss this question with the Director of Agriculture before I give a considered reply.

#### RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST.

Mr. CURREN: I have received the following letter from the Secretary of the Renmark Irrigation Trust:

For your information I enclose a copy of a letter forwarded to the honourable the Minister of Lands in connection with the proposed amendment to the Trust Act. The board and management of this trust consider that such an amendment is absolutely necessary and practical to enable the trust to function in a proper and efficient manner parallel with neighbouring irrigation authorities.

Can the Minister of Irrigation indicate what action has been taken on this matter and what further action is contemplated?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKES: The honourable member indicated yesterday that he would ask this question and I made inquiries this morning and discovered that the letter was posted to us on the 5th of this month. My officers are investigating the matter and I will inform the honourable member of the result later.

#### SIREX WASP.

Mr. HARDING: I appreciate what the Government has done and is doing to combat the fruit fly menace, but I am concerned about the welfare of the Government and private forests in the South-East which are faced with a far greater menace than fruit fly—the sirex wasp. Can the Minister of Forests say what action is being taken to educate people to the dangers of this pest and to the consequences of its introduction into our forest areas?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: We have taken action to provide a stringent quarantine supervision of packing cases and similar articles coming to South Australian ports. We are investigating all possible means of keeping the wasp out of South Australia. The South-Eastern forests have been closely supervised. Since the outbreaks of sirex wasp in Victoria much publicity has been given to the pest and we have a display in the Woods and Forests Department's window in Rundle Street that is well worth examining. It attracts much attention. The department is also taking positive steps to try to detect sirex wasp within the State; field parties are being organized and next month they will commence examining

hedgerows and all types of pines in private gardens and on farms. They will start in the Adelaide area and radiate therefrom. They hope to cover the entire State and they will be looking for signs of sires wasp infestation in trees and plantations.

#### GAWLER RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. CLARK: Last Tuesday, following the rising of the House, I caught the 9.3 p.m. train to North Gawler. It consisted of one "red hen" car, and between 20 and 30 passengers were standing uncomfortably in the aisle and making it awkward for the porter to get through the carriage. I have been informed that this train is usually overcrowded. Will the Minister of Works draw the attention of the Minister of Railways to this situation and inquire whether it would be possible for an additional car to be attached to this train?

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

#### POLIOMYELITIS SERVICES.

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Premier a reply to a question I asked yesterday about reimbursing the councils in my district the cost of providing inoculations against poliomyelitis?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have obtained the following report from Dr. Woodruff:

When immunization against poliomyelitis was first started, it was considered that councils might provide the service in the same way as injections against other diseases; it has always been a traditional part of district council work. However, it was realized that this new vaccine should be made available as quickly as possible to priority groups throughout the State, and the decision was made to carry out a mass immunization scheme conducted by the Department of Public Health until immunization became a maintenance matter. This means that the department has, in effect, carried the bulk of immunization against poliomyelitis for the past five and a half years.

Now the vaccine is available in sufficient quantities to enable widespread distribution, it is possible to provide the vaccine to 100 district councils at the one time, and these councils are giving, in general, monthly campaigns. If the department were to continue the use of mobile units it would take approximately twelve months to cover the whole State. As it is, the councils can provide immunization at all times.

As far as the Adelaide City Council is concerned, it has advised that it is prepared to carry out a free immunization programme, but such a programme would be confined to residents of the city. The City Council's campaign has been deferred temporarily whilst this department is operating a mobile clinic in the city area. This particular clinic is not operating for the benefit of residents of the city area only, but is available for persons

throughout the State. It is being operated so that those people who desire immunization can obtain immediate protection, and it is considered to be a desirable supplementary service in a densely populated area.

