

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, October 11, 1962.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, intimated the Governor's assent to the following Bills:

Bulk Handling of Grain Act Amendment,
Oriental Fruit Moth Control.

QUESTIONS.

FLY MENACE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: My question relates to the fly menace. The local boards of health in suburban and country areas have their own views about the care and attention of horses. Representations have been made to me by a responsible organization that it desires to do everything possible to assist in combating the fly menace but it finds that each council has its own way of dealing with this problem. Will the Premier obtain a report, through the Minister of Health, from the Central Board of Health on the possibility of determining a uniform policy so that horse owners and trainers may be assisted in combating the menace from flies?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

LAND TAX

Mr. NANKIVELL: On September 19, in replying in the debate on the Leader of the Opposition's motion calling for the establishment of a Parliamentary committee to inquire into land tax valuations, the Premier indicated that he would be prepared to set up an independent inquiry under the chairmanship of an outside authority and he mentioned Sir George Ligertwood. I understand that this matter has been further considered. Will the Premier report to the House?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As promised, this matter has been taken further since the motion was discussed here, and with the exception of one small detail relating to terms of reference the formal appointment of the committee is ready. The Leader proposed terms of reference in his motion. They are being examined to determine whether they cover all matters we want considered. They are probably adequate for the purpose. So far as the actual committee is concerned, Sir George Ligertwood (a former judge of the Supreme Court) has agreed to act as Chairman; and Messrs. Tyler (a former Town Clerk

of the Enfield corporation), Reiners (a former Commissioner of Land Tax, who has had a wide experience of assessments), and Tom Shanahan (a primary producer), have consented to become members. I should think that the committee would be formally appointed next Monday.

ALLPEST (S.A.).

Mr. JENNINGS: I have asked the Minister of Education several questions about what I would describe as the nefarious activities of a firm known as Allpest (S.A.). The member for Whyalla (Mr. Loveday) has also interested himself in this matter. I believe that the Minister now has a reply from the Attorney-General and I ask him to give it to the House.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Attorney-General has supplied the following reply:

Several complaints regarding the activities of this firm have been received, and at the present time the police are making detailed investigations into these complaints. As soon as they are in a position to do so, the police will let me know the result of their investigations.

Mr. Curtis, one of the proprietors of this organization in South Australia, called to see me at Parliament House today, and just before lunch he handed me a statement that he asked me to read in reply to any questions, as his firm's name had been mentioned in Parliament and had also been published in the press. The statement is as follows:

As certain aspects of the matters arising out of statements by Messrs. Loveday and Jennings are the subject of a current libel action being prosecuted in the Supreme Court against *Truth* newspaper, the firm is unable to make public statements about the position. However, it desires to make these comments in answer to the recent allegations put forward by Mr. Jennings:

(a) His statement that "this firm has been kicked out of several States and has finally foisted itself on this State" is at complete variance with the facts. Allpest is an extension of a similar parent business which operated in Western Australia and which is still carrying on its operations there. Other extensions of the business have recently been made in the Eastern States. In no State has any action whatsoever been taken against the above businesses nor indeed has there been any ground for the taking of any such action.

(b) In no case has there been any misrepresentation to householders, and Mr. Loveday has already been invited to produce any specific instance of improper conduct. His initial complaint related to a Housing Trust house at Whyalla where clear evidence of white ant activity was found and the householder was taken under the house and shown the white ant leads and galleries. In other cases rival

extermination firms have deliberately been endeavouring to spread false rumours against Allpest in an endeavour to eliminate a new competitor in their field. They have even gone to the lengths of following Allpest operators on their rounds.

I merely read the statement without comment. However, I considered that, as I was a party in answering the question and allowing the name of this firm to be published in the newspapers, I could accede to the request of this gentleman to read that statement, together with that of the Attorney-General.

Mr. LOVEDAY: In view of the Minister's statement, will he read to the House the report of the Housing Trust inspectors who examined the house in question?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have not that information, but I will refer the question to the Premier, who may reply to it on Tuesday.

Mr. RICHES: I direct my question to the member for Whyalla (Mr. Loveday) and ask him whether any statement that he has made about the extermination of white ants is in fact subject to any libel action, and whether it is not a fact that the house that he referred to in this Chamber was reported on by Allpest as being affected by white ants and was subsequently found by Housing Trust officers not to be affected at all?

Mr. LOVEDAY: It is not true that I have been involved in any libel action by Allpest—

The SPEAKER: You mean, outside this Chamber?

Mr. LOVEDAY: —but I have been informed by a representative of *Truth* that that newspaper will probably have a libel action brought against it by Allpest and, insofar as I have mentioned Whyalla, the fact is that the Housing Trust inspectors who inspected that property have said that, in their opinion and as a result of their most careful inspection, there was no reason whatsoever for that house to be treated against white ants. There is no doubt whatever that that is the fact.

NEMATODES.

Mr. LAUCKE: Has the Minister of Agriculture had referred to him the matter of nematode damage to grape vines, particularly in light sandy soils? I understand that in some instances infestation is so bad that affected vines can be pulled out of the ground easily. Will the Minister obtain a report from his viticultural advisers as to the extent of infestation in the various vineyard areas of South Australia, and will he also ascertain whether research is being conducted in South

Australia to control nematodes in our vineyards?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

RAILWAY VANDALISM.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: A report in this morning's newspaper refers to vandalism on last Tuesday's 7.28 goods train to Melbourne. This incident is serious in itself and more serious still, I suggest, in its implications regarding the safety of goods consigned by rail. Can the Premier, as Acting Minister of Railways, say what steps are taken to prevent such vandalism, and whether as a result of the incident on Tuesday any further steps will be taken to prevent a recurrence?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I know the honourable member realizes that the Railways Department has its own trained staff to attend to these matters. I read the newspaper report, but it appeared that this act was obviously the irresponsible work of a larrikin element rather than a serious attempt to burgle the train, because goods were strewn over a long distance and many of them suffered damage by being dumped from a moving train. Certain things cannot be thrown from a moving train without being damaged. For instance, a bottle of beer is not very good afterwards. I assure the honourable member that the Railways Commissioner will take adequate steps in the matter. I only regret that the incident happened in the honourable member's district.

UNDER-PASSES.

Mr. TAPPING: I understand that the Minister of Education has a report concerning a question I asked some weeks ago about the possibility of constructing under-passes on main roads near schools in South Australia.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I think this matter probably concerns my colleague, the Minister of Roads, rather than myself. However, I will read a report which I have received from the Education Department, which reads, *inter alia*, as follows:

The value and need of under-passes or over-passes for pedestrians' use has received a considerable amount of attention especially in overseas countries. Mr. W. C. D. Veale (Town Clerk of Adelaide) in his 1959 report following his 1957 overseas visit stated, in connection with pedestrian traffic: "Sub-ways and over-ways have been constructed throughout the length and breadth of the United States, in Great Britain and on the continent. More than 200 pedestrian sub-ways have been constructed in Los Angeles alone." This statement refers to facilities for the use of all pedestrians including both adults and schoolchildren. In Tasmania, two over-passes, locally called "cat-walks", have been constructed for use by

schoolchildren, but the provision of such facilities does not appear to have extended beyond the experimental stage.

