

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, September 3, 1963.

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

DEATH OF MR. W. W. JENKINS.

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

That the House of Assembly express its deep regret at the death of Mr. William Wilfred Jenkins, member for Stirling, and place on record its appreciation of his public services, and that, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased member, the sitting of the House be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

I do not think there was a member of the House who did not feel a tragic sense of loss on hearing of the death of the honourable member last Friday. Only the previous week Mr. Jenkins was here taking his place in the House and going about his work in his usual cheerful and helpful way. I believe that nothing could have caused more concern to honourable members than the sad passing of the late honourable member, who through-out his period in this House had always taken an active part in all political affairs, particularly those relating to his own district. Not only was that true, but on all occasions he was willing to assist in every way concerning the conduct of the House and the convenience of other members. When a pair was wanted or other help was required, Bill Jenkins not only co-operated, but co-operated willingly. He was truthful and helpful. If a Deputy Chairman of Committees was needed or someone required to fill in a gap quickly, then he was on the job. Every honourable member had a great respect for him, for his character, for his work and, more than that, for the way he considered the other man's point of view.

Mr. Speaker, no more fitting tribute could have been paid to him than the funeral service we attended yesterday. The attendance of honourable members in itself was a mark of respect that I have seldom seen equalled. In moving this motion I express to Mrs. Jenkins and the members of the family our deepest sympathy, and I personally should be obliged if, when conveying this resolution to her, you, Mr. Speaker, would on behalf of honourable members express our deep sympathy together with our appreciation for the great services her husband gave to the political life of this State.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): In seconding this motion, I state that I have already extended sympathy both personally and on behalf of the Party that I represent. This is another tragic occurrence. To say we were shocked would not describe our feelings over the passing of the late member. As the Premier has said, he was with us so recently and no-one could foretell that today he would not be present. This occurrence causes greater concern when we realize how many members have died in the last year or two. We that are left must consider whether the public duties performed by members of Parliament assist the shortening of our term on this earth. When we look around the House and notice the gaps left by members who have died during the past few years we realize how arduous are those duties and what toll it takes of members. The late Mr. Jenkins was truthful and sincere in his activities for the Party he represented and, as a district member, he attended many functions and actively undertook the responsibilities of his position. He had a long civic record in the district of Victor Harbour. I express my sincere sympathy to his widow and family, and assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this sentiment is echoed by all members of the Party I represent.

The SPEAKER: As Speaker of the House I add my personal sentiments to those expressed by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. Bill Jenkins, as we knew him, was one of the most genial personalities a fellow man could meet in any walk of life. He was extremely popular, not only in this House, but also in his district. People always spoke well of him in his journeys throughout the State as a member, and recently as Chairman, of the Land Settlement Committee. I add my personal appreciation of his efforts in assisting the House as Acting Speaker and Acting Chairman of Committees. He performed those duties most willingly and with much credit, not only to himself but to the House, in the dignified way in which he did so. His death is a sad loss to us all. When he left the House last week he said to me, "I shall only be away a week and be back next week full of beans." It came as a great shock to learn of his death. I realize the very sad loss his family must be feeling at this moment. I believe that this motion expresses to Mrs. Jenkins and her family our sincere sympathy in her sad loss.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

(*Sitting suspended from 2.11 to 2.40 p.m.*)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: PARLIAMENTARY VACANCY.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to make a personal explanation concerning a press article that appeared in the *News* yesterday, an extract of which reads:

Moves are being planned today by the Labor Party to wrest control from the State Government over its Budget.

Arrangements were made last Thursday morning, August 29, to hold a Party executive meeting, which was held yesterday, September 2, at 10.30 a.m. Further, the business of this meeting was in no way connected with the unfortunate passing of the member for Stirling (Mr. Jenkins).

We, as a Party, have already extended our sympathy to the widow and family of the late member and, as Christians, we extended that sympathy in all sincerity. At no time since his death did we meet to discuss matters that were mentioned in the press prior to the burial service. On behalf of the Party, I resent the innuendoes contained in the hollow reference of the article.

The SPEAKER: I may say that it certainly gave me some measure of shock when I read the article immediately after the burial service of our late loved member. The honourable member having raised the matter, I believe that I should ask the Managing Editor of the *News* for a report on the incident.

QUESTIONS.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION FEES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question regarding public examination fees, which has been raised from time to time?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Last Thursday week I informed the Leader that the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Mr. Basten) had given me an undertaking that the question of public examination fees would be discussed at a meeting of the University Council on Friday, August 30, and that he confidently expected to be able to inform me of the council's decision in time for me to make a further announcement on the subject in Parliament by today. Yesterday the Vice-Chancellor called on me and gave me the text of the council's decisions, which reads as follows:

The council noted that the Government desired it to reconsider the increases in P.E.B. fees which had been recently imposed, and decided that fees should not be applied at the increased rates in 1963. It further decided that the Vice-Chancellor should ask the Government to consider ways in which the loss on the conduct of the public examinations could be met.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Can the Minister say whether the fees already paid for this year's examinations will be refunded to the parents soon? Can he also obtain information from the Vice-Chancellor about the fees payable to examiners?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Arrangements have been made over the weekend by the University Council so that the fees which have already been paid at the increased rate will be refunded, and also that the decision on the increased fees payable to the examiners will stand.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Education considered my recent question regarding the admittance of children of widows and invalid pensioners to the Intermediate and Leaving examinations free of charge?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: On the day after the honourable member asked this question I forwarded a copy of it and my reply to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide. However, I understand from him that that particular question was not considered at the meeting of the University Council last Friday. The meeting then dealt with the general proposition that the fees for public examinations should revert to what they were before the increase. As soon as it is possible I will have detailed discussions with the Vice-Chancellor on this question to see whether anything can be done in the future. As the honourable member will have heard, a second decision of the council was to ask the Vice-Chancellor to take up with the Government a proposal for a meeting to be held to decide how the losses of the Public Examinations Board should be met in ensuing years. That will be one of the matters discussed later. However, it will not apply during this calendar year.

GAWLER BY-PASS.

Mr. LAUCKE: The number of accidents occurring at the intersection of the Gawler to Redbanks main road and the Gawler by-pass is causing widespread consternation. The most recent accident occurred on Sunday afternoon, with the loss of a life. Whilst road traffic authorities could well expect the "give way" signs erected at the intersection to give adequate assurance of safety, cold experience is unfortunately disproving this expectation. I know that the local government authority—the Mudla Wirra District Council—believes that it is imperative that immediate action be taken to ensure greater safety at the intersection. I therefore ask the Minister of Works

to seek of his colleague, the Minister of Roads, an assurance that urgent consideration will be given to the installation of "stop" signs on the minor road, thereby having a combination of both "stop" and "give way" signs which would provide a more forceful alerting to road users of the dangers peculiar to this intersection.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I was aware that my colleague, the Minister of Roads, was concerned about accidents at those intersections, and the Minister indicated to me that he thought the honourable member would raise this matter in the House today. In anticipation of the question, the Minister has informed me as follows:

The Road Traffic Board is making further inquiry into the apparent misuse of the "give way" signs at these intersections and whether or not one or more "stop" signs should be substituted. The Executive Traffic Engineer (Mr. Pak Poy) has advised him that it would appear that both recent accidents involved vehicles on the side road either failing to obey the signs or misjudging the speed and location of vehicles on the by-pass road. He pointed out that the fatal accident involved a breach of the right-of-way rule, irrespective of "give way" signs.

I judge from the question asked by the honourable member that this information does not entirely satisfy his requirements, and I will ask my colleague to consider the matter further with a view to furnishing an additional report in due course.

CONCESSION FARES.

Mr. RYAN: I address my question to the Minister of Works, who is the Minister representing the Minister of Railways and the one to whom questions concerning the Municipal Tramways Trust may be addressed. Recently I asked the Minister whether, because of the raising of the school-leaving age to 15 years, the Government would consider uniformity in the fares charged to these schoolchildren. During the last few days I have been asked by many residents in my district and in other districts whether this matter has been considered by the Government. The children are now on holidays, and when those over 14 years travel on public transport they pay adult fares. In view of the urgency of this question, can the Minister say whether this matter has been considered by the Government or, if it has not, when it will be?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I obtained a report from the General Manager of the Municipal Tramways Trust, and I understand that the matter has also been referred to the Railways Commissioner for his views. At

present schoolchildren, even though they are over the age of 14 years, receive the usual concessions applicable to schoolchildren travelling to and from school. These concessions do not apply to general travel other than for school purposes, and that aspect is being considered. I will inform the honourable member of the Government's decision in due course.

FOUR CORNERS.

Mr. HARDING: Is the Premier aware of the attack made on the Returned Servicemen's League last Saturday and Sunday in the television programme *Four Corners*? Can the Premier report on this programme, and also on the standing and activities of the State branch of the Returned Servicemen's League?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I did not see the programme but I received many messages from people complaining about it. I cannot speak about the programme because such a statement would be only hear-say comment, but I can speak with much assurance about the activities of the R.S.L., which I regard as an organization that contributes a tremendous amount to the welfare of the community, not only of its members. Every honourable member respects the work the R.S.L. does in the community and any comment disparaging its work would be entirely misplaced. I believe that the complaints I received have now been officially forwarded to the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

JURORS.