#### NORWOOD SWIMMING POOL.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Will the Premier say whether a decision has been made on the request of the City of Kensington and Norwood Council for a subsidy for the purchase of property adjoining its caravan park and swimming reserve?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The council submitted an application for subsidy on the purchase of two blocks adjacent to the swimming pool and caravan park, which, incidentally, from what I have heard, has been a great success. The request came late in the year when the whole of the money that had been provided by Parliament had been committed. This year heavy requests have been made by local authorities for subsidies on this line. I approved of a subsidy up to 50 per cent of the Land Board's valuation, which is the normal thing, but added a minute that I would not be able to meet the line this financial year because the provision had been exhausted. However, Parliament replenished the line yesterday, or is in the process of doing so today, and the subsidy can now be paid this year; I will see that that is done.

#### MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. RALSTON: Yesterday, in reply to my question concerning the provision of a change room and toilet facilities at the Mount Gambier High School sports ground, the Minister of Education said that he understood that the headmaster and members of the school council and school committee were negotiating with the Director of Education to have this facility provided on a subsidized basis. I believe that the Minister has not been kept fully informed on this matter, especially on the views of the high school council. I will now quote from a statement made by the Chairman of the high school council and published in the *Border Watch* on March 3:

The Mount Gambier High School Council did not favour raising money, to be subsidized for the erection of toilet facilities on the school playing fields, the Chairman (Alderman M. R. Hirth) told the city council on Thursday night. Alderman Hirth said the Government had put up "beautiful facilities" at Millicent High School.

These were constructed without cost to the school council, and Alderman Hirth said that

his committee did not feel it should work to provide money on a subsidized basis in view of what had been done at Millicent. Will the Minister—

The SPEAKER: Order! Is this the second question?

Mr. RALSTON: No, it is the question. Previously I was making an explanation.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member can get away with it this time, but only once.

Mr. RALSTON: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister consider this statement of the high school council when investigating my original question?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Yes. When I replied yesterday I was relying on my memory of the report that I had read from the Director of Education about three months ago, and my statement was slightly inaccurate when I said that the high school council had agreed. What I should have said was that the Director was confident that it would do so. I have now had a look at the report, and apparently that confidence has been misplaced or the prophecy has not been fulfilled. So that I cannot repeat my error I will read from the report dated January 17 in which the Director says:

I certainly agree that if and when change rooms are provided they should include showers and toilets in each case. As you know, there has been considerable discussion and investigation into this matter, and I discussed it with the high school council and Mr. Ralston, M.P., on a visit to Mount Gambier late last year. I pointed out that many other high schools which are faced with a similar need for change rooms have already taken steps to provide these change rooms on a subsidy basis. I pointed out also that the plans which had been drawn by the Department of Public Buildings for change rooms were too large and costly and that they had not been approved. I subsequently had prepared a new statement of requirements for such change rooms and asked the Department of Public Buildings to prepare sketch plans and estimates. When these were received I intended to make a report to you with a suggestion for your consideration on the policy which should be adopted.

In the meantime I have learned that the headmaster of the Mount Gambier High School has been investigating the plans for the change rooms incorporating toilets and showers which have been erected under subsidy at other large high schools. I understand that the headmaster feels sure that he can persuade the school council to accept the sketch plans he is preparing in the light of the experience of other high schools, and that his council will apply for a subsidy on the erection of a boys change room immediately and subsequently a girls change room also.

I only repeat that apparently the confidence has been misplaced. As I often make

prophecies myself that are not fulfilled, I feel a measure of sympathy for the Director and the headmaster in this respect.