There are certain disadvantages associated with these walk-ways. To the initial cost is added the expense of upkeep, cleaning, lighting and drainage by local councils, and the police dislike the possibility of interference by loiterers in the under-passes. If they are provided only for the use of schoolchildren, some authority must be made responsible for unlocking and locking the under-passes, and for supervising their use. Mr. Veale's report states: "It was generally confirmed that the pedestrian avoided using both the sub-way and the over-way as much as possible, only doing so to cross under or over major road-ways such as the Lake Shore Drive in Chicago and East River Drive, New York." In Tasmania also it has been found that pedestrians, including parents, bringing their children to school or meeting them after school, tend to ignore the over-passes, thus setting a bad example to their children. On the other hand, it must be admitted that the five specially designed concrete over-passes spanning the Kwinana free way alongside the Swan River in Perth are well used, but of necessity. The traffic using the free-way is encouraged to travel at 50 m.p.h. and high wire mesh fences prevent pedestrians from crossing it at ground level, so that all people wishing to travel from the residential areas to the beach must use the over-passes. I am not sure that many places exist in the metropolitan area of Adelaide with sufficiently dense traffic to warrant the cost of providing under-passes or over-passes. At present the pedestrians, including schoolchildren, are assisted in their safe crossing of roads by the provision of school crossings marked by painted lines on the road-surface, monitored by selected schoolchildren and indicated by flashing amber lights or controlled by press button operated red and green lights. Most of these have not been in existence for any great length of time, but experience so far has shown that they are successful, and as far as the crossings controlled by school monitors are concerned, no accidents have been reported.

MYPONGA RESERVOIR.

Mr. JENKINS: The Myponga reservoir, which is in the district represented by the Minister of Agriculture, is a fine stretch of water and an excellent tourist attraction. I have visited it frequently and have noticed many wild ducks on the water and around the banks. Will the Minister of Works say whether an area automatically becomes a sanctuary or a reserve when a reservoir is established and, if it does not, will he take steps to have this area so declared? Will he also see whether trees can be planted around the high water mark to enhance the reservoir's attractiveness?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: It is the policy of the Engineering and Water Supply Department that its major works shall be avail-

able to the public, visitors, tourists and people who may want to spend a pleasant weekend or afternoon inspecting them. To that end, facilities have been provided at all our reservoirs, and are being provided at Myponga, to enable visitors to see the reservoir in its various aspects. I regret to inform the honourable member, however, that duck-shooting will not be permitted there. Although reservoir properties are not automatically declared sanctuaries, they are property within the provisions of the Waterworks Act and any person trespassing on such property is liable to prosecution. Notices to that effect are erected in prominent positions around reservoirs and other waterworks properties, so whether or not the properties are bird sanctuaries does not apply in relation to the safety of the ducks: anyone shooting ducks would be trespassing and therefore liable to prosecution. Where birds become a nuisance by fouling the water (as some of the larger birds do) and where they are fully protected under the Animals and Birds Protection Act the Fisheries and Game Department is always contacted by the Engineering and Water Supply Department before action is taken to eradicate the nuisance. Where large areas such as Millbrook, Happy Valley and other reservoirs I could name are concerned, it is the policy of the Engineering and Water Supply Department to invite the Woods and Forests Department to establish plantations of pines. They serve a useful purpose as they preserve the area, enhance its beauty, and have some commercial value. I have no doubt that in due course this process will be repeated at Myponga.

BANK CHARGES.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Has the Premier anything further to report in reply to a question I asked on Tuesday regarding bank charges, particularly in relation to pensioners' cheques?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When the honourable member asked his question, he mentioned it in association (I do not know whether it was a direct association) with Savings Bank charges, and as a consequence I have taken up this matter with the Savings Bank. The Under Treasurer reports:

The Savings Bank of South Australia has advised that it will cash pension and social services cheques without charge at any branch of the bank where the payee is known or can be identified. No charge will be made either for cashing or for depositing such cheques in the pensioner's account for collection.

The honourable member will see that the Savings Bank will, without charge, handle all

pensioners' cheques if they are having any difficulty in cashing them.

ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH.

Mr. CURREN: Yesterday, in company with the Hon. C. R. Story, I had a discussion with the Minister of Agriculture regarding financial assistance for the eradication of oriental fruit moth in the Renmark district. Can the Minister make any statement following on that discussion?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Following on the discussion to which the honourable member referred, as promised I reconsidered the whole matter. The request was that financial assistance be given in regard to spraying these pests or that assistance be given to producers. Having considered all the matters, I have found it completely impracticable to change the previous decision, which was that no further funds could be granted. The disease is not at this stage one which could be eradicated immediately by act of the Government. I undertook earlier in the year to have legislation introduced into Parliament to enable the producers to tackle this on a community basis, and that has been done. The Bill was assented to in Executive Council today and has become law, so there is now nothing to prevent producers from going ahead and applying for it to operate. If they wish to do that, I shall assist them in every way in relation to a poll of growers and other necessary matters. It is clearly a matter where the financial burden should rest, as with other diseases that have become established, on the growers themselves. They cannot expect assistance from the Government in their normal programme. Government assistance is given freely where there is a chance to stop a disease from becoming established. I refer, for instance, to the £2,000,000 spent on fruit fly prevention in South Australia and the large sums used to prevent noogoora burr from becoming established. They are instances where the Government can assist, but I regret it is not possible to assist in this case.

HOTEL LICENCES.

Mr. QUIRKE: As I have mentioned previously, small hotels in country districts have to pay licence fees based on rates paid. These rates are often levied on high-priced land which is sparsely populated with the result that many small hotels are paying rates out of all proportion to the business done and to the licence fees paid by big

hotels in city areas. Can the Premier say whether anything has been done, since this matter was raised over two years ago, to ameliorate the position, particularly for the small hotel keepers in country areas?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Under the Licensing Act the amounts charged rise steeply if the value of the property exceeds a certain figure. What the honourable member says is true. Some cases that have been thoroughly investigated show clearly that the licence fee is out of all proportion to the value of the business conducted in the premises. The Government does not desire to introduce an amendment to the Licensing Act this year. In the first place, we are not ready to do that and in any case the legislative programme is so heavy that I doubt very much whether it would be possible to introduce such legislation this year. However, negotiations have been proceeding with the president of the hotels' association for some time and he has promised to send me suggestions for the alleviation of this problem. When I receive that report I shall inform the honourable member what specific action the Government can take.

VICTORIAN DAM.

Mr. BYWATERS: I have been told that the Victorian Government intends to build on the Goulburn River a dam that will supply water to Melbourne. Has the Premier any knowledge of this and can he say whether it will in any way affect the Chowilla dam proposal?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have some knowledge of this matter which is at present contentious in Victoria. Victoria (and Melbourne in particular) is reaching the stage where water supplies are becoming a problem. I think that last year, for the first time for many years, Melbourne had water restrictions imposed. I understand that this year there will not be restrictions, but the fact remains that Melbourne is reaching the position where the present water supply will be inadequate for the future. With a view to alleviating that shortage, discussions have taken place about a dam, as stated by the honourable member. The Victorian Government will have every right, under the River Murray Waters Agreement, to construct such a dam if it sees fit. Victoria's and New South Wales' obligation on South Australia is, in a normal year, to let pass

625,000 acre-feet of water each but the source of that supply and the methods by which they supply it are matters entirely for the individual State concerned. They are obliged to send down 1,250,000 acre-feet a year from the two rivers. It would have no effect on the proposed Chowilla dam except that all the diversions being made from the River Murray and the River Darling, or any of their tributaries, make the Chowilla dam project more essential. It does not have the effect of making the project inoperative; it makes it more urgent because any diversions upstream obviously affect the volume of water reaching South Australia.