Mr. TAPPING: At present, a ballot is taken of the people on the Legislative Council roll to select jurors. Many people on the Assembly roll are prevented from serving on the jury, although they would welcome a chance to do so. Further, policemen serving a summons for a person to attend on the jury often go to the wrong address because the addresses on the Legislative Council roll are not up to date. This causes the police embarrassment and difficulties. Because of these circumstances, will the Minister of Education confer with his colleague, the Attorney-General, to see whether the Government will alter the present policy and take the jury panel from the Assembly roll rather than the Legislative Council roll?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTERSON: I shall be pleased to confer with my colleague, but the honourable member has raised a question of policy that would have to be referred to Cabinet for decision.

ARDROSSAN LOADING FACILITIES.

Mr. FERGUSON: In last week's *Sunday Mail* I was reported as having said that the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited had decided to enforce a clause in the agreement with the bulk handling authority that only ships of 8,000 tons could berth at Ardrossan jetty. That report is incorrect. What I said was that the Minister had informed me that South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited had approached him about strengthening the fender at the end of the Ardrossan belt, because it was aware that the B.H.P. Company could enforce the clause. I also said that the Minister had said the Government was prepared to do something about strengthening the fender at the end of the belt, but could not undertake the work before this coming harvest. I also qualified my statement by saying that I believed that if the B.H.P. Company were of the opinion that the work would be carried out, then the normal handling of grain could continue at Ardrossan. Does the Minister of Marine know of arrangements whereby normal grain loading will take place at Ardrossan during the coming harvest?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This is a very important question to all grain producers on Yorke Peninsula. When the B.H.P. Company built its loading gallery for dolomite at Ardrossan, the Government foresaw at that time the desirability of its being available for the loading of materials other than dolomite, and a clause was inserted in the agreement to provide for this. The agreement also provided that, if ships of more than a certain tonnage were employed in moving commodities for authorities other than the B.H.P. Company and if, in loading or berthing such ships, the installation should in any way be overtaxed or damaged, then the damage would be the responsibility of the Harbors Board. Over the years the two authorities handling grain in this State (the Wheat Board and the Barley Board) have, as a matter of practice, berthed and loaded ships greatly in excess of the size stipulated in the agreement, with the result that the company has become concerned that, although damage to the main loading installation has not yet occurred, it could if larger and still larger ships were employed.

Consequently, the company served notice some time in June or July last that for the forthcoming harvest the size of the vessels employed by the grain-handling authorities was to be restricted. It pointed out that the strengthening of the dolphins and tying-up appointments at Ardrossan would be required and that, under

the agreement, the Harbors Board was liable to carry out this work. Immediately that matter was brought to my notice I instructed the General Manager of the Harbors Board to confer with the B.H.P. Company officials as a matter of urgency to see what was required for the necessary strengthening of and alterations to the loading berth, to inform the B.H.P. Company that the Harbors Board accepted liability under the terms of the agreement, and to obtain from the company the details of the work it required to be done. A conference was held within a few days after my instruction was issued. It was entirely amicable, and the B.H.P. Company, for its part, said that it would make available (and made available within a few hours) drawings of the original structure to enable the Harbors Board to plan the additions and alterations required. That work has advanced to the point where plans for the improvements and strengthening are practically complete.

It was reported in the edition of the *Sunday Mail* I read that the Harbors Board was unable to do the work in time for this year's harvest because of a financial problem. That is incorrect. Ways and means would have been found to finance the project if it had been physically possible to do the work in time for the coming harvest, but it is not physically possible to do it. It will be done at the earliest moment and the plans and specifications are already completed, or nearly so. I believe that discussions have taken place between the grain handling authorities and the B.H.P. Company. I am unable to say what has taken place because this is a matter under the jurisdiction of the grain-handling authorities and the B.H.P. Company as to what size ships will be employed at Ardrossan during the year, but I have reason to believe that the company for its part is receptive to overtures from the grain-handling authorities, that, as negotiations continue, the company will not place undue restrictions on the size of ships, and that the shipping of grain from Ardrossan will proceed in at least an almost normal fashion and volume for the coming harvest.

COOPER PEDY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about desalting water at Coober Pedy?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Engineer-in-Chief has informed me that the new bore drilled by the Mines Department near Coober Pedy is now being tested. Following the completion of testing, it is proposed to submit an analysis of the water to a number of firms

in an endeavour to obtain quotes for a desalting plant with a capacity of 250 gallons an hour. If prices are obtained, the economics of this method will be considered against the costs of carting water—for instance, a desalting plant would require a full-time operator and there is also the question of effluent disposal. The present situation at Coober Pedy is that the tank holds about 350,000 gallons, and the progress association, which leases the supply, is being urged to introduce some form of rationing for both the white and aboriginal population. The object of this rationing is to make the available water in the tank last as long as possible and thus delay any action in regard to water carting if the tank empties before any desalting process is agreed to and installed.

SALISBURY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. HALL: During the last few years I have made representations to the Minister of Works on behalf of residents living in the Martin and Ryan Roads area south of Salisbury about their petition to have a reticulated water supply connected to their houses. Will the Minister obtain for me the latest information on the progress of this proposed scheme?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: From memory, I think that the matter has been the subject of a recent recommendation to me by the Engineer-in-Chief, and I believe that I have approved the scheme. However, I will check, and if the honourable member has not been already notified he will be notified.

NORTHERN MAIL RUN.

Mr. CASEY: Recently, on behalf of a constituent, I took up with the Postmaster-General's Department the question of including Cowarie station on the mail run from Marree up the Birdsville Track. I have been informed that the department favours providing such a service but it cannot commence a mail run to this station because of the poor condition of roads in the area. Will the Minister of Works inquire whether the Cowarie to Kininbar Creek road cannot be improved to enable an extension of the mail service to the station?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will do so. I think that the honourable member will agree that the demands have sorely tested the department's road-making strength this year. This has been a matter of concern, but we are grateful that we have had rain in that area, which was sorely in need of it. However, the rain has produced difficulties related to road maintenance. The widespread nature of the rains has caused severe erosion to what

are normally useable and satisfactory outback roads. Within the limits of that qualification I shall be pleased to take the matter up.

SUN VALLEY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Last Tuesday I asked the Minister of Works a question about the reticulation of water to the area known as Sun Valley near Belair. I have since discussed the Minister's reply with some of those who approached me on this question, and I told them that in his reply the Minister said:

I think that with that explanation the honourable member's constituents will be satisfied, as I understand that they are now receiving a satisfactory supply from the indirect service.

I am assured by those to whom I have spoken that they have noticed no difference in the indirect service supply that they are receiving, and they have asked me to point this out to the Minister. Can the Minister say whether the information I have just given him—that there has been no discernible difference in the supply—alters the view he expressed last week? Further, will he bear that in mind in carrying out the further investigation he undertook to make?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My comment that the supply should now be more satisfactory was based not on the output of water at the consumers' point of consumption but on the pressures available in the department's main at the point from which the water was taken. That would be factual information and would not, of course, have regard to the size or condition of the consumers' indirect service. As I think I told the honourable member at the time of his original question, the consumers of water from the indirect service had not been previously subjected to rating because the department believed that their supply in the summer-time would be uncertain and that it would be inequitable to rate them for an unsatisfactory service. However, since the department's mains have become available for supply, and greater pressures in the department's mains have been available, the Engineer-in-Chief believes that it is equitable to rate them and bring them within the water district. I realize that this is not quite the question under discussion, but it gives the reason why previously they were not rated. I should not think that the consumers would receive a noticeable improvement in pressures during the winter, but I believe that as the summer months approach the advantage of the better mains laid by the department will become apparent and they will receive a better pressure.

WALLAROO MINES DUMP.

Mr. HUGHES: In connection with the recent reply given to me by the Minister of Lands relating to the Wallaroo Mines dump, the Town Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Kadina has written to me as follows:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 26, 1963, and attached copy of the relative portion of recent Parliamentary debates. Your letter was placed before council at its meeting held on 26th inst. following which, I have been directed to advise that some remedial action has been taken by the corporation of Kadina to protect the south-western section of the town from mine dump dust which seasonally is blown by strong winds over this section of the town.

Soon after the receipt of the report and recommendations of the Department of Mines, through the Minister of Lands, my council planted 180 Atholl Pine trees along West Terrace in an effort to provide some protection in years to come against wind and dust. It is not quite true to say that no other remedial action was taken to arrest the drift from the Mines Dump as strips of rye grass have been planted by the District Council between the dump and the Wallaroo Mines School and this year with the unusual rainfall in the area the grass is growing very well and is in some small measure arresting the drift.

Further discussions by my council in the matter brought forward the suggestion that the Government should be asked to accept the responsibility of protecting the town from the nuisance caused by the drift and dust from the dump. Would you kindly make the necessary inquiries in this respect?

Will the Minister state whether the land on which the Wallaroo Mines dump is situated comes under his department and, if it does, will he consider having Mr. Lothian (Director of the Botanic Garden) undertake experimental plantings at the dump to try to overcome the nuisance?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I will ascertain to whom the land belongs and inform the honourable member. Mr. Lothian has already informed the honourable member, by letter, that he is prepared to assist even to the extent of going to Wallaroo Mines to advise, and if any assistance is needed to provide the right type of tree, probably that can be arranged through another department.

DERAILMENT.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand that the Minister of Works has a reply to my question of August 21 relating to the track and ballast of the Pinnaroo line, and the reason for the low speed limit required on certain sections.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, has informed me that on the Pinnaroo line the maximum speed of trains in which four-wheel vehicles are included

is 40 miles an hour. At present there is a speed restriction of 30 miles an hour on two lengths aggregating 50 miles out of a total length of 86½ miles. These restrictions have been caused by soft formation following an unusually wet winter. However, as the formation dries out the restrictions will be progressively lifted. The track is at present being lifted on new ballast at two mileages. Elsewhere, the ballast is satisfactory.