#### FORBES PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: On April 9 the Minister of Education was good enough to send me a letter concerning queries I raised last session about the acquisition of further land to relieve congestion at both the Ascot Park and the Forbes Primary Schools. I am sure the Minister agreed with me on this matter. The information now supplied discloses that an area held by the Railways Department in Raglan Street is still to be retained by the department, and that it has also been impossible to obtain three acres of land about a quarter of a mile from the Forbes school. In view of all the circumstances, I am at a loss to see where any vacant land can be made available nearby. Will the Minister inquire into the possibility of having a solid school addition erected at the Forbes Primary School, in order to assist the headmaster and to give the children a chance to use for recreational purposes the land now covered by buildings, as such land is considered vital for this purpose; in other words, an additional permanent school building that will obviate the necessity for all the portable buildings now there?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to investigate this matter once again. I have already stated on several occasions, publicly in this House and elsewhere, that I consider the Forbes Primary School is far too large. It is the biggest primary school in the State, with, I think, more than 1,700 pupils, which I consider is far too large for any school. I also consider that it has far too many portable classrooms. I think it is entirely uneconomic to be building such large schools of portable rooms, because although the initial cost may be comparatively low the annual upkeep is tremendously high. It is also uneconomic from the point of view of the headmaster and the staff. As the Leader knows, I have been endeavouring, through the offices of the department, to find some other suitable land. I would have thought that the Railways Department land was suitable, but unfortunately it is vested not in the Minister of Railways but in the Commissioner of Railways and he has summarily refused to part with it, although no doubt for a good reason. I have no control over the Commissioner, nor has the department, and we have been unsuccessful in finding any other adjoining or adjacent land for this purpose. Therefore, I

feel that the Leader's solution is the best one: we should endeavour, as soon as we can, to build a two-storey solid construction building on the land which is vested in the Minister of Education for that purpose.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Mrs. STEELE: In view of the fact that the Public Buildings Department handles all school buildings, whether they be additions or alterations, as well as building operations for other Government departments, and has thereby had to devise a system of priorities, and in view of the fact, too, that the Education Department has assessed its own urgent requirements also on a priority basis, would it not be in the interests of school requirements generally if the one-time building division of the Education Department again functioned separately instead of being absorbed into or controlled by the Public Buildings Department? I have in mind particularly alterations and additions that are required before certain occupation centres at Barton Terrace and Kings Park can function and so cater for the many children waiting for admission. This is an urgent matter and one in which I am particularly interested. The Minister kindly advised me last week that work had already commenced on the Barton Terrace centre. However, other school projects are being delayed so I ask whether consideration could be given to the building division of the Education Department again functioning independently?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This point frequently comes up. Nearly every department doing a service for another department wants to branch out and have a branch of its own so, if we acceded to this request, it would mean that a multitude of departments would make similar requests. For instance, the Agriculture Department at present does certain services for the Forestry Department, and *vice versa*. We would get all sorts of requests of that description. But, coming to the genesis of the question, every penny provided for the Education Department by Parliament has been spent in accordance with priorities determined by the department. Every year it issues to the Minister of Works a list of the priorities for the schools which it considers to be the most urgent, and the Director of Public Buildings proceeds to erect those schools in the order of priority determined by the Education Department. There is a shortage of technical people, but the splitting up of the department

would not solve the problem. In fact, it would very much accentuate it. I cannot see that there would be any advantage in the proposal of the honourable member.

#### BURRA-HALLETT ROAD.

Mr. QUIRKE: Will the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads in this House, obtain a report from him giving particulars of what work is proposed and how much is to be spent on the main road between Burra and Hallett for the forthcoming financial year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will direct the honourable member's question to my colleague, the Minister of Roads.

#### TANTANOOLA HOUSING.

Mr. CORCORAN: Can the Premier say what is the policy of the Housing Trust in regard to the building of houses at Tantanoola in future and when construction will begin on two single-unit houses promised by the trust to be constructed at Tantanoola? I ask these questions because the applicants I expect to occupy these houses are at the moment living in substandard accommodation.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member's father raised the question of these houses some time ago, and recently I had a report on them. If my memory is correct (I do not want to be too assured on this because much correspondence comes through my office) the Housing Trust said there was a difficulty in getting tenants; but I should like to check it with the honourable member to make sure that I have placed the appropriate correspondence in the correct place. I will write to him in a few days as soon as I get a specific report. The Housing Trust promised to build some houses at Tantanoola. It built some but then transferred the builder to the Millicent area where there was some urgency for additional accommodation. I understand that there is still some of the original promise not fulfilled.