The answer, therefore, is that the Victorian Government has every right to construct such a dam if it sees fit, and no action can properly be taken by South Australia in that matter. On the other hand, every diversion, even the lake that is being created in Canberra, has a bearing on the volume of water coming to South Australia and accentuates the problem with which we shall be faced in the future. We are keenly conscious of this problem and it makes it only all the more essential for the Chowilla dam project to be proceeded with.

THEBARTON GIRLS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. LAWN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to a question I asked on September 20 about the Thebarton Girls Technical High School?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I am pleased to inform the honourable member that the old house and shops fronting Henley Beach Road are to be removed as soon as a tender has been let for the erection of the new domestic arts centre, but that the two-storey property now used as a gymnasium is to be retained, at any rate temporarily. It has recently been painted by the Public Buildings Department and, as it is providing very good accommodation, the headmistress does not want it to be removed at present.

ABATTOIRS LICENCE.

Mr. McKEE: I refer to a statement in today's *News* that there were 12 applicants for licences for abattoirs in the metropolitan area. Can the Minister of Agriculture say at this stage what will be the basis of selection of the successful applicants?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have not had the advantage of seeing the press statement to which the honourable member refers

but, if he says it states that there are 12 applicants for licences to slaughter in the metropolitan area, that is not necessarily correct.

Mr. McKee: There were 12 applications, but they could be spread throughout the State.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Since the legislation was introduced into this House I have been approached by many people interested in the possibility of obtaining licences. Some approaches could be construed as applications and others as expressions of interest. In all instances I have said, "I cannot give you any definite information on your prospects of obtaining a licence. I suggest that you write me a letter expressing your interest and including any other information that you wish to put before me. Assuming the legislation becomes law, a committee will be appointed to assist me in the selection of the licensees." I have already referred to that committee in the House and I shall not do so in detail again. That is the advice I have given persons who have approached me in this regard.

CASUALTY TREATMENT.

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on September 20 regarding the transfer of injured persons from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to the Royal Adelaide Hospital?

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

The daily average bed occupancy at this hospital is 90 per cent. This means that often the actual occupancy reaches 100 per cent. A patient is never transferred to another place if a bed is available at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. If Mr. Langley has evidence of a specific case, however, I should be very glad to have the details so that I may investigate it.

LOCOMOTIVES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I understand that the Premier has a reply to the question I asked on October 4 about tenders for diesel-electric locomotives.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Railways Commissioner reports:

Alternative tenders have been called for either three diesel shunt locomotives complete, or power equipment controls and associated equipment for three diesel shunt locomotives. In the event of satisfactory tenders being received for the second alternative, the Chief Mechanical Engineer will submit an estimate of the cost of building the locomotives at Islington, to house the equipment as tendered.

This estimate will be compared with the tenders received for the supply of the locomotives complete, and a decision will be made at that time.

WHEAT CROP COMPETITION.

Mr. NANKIVELL: On October 2 I asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he would obtain from the Agriculture Department a report on the advisability of re-establishing a State wheat crop competition and I understand he now has a reply.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Director of Agriculture reports:

The State wheat crop competition and the State quality competition were discontinued in 1961 because in the opinion of the Advisory Board of Agriculture the small number of entries received no longer adequately represented the main State wheatgrowing areas. This decision was made after an invitation to individual bureau branches to submit their best crop for competition had failed to produce representative entries in 1960. Recently the department has introduced a scheme for the production of seed wheat through registered growers which should do much to encourage adoption of new varieties and lift the standard of purity of existing varieties.

The department is at present developing a campaign which aims at reducing the number of wheat varieties grown by farmers and encouraging the growing of recommended varieties in specified districts. It is expected that this campaign will assist wheat marketing and encourage the growing of higher yielding varieties. The department still supports wheat crop competitions by providing judges for the best crop in any district. One district has asked for this assistance in 1962 and it is expected that at least two other requests will be received.

SCHOOL OF ART.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question concerning certain incidents at the School of Art?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. First, my colleague, the Attorney-General, has advised me as follows:

The Public Service Commissioner is engaged in the hearing and determination of an appeal against dismissal of a member of the staff of the Education Department. The Public Service Commissioner is the authority appointed under the Education Act to hear such appeals, and discussion of a matter which is *sub judice* is improper. I have no reason to doubt that the appeal is being conducted with due propriety and in accordance with the requirements of justice, or that the appellant has had and will have every opportunity to place relevant facts before the Commissioner.

I have also received a report from the Deputy Director of Education, as follows:

Six students in the second year fine arts diploma course complained by letter of danger-

ous working conditions and the unhygienic condition of the toilets. The northern half of the Exhibition Building has recently been demolished to make way for university extensions. For two weeks certain classrooms used by the School of Art were separated from the section being demolished by a temporary sisalkraft screen supported by a steel scaffolding. As the gap between the edge of the floor and the screen about one foot wide was alleged to be dangerous, action was promptly taken to replace the sisalkraft screen with a timber frame masonite partition and to fill the gap. The female toilets, taken over from the Technical Correspondence School, which has vacated the Exhibition Building, have been improved and these facilities are now considered to be adequate and in good condition.

LIBRARIES.

Mr. LAUCKE: Can the Minister of Education say when he intends to call representatives of the Libraries Board and the Institutes Association of South Australia into conference to discuss the vexed question of closer working between the municipal free libraries and the institutes' subscription libraries system?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The honourable member is doubtless aware that in addition to my Ministerial and Parliamentary duties I have been involved in a heavy round of public engagements. I am anxious to call this conference as soon as possible because I know that the honourable member and the members for Gouger (Mr. Hall) and Murray (Mr. Bywaters)—and, indeed, several other country members—are greatly interested in this matter, as well as members of the committees of several country institutes and also the council of the Institutes Association. Tomorrow I am having a first informal discussion with the Chairman and members of the Libraries Board, and as a result of that discussion I shall endeavour to arrange for a conference at a mutually convenient time for the interested parties. I am hoping that will be held soon.

CIGARETTE PRICES.

Mr. LANGLEY: I believe the Premier has a reply to my question concerning cigarette prices and the stopping of supplies to some business people.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Prices Commissioner reports:

A conference concerning price cutting on cigarettes was held at the Prices Department

last month with representatives of two of the largest cigarette manufacturers, the Retail Tobacco Sellers Association, the S.A. Mixed Businesses Association, and the Retail Storekeepers Association. It was generally agreed by the representatives that price cutting on cigarettes was undesirable and detrimental to the interests of small shopkeepers, particularly those relying to a fairly large extent on the sale of cigarettes for a living. The whole position regarding cigarette price cutting and the withholding of supplies by manufacturers in some instances was discussed at some length, and at the conclusion of the conference it was agreed that all concerned would give the matter further consideration and meet again at the Prices Department within a few weeks. Up to the present, no shopkeepers who have been price cutting and may have had their supplies withheld have indicated to the department that they are without stocks of cigarettes.

COMAUM SCHOOL RESIDENCE.

Mr. HARDING: I have received a letter from the Superintendent of Rural Schools regarding the transfer of a Radium Hill house to Comaum for a school residence. Has the Minister of Education a report on this matter?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Director of the Public Buildings Department states that a contract has been let for the removal of a residence from Radium Hill and for its re-erection at Comaum. The contractor is due to commence work at Comaum on October 27 and to finish a month later, on November 27.