BOOK SALESMEN.

Mr. LAWN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of August 27 concerning book salesmen?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: My colleague, the Attorney-General, states that Cabinet is still considering the position of unscrupulous book salesmen who are travelling from door to door, but has experienced difficulty in drafting legislation which would distinguish between reputable salesmen and others who have a genuine interest in going from door to door. In cases of improper conduct and misrepresentation which have been brought to the notice of the Government, action has been taken and convictions have been obtained and publicity has been given to them. It is hoped to be able to stop this undesirable practice by the continuance of prosecutions where the evidence warrants.

Mr. RYAN: Recently I was approached by a constituent who was alarmed at being approached at 8.30 p.m. on a Saturday by a book salesman selling *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Another constituent farther down the street was wakened at 11.40 p.m. on a Saturday for the same purpose. I realize that the salesman would do no business under those conditions. Can the Minister say whether any legislation controls unscrupulous book salesmen working in this manner, and protects the householder from them? If not, will such legislation be introduced? These are not isolated cases and cause much concern to the general public, especially when happening late on a Saturday night when people do not expect salesmen.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Legislation has been introduced controlling salesmen who purport to represent the Minister or Director of Education or the Education Department.

Mr. Ryan: This salesman did not do that on these occasions.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The law was amended a couple of years ago, and that has had a salutary effect because of several convictions under it. It has, however, not

stopped the undesirable practice because I still receive complaints of a repetition of this type of practice. As far as I know, no legislation forbids the salesman—

Mr. LAWN: If you licensed them they could only sell their books on certain days.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON:—visiting during any hours of the day or on Saturday or Sunday. The worst aspect of this practice is that salesmen do not knock people up on a Saturday or Sunday because usually the man is about at that time, but mostly the salesman comes on a week day when the woman of the house is alone, and he uses most unfair and intimidatory tactics to try to stampede people into buying expensive books and sets of books for which most people would have no earthly use.

EGG MARKETING.

Mr. BYWATERS: Last week I asked the Minister of Agriculture a question regarding a visit to South Australia by Colonel McArthur (Chairman of the Commonwealth Egg Marketing Authority) and the Minister said he would refer the question to the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry (Mr. Adermann). Has the Minister any further information on the matter?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: When Colonel McArthur came to see me last week I was in the process of communicating with the Minister for Primary Industry about the C.E.M.A. marketing plan for eggs. When the honourable member asked the question I had written to the Commonwealth Minister but I did not feel inclined to say at the time what was in my letter, as the Commonwealth Minister would not then have received it. Briefly, Colonel McArthur wanted to know what could be done. He is very keen to bring this C.E.M.A. plan into operation. I reported to him that the Government and I strongly favoured a stabilization scheme for the marketing of eggs. We wanted to see a scheme that would work and one that was wanted by the producers. We were not in any sense trying to block the introduction of a Bill into the Commonwealth Parliament. I told the Minister for Primary Industry that, if the Commonwealth Government wished to introduce a Bill on this matter, the South Australian Government would urgently consider its attitude towards it.

TOTALIZATOR LICENCE.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Last week I asked the Premier a couple of questions concerning the conducting by the South Australian Jockey Club of a totalizator on the Victorian races

and whether using a basic unit of 5s. would contravene section 20 of the Lottery and Gaming Act. Has he obtained the report he promised?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I referred the matter back to the Commissioner of Police and he reported to me on the question of an interstate totalizator with only a 5s. unit. This is not a new establishment: it has operated for some time. The Commissioner expressed doubt whether it complied with the Act, so at present the matter is before the Crown Solicitor for an opinion whether it would infringe the Act. I will inform the honourable member as soon as I have received the Crown Solicitor's opinion.

APPRENTICES.

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Premier received information from the Minister of Labour and Industry concerning a recent question I asked about the number of extra apprentices employed by the Government this year as compared with the number over the last five years?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have received the following report from the Public Service Commissioner:

All indentures of apprenticeship for apprentices engaged by Government departments, other than the S.A. Railways, are prepared in my department. The number of indentures prepared during the past six years has been: 1963, 76; 1962, 61; 1961, 66; 1960, 43; 1959, 46; 1958, 51.

MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL.

Mr. BURDON: Has the Premier a reply to a question I asked last week concerning additions to the Mount Gambier Hospital and the appointment of a resident medical officer?

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

In the *Government Gazette* dated August 22, 1963, the Public Buildings Department is calling tenders, not for the construction of a medical officer's residence, but for alterations to the old Mount Gambier Hospital building to provide quarters for resident medical officers. The reason for having such quarters available is that it is proposed to appoint resident medical officers to the Mount Gambier Hospital if and when the number of medical graduates is sufficient to supply the needs of the Royal Adelaide and the Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, as well as some of the larger country Government hospitals. It is not anticipated that the number of medical graduates this year will be sufficient to enable resident medical officer appointments to be made at Mount Gambier or other country Government hospitals for 1964. Attached for information is a copy of a previous report dated September 19, 1962, concerning the proposal to appoint resident medical officers to Mount Gambier Hospital and to provide necessary accommodation for them.

That report is available if the honourable member would like to see it.

RAILWAY EXPENDITURE.

Mr. HALL: During the discussion on the Loan Estimates I made some comments concerning last year's railways vote. As a result of my representations, has the Minister of Works anything to report?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, informs me that the original Loan allocation for 1962-63 was £2,330,000. This was subsequently reduced to £2,166,000 in the latter part of the financial year, when it became evident that there would be appreciable under-spending on locomotive contracts. The actual expenditure for the year was £2,046,000, and the under-spending account locomotive contracts turned out to be £457,000. Although there was under-spending on buildings required for new diesel-locomotive depots, there was over-spending on buildings of the type referred to by the honourable member. With reference to the honourable member's remarks concerning lighting of the Hoyleton station, the position is that we have two lamps installed which provide sufficient lighting. It was estimated, in 1961, that it would cost £75 to install an electric light, exclusive of the provision of the necessary time clock. For the 13 weeks to August 31, 1961, only 16 tickets were issued at Hoyleton. This negligible passenger business does not, in the Commissioner's opinion, justify the spending of £75.

REID MURRAY EMPLOYEES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Recently I asked the Minister of Education, representing the Attorney-General, a question concerning Reid Murray employees who placed their wages in the firm's savings account, and whether those wages, because they had been paid into such a savings account, had become unsecured debts. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I said at the time that I would refer the honourable member's question to the Attorney-General but that I thought that the real point was that the wages, having been paid into a deposit account of Reid Murray, had ceased to be wages and had become savings. The Attorney-General has now supplied me with a report from the Registrar of Companies which confirms my opinion. It states:

Immediately money representing wages is paid into the company's savings account it ceases to be wages and becomes money on deposit.

RYCENA.

Mr. HARDING: Last week I asked a question of the Minister of Agriculture concerning the export of Rycena, and I quoted a news broadcast, part of which was as follows:

A trial shipment of 50 tons of the new product—known as "Rycena"—will leave Sydney this week for Ceylon. Manufacturers of the product told a news conference in Sydney today that they were confident of building up an Asian export market for 10,000 tons of Rycena each month, within the next year. Inquiries have been received already from many West African and Asian nations, including the Philippines, Pakistan, North and South Korea, Formosa and Hong Kong. Indonesia alone was interested in importing 100,000 tons of Rycena over five years.

Has the Minister a report on this matter?

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

Rycena is prepared from semi-hard wheat by exposing it to rubbing to produce a grain which has some similarity in appearance to that of rice. The production of Rycena is not a new industry. During the period several years ago when there was a world shortage of rice, Australia exported considerable quantities of Rycena to Asian countries. Some of this was produced in South Australia. There has been little or no export of Rycena during recent years. This is undoubtedly due to the improvement in the world supply of rice. It is understood that the trial shipment of 50 tons of Rycena referred to in the news item is the first export for some years. If, as is claimed in the news item, a useful market can be established, there is no reason why South Australian processors should not participate. At present there is no indication that the claims made regarding the possibility of establishing such a market are valid.

FOSTER CLARK (S.A.) LTD.

Mr. CURREN: On August 20 the Premier, in reply to a question regarding Foster Clark (S.A.) Ltd., said that a new firm was negotiating to take over the assets of that company. In view of that, can the Premier say what progress has been made in this matter? Has he any statement regarding the canning industry in this State?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I cannot take the matter further than I did in my reply to the previous question. I understand that a representative of the interested firm may come to South Australia this week, but I have not yet had any confirmation of this.

KESWICK BRIDGE.

Mr. LAWN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question on August 27 about a decision to rebuild the Keswick bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: A report from the Minister of Roads states that plans for the reconstruction of the Keswick bridge on Anzac Highway over the railway line are being prepared, and that funds have been provided for the work to commence during the latter half of the present financial year.

INSECTICIDES.

Mr. HUGHES: I understand the Minister of Agriculture has a reply to my recent question about the use of insecticides in aerial spraying of crops.