#### CATTLE HIDES.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I noticed from reading the *Advertiser* recently that the Commonwealth Government had decided to prohibit the importation of cattle hides from certain countries with the idea of protecting our industries against an infection of foreign tick. As our local tanneries have to compete with bales for export and the local tanneries provide much employment and, by competition, keep the prices down, has any consideration been given to obtaining a sufficient supply of hides for our local tanners?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am not aware of the present position of our local tanneries but during the war I came into close contact with that problem because we were then fighting for a bigger allocation as all hides were controlled under Commonwealth regulations. A bigger allocation was necessary if the industry was to continue to function successfully here. We had to bring a substantial amount of hides from Queensland. But at that time the hides the industry wanted were not the ones that were ticky. I do not know whether they have altered their habits but they did not want tick-infected hides as they were wasteful and did not provide good quality leather. I will have an investigation made. The principals of some of the tanneries here who can advise the Government will be contacted on this.

#### WHYALLA HOSPITAL.

Mr. LOVEDAY: The Treasurer will be aware of the conversations that took place when he was present at a meeting of the Whyalla City Commission with reference to the use of the commission's borrowing powers to assist the Whyalla Hospital Board in its extension programme. Since then the Whyalla City Commission Act has been amended to permit these borrowing powers to be used. It was said at the original discussions that the commission would be repaid. As a result of subsequent discussions between the hospital board and the commission, it appears apparent that, of the £250,000 approximately required to be borrowed, at least half can be repaid only by means of increasing patients' fees at the hospital. In view of the inadvisability of increasing patients' fees, will the Treasurer have this whole matter reconsidered to see whether something can be done to finance this by other means?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Before I can answer the question it will be necessary for me to examine the scale of fees charged at the hospital at present. The two-for-one subsidy is accepted by subsidized hospitals throughout the State and it does enable the fees to be kept at a moderate level—approximately the same as the charges in Government hospitals. Government and subsidized hospitals are charging approximately the same fees, and Government hospitals, of course, have to meet a considerable expenditure on specialized equipment. I do not know whether the fees at Whyalla are above or below the general standard applying at present. If they are above the standard,

and the proposals mean that they will be further above the standard, it will be a matter for the Government to examine. I will ask the Minister of Health to investigate the position to see whether it is practicable to assist.

#### ANNUAL LEAVE.

Mr. McKEE: Yesterday I asked the Premier a question about an application before the court for three weeks' annual leave for workers. Can he say whether the Government intends to support the application on behalf of South Australian workers?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have received a report as follows:

Mr. McKee asked the Premier yesterday in the House of Assembly the Government's intentions concerning the granting of three weeks' annual leave to South Australian workers. The policy of the Government in the past has been that the regulation of wages and conditions of employment are matters which should be dealt with by the appropriate tribunal and not by legislation. There is a union application for three weeks' annual leave to be granted to all employees subject to the Metal Trades Federal Award at present being heard by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

The Government has not decided at present to intervene in that case. I am not sure whether we are a party to it in any event. I should think that the great majority of Government servants now have three weeks' leave and some more. As a matter of policy I will examine whether there is any need for the Government to be represented in the case the honourable member mentioned. Incidentally, I heard over the radio this morning that the Victorian Government had intervened in this case to oppose the application, although I do not know on what grounds. I will make further investigations and inform the honourable member in due course as to what action, if any, the Government will take.

#### GILLMAN INDUSTRIAL SITES.

Mr. RYAN: I have been informed that under the Greater Port Adelaide Plan much land has been made available for industrial projects at Gillman. However, I have been told that the necessary facilities to enable the introduction of new industries to that area are not available. Can the Minister of Works say when sewerage will be connected to this industrial area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: It is news to me that the necessary facilities to enable industries to be established at Gillman have

not been available, because, as I understand the position, the requirements of all industries concerned have been met. We have land that could be made available at short notice to any industry wishing to establish at Gillman. We have raised the level of the land, constructed necessary roadways, and provided facilities so that industries can see what is available when they examine the area. I do not know of any case where an industry has been obstructed or prevented from obtaining all the land it needs to establish itself in the Gillman area. In the happy event of our being hard pressed to supply sites because of the number of industries applying, the work would be expedited to meet the demand.