ROAD CONSOLIDATION.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Over the weekend, when it was necessary for me to pay a visit to a portion of my district, an alderman who was accompanying me drew my attention to work being performed by the Engineering and Water Supply Department on road reconditioning following excavations. It did appear to me that material had been wasted, because the filling in had not been satisfactorily done and was subsiding. Will the Minister of Works ensure that the department insists on a better consolidation in the remainder of the area concerned prior to regrading the surface?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The question raised by the Leader is one that is a cause of continual concern to the department and also to the local councils whose roadways are disturbed by main and service laying operations. It is a matter on which the Engineer-in-Chief is conducting continual research to see how the problem of consolidation can be overcome. I know the Leader will appreciate that when a comparatively narrow trench is made in what is otherwise very much consolidated soil, it is very difficult indeed to obtain an equivalent

degree of consolidation when the back-filling is done, because of the depth of the cut very often and the fact that only a narrow area is available in which to work and heavy consolidating machinery cannot be used in such a narrow and confined space. Therefore, it seems inevitable, despite the great research being done in the matter and the use of the most modern ramming and consolidating machinery available, that the consolidation of the back-fill will take some time to reach that same degree of density as the surrounding soil. Therefore, it seems inevitable that the first back-filling that is done, having been used by traffic for some while, will keep on sinking until a greater degree of density has been achieved. This means much work for the department in continually watching and adding to the back-fill and consolidating further as it goes down, and even after it is considered to be fairly well settled and the top coat is replaced, quite frequently, as the Leader has suggested in this case, further subsidence occurs. I shall gladly bring the matter to the notice of the Engineer-in-Chief and ask him to report to me upon it. The statement I have made only sets out the difficulties which I know to be extant in the matter and which I think the Leader already appreciates. We will do our best to overcome the situation and improve it as time goes on.

BRICKWORKS.

Mr. LAUCKE: The announcement by Mr. Reg Hallett, a director of a company formed by Brick Industries Ltd. (of Victoria) and J. Hallett & Son Ltd. (of Adelaide), that construction of their new brickworks at Golden Grove to cost £400,000 would begin this month, is very pleasing to me and to the good folk in my district. It is expected that production of bricks will begin by November next year. I realize that the Minister is well aware of the needs of this industry in respect to water supply, following representations made to him in this matter. Can he say to what stage plans have gone to ensure adequate supply as and when required by this new industry?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am aware of the project. The honourable member has previously addressed himself to me in writing on it. The matter has been referred to the Engineer-in-Chief as a matter of urgency to investigate the position and to report, but I have not yet received his report. Having now been asked the question again, I will ask the Engineer-in-Chief to expedite his report if that is possible.

POISONS CENTRE.

Mr. RICHES: Has the Premier yet received a reply from the Minister of Health regarding the establishment of a poisons centre at the Royal Adelaide Hospital or at some other appropriate centre in South Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No. The matter is before Cabinet, but as the honourable member knows there was a holiday this week and the normal sitting of Cabinet was somewhat disrupted; only part of the business before it was dealt with. I shall inform the honourable member as soon as I receive a report.

COOPER PEDY MEDICAL SERVICE.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary, an answer to my recent question regarding the provision of a medical service at Coober Pedy?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Director-General of Medical Services reports:

A request has been received from the Coober Pedy Progress Association for State Government assistance toward the provision of a medical centre at Coober Pedy. This request, which is at present being examined, was followed by a visit by two members of the progress association to my department to explain in more detail the reasons for the request. At present there has been no suggestion that any arrangement might be entered into between the Bush Church Aid Society, the Coober Pedy Progress Association and the South Australian Government. I am at present awaiting a report on this matter from the Director of Mines, who has advised me that two of his officers are at Coober Pedy this week and that when they return he will let me have the report. I will then be in a position to make a recommendation regarding the request of the Coober Pedy Progress Association.

LOW-DEPOSIT HOUSES.

Mr. RICHES: Will the Premier say whether the Housing Trust has yet decided on a policy to erect houses in country centres under the £50-deposit purchase scheme?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When the scheme was announced the Housing Trust said that it would erect houses in country areas under it.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1039.)

Mr. CLARK (Gawler): I give my warmest and most complete approval to this Bill, which provides in the main for the inspection and analysis of drugs and the prohibition, regulation and control of their sale unless they have previously been inspected and analysed. I

understand that it applies particularly to new drugs and, as members know, many new drugs have been introduced. New proprietary lines and similar drugs are constantly becoming available to the public. This Bill provides that they must be analysed and examined by competent people before being sold to the public, and I think that is highly desirable.

Concern has been felt in other parts of the world where in the last 12 or 18 months one particularly highly publicized drug has caused much misery, unhappiness and agony of mind. Indeed, in many countries this has led to the introduction of legislation similar to this Bill. If any member has any doubts about this legislation, they will be dispelled after I give the sad and terrible story of thalidomide.

Mr. RICHES: Wasn't that largely given under prescription, though?

Mr. CLARK: Some of it was, but in certain countries it could be purchased easily from chemist shops. Although I do not wish to be accused of sentimentalism, I know that most members are parents. Even the oldest of us remember with a keen thrill the feeling we had when we saw our first child or our other children for the first time.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation. Members will please take their places.

Mr. CLARK: Last summer in many countries of the world more and more doctors were having the unpleasant duty of breaking the news to mothers after childbirth that their children were deformed and, indeed, grossly deformed. This happened in Canada, West Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Australia, Great Britain and many other countries. At first what was happening was not realized. In Germany the number of malformed babies became increasingly large, and something was obviously wrong. At about this time and before, to help them sleep and to prevent other discomforts many pregnant women had been taking this new drug and, indeed, its effects for the purposes for which it was given were most successful. It had various brand names in different parts of the world. In the United Kingdom it was called distaval, in Canada it was called talimol and kevadon but, whatever its name, it was the new German compound known as thalidomide. It was at first warmly welcomed by the medical profession because it was regarded as being safe for children and for people who had cardiac and respiratory troubles. It was also considered to be effective for people suffering from mental and nervous troubles. It was supposed to be particularly safe for mothers,

yet it produced the medical tragedy of the century because it caused babies to be born grossly deformed. In West Germany alone almost 3,000 babies were born deformed because of its effects. It was not realized at first that it would produce a rare deformity which most doctors had never seen before—a complaint known as phocomelia, the symptoms of which were that the baby was born with crude hands joined to the shoulders and foot-like appendages at the hip called "seal-limbs". As members can imagine, it is a horrible thing, and we must remember that babies are still to be born to mothers who have been subject to this drug.

The cause was difficult to detect, but by about September, 1961, it was discovered that in some cases this drug was having peculiar effects which were easily noticed. It appeared to be inducing a kind of neuritis and muscular cramp; this was the first sign of danger. At about this time an editorial in the *British Medical Journal* suggested that:

Greater caution in its use is needed.

Despite this, advertisements continued to be published saying:

A child can take a gross overdose without harm.

However, in West Germany, where the product had been originally manufactured, grave suspicions had arisen. Doctors went to a great deal of trouble trying to find the cause for these babies being deformed. After much experiment, they found that X-ray, cortisone, insulin and the effect of German measles were not the reason for deformities. The doctor most responsible for finding out the beginnings of the trouble was, I understand, Dr. Widukind Lenz, a Hamburg doctor, and on November 18 at a medical conference he said that he suspected thalidomide to be the cause of the trouble. He then said:

I have seen 52 dreadfully deformed babies whose mothers had taken thalidomide in early pregnancy. I have received letters from the German Federal Republic, Belgium, England and Sweden reporting 115 additional cases in which this drug is thought to be the cause.