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

Most of the spraying of insecticides from the air is done in situations remote from habitation, although occasionally potato crops which are sprayed are close to farm houses. The most hazardous chemical applied by aircraft in South Australia is Parathion. Generally, very little of this is applied from aircraft, although some was used last year to treat Coleophora in strawberry clover seed crops, and it is occasionally used for the control of Rutherglen bug in potatoes. Materials other than Parathion used from aircraft have low mammalian toxicity and are, therefore, most unlikely to constitute a hazard. Of the five aerial spraying companies operating in South Australia, one company will use Parathion, one may use it occasionally, and the other companies refuse to handle it. Aerial operators are generally well aware of drift problems. Draft legislation to ensure a minimum risk of pilot incompetence and to cover other possible hazards in aerial spraying is at present being examined to see if satisfactory and uniform State control can be achieved throughout the Commonwealth.

CUTANA TO RADIUM HILL RAILWAY LINE.

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Railways to my recent question regarding the Cutana to Radium Hill railway line?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, informs me that although the matter raised by the honourable member's question has not been finally decided upon it is probable that the rails on the existing 3ft. 6in. gauge sleepers will be shifted out to 4ft. 8½in. gauge on the same sleepers.

WARREN RESERVOIR.

Mr. LAUCKE: In recent weeks a huge volume of water (I believe as much as 20,000,000 gallons an hour) has been passing over the South Para reservoir weir during times of peak flooding of the tributaries. The Warren reservoir overflows to the South Para reservoir, and I am concerned that the areas of the Barossa Valley, the Lower North and Yorke

Peninsula are reticulated from the Warren reservoir, which now holds about 1,400,000,000 gallons, and that that volume, without augmentation by pumping from the Murray River, is insufficient to cover the whole district fed by the Warren reservoir. Can the Minister of Works say whether raising the wall of the Warren reservoir by 10ft. has been considered, as this would increase the capacity of that reservoir appreciably? At present the Warren reservoir is the weak link in the chain of reservoirs and although it has been raised 3ft. 6in. to date, raising it a further 10ft. would encompass that huge volume of water and enable that reservoir to satisfy the needs of its district without pumping from the Murray River.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member has raised a matter which has not, so far as I know, been discussed between the Engineer-in-Chief and myself. I do not know whether it is possible to increase the capacity of the Warren reservoir by any further appreciable quantity. It is not a large reservoir in terms of area, and the supply is augmented by a main from the Mannum-Adelaide scheme that has proved somewhat inadequate, although not seriously so, in recent years. The water flowing over the Warren weir is not normally lost because it is impounded at the South Para reservoir. This year South Para is full so that the water flows farther down the Gawler River. This is an interesting question and I will ask the Engineer-in-Chief for a report.

MURRAY BRIDGE SEWERAGE.

Mr. BYWATERS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on August 29 about the priority of sewerage for the township of Murray Bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Engineer-in-Chief informs me that the town of Murray Bridge had an original priority of "5" and was lifted to No. 4 group in a subsequent review. Since 1958, when the construction of sewerage schemes for country towns was commenced, six towns have been completed, three more are under construction and three others are being investigated with a view of submission to the Public Works Standing Committee. On present indication, Murray Bridge's turn will come in about four to five years' time.

HOSPITAL CHARGES.

Mr. LAWN: I know that patients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital have to pay for hospitalization, but can the Premier say whether they have to pay for the use of the radiology

machine and for the use of the operating theatre, and whether any charge is made by doctors who perform the operations?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I should prefer to answer this question tomorrow after I have received a full report. The radiology machine was installed with assistance from the Cancer Research Fund. I believe that private practitioners have the right to send patients to the hospital for treatment by this machine. I will get a report on the question by tomorrow.

ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH.

Mr. CURREN: I have received a letter from the Renmark Oriental Fruit Moth Control Committee requesting a ruling on section 7 of the Oriental Fruit Moth Control Act. I understand that the Minister of Agriculture has obtained a ruling from the Crown Law Department on this section.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The honourable member showed me a letter in which two views were expressed on how section 7 of the Act could be read. It relates to the carrying of a poll. I have examined this closely and whilst I cannot give a ruling, I can give my opinion on what was intended when the House considered this matter last year. In order to carry a poll relating to the constitution of a committee, two separate conditions must be satisfied. First, not less than 30 per cent of the persons qualified and entitled to vote must have voted on a poll taken pursuant to section 6 of the Act. Secondly, after that condition is fulfilled, not less than 60 per cent of the persons who voted must have voted in favour of the appointment of a committee. I hope that that reply is clear and will settle any possible ambiguities for the honourable member's constituents.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

Mr. LAWN: Can the Minister of Works say what progress, if any, has been made with the rebuilding of the Government Printing Office?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Much progress has been made, although not necessarily in the form of a new building. Consideration has been given to the possibility of acquiring a site for new buildings, but such a site is not easy to obtain because of the special requirements of a printing office of this size and type. I will have to confer with my colleague, the Chief Secretary, and check the dockets before I can supply any more specific information. Much inquiry has been made, but no finality as to a site has been reached.

WHYALLA HOUSING.

Mr. LOVEDAY (on notice):

1. What is the total of completed double-unit Housing Trust houses in Whyalla?
2. What is the total of double-unit trust houses not yet completed in Whyalla?
3. When will these houses be completed?
4. What is the total of completed trust houses in Whyalla for purchase?
5. What is the total of these trust houses not yet completed in Whyalla?
6. What is the total of double-unit trust houses for Whyalla for which contracts have been let but on which construction has not commenced?
7. When were these contracts let?
8. When does the Housing Trust propose to let contracts for houses to be built in Whyalla under the £50 deposit rental-purchase scheme?
9. When contracts are let what will be the total purchase price of such houses and the weekly repayments of principal and interest?
10. How many more purchase houses with a minimum deposit of approximately £200 does the Housing Trust propose to build in Whyalla?
11. Have contracts for these been let? If so, when?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Chairman of the South Australian Housing Trust reports:

1. 1,788.
2. 190.
3. Within about 12 months.
4. 407.
5. 57.
6. None.
7. *vide* No. 6.

8 and 9. The present houses being built for sale are of the same design as those being built in the metropolitan area under the rental-purchase scheme, but the costs at Whyalla are substantially higher and the weekly payments for the houses under a rental-purchase scheme would be over high. As soon as the trust considers that it can build at Whyalla to the prices necessary for the rental-purchase scheme it will do so.

10. The current contract provides for 100 sale houses, a high proportion of which can be sold on a £200 deposit. This contract will be completed about December, 1964.

11. The contract for 100 houses was entered into in June, 1961.

SWIMMING CAMPAIGN.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice):

1. How many scholars were taught to swim during each of the last three Education Department learn-to-swim campaigns?
2. Is it planned to conduct a similar campaign during the approaching summer season?

3. Is tuition impeded through lack of swimming pools in this State?

4. What results were achieved in teaching swimming along the beaches of South Australia during the last learn-to-swim campaign?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The replies are:

1. 1960-61, 43,829; 1961-62, 54,510; 1962-63, 56,847; total for three years, 155,196.

2. Yes.

3. Yes.

4. In 1962-63, 13,329 received instruction along the beaches.

BREATHALYSERS.

Mr. BYWATERS (on notice): In the light of observations and recommendations contained in the 1960 report of the Senate Select Committee on Road Safety, especially those on alcohol and driving, is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to provide for compulsory chemical tests to assist in determining the degree of intoxication of drivers?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This matter is under consideration and a policy will be announced when a decision has been made.

MURRAY RIVER BRIDGES.

Mr. CURREN (on notice): What tests, if any, have been carried out by the Highways Department to select a suitable site for a bridge across the River Murray at or near Kingston and Berri?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Commissioner of Highways reports:

No specific foundation tests have been carried out in relation to the construction of new bridges in the Upper Murray area. At this stage an investigation into the whole project is in hand, but the sites have not been fixed, hence detailed exploratory work is not possible. There is, however, some information available as to foundation conditions at both of these sites, this information having been collected when investigating the proposed duplication of the ferries at both Kingston and Berri.

LAND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement on South-Eastern Lands Development—Counties Buckingham and Chandos.

Ordered that report be printed.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY VACANCY.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that, pursuant to the Electoral Act, 1929-1959, I have this day given to His

Excellency the Governor notice of my intention to issue a writ for the election of one member to serve in the House of Assembly for the electoral district of Stirling in the place of the late Mr. William Wilfred Jenkins. The writ will be issued by me on Friday next, September 6, and therein the following dates will be fixed: for nomination, Monday, September 16, 1963; for the poll, Saturday, September 28, 1963; for the return of the writ, on or before Friday, October 11, 1963.

REMARK IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE (Minister of Irrigation) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act, 1936-1959.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

LAND SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE (Minister of Lands) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Settlement Act, 1944-1961.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

EXPLOSIVES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

BUSINESS NAMES BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make appropriation of the several sums for all the purposes set forth in the accompanying Estimates of Expenditure by the Government for expenditure during the year ending June 30, 1964.

Referred to Committee of Supply.

THE BUDGET.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): This, my twenty-fifth Budget, proposes payments of £103,306,000 and receipts of £102,814,000, thus giving a deficit of £492,000. My first Budget of September, 1939, anticipated payments of £13,100,000 and receipts of £12,530,000. The population of the State is now almost 70 per cent greater, and over the intervening period prices and wages have risen, now being roughly three and a half times the 1939 level. To provide the same standard of service to the community would require a Budget totalling some £75,000,000. The Budget now presented totals £103,000,000, and this is an indication of the expanded services provided for the community. More than this it emphasizes the financial strength South Australia has achieved. The proposals for this year follow a period of steadily improving economic conditions, when finances proved to be more buoyant than could have been foreseen earlier. When the Loan Estimates for 1962-63 were presented in August, 1962, it was anticipated that expenditure on capital projects would exceed funds becoming available, and that the Loan Fund would move further into deficit. The Revenue Budget presented in September, 1962, forecast a deficit of £603,000. The final results for the year were a surplus on Loan Account sufficient to eliminate the previous deficit, and to give a balance of £405,000, together with a small surplus of £290,000 on Revenue Account, taking the cumulative surplus to £297,000.