#### SALES TAX.

Mr. LAUCKE: I appreciate that this Government has no jurisdiction over sales tax, but I seek the Premier's assistance in bringing to the notice of the Commonwealth Government what I regard as anomalies in the application of sales tax. It is incongruous that flour, sugar, and dried fruits should be free of sales tax, yet basic foodstuffs made from these ingredients collectively should carry a sales tax of 12½ per cent. Plain bread is rightly free of sales tax, but bread containing Australian dried fruits is taxable and this is detrimental to our dried fruits industry. Yeast buns containing currants are a popular lunch time food for schoolchildren and I understand that the baking industry is more than willing to reduce the retail price of these goods by the amount of any possible sales tax reduction that might be made. A baker in my electorate who supplies yeast buns to a school tuckshop informs me that of the £80 sales tax he pays, £60 is related to yeast goods supplied to schoolchildren. It is obvious that such a tax is a direct impost on schoolchildren. Will the Premier take up with the appropriate authority in Canberra the question of removing sales tax on the items to which I have referred?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, I shall be pleased to do that. I have always held the view that foodstuffs and commodities that should be available to the ordinary families should not be subject to sales tax. That would be a wrong principle of taxation. I will take this up with the Commonwealth Treasurer and communicate with the honourable member in due course.

#### EGGS.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Minister of Agriculture will recall that last year the member for Barossa and I drew his attention to the state of the egg industry throughout the Commonwealth. I understand that the position has not improved, that there is much controversy between the various State Egg Boards, and that in Victoria at present a price war over the sale of eggs is proceeding between private dealers and the Egg Board. I read in the press recently that a committee will meet here soon to discuss the possibility of an Australian Egg Board rather than State Egg Boards. This has been mooted in other States before, but I believe that a similar conference resulted in a fiasco. Can the Minister of Agriculture indicate whether State Ministers of Agriculture have met to discuss this question and whether they are prepared to take steps on a Ministerial basis to try to improve the position regarding the sale of eggs?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The various Ministers have got together on a couple of occasions (I went to Sydney twice last year on this matter) and as a result a new organization has been formed. It is a combination of the Egg Marketing Boards of the various States and is called the Commonwealth Egg Marketing Association. That is working not towards an Australian Egg Board but towards an agreement between the State egg authorities. The things it has been aiming at are uniform prices for eggs in the various capitals and uniform prices for pulp. As yet, it has not achieved its objectives. The disagreement is not as bad as it was; I do not think it is correct to say that it is worse, however. The overall position of the egg industry is not good. The overseas market is poor and, as a result, although poultry producers have not felt the full force of it, on present indications things will get worse rather than better. The net return to producers in South Australia is higher than in many other States. It is considerably higher than the return in the Eastern States, but, despite this, the position is not a happy one.

As the honourable member mentioned, a conference will be held in Adelaide next month by this marketing authority. I shall be attending the opening although I shall not be attending to take part in discussions. However, we shall be able to get the most up-to-date information for the honourable member and at the same time may be able to offer a

little advice while the conference is proceeding. The disagreements that existed in the past still exist to a considerable extent. Things are better than they were, but we are far from reaching agreement, and the overall commercial position of the egg industry is not optimistic at present.

Mr. LAUCKE: The Minister said that the egg industry was faced with serious difficulties in respect of the disposal of production overseas. Have investigations been made into the egg market potential of Indonesia and Malaya and other Asiatic countries since the House last met?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I shall obtain a report on that matter from the Chairman of the Egg Board and let the honourable member know.

#### HAWKER WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. CASEY: I understand that the Minister of Works, following on my representations to him during the last session and my suggestions since to the Engineering and Water Supply Department, has a report on the proposed improvement of the Hawker water supply. Will he give that report?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Improvements to the supply take two or three forms, to which I shall refer briefly. The recent rains provided us with some relief and there was an intake into the Hawker township reservoir that should last until the end of next month. Also, I have given approval for an expenditure of £5,000 to be used immediately for cleaning out the old reservoir, which will be done shortly. The pumping plant on the departmental bore at the old site is being overhauled. The bore is unsatisfactory and is causing much trouble because of sand and so on, but it may have to be called into operation to assist when the reservoir supply runs low. It is being prepared with that object in view.