He went on to describe the babies. He said that two out of three were born alive, and that their deformation ranged from one to all four limbs being deformed or missing altogether, defective development of arms or legs, seal-flipper hands and feet, absence of the external ear, deformities of the eye, gullet and intestines—rather a horrible picture and I ask the pardon of the House for speaking about it.

Later, in an article in the British medical journal *The Lancet*, Dr. Lenz said this:

The risk of taking the drug between the fourth to eighth week of pregnancy may be definitely

higher than 20 per cent. I venture the estimate that at least 2,000, possibly more than 3,000, thalidomide babies have been born in West Germany since 1959.

On November 27, 1961, Germany legally withdrew the drug from the market altogether and in the United Kingdom similar action was taken five days later. Only a few days ago I read in our local press that a huge sum of money had been voted in West Germany to the parents of these deformed children to assist in their upbringing. Money may be of some assistance but it cannot possibly undo the damage done. However, despite the action of Germany and the United Kingdom, other countries were slow to follow, until a Scottish doctor, Dr. Alexander Speirs, brought irrefutable proof of the danger. He patiently searched through chemists' records and proved that in 80 per cent of the cases of such deformities thalidomide was responsible. Final proof was given by the manufacturers of the drug themselves who did an extensive amount of laboratory work on it and carried out many experiments on animals, particularly rabbits. In April of the same year they announced:

We have succeeded in producing deformities in rabbits remarkably similar to those deformities seen in humans.

In other words, they published their findings with complete, cold, scientific detachment, but that was not much comfort to the thousands of parents with horribly deformed children, and indeed none at all to those mothers who had taken the drug and were anticipating, with horror instead of joy, the birth of their babies.

If the proper tests had been made before the drug was marketed, this misery would never have been caused. We should note that it is almost certain that it was only because this type of deformity was so unusual and so uncommon—so rare that most doctors had never seen it before—that it attracted attention and led to the discovery of the source of the trouble. A more common malformation might have taken years to be noticed, and the particular drug causing it might have taken a long time to be discovered. I am sure that thalidomide will be cited by doctors, researchers, drug manufacturers and, indeed, governments for years to come. It has already altered methods of testing and regulating drugs all over the world, and it should stand as a warning signal to us all. There is a show on television called "People are funny", which some members may watch and even follow. Only the other day I read in this connection that a highly qualified

medical specialist in England made this remark:

I find patients are eager to try a brand new drug, can hardly wait to get at it. You'd think they'd be reluctant and prefer someone else to go first. Maybe they will be a little less enthusiastic after thalidomide . . .

I wonder. They certainly will not be if television advertisers can help it. Possibly I should not mention television advertisers, but they are a pet annoyance of mine. I believe that about 25 per cent of television advertising is an insult to the intelligence of a subnormal billy-goat. I wanted to give the House the authentic horrible history of the effects of this drug that I have mentioned. We do not know that such a thing may not recur. I believe that an amending Bill of this sort will make it virtually impossible in South Australia and I think that all members of the House, after hearing the short history of this particular drug, will support this legislation, as I do most strongly.

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

CIVIL AVIATION (CARRIERS' LIABILITY) BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1041.)

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh): I support the second reading of this Bill, which is a simple matter requiring little discussion. The Commonwealth legislation has as its purpose the honouring of an international agreement that followed an international convention. The Commonwealth Parliament went further, to make the convention applicable to interstate trading, whereas by this Bill we are making it apply to intrastate trading. It provides that compensation shall be paid to an injured person or his next of kin to the amount of £7,500 without the necessity of his proving the liability of the carrying company. The Commonwealth legislation enables a passenger or the next of kin of a passenger to sue an air company for an unlimited sum for gross negligence. We realize that any move to provide similarly in this legislation could affect intrastate organizations and could prejudice the State's services. Should any changes become necessary they could be made by way of agreement.

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

HOSPITALS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1041.)

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide): This is a short Bill. I understand that in Government hospi-

tals where there is no board of management the Director-General makes regulations, but the Government has been informed that there is some doubt as to whether those regulations are enforceable. The Bill seeks to remedy that position and I support it.

Mr. HUGHES (Wallaroo): I support the Bill which empowers the Director-General of Medical Services to enforce regulations covering various aspects of hospital administration. The Wallaroo District Hospital accepts without question that its activities are controlled by the Director-General and the officers of his department. It is interesting to study the regulations relating to the Wallaroo hospital. Regulation 16 states:

All plans and specifications for building which will be or is already under the control of the Inspector-General shall be submitted to the Inspector-General for his approval and no such building alteration enlargement or improvement shall be carried out without such approval.

Regulation 17 states:

The Inspector-General may make such alterations or improvements to the grounds and gardens of the institution and annexes as may be considered desirable and also remove or plant such trees as may be necessary.

I have had several years' experience of Government hospitals as a member of the Hospital Advisory Committee. I believe it is desirable in the best interests of patients, staff and the general public that one controlling body should have power to exercise proper administration. In the *Government Gazette* of September 27, 1923, are clearly set out the powers of the Director-General—at that time he was known as the Inspector-General—but those regulations have not been amended since. I should have thought that some alterations would have been made over the years, but they have not been, and it may be interesting to refresh the minds of some members by quoting those regulations. They are as follows:

1. With respect to public hospitals within the meaning of the said Acts:

- (a) All such hospitals shall be subject to inspection by the Inspector-General of Hospitals.
- (b) All recommendations for Ministerial consideration shall be made through the said Inspector-General.
- (c) The said Inspector-General may make such suggestions to the board of management of any such hospital as he considers necessary or convenient for the improvement of the management or conduct of the hospital.
- (d) All official communications from any such hospital, or from any Government department concerning any such hospital, shall be made through the said Inspector-General.

- (e) The said Inspector-General may enter into agreements with local boards of health for payment for the treatment of infectious and contagious diseases at any such hospital.
2. With respect to public hospitals without boards of management:
- (a) The said Inspector-General shall have the care, management, control and supervision of all such hospitals, subject to the direction of the honourable the Chief Secretary.
- (b) The provisions of clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the above paragraph 1 shall apply.
3. With respect to public hospitals generally:
- (a) The said Inspector-General, where there is no board of management, and the board where there is such a board, may fix the weekly rate of maintenance for any patient in the hospital.
- (b) All moneys payable for the maintenance and treatment of any patient in any such hospital may be recovered by the said Inspector-General in any court of competent jurisdiction by action at his suit, provided that this shall not in any way affect any remedy of any other person or body for the recovery of any such moneys.

Mr. Quirke: Read the last one!

Mr. HUGHES: With great respect to the honourable member, I have just been to the Parliamentary Library and gone through these regulations with Mr. Host. To my amazement, I have found that they have not been altered.

Mr. Riches: The Act may have been altered.

Mr. HUGHES: The Act may have been altered but the regulations made at that time still stand. No. 4 deals with other than public hospitals that are subsidized by the Government, and states:

The provisions of clauses (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of the above paragraph 1 shall apply in respect of every such hospital: provided that all communications from any such hospital concerning the Government subsidy of that hospital shall be made to the Minister.