The financial year 1960-61 began with conditions of high and increasing economic activity, and with some tendency towards inflation. Then late in 1960 the Commonwealth Government, concerned at the growing inflationary tendencies and the worsening balance of payments situation, introduced credit restrictions and associated measures. By the latter part of the year it had become apparent that the special restrictive measures had achieved their purpose in curbing the worst weaknesses in the economy, but it also appeared that, because of their effects upon public and business confidence, the measures may have gone too far. Certainly unemployment developed quickly in many industries, particularly in those connected with the production of motor vehicles and domestic appliances. Just prior to this it had become obvious that the very buoyant conditions of the first half of 1960-61, combined with a firm control of expenditure, would lead to a significant surplus on Revenue.

As unemployment developed, the Government was able to use the funds arising from that surplus to speed up the rate of progress on capital works to provide both essential services and employment, and thus to cushion the worst effects of the restrictive measures. However, 1961-62 stands out as the year in which the Government was able to take the action which, in retrospect, can be seen as vital in assisting to maintain a reasonable stability in the State's affairs. The principal decision was to push ahead as quickly as possible with a programme of capital works, committing all Loan moneys expected to become available, using the Revenue surplus of the previous year, and planning to allow the Loan Fund to move further into deficit. During the early part of 1961-62 there was some risk of overstretching the Government's finances as many contractors concentrated on Government projects, and it appeared that the rate of payments might be more than could be sustained throughout the year. However, the final result of the year was a manageable deficit of £422,000 on Loan Account. At the same time a surplus of £507,000 was achieved on Revenue Account due almost entirely to an unexpected improvement in railway finances.

By the end of 1961-62 it was clear that the rate of improvement in South Australia had been more rapid than elsewhere in Australia. Further rapid improvement, however, was obviously desirable, and, as I reported to Parliament when introducing the Revenue Budget last year, the situation was one in which it was our duty to frame financial policies designed to encourage still further a return to full employment. Therefore both the Loan and Revenue Budgets contemplated deficits for the year 1962-63. It became apparent during the year that the general improvement had continued, and had probably quickened somewhat. There were more favourable effects on Government revenues, and at the same time competition for labour became keener, with the result that not all State services could attract sufficient people with the qualifications necessary. These factors were responsible for the estimated deficit on Revenue Account being converted into a small surplus. It was on Loan Account, however, that the improving conditions had the greatest impact. The early part of 1961-62 saw a heavy reliance by contractors on Government projects. This became much less noticeable later, and by the middle of 1962-63, contractors were able to obtain a great deal more work privately and their rate of progress on State works was accordingly slower than had been expected earlier.

Under present circumstances I consider the Budget should be framed providing for a small deficit. This is considered preferable to any general increase in taxes and charges. The deficit proposed is £492,000. The Government also proposes to use last year's small surplus to provide for housing people in straitened circumstances, to assist the extension of electricity to areas which otherwise could not obtain supplies, and to give assistance toward facilities for our fishing industry. The only tax proposals affecting the Budget are a new method of computing liquor licence fees, and a reduction in succession duties, particularly to widows and children. The Government is considering the introduction of roads maintenance charges which would be paid to a special fund to finance maintenance of roads and therefore would not affect the Budget.

At the June, 1963, meeting of the Australian Loan Council the States secured a special non-repayable Commonwealth grant of £20,000,000, South Australia's share being £2,762,000. The Government, having decided that additional charges ought to be avoided so far as possible in the interests of the State economy, will allocate the whole of the special grant to the financing of normal budgetary requirements. The eventual result for 1963-64 will be influenced by two factors. On the one hand, a quickening in the rate of economic recovery could work towards reducing the planned deficit of £492,000. On the other hand it is certain that considerable pressure towards an increased deficit will arise from further awards in relation to margins and to leave. The Budget as presented takes account only of decisions given by the appropriate tribunals and authorities up to August 20 last. A number of further awards are pending which will mean additional costs.

I am pleased to be able to report favourably to the House on a matter which was of concern to the Government 12 months ago. Last year I referred to the fact that South Australia was being compelled to meet abnormal problems of development with funds limited to those available through the normal channels. In particular, the Government was concerned that the Commonwealth had declined to provide finance to permit the standardization of the Broken Hill to Port Pirie line. The Commonwealth has now agreed that the work shall proceed forthwith, and the State for its part is carrying out the preliminaries as quickly as possible. The other major project which required Commonwealth support to ensure its success—the Chowilla dam—is going ahead satisfactorily. The Government will continue

to press the State's just claims to be considered in the allocation of special development funds from the Commonwealth.

THE YEAR 1962-63.

Receipts at £97,584,000 were £1,333,000 in excess of the original estimate of £96,251,000. Payments at £97,294,000 were £440,000 in excess of the original estimate of £96,854,000. The main factor causing variations from the estimates was the special Commonwealth grant of £691,000 secured in February, 1963. The grant was taken into Revenue Account in its entirety, a procedure required by law so that Parliament might control its subsequent disbursement. Members will recall that the Supplementary Estimates provided for the £691,000 to be transferred to a deposit account and used by the Engineering and Water Supply Department to assist in financing and speeding up several country water supply projects; £311,000 had been actually spent at June 30 last, and the remaining £380,000 was committed for early disbursement on works in progress.

Once again the net result of the railway undertaking was favourable to the Budget, the overall improvement against estimate being £139,000. While grain traffic was not up to expectations, carriage of general merchandise, livestock and minerals was heavy, and cash receipts bettered the estimate by £17,000. At the same time continued efficient operation was responsible for payments being £122,000 below estimate. The latter saving was achieved after making retrospective payments of wages which were specially approved by the Government, and for which £88,000 was provided in the Supplementary Estimates. For receipts, the upward movement in economic activity brought increases above estimate of £25,000 for motor vehicles taxation and £76,000 for stamp duties. Succession duties were £275,000 above estimate due largely to an abnormal number of estates with an individual value above £100,000. Land tax billing was as expected, but a reduction in outstanding accounts during the year had the effect of increasing cash receipts above the estimate. Receipts from water and sewer charges and recoveries of debt services were both above the figures anticipated. The only shortfall of any consequence for receipts was for Harbors Board, £148,000 below estimate, the main reason being the failure of grain to be shipped as quickly as expected via the board's bulk handling installations and wharves. For departmental fees and recoveries there were a number of variations, the two

main increases being in the recoveries of the Education and Hospitals Departments, primarily recoveries from the Commonwealth. For payments there were several rather large excesses above estimate, two of which were covered by the provisions in the Supplementary Estimates. They were expenses of conversion and public loans, which were £136,000 above the original provision appropriated under "Treasurer—Miscellaneous", and grants to the University of Adelaide, which were £135,000 above the original provision appropriated under "Minister of Education—Miscellaneous". I gave the full reasons for these excesses when dealing with the Supplementary Estimates. Corresponding to the increased motor vehicle taxation receipts, the transfer to the Highways Fund under Special Acts was above estimate. Also under the Special Acts group of payments members will see an item of £200,000 which had not been budgeted. A fruit canning company, Foster Clark (S.A.) Ltd., was unable to meet its obligations to the State Bank of South Australia, and, under the guarantee which had been given by the Government to the bank on the recommendation of the Industries Development Committee, the Government was called upon for a payment of £200,000. The results of two of the major social services departments—Police and Hospitals Departments—showed payments below estimate, due almost entirely to the difficulty of securing qualified staff quickly. The shortfalls were £105,000 and £116,000 respectively. For "Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous", payments fell £75,000 below estimate as hospitals and institutions requested progress payments under approved subsidies a little less than had been provided. Engineering and Water Supply Department achieved savings of £63,000 as a result of pumping being rather less than expected earlier. Mines Department expenditures were £80,000 less than estimated due to the fact that several drilling programmes were postponed and more work was done on a reimbursement basis. Because dredging and other plant was concentrated on capital rather than maintenance works, and by virtue of the lower port activity, the expenditures of the Harbors Board fell £102,000 below estimate.

ESTIMATES FOR 1963-64.

RECEIPTS.

I estimate that receipts on Consolidated Revenue Account from all sources will amount to £102,814,000 in 1963-64. This, if achieved, will be £5,230,000 in excess of receipts for

1962-63. The Estimates of Revenue, copies of which have been made available to members, show the details of the estimated receipts compared with actual receipts under the various headings for 1962-63. I will now review the main items. State taxation receipts are estimated at £13,882,000, an increase of £412,000 over actual receipts last year. Within this group there are two significant movements which are expected to flow from the Government's proposals for amendment of rates, for which the necessary legislation is now being prepared for presentation to the House. The first of these proposals is for concessions in succession duties. Bearing in mind the steadily rising level of values over the years, the Government has examined the scales of rates of succession duties to see whether the position of widows, children and widowers, particularly as beneficiaries of relatively small estates, is such as to justify some relief. The Government considers that, at the present minimum values of succession at which tax is attracted, there may be some hardships for the wife or husband who, on the death of the marriage partner succeeds to an estate which may comprise only a house, or half share in a house, furniture and effects, perhaps a motor vehicle, but very little in liquid assets. The minimum values of succession were last adjusted in 1954, when the exemption level for widows and children under 21 years of age was raised from £2,800 to £3,500, and the exemption level for widowers, descendants and ancestors was raised from £500 to £1,500. The Government now considers it desirable to make adjustments for the changed levels of values, and to raise the exemption level for successions by widows and children under 21 years to £4,500 and for successions by widowers, descendants and ancestors to £2,000. At the same time it is proposed that the rates be adjusted slightly throughout the scale, and the effect may be summarized as follows. Whereas at present a widow or child under 21 years is required to pay duty increasing from nil on a succession valued at £3,500, up to £200 on a succession of £4,500, it is proposed that duty be not attracted unless the succession is valued at more than £4,500. At a value above £4,500, the amount of duty is to be £200 less than is payable under the present scale of rates. Whereas at present a widower, descendant or ancestor is required to pay duty increasing from nil on a succession valued at £1,500 up to £50 on a succession of £2,000, it is proposed that duty be not attracted unless the succession is valued at more than £2,000.