There are several proposals for further bores, and I am able to advise the honourable member that arrangements have been made for the Engineer of the Northern Water District (Mr. Steele, at Crystal Brook) to confer with the boring contractor (Mr. Thomas) who thinks he can offer some assistance in this matter. Mr. Thomas will visit with him and inspect the sites he proposes, and the Mines Department geologist will look at them and, if there is any reasonable prospect in the opinion of the geologist that a useful supply can be located, the department will either bore on that site or be prepared to discuss a contract with Mr. Thomas.

#### SEMAPHORE SOUTH SEWERAGE.

Mr. TAPPING: On several occasions in this House I have mentioned the need for sewerage in the Semaphore South area, but I have been told that this is impossible because many difficulties must be surmounted. I have been informed that recently the Government entered into a contract and agreement with Ocean Developments Ltd. for sewerage in the Semaphore South area, which will involve the building of about 200 houses. This has brought about a cry from people in the area who believe that they, as well as this firm, should have had some attention. Can the Minister of Works say what progress has been made or is contemplated regarding sewerage of this area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will address myself first to the comment that the older residents feel that undue priority is being given to a new development company. In the case of the agreement with Ocean Developments Ltd. and with other people subdividing new areas, the developing company provides the capital for doing the work. This is obviously to the advantage of all concerned—to the department in particular, as well as to the people purchasing the new houses. However, in general, I can advise the honourable member that the whole of this land is low-lying and water-logged and consequently construction costs would be high. The Engineer for Sewerage states that in general the area would be served by numerous pumping stations, but because of the cost involved some special financial arrangement such as a special minimum rate or a higher sewerage rate would be necessary. Subject to a satisfactory agreement being entered into with Ocean Developments Ltd., it is proposed to commence the construction of sewers for the land on which this company proposes to build houses, but this proposal would serve this subdivision only. However, the scheme to serve the Ocean Developments subdivision will conform to the pattern of proposals for the ultimate sewerage of the whole of the Semaphore South area. Sewerage of the area embraced within the original scheme can now be carried out only as a portion of a larger composite scheme which would also serve the land covered by the proposal of Ocean Developments Ltd., the Housing Trust and the Harbors Board. Until definite information is available in regard thereto, it will not be possible to plan for the whole area.

## OAKLANDS ESTATE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I understand that a certain area of the Oaklands Park estate was reserved for a hospital site and that another section was to be transferred to the Tourist Bureau for use as a public reserve. Has the Premier any information about that land?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government purchased this land some years ago with, I believe, two purposes in mind: one was to reserve an area for hospital purposes and the other was to set aside a section for recreational purposes. It is on that latter point that I presume the Leader has directed his question.

Mr. Frank Walsh: Both.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I cannot give an answer to the first part of the question because that does not come within my department. The land referred to has since been leased for private occupation pending its being used for the purpose required. The matter has now been the subject of an investigation by the Director of the Tourist Bureau; he has sent me a recommendation, which I have approved, to the effect that the lease be extended for only one year pending his having the opportunity of discussing the permanent control of the area with the local government body in the district. If some satisfactory arrangement could be made I would consider that it would be a good thing to transfer the area to the local government authority so that it would have control over it.

Mr. Frank Walsh: The council is willing to accept any land.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Director will be getting in touch with the local government authority on the matter and I think that that would be the appropriate way to handle it. I will advise the Leader before any further decision is made so that if he has any further comment to make upon it he will have the opportunity to do so.