No. 5 states:

The said Inspector-General shall have power to inspect all institutions in any part of the State for the treatment of disease, or of mental or physical infirmity, towards the cost of which any grant of money from the general revenue or any other Government subsidy has been made within the current or the next preceding financial year of the State, and for that purpose shall have all such powers as may be necessary or convenient for the inspection of the premises, the methods adopted at the institution and the management thereof generally, and the records and accounts thereof.

No. 6 states:

The Inspector-General shall have all such powers as are necessary for giving effect to the foregoing provisions of this proclamation and all powers incidental thereto.

I compliment the people responsible for having those provisions made in 1923, because they have stood the test of time and are still in operation today. Therefore, I am at a loss to understand why it was necessary to introduce the present legislation. Apparently, someone has challenged the powers of the Director-General. If that is so, I cannot understand that attitude. The Director-General is a dedicated man. I have always found that he applies himself to his duties in a fearless and efficient manner. This amendment to the principal Act is to give him power to make regulations in the same way as hospital boards have that power. I understand that the Crown Solicitor has advised the Government that mandatory powers relating to penalty come under the control not of the Director-General but of the hospital boards.

I imagine that nine out of every 10 people associated with hospital work naturally think that because the Director-General has the power to alter or improve hospital grounds and gardens and to remove or plant trees, he also has the power to control parking in hospital grounds. However, this Bill will bring the Director-General's powers into line with those of hospital boards and will remove any doubts that may exist in people's minds regarding his present powers. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

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

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1042.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): As stated in the Minister's second reading explanation, the intention of this Bill is to give power to the Registrar-General of Deeds to register the appointment of new trustees when only personal estate is involved and to accept for deposit deeds poll or statutory declarations evidencing a change of name. However, section 75 of the Trustee Act provides that on any appointment of new trustees, a memorandum of that appointment may be registered in the General Registry Office or in the Lands Titles Registration Office at Adelaide. That certainly seems clear enough to me, but if the Government wishes to state the same thing in a different way in the Registration of Deeds Act as provided by clause 3 of the Bill, I have no objection.

Regarding the intention of the Bill relating to the depositing of deeds poll or statutory

declarations evidencing a change of name, I admit quite frankly that I cannot understand what will be achieved by this amendment. As far as I know, these documents have been lodged with the Registrar-General of Deeds over a period of more than 100 years and there has been no challenge of the practice. To my way of thinking, the only thing that the Bill achieves, if anything, is an attempted clarification of the activities of the Registrar-General of Deeds Department, and this must be open to doubt in some quarters. As the Bill is intended to clarify existing legislation and practice, and as the Government considers that it is necessary, I have no objection to the Bill and support the second reading.

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

SALE OF HUMAN BLOOD BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1042.)

Mr. LOVEDAY (Whyalla): Although a short Bill, this is a particularly important measure designed to prohibit unauthorized trading in human blood. Coming so soon after a Bill relating to the abattoirs, suspicions may be raised in people's minds, but it has no connection whatever. This Bill is necessary because the Commonwealth patent relating to the fractionation of blood has lapsed; consequently, steps have to be taken to ensure that there cannot be any trafficking in human blood. I do not think any of us would imagine that this was not likely; history shows that if anything is in short supply or difficult to obtain some people are tempted to think there is an opportunity to make a profit out of the scarcity.

The Red Cross Society depends for its supplies of blood upon voluntary donors, and anything that may cut across its activities could have serious consequences in dealing with cases of injury where blood transfusion is needed. With the increase of scientific knowledge, particularly in relation to the treatment of serious injuries, it is becoming obvious that the demand for human blood is more likely to increase than decrease. Large quantities are now used for blood transfusions and it is vital in the interests of people concerned that there be adequate supplies.

This Bill provides for the prevention of any person's buying, agreeing or offering or holding out as being willing to buy human blood, or taking it from the body of any other person. The Bill even goes to the extent of prohibiting any person from selling his blood except to a person authorized

by the Minister to buy it, or from taking blood from his own body. There is no doubt that these provisions are necessary in view of the relative scarcity of human blood and the importance of having adequate supplies for transfusions. The Red Cross Society depends upon this form of protection. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill, which is of great importance despite its brevity. I am sure it will meet with no opposition.

Mr. HUGHES (Walleroo): I, too, support the Bill. From the second reading explanation I find this is new legislation brought about through the expiration of the Commonwealth patent relating to the sale of human blood. I understand that concern has been felt by the Commonwealth and State Governments since there has been no control to prevent commercial trading in human blood, and I can understand that concern because, if trading in human blood on a commercial basis were allowed, the magnificent work being carried out by the Red Cross Society in readily supplying free blood for transfusion and for other purposes could be seriously affected. From reports of the service provided by the society, I find that it supplied about 34,000 pints of blood last year to various patients in this State. I believe it has about 32,000 donors in this State. The demands upon it are six times those of 10 years ago, and in the next 10 years it is expected that they will be doubled again. The quantity of blood passing through the Red Cross blood transfusion service indicates that the method employed in collecting and supplying blood reflects great credit on those associated with this service. The society has received good support from the people of this State and particularly from various blood donors. Consequently, it has maintained the supply of this life-giving blood.

The demand for blood is ever-increasing. When one realizes that one donation of blood is required every 16 minutes of every day and night throughout the year and that each donation is of about one pint, one can get some idea of the demand. The reason for the increased demand is mainly that new and more uses are being found for blood and plasma. I understand that the artificial kidney at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital requires about six pints of blood for every patient that uses it. The heart-lung machine at the Royal Adelaide Hospital requires about 12 pints of blood to each patient, and I believe that three operations are carried out each week with this machine. In some instances 20 pints is needed to save a life, and

it is estimated that 2,000 pints of blood will be required this year for people who use this machine.

We all know that life is a precious thing. In a debate in 1960 the member for Burra (Mr. Quirke) said that it was because of blood transfusions that two of his children were alive. The honourable member said it was a marvellous process, and every member would agree with that statement. I agree that draining blood from a young child and replacing it with a completely new bloodstream in a transfusion is a marvellous process. The Government is to be commended for introducing this Bill to prevent trading in human blood on a commercial basis, which would not be a healthy state of affairs. A departure from the present system would lead to retrogression and ultimate stagnation.

The passing of this Bill will achieve a better understanding between the Red Cross Society and the general public. It will ensure that there will be a basic expansion of activity, which expansion will be necessary to meet the demand that will be made because of transfusions in the future. The measure will prevent people from sponsoring wild schemes for trading in human blood. If trading came about, soon it would be necessary to have severe and unpopular corrections. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

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

MOTOR VEHICLES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1044.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): This is another Bill that appears to amend existing legislation in order to clarify rather than amend in any substantial manner the existing provisions. Clause 3 amends section 26 of the principal Act empowering the Registrar to grant registration for periods of less than the recognized ones of six months or 12 months without any amendment of the registration fee charged if, for example, the owner has failed to register his vehicle in time for his third party insurance to be valid under the Act. This was the intention of the amendment made last year but, apparently, it is not working out in practice.

Section 48 of the principal Act makes it an offence to drive a vehicle on a road without a registration disc attached. Where the registration is cancelled the owner is obliged either to deliver up the disc to the Motor Vehicles Department or to have its destruction

witnessed by a police officer or some other officer authorized by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. In practice it has been found that, once a disc has been destroyed in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the owner is then faced with the prospect of getting the vehicle to a place of storage without driving it. Apparently the only legal way is to have it towed away and this, naturally, entails some expense. By clause 4 it will be permissible to drive vehicles without registration discs in certain instances, and I believe this is a practical improvement of the existing legislation.