Members will have more detailed information put before them when amending legislation is introduced. I consider that the loss of revenue in a full year's operation of the amended rates would be about £200,000.

In the expectation that Parliament will approve the proposals shortly, and on the basis that the amended scales will apply only to successions arising from deaths after assent to the Act, I estimate that there will be an effect upon about six months' revenue receipts during 1963-64. Therefore, I have estimated a loss in revenue this year of about £100,000. Members will see from the Estimates of Revenue that a decline of £175,000 in succession duty receipts is expected. A decline of £75,000 additional to that which I have explained is estimated, because in 1962-63 an abnormal number of large estates above £100,000 each were assessed, thus inflating receipts, and it is extremely unlikely that the experience of last year will be repeated.

The other item of tax for which a variation of rates is proposed by the Government is liquor tax, more commonly referred to in this State as publicans' licence fees. Members are no doubt aware that it is the practice in South Australia to charge a publican's or club licence fee according to the valuation of the property concerned, the valuation being that adopted by the local government authority, if rating is on assessed annual values, and in other circumstances that adopted by the Engineering and Water Supply Department. The practice in each of the other Australian States is to levy liquor tax as a percentage of the wholesale value of the liquor turnover of a hotel or other authorized establishment in a defined previous period, the present rates ranging from 4½ per cent in Tasmania to 6 per cent of value of turnover in the three Eastern States.

The Government has been concerned for some time at two aspects of the South Australian legislation. The first is that, while the adoption of valuations made for other purposes is satisfactory for the majority of hotels, some anomalies do arise. This is so particularly between individual hotels in different localities due to the different levels of valuation adopted by local government authorities. Some further difficulties may arise as between individual hotels which vary markedly in the type of service given. The variation I have in mind is that between the hotel with a relatively large investment in land and buildings and a relatively low liquor turnover on the one hand, and on the other hand the smaller hotel with a very big liquor trade. The second aspect is

that the amount of liquor tax levied to finance Government activities in this State is so much less than the contribution made by the liquor trade or consumers in the other Australian States. The contribution in South Australia under existing provisions is roughly one-quarter of the amount which would be received if the Tasmanian levels of tax, 4½ per cent of turnover, were applied, and less than one-fifth of the amount at the level, 6 per cent of turnover, applicable in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland.

The Government has decided that the basis of charging liquor tax now operative in each of the other States is more equitable than the existing South Australian basis, and proposes to introduce the amending legislation necessary to relate liquor taxation to turnover in a defined previous period. However, the Government does not consider it appropriate to increase the impact of the tax fully up to the levels of the other States, but considers that a tax equivalent to 3 per cent of the turnover at wholesale values in the previous year would be reasonable. Such a tax would result in increased revenues of about £300,000 in a full year. In the expectation that Parliament will approve these proposals, and that they will apply to two quarters' instalments in the new licensing year to begin in February, 1964, I have estimated increased revenues of £150,000 this year. A further small increase over actual receipts in 1962-63 will result from new licences and some revaluations already made.

For stamp duties I have estimated receipts for 1963-64 at £2,666,000, an increase of £218,000 above actual receipts for 1962-63. Stamp duty receipts showed a pleasing steady upward movement throughout last year, as an increase in the number and value of transactions accompanied the improving economic situation. The final results for the year were £76,000 above estimate, and were slightly in excess of the previous total of such receipts achieved in 1960-61. I am confident that the improvement in the economic situation will be maintained, that the improvement will be reflected in the number and value of dutiable transactions, and that the estimate for stamp duty receipts will be achieved.

I anticipate that motor vehicle taxation receipts will also be influenced by increasing economic activity, and that they will increase by £260,000 to a total of £5,060,000. This item has no direct effect on the Budget result, because the proceeds of licence and registration fees, less the costs of the Motor Vehicles and

Highways Departments, are transferred to the Highways Fund for roads purposes in accordance with Statute. For public works and services I estimate that receipts will total £48,191,000, an increase of £2,402,000 over actual receipts for 1962-63. The increase is expected to come from:

The operation of public undertakings—	£	£
Transfer items which do not affect the final Budget result	100,000	
Normal receipts from services	1,137,000	
		1,237,000
Recoveries of interest and sinking fund		551,000
Other departmental fees and recoveries		614,000
		<u>£2,402,000</u>

Within the group of public undertakings the largest increase in revenue is expected to be for the Engineering and Water Supply Department, for which receipts from water and sewer charges are estimated at £8,003,000, an increase of £693,000 over receipts last year. Of this increase, some £300,000 will arise from expansion of services to meet the needs of housing, commerce, industry and agriculture. The remainder will result from a revision of valuations to bring them a little closer to current market values, variation of the basis of water rating on high-value properties, a small increase in the country lands rating scale, and an increase of threepence a 1,000 gallons in the price of water. These adjustments, which have already been implemented, will not impose a heavy burden on the community, but will help to reduce the growing gap between the expenditure and the revenue of the department. I will comment in more detail on the problems of water supply when I deal with expenditure proposals.

Exclusive of special Treasury transfers towards working expenses and debt charges, railway receipts are estimated to amount to £14,208,000, an increase of £123,000 above actual receipts from the transport of passengers and freight last year. At June 30, 1963, the volume of grain at sidings awaiting transport to the seaboard was much greater than the volume 12 months previously, and it is clear that grain carriage in the first half of this financial year will be above that of the corresponding

period of last year. With seasonal prospects as they now appear, grain carriage should also be heavy in the second half of 1963-64. The volume of general merchandise and the tonnage of minerals are expected to be greater than last year's carriage, but increased receipts will be offset by reductions in rates for special traffic in general merchandise and in ores and concentrates. These reduced rates have become necessary to retain traffic on the railways.

For receipts from harbours and marine facilities I have estimated £2,645,000, an increase of £133,000 above actual receipts for 1962-63. Harbours revenues may be expected to move in the same direction as railway freight revenues as the grain and minerals, which are carried to the seaboard, pass over the board's wharves or through its bulk handling installations.

I consider it appropriate to take it into revenue, this year, an increased contribution from the forestry undertaking. Forestry is a very long term undertaking and, while the first plantings of softwoods in Government plantations took place in the 1870's, it was not until 1954-55 that the exploitation of plantations was far enough advanced for a contribution to Revenue to be considered. The contribution in that year was £80,000. The annual credit to Revenue increased steadily to reach £360,000 last year. Last year, however, the actual net recoveries by the undertaking from exploitation of its forests exceeded all costs of maintenance and re-establishment of forests and the costs of new plantings and development by about £480,000. As the forests are still developing and expanding, and consequently increasing in value, the true profit for last year was clearly in excess of £480,000. In the light of this it is proposed in 1963-64 to transfer £540,000 of net recoveries to the benefit of Consolidated Revenue.

For recoveries of interest and sinking fund the increase of £551,000 expected this year will take total recoveries to £9,724,000. Of the increase of £551,000, £230,000 will be received from the Housing Trust and £186,000 from the Electricity Trust, the increased recoveries being due directly to the fact that funds are borrowed each year by the State and made available to the two authorities to assist in financing their capital programmes. There is no net impact on the Budget from such borrowings, as each authority meets debt service costs in full. A further increase is expected from interest on Government funds held at the Reserve Bank.

For "Other departmental fees and recoveries" I anticipate an increase of £614,000, taking the total to £8,366,000. The largest movement is in education receipts, which are expected to exceed last year's actual receipts by £240,000. The increase is due mainly to increased recoveries from the Commonwealth Government for university purposes. I will deal fully with university grants shortly when commenting on expenditure proposals.

Hospital receipts are expected to reach £2,869,000, an increase of £71,000 over actual receipts for 1962-63, due to increased numbers of patients and greater receipts from board of staff as new accommodation is occupied. An increase of £80,000 is anticipated for charges for services of the Registrar of Companies Office due to the new scale of fees under the Companies Act. This is the first variation in charges for such services since 1956. Within "Commonwealth" receipts the taxation reimbursement grant is expected to be closely £36,400,000, an increase of £1,624,000 above the grant for 1962-63. A special grant of £2,762,000 will be received, an increase of £759,000 above similar grants received last year.

PAYMENTS.

In the Estimates of Expenditure, copies of which have been made available to members, provision is included for:

	£
Annual payments for which appropriation is contained in special legislation	27,868,000
Proposed payments in respect of the various departments for which appropriation will be sought in an Appropriation Bill founded on the Estimates	75,438,000

Making a total of payments proposed for 1963-

64 of £103,306,000

The Estimates set out a great deal of information on proposed payments, and explanations of the detailed provisions will be given where necessary during the debate in Committee. I will now comment on the major provisions.