## CLARE HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. QUIRKE: As a member of the Public Works Committee I am well aware of the enormous task confronting the Education Department in the provision of schools, both in the country and in the city. However, I make a plea for early consideration to be given to the provision of a new high school at Clare. As the Minister of Education knows, the proposal is to use the existing primary and high schools as a two-part primary

school, and to build an entirely new high school, the land for which has been purchased. This is becoming an urgent matter, because the primary school is bursting its seams and there is practically no playing ground left. When either school wants recreation it pays a small rental for the Clare oval, but the children have to cross the main road and doing so today is a hazardous affair. Apart from this hazard, the schools are now overcrowded and an increasing number of children are attending the high school. Can the Minister say whether consideration will be given in this year's Estimates for the early building of the projected new high school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The honourable member has previously made out a strong case for the construction of the new high school at Clare and he has reinforced his claim today. I am well aware of the urgency involved, and I am anxious to give effect to the proposal as soon as possible. I am asking the Director of Education to make out his list of priorities, and I shall be examining them as soon as possible in the recess; and if it is possible to include the Clare High School in the Estimates for the coming year I shall be almost as pleased as the honourable member himself.

## INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT.

Mr. BYWATERS: In the Premier's policy speech and in His Excellency the Governor's Speech attention was drawn to the fact that a new department was being established to assist industries to go into the country. Can the Premier say what provisions are to be made in this department to assist country industries committees to present a case to the department, and also whether opportunities will be given to those committees in country areas to gain knowledge of when industries are available or interested in coming to South Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This will, of course, be the subject of legislation. Speaking in broad terms, it is desired to give every assistance to the establishment of industry in country areas. The precise nature of the legislation will be the subject of a Bill in due course.

## ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES.

Mr. HARDING: In His Excellency the Governor's Speech a reference was made to a redistribution of electoral districts, and I assume that the Government will bring down

legislation dealing with the redistribution in the coming session. Can the Premier say whether that is so?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No doubt the honourable member has seen the remarks contained in the Speech to which he referred. Obviously, it will be necessary for the Government to introduce a Bill on this matter, but I hope that it will be possible to discuss the matter with the Leader and perhaps a committee of members from his Party before legislation is prepared. I hope the Bill will be introduced this session.

#### CHAFFEY DRAINAGE.

Mr. CURREN: Can the Minister of Irrigation say what progress has been made with the proposed comprehensive drainage scheme for the Chaffey irrigation area in the Renmark district?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS: Early in the new year, in company with the then member for the district, I had discussions with settlers, and subsequently I arranged with the Engineer-in-Chief for tenders for excavating trenches and laying drains and rising mains, and for constructing reinforced concrete caissons, to be called at the earliest possible date. The tenders closed on March 29. Tenders have been received and are now being considered. A decision will be given as soon as possible.

#### TAPEROO SCHOOL.

Mr. TAPPING: I received a letter this morning from the Chairman of the Taperoo Primary School Committee in which he complains of the lack of accommodation and amenities at this school. The letter included the following paragraph:

Lavatory accommodation at the school is also inadequate and is causing some concern to parents. Six lavatories only are provided for a total of 383 boys and nine only for a total of 368 girls. There are no separate lavatories for the teaching staff.

The repeated replies received from the Education Department over a period of three to four years is that the situation will be

improved when a new school building block is provided at the school, but no start has yet been made on this project and we have no knowledge of when a start will be made.

Can the Minister of Education comment on the letter, and if not will he obtain a report for me for submission to the school committee?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I do not think I can usefully comment on the letter at this stage other than to confirm that it is intended to erect a new primary school for Taperoo, but like so many others, a start on it has been delayed. It seems to me that the lavatory accommodation, as outlined in the letter, is inadequate. I am totally opposed to the staff at these schools having to share lavatories with pupils, and now that the matter has been brought to my attention I will endeavour to see whether temporary improvement can be made in the meantime. I will have the whole matter examined and will report to the honourable member as soon as possible.

#### ELECTION OF SENATOR.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the minutes of proceedings of the joint sitting of the two Houses this day to choose a Senator to hold the position rendered vacant by the resignation of Nancy Eileen Buttfield, at which Mr. Gordon Sinclair Davidson had been chosen.

Ordered to be printed.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

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

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved: That the House at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday, July 17, at 2 p.m.

Motion carried.

At 3.50 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 17, at 2 p.m.