Clause 5 exempts police officers from the provisions of the Act relating to licences of driving instructors when they are carrying out their normal duties. The Police Department has a very effective and efficient driving school and it would appear that this was overlooked when this new provision was inserted in the Motor Vehicles Act last year. Clause 6 is also an amendment of clarification. Apparently there is some doubt whether the Survival of Causes of Action Act (which was passed in 1940) or section 113 of the Motor Vehicles Act applies when the person liable in an accident dies prior to a third party claim being made by the injured party. It seems reasonable to me that the insurance company that accepted the premium for the third party cover should also accept responsibility for all claims that arise from accidents that occurred during the period of the insurance cover. As a result of a legal decision to the contrary in New South Wales, where there is similar legislation to our own, the opportunity has now been taken to make it quite clear in our legislation that an injured party has a valid claim against an insurer irrespective of the injured party's rights under the Survival of Causes of Action Act, 1940. I believe all amendments to be improvements of the existing legislation and support the second reading of the Bill.

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

UNCLAIMED MONEYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1045.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): According to clause 1, the principal Act has been in operation since 1891 and there have been no amendments to it since its consolidation in 1935. This Bill deals with certain unclaimed moneys held in trust by companies and various individuals and makes provision for these moneys to be paid to the Treasury after a specified time. The

provisions relating to companies are not unduly affected at all, because the only difference made by clause 3 is that the moneys may be paid direct to the Treasury instead of to the Savings Bank of South Australia for the credit of the Treasury. This deletes one step of accounting and recording and is beneficial. Therefore, the position will now be that companies will keep a register of unclaimed moneys held and after six years have elapsed publish notices in the *Government Gazette* annually for two years, and if the moneys are still unclaimed they shall be paid direct into the Treasury.

Clause 4 makes a similar provision relating to persons who are not companies. However, they may pay into the Treasury any unclaimed moneys after one year has elapsed, but it is not obligatory upon them to do so. This Bill does not require a lengthy debate because it is purely administrative and makes it easier for persons to legally and simply pay moneys into the Treasury if the true owners cannot be traced. If, subsequently, the true owner does appear and asks for his money, he is protected in obtaining a refund from the Treasury by section 8 of the principal Act. I support the second reading.

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

LOCAL COURTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1046.)

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh): This Bill has been carefully examined in the Legislative Council. When it was introduced there, some concern was expressed about its provisions, but investigation revealed that they were satisfactory. It increases the jurisdiction of local courts. This has been rendered necessary by the change in the value of money. Provision is made to enable appeals against judgments involving sums exceeding £30. I support the second reading.

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

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE WORKS (INVESTIGATION) BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1046.)

Mr. FRED WALSH (West Torrens): I support the Bill. It arises from a joint deputation I introduced to the Minister of Works about two years ago from the Woodville council and the Henley and Grange council who

were concerned about the delay in formulating a scheme to drain the area referred to in the Bill. Clause 2 refers to a plan. This was mentioned by the Minister in his second reading explanation, but we have no knowledge of it other than that it takes in an area east of Henley and Grange from Seaview Road to a little east of Tapley Hill Road, and from Henley Beach Road over to Kirkcaldy Beach Road.

During the period before the construction of the River Torrens outlet, that area, as you, Mr. Speaker, probably know, was always covered by floods during the winter, and since the construction of the outlet it has been subjected to considerable swamping, particularly since the residential development, the gradual elimination of the market gardening area, and the sealing of the roads. The sealing of the Tapley Hill Road particularly has caused considerable trouble amongst the few remaining market gardens in that area. In addition, the Woodville council has constructed an impounding pond for floodwaters which has caused a seepage of salt into some of the market gardens and destroyed parts of them. The manner in which many of the trees have died is reminiscent of what has occurred in the Murray River area, where some orchards have been destroyed. True, the damage here is not as extensive, but if it is allowed to continue the position will become serious for some of the remaining market gardens.

The point concerning the councils is that the longer this scheme is delayed the greater will be the difficulty of draining this area and effecting further building development. Apart from the northern portion of the metropolitan area, I question whether greater development has taken place anywhere than in this area. The intention is to drain the area into the upper reaches of the Port River and subsequently into the proposed tidal basin that the Harbors Board has in mind. Many of us, if we are still here, will be very old men by the time that tidal basin is constructed. This drainage proposal is urgent, and the delay is causing serious concern to both the Henley and Grange and Woodville corporations. Just how much it will cost will be a matter for the Public Works Committee. Were it not for the fact that the councils will be involved in the expense, this would not be a matter to be determined by Parliament. However, the councils concerned will contribute in the same way as councils will contribute to the cost and maintenance of the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, which is estimated to cost several

million pounds. As the councils are to contribute towards the cost, a Bill of this nature is necessary.

I do not know just how much acquisition will be involved, and I do not suppose even the department knows, but I should think that the extent of the acquisition and the cost will not be great. I am sure that members on both sides of the House will support the Bill. I hope that when it is passed it will not be long before the Government sees fit to refer the matter to the Public Works Committee to enable it to proceed with the inquiry and not delay it any longer than necessary, and that in turn the Government will not be long in seeing that the work is put in hand. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

Mr. COUMBE (Torrens): I agree with the remarks of the member for West Torrens (Mr. Fred Walsh), but I wish to speak briefly on a different aspect of the Bill. The purpose of the Bill is to refer this drainage project to the Public Works Committee. As this is a drainage matter and as it concerns an area, a certain portion of which in years to come will have houses built on it, I consider that with a slight amendment to the Land Settlement Committee Act the project could be referred to that Committee.

Mr. Shannon: I think both the Public Works Standing Committee Act and the Land Settlement Committee Act would have to be altered.

Mr. COUMBE: Yes. I am a member of the Public Works Committee, but I am speaking now for myself because I have not consulted my colleagues on the subject. I point out that at times the Public Works Committee is over-loaded with work.

Mr. Lawn: The Chairman of the committee will have something to say to you, won't he?

Mr. COUMBE: I do not care what the Chairman says; I am stating a fact. At times the Public Works Committee is over-loaded, whereas it has been said in this House that the Land Settlement Committee has hardly a job to do and is looking for work. Without in any way desiring to take away from the Public Works Committee work that should be referred to it, I think that a project like this that involves drainage could, after we had amended the appropriate Acts, be referred to the Land Settlement Committee so that the work could be shared. I suggest to the Minister in all seriousness that when this Bill reaches Committee he might examine my suggestion and give some reasons for or against it.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—'Reference to Public Works Committee.'

Mr. COUMBE: Will the Minister of Works comment on the point that I raised on second reading?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Works): I agree that there is a desire and some reason for considering whether or not the Land Settlement Committee could relieve the Public Works Committee of some of its work where it would be proper to take that course. I suggest, however, that this is not a case that would fit in that perspective. This measure relates essentially to a metropolitan drainage scheme involving much technical consideration. The investigating committee will be dealing essentially with local government authorities and their engineers. Many other matters that come before the Public Works Committee would, I think, be preferable for selection if one were selecting items for the Land Settlement Committee to investigate. The Government has been inclined to adopt the suggestion made by the honourable member regarding some investigations, but I suggest that this is not such a case and that the honourable member do not press it.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (4 and 5) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1).