Under "Special Acts" the total of £27,868,000 for proposed payments anticipates an increase of £1,394,000 above actual payments last year. As in previous years, the largest increase will be in interest and sinking fund commitments on borrowed funds used for capital purposes. However, the increase in this item in 1963-64 is not expected to be as sharp

as the increases experienced in each of the last two years, despite the fact that the State will borrow more than in any previous year. Interest rates have receded gradually from the peak of £5 7s. 6d. per cent for long-term Government loans reached in the period between February and September, 1961, and for the recent July loan the long-term rate was £4 10s. per cent, the loan being issued at a discount to give a yield of £4 11s. 1d. per cent. The fall in rates will reduce the cost to the State of new borrowing, and overall will reduce the annual cost of loans which matured recently. Members will be well aware from a study of the Loan Estimates presented to the House last month that the borrowed funds are being channelled into essential works, which the Government must continue to provide and extend if the State is to maintain its current satisfactory rate of progress.

The Special Acts provisions include £150,000 this year for obligations of the Government which may arise from guarantees given to lending institutions on the recommendation of the Industries Development Committee. It seems clear that the Government will be called upon for a further contribution because of the failure of Foster Clark (S.A.) Ltd., and some provision has also been made against other possible liabilities.

Among departmental expenditures the major proposed increases are for departments providing important social services. In the field of health the largest provision is for Hospitals Department, the proposed expenditure of £7,274,000 being £545,000, or 8 per cent, in excess of actual payments in 1962-63. I commented in some detail on the principal hospital rebuilding and extension projects when dealing with the Loan Estimates. Important as those proposals are, they are only part of the story. The appropriations from revenue to provide the staff and to meet the day to day costs of running are equally important, and the Government will continue to provide the funds necessary to maintain services of a high standard to the community. In the appropriation for Hospitals Department is a provision of £1,593,000 for the mental health services. This is £200,000, or 14 per cent, in excess of actual expenditure for these services last year. The increase will enable the Director of Mental Health to achieve further marked improvements in staffing and service.

Once again, the Estimates include very large provisions for grants and subsidies to hospitals operated by independent boards of management. The two largest building projects for

this group of hospitals are for the Adelaide Children's Hospital and the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital. At the Adelaide Children's Hospital the major new building is moving towards completion, and occupation should begin in the middle of 1964. Apart from grants of £100,000 under special arrangements for teaching hospitals associated with universities, the Government has already paid to the hospital grants totalling £1,275,000. The £350,000 proposed for this year will be the final payment towards the new building and will carry the total to £1,625,000. The annual maintenance grant to the hospital provided in the Estimates will be £559,000 this year. At the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital a major rebuilding scheme is estimated to cost about £1,400,000. Work should begin by June, 1964, and the first grant of £28,000 towards the project is provided in this year's Estimates. The annual maintenance grant to the hospital will be £124,000 for 1963-64.

An examination of the Estimates under "Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous" will show numerous proposals for grants for maintenance and for capital works for country and community hospitals. The total of grants and subsidies required for medical and health services is estimated at £3,138,000, an increase of £570,000 above actual payments in 1962-63. Health services designed to eliminate or reduce the factors and conditions which lead to illness have an important part to play. In this State they are the responsibility of the Department of Health, for which this year's provision is £356,000, an increase of £39,000, or 12½ per cent, above actual payments last year. The department has given particular attention to the quality of food supplies. As an example, it will be remembered that in recent years imported desiccated coconut has caused trouble. Rigorous testing and control was followed by such a great improvement in quality and cleanliness that it has been possible to reduce testing to an occasional "spot check", with all recent samples passing the tests. Careful food preparation prevents many diseases, and many food industries have expressed appreciation of a number of food-handling conferences conducted by the department in country centres and in Adelaide. The incidence of hepatitis declined very greatly from 1,406 cases in 1961 to 504 cases in 1962, and the indications for 1963 to date are of a further decline. This reflects better attention to personal hygiene and food handling and some success in the war against flies. Infectious diseases are causing much less trouble than they did a few

years ago, but major efforts continue against them, particularly against tuberculosis and poliomyelitis.

In the field of law, order and public safety, the main provision is for the Police Department, for which this year's proposals total £3,179,000, an increase of £233,000, or almost 8 per cent, above actual payments for 1962-63. The proposals for this year envisage a net increase of 97 in the strength of the force to take the total to 1,566. For Sheriff's and Gaols and Prisons Department the provision for 1963-64 is £579,000, an increase of £25,000 above actual payments last year. Increased appropriations are also proposed for the law courts and the Crown Solicitor's Department to provide the staff and the services necessary to cope with a growing volume of business in the administration of justice.

In the field of education there will be a further very heavy increase in provision from the Budget. For the Education Department itself the 1963-64 proposals total £15,760,000, an increase of £1,136,000 or about 7 per cent, above actual payments last year. This follows increases of almost 11 per cent in 1962-63 and more than 14 per cent in 1961-62. In each of those years provision was required for salary increases granted to teachers and costing in total almost £700,000 a year. The 1963-64 proposals do not provide for further increases in salary scales, so the whole of the estimated increase of £1,136,000 is available for general expansion. Recruitment for the teaching service has been increasingly successful, and in 1963 there are 2,651 students in training at the three teachers colleges. Students who completed their courses in 1949 and took up appointments in the schools at the beginning of 1950 numbered 178. The number who completed courses in 1962 and moved into the schools last February was 783. At the end of 1963 it is expected that 855 students will complete courses and thus be available to teach in 1964.

Under "Minister of Education—Miscellaneous" the proposals for 1963-64 total £4,205,000, an increase of £367,000, or 9½ per cent above actual payments last year. The variation is due almost entirely to variations in grants to the University of Adelaide and to the Institute of Technology. Grants to the university provided in the Estimates total £3,709,000, of which £3,275,000 is appropriated under the education section, £44,000 under Special Acts, and £390,000 for the Waite Institute under the agriculture section. The grants

to the Institute of Technology, appropriated entirely in the education section, include grants towards the university level of teaching for the degrees in technology and applied science, and grants towards the tertiary teaching for diplomas and certificates. Honourable members may be interested to hear that in addition the Electricity Trust will make a very substantial grant, probably £100,000, towards the establishment of an Institute of Technology at Whyalla. We are now moving towards the close of the second triennium during which grants, both State and Commonwealth, have been made to universities following investigation and recommendation by special committees. The first of these three year periods, 1958 to 1960 inclusive, was covered by what is commonly known as the Murray Report, while the second period, 1961 to 1963 inclusive, was subject to the recommendations of the Australian Universities Commission. During the period of six years 1958 to 1963, grants paid to the University of Adelaide, and for degree teaching at the Institute of Technology, will have totalled closely £16,000,000. Of this figure, the State will have provided £9,500,000 out of its own resources and will have passed on £6,500,000 provided by the Commonwealth.

The Australian Universities Commission has taken a great deal of evidence from universities about their requirements for the next triennium, 1964 to 1966, but its report has not yet been made public. This naturally poses some problems in budgeting now for university grants to cover the first half of 1964, but I believe that it is possible to make a reasonable estimate of requirements. It is clear, of course, that the university expansion in the future will be largely at Bedford Park, and will be less pronounced at North Terrace. Planning is now well under way for the new Bedford Park branch of the University of Adelaide to be functioning in time to take first-year enrolments in the faculties of arts and science at the beginning of 1966. The Estimates provide for grants to the University of Adelaide sufficient to complete existing arrangements for the academic year 1963, and to meet roughly one-half of the anticipated requirement for 1964. The proposals for the Institute of Technology are on the same basis. It is possible that the latter may need some modification later in the financial year, when a special committee of the Australian Universities Commission makes its report on tertiary education—other than university education. The grant of £555,000 proposed for the institute

includes £75,000 towards a major new building at Whyalla. The Government is very grateful to the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited for its offer to contribute £100,000 towards the £450,000 building. I am hopeful that the Australian Universities Commission will recommend a Commonwealth contribution to assist the State to finance the remaining £350,000.

While commenting on social services, I wish to refer to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for which this year's provision is £674,000, an increase of £162,000 above actual payments in 1962-63. With the proclamation in February, 1963, of the new Aboriginal Affairs Act, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has been re-organized and a new concept of aboriginal welfare introduced. The policy of the Government under the new Aboriginal Affairs Act is to abolish all restrictions and restraints on Aborigines as citizens, to provide the machinery for rendering special assistance to Aborigines during their developmental years, and to promote assimilation. Relief may still be granted in cases of hardship or necessity, but generally assistance will be designed to encourage development and assimilation, as for example in the provision of housing, fostering and educating children, training in home management, acquisition of technical skills, and special assistance to enable establishment in farm, factory or business. The new legislation aims at placing all Aborigines under the same legal provisions as other South Australian citizens, with the same opportunities and responsibilities. To achieve these objectives senior officers in charge of administration, welfare and reserve activities have been engaged, and welfare staff in country areas, on reserves, and in the metropolitan area is being increased. Because of the importance of employment as a welfare measure, an officer has been appointed to advise and assist Aborigines in securing employment. An equally important aspect of this officer's duties is in his public relations with employers with the object of stimulating interest and action in the employment of Aborigines.

One of the most positive welfare steps which can be taken by the department is in housing, and a building programme is being undertaken to increase the present number of 72 houses in country towns and 47 houses on unsupervised reserves, which have already been erected and allocated on a rental basis to aboriginal tenants. This financial year's programme provides £85,000 for erection of houses in country towns, and a further £15,000 for houses on

unsupervised reserves. In addition to the department's own housing programme, a close liaison is maintained with the South Australian Housing Trust, which plans to increase the present number of 48 houses, which have already been rented direct by the trust to Aborigines. Applications for trust rental houses are received direct by the trust from prospective aboriginal tenants, and are dealt with on their merits in the same manner as applications from other members of the community.

In the policy of assimilation it is essential to bear in mind the widely different stages of development achieved by Aborigines and persons of aboriginal blood in different areas, and, because of these differences, policy must be rather flexible. On aboriginal reserves the aim is to provide opportunities for the people to acquire vocational and domestic skills and acceptable social habits, and to attain a standard of living, health, hygiene, and education whereby they may become capable of living in a manner comparable with the majority of the Australian community. Training is essential towards acceptance of family and community responsibilities which are an integral part of citizenship.

With the introduction of the new legislation, the department has launched a programme of education to inform the community of the changes to be brought about. The final acceptance of Aborigines within the community lies in the hands of all members of the community, and the Government cannot create a favourable social climate for acceptance simply by legislation, nor can it create the helpful atmosphere of tolerance so essential in assimilation. If, however, people are aware of the provisions of the new Act, and of the intentions of Parliament in passing the legislation, the possibilities of unfortunate misunderstandings may be avoided. The department will continue to provide grants in aid and other assistance to church missions for improvement of living conditions and physical welfare of Aborigines where the missions are able to care for the Aborigines satisfactorily.

For the public undertakings I shall comment on several aspects of the proposals for the Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Harbors Board, and the Railways Department. The provisions for the Engineering and Water Supply Department total £4,509,000 for 1963-64. The proposals may be better understood if this total is broken into three parts, namely, £312,000 for power for pumping through the two major mains, £123,000 for

South Australia's contribution towards the maintenance of River Murray works and £4,074,000 for what may be described as normal operation and maintenance. The latter figure compares with £3,794,000 for 1962-63, so that an increase of £280,000, or about 7 per cent is proposed. After allowing for the cost of higher salaries and wages granted under awards, and the cost of certain alterations to mains and services previously borne by councils, the increase remaining to take care of normal expansion is only £135,000, or less than 4 per cent. Only by very careful and responsible budgeting by the Engineer-in-Chief has it been practicable to contain the provisions for operation and maintenance within a total of £4,074,000.

During the last three years 980 miles of new water mains has been laid, bringing the total length to 10,000 miles. The water distribution systems now serve 312,000 properties, 235,000 in the metropolitan and nearby rural areas and 77,000 in country districts. This is an increase of 45,000 in the three years. Expenditure on water supply assets during the last three years has amounted to £23,000,000, bringing the total capital investment to £88,000,000. Capital expenditure on sewerage amounted to £6,750,000 in the same period, the total investment now being £20,250,000. This year the capital expenditure on these services will exceed £12,000,000. This figure includes £600,000 for the sewerage of country towns for which work has been accelerated.

In recent years widespread speculative land subdivision in areas extending from Gawler to Sellick Beach has caused difficulties to arise as a result of "spot" development. Isolated houses were built, and this meant that the owners were without services, or the State was obliged to incur heavy losses in providing water and sewerage facilities. The difficulties have now been largely overcome by requiring subdividers to meet initially the whole cost of water and sewer reticulation. Reimbursement is then made to subdividers on the basis of £100 for water and £100 for sewerage for each house built within five years of the date of the agreement. This system has operated to great advantage, as the purchasers of houses have these important services from the outset, and an adequate return is assured on Government funds expended, and compact development is encouraged?

Ten years ago the average daily consumption of water per capita in the metropolitan area was 77 gallons and this has now increased to 112 gallons. This increase has brought with it

both financial and physical problems, particularly as growth is taking place mainly in the summer months. The maximum daily consumption per capita in 1953-54 was 167 gallons. but by 1962-63 the maximum had risen to about 260 gallons. Although there are several factors contributing to the increasing summer consumption, garden watering is undoubtedly the principal cause. Constant improvement of the supply system at heavy cost is necessary to cope with the summer peaks, and, while Adelaide's gardens are a great aesthetic asset, there is no doubt that waste and unwise use of water are causing unnecessarily heavy pumping costs.

The rainfall was below average in five of the six years from 1957 to 1962 inclusive, and this placed a big strain upon the State's water resources. During this six-year period the rainfall deficiency in Adelaide was 25in., *i.e.*, rainfall averaged only 80 per cent of normal. Despite the low rainfall and an ever increasing rate of consumption, full supplies were maintained in practically all localities. The two principal mains from the River Murray made this achievement possible. Heavy demands are met by the Morgan-Whyalla main each year, but the consumption from the Mannum-Adelaide main varies according to supplies available from the reservoirs. The fluctuating nature of the demand and of the cost of power for the Mannum-Adelaide main is illustrated by the following figures:

Year.	Millions of gallons pumped.	Cost of power. £
1957-58	14,020	545,000
1958-59	5,240	164,000
1959-60	14,975	613,000
1960-61	3,466	150,000
1961-62	14,647	592,000
1962-63	8,811	318,000
1963-64 (proposed) . . .	2,000	72,000

These fluctuations naturally cause some budgeting difficulties. The reservoirs begin to fall in August in some years, but on several occasions they have remained full until early December. This year marks a big step forward in the conservation of local water resources, as the three largest reservoirs have filled for the first time, namely the enlarged Mount Bold, Myponga and South Para.

In the light of the heavy storages in reservoirs at present, members may be surprised that any pumping is likely this financial year to supplement metropolitan water supplies. It would be a reasonable assumption that metropolitan storages will still be practically full at

the end of September, and holding about 23,500,000,000 gallons. Over the eight months until the end of May next it will be practicable to supplement metropolitan supplies from the South Para reservoir by about 3,000,000,000 gallons, but for reasonable safety it will be necessary to plan to have some 4,500,000,000 gallons in storage in the metropolitan area at the end of May. Accordingly, the availability of reservoir water for the eight months is likely to be about 22,000,000,000 gallons, whereas the anticipated usage for that period, including losses through evaporation, is about 24,000,000,000 gallons. This suggests that we will have to pump through the Mannum-Adelaide main about 2,000,000,000 gallons before the end of May next, and provision is made accordingly. Of course, if we should have substantial October rains, a mild summer, and an early break to the 1964 season, pumping may possibly even be avoided. On the other hand, a lack of spring rains, a very hot summer, and a late seasonal break could mean significantly heavier pumping costs than I have estimated.

For the Harbors Board the provision for 1963-64 is £1,523,000, an increase of £75,000, or a little more than 5 per cent, over actual payments for 1962-63. The proposed appropriation will cover the costs of increased operation of the board's bulk handling facilities and the normal maintenance programme. The board now provides bulk handling facilities at Wallaroo, Port Lincoln, Thevenard, and Port Pirie. The fifth installation is now being constructed at Port Adelaide.

The proposals for the Railways Department total £14,651,000, an increase of £343,000, or less than 2½ per cent in excess of actual payments last year. This expected increase is due almost entirely to the cost of variations in awards and determinations. It is anticipated that continued increased efficiency in the organization will permit the carriage of a greater volume of traffic this year with costs generally being held at least year's level. The use of diesel-electric locomotives continues to increase, and members will recall that the Loan Estimates for 1963-64 provide funds for additional units for service on both broad gauge and narrow gauge lines. The most direct benefit of diesel-electric locomotives on the railways financial results is in the payments for fuel, which are estimated at £724,000 this year, a reduction of £90,000 from the 1962-63 figure, despite the anticipated haulage of a greater volume of traffic.

The Agriculture Department has provisions totalling £983,000 this year, an increase of £128,000, or 15 per cent, above actual payments in 1962-63. Included in the total of £983,000 is £225,000 for the fight against fruit fly. Last year the recurrence of fruit fly fully taxed the department's services. Five outbreaks occurred in the metropolitan area, and two species, the Mediterranean and the Queensland fly, were found. The recent occurrences followed a three-year period of freedom from the pest, and emphasize the need for continued vigilance against the introduction of new pests and diseases.

The threat of the introduction of noogoora burr continues with the movement of sheep and cattle from New South Wales and Queensland, and this has required increased inspections to be made to safeguard the State's pastoral and agricultural areas. The greater ease in transport of stock, produce and people poses increasing problems in the protection of our agriculture against the introduction of pests and diseases from overseas and other States.

Expanding wheat production in Australia has presented marketing problems which have been accentuated by the variability of the wheat available. To improve the quality of wheat, the department has launched a campaign aimed at reducing the numbers of varieties grown, and so bringing about greater uniformity in the appearance and quality of the grain. Already the campaign has gained the support of wheatgrowers and is accepted by most. A similar campaign has been started for oats in an effort to improve the prospects of sales on overseas markets.

Satisfactory progress is being made in the development of Northfield Research Centre. When established it will provide means for research in dairy husbandry and related problems. The completion of the new laboratories, now under construction at Northfield, will provide facilities for laboratory work to supplement field research at research centres and on farmers' properties. The department will continue to provide its most valuable service, that of making known to the primary producer the advances in knowledge which will help him to increase his output, improve his product and control his costs.

The provisions for Mines Department for 1963-64 total £741,000, an increase of £62,000, or about 9 per cent, above actual payments last year. The department will continue and extend its primary functions of exploring, testing and recording the State's mineral resources. Two

seismic parties will continue to operate as part of the Government contribution to the oil search programme in