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1048.)

Mr. JENNINGS (Enfield): I support this Bill, which has already run the course of a severe scrutiny in the House of Review. I thoroughly applaud the measure and agree with almost every aspect. On the surface, it is only to overcome the cumbersome process of allowing patients trial leave from mental institutions, but I think it goes a little further in as much as the need for overcoming these cumbersome processes is greatly accentuated because, due to the more enlightened attitude of those in authority, more and more people are having trial leave from mental institutions. I believe the new Director of Mental Health (Dr. Cramond) has a good attitude towards the problem; this is indicated by his making arrangements to have the big stone wall around the Parkside Mental Hospital knocked down. This may not be important in itself but it indicates the much more enlightened attitude of the authorities.

Only last week I had the privilege (I say that advisedly) of showing over Parliament House a party of inmates from the Northfield Mental Hospital. A few years ago they certainly would not have been allowed out of the hospital, but while they were here they conducted and deported themselves in a responsible fashion and I am sure they enjoyed their outing. Some of the questions they asked me were more intelligent than I have received from other parties I have conducted over Parliament House.

That is as far as my support goes. I hesitate now to introduce a discordant note into a harmonious debate, but I must draw attention to the fact that the medical and nursing staff and members of trade unions associated with mental hospitals have for a considerable time been complaining about under-staffing. I know it is difficult to attract staff to these institutions, but during this session the member for Adelaide, in reply to a question, was told that the Director of Mental Health had reported that in 1957 the ratio of staff (that is, medical, nursing and other staff) to patients was 1 to 1.9; in 1961 it was 1 to 2.7; and at the end of June, 1962, it was 1 to 3.2. This shows that the ratio of staff to patients has been decreasing since 1957. It is true that total staff has increased, but we must remember that the population of our mental institutions has increased greatly. I sincerely hope that this Bill will encourage the Government to do its best to increase the staff of these institutions. I support the measure.

Mrs. STEELE (Burnside): I cannot help feeling that perhaps the honourable member for Enfield (Mr. Jennings) and I have at least one thing in common: we both have mental hospitals in our districts. I support the Bill which, like the other Mental Health Bill before the House now, aims to improve the administration of our mental hospitals. I think the measure reflects the advances made in the treatment of mental disease, particularly in the last decade and a half. Because I considered that I would be rewarded by a little research, I studied the reports of previous years relating to the mental hospitals of this State and found the figures so interesting that I thought they might be of interest to other members, with particular reference to this Bill.

I found in the course of my investigations that the term "voluntary patient", which appears in this Bill, was first mentioned in the annual report of the Director-General of Medical Services on mental institutions in 1940.

At that time there were in the three mental hospitals within the State only three patients who were cited as being voluntary patients. This number increased during the 1940's until in 1949 there were in the three institutions 20 voluntary patients. The figure bounded rather in the next year, when there were 50, and by 1959 there were 152 voluntary patients, which gives some indication of the success of the treatment being used in our mental hospitals at the time.

I also found that 1939 was the first year that trial leave was mentioned. At that time there were three whereas, in 1959, 87 people were on trial leave from our mental institutions. The number of voluntary boarders (people who had gone in of their own volition for treatment) at Parkside in 1959 was 163, and in that year the voluntary patients discharged from that institution numbered 145. I give this information only because I think it may be of value to members to realize the improvements that have been made in the treatment of patients. I feel that the Bill now before the House is an important step forward and reflects the advances made.

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray): I support the Bill. One point causes me concern regarding allowing patients out of mental hospitals for short periods. It has been brought to my notice that ladies who have had their husbands in mental hospitals for some time have been in receipt of a widow's pension during that period but, when their husbands were released for a temporary vacation, these ladies were deprived of their widow's pensions. Then, when their husbands returned to the institution, they had to apply to have their pensions restored to them. This is a hardship. I realize it is a Commonwealth matter but it has caused me much concern.

Mr. Lawn: This Government could make representations to the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. BYWATERS: Representations should be made, for this hardship will be accentuated if this Bill is passed. A case may arise where a man has to enter a mental hospital, his wife is left, and she applies for a widow's pension. He is then allowed out for perhaps a week and has to return for further treatment. The wife may lose her pension during that week. I should like this matter to be looked at. The new Director could make representations about it because this does indeed cause a hardship.

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

MENTAL HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT
BILL (No. 2).

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 9. Page 1330.)

Mr. JENNINGS (Enfield): I support the Bill, which is unexceptionable. Obviously it is a result of renovations taking place in our mental institutions, following the appointment of the new Director. It is astonishing to discover that we were to have a Director of Mental Health but there was no recognition of that in the Act. This Bill seeks to remedy that omission. It also enables the Director-General of Medical Services to delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health who, in turn, can delegate certain administrative works to the superintendents of the various mental institutions. As it is, the Director of Mental Health is also the Superintendent of Institutions, and things can be delegated to him only and not to the superintendents of the various institutions. The Bill is purely machinery and must commend itself to the House.

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

MINES AND WORKS INSPECTION ACT
AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 9. Page 1331.)

Mr. McKEE (Port Pirie): At first glance this Bill seems innocent, and perhaps it is. I do not doubt the sincerity of the Mines Department, but I seek some assurance regarding certain clauses. My Party is always prepared to support legislation to improve workers' conditions, but I am confused as to the purpose of the amendments in the Bill. It was introduced in the Legislative Council at the request of the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Proprietary Limited. From my experience as a union official at Port Pirie I know that it has always been the practice of that company to notify the unions concerned when it seeks legislation involving the safety of employees. It is reasonable that the management should discuss such measures with the unions. I do not think that I have to remind members of the serious unemployment position at Port Pirie today. Of course, we know that with the reconstruction of the wharves it is the company's intention to install modern loading equipment. The Bill is apparently designed to give the company control of the area where these machines will be installed and operated. Waterside workers are fully covered in relation to safety measures and the reporting of accidents under their

Commonwealth award, so apparently the provisions in the Bill are aimed at covering employees of the Smelters.

When this matter was debated in the Legislative Council, members were told that the amendments would not affect the employment of waterside workers at Port Pirie. I should like to be assured that this is so, because the employment situation is sufficiently serious without it being aggravated through the bulk handling of grain and the installation of modern loading devices on the reconstructed wharves. The waterside workers are eagerly awaiting an assurance from the Government that every endeavour will be made to establish a permanent industry at Port Pirie to provide employment for any waterside workers who may be displaced as a result of the introduction of these modern facilities. The men are also concerned that through the Smelters controlling this section of the wharf there may be a demarcation of employment. Before I support the Bill I want an assurance that if this happens the Government will introduce legislation to rectify the situation. Only under those conditions could I support the Bill.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—“Amendment of principal Act, section 4.”

Mr. McKEE: Will the Minister give the assurance I have sought?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Works): I am unable to comment, nor is this the place to comment on the possible establishment of industries at Port Pirie and the employment that would result therefrom. The displacement of employees was raised in the Legislative Council and the Minister of Mines gave the Deputy Leader of the Opposition there (Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph) an assurance which apparently satisfied him that there was no sinister motive in the Bill. If the honourable member refers to *Hansard* of September 5 he can read what transpired in the debate in the Legislative Council. He will see that the Hon. Mr. Bardolph—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister cannot refer to a debate in another place.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: That may be so, Sir, but I believe that the honourable member will find satisfaction in the replies that were given then.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.51 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 16, at 2 p.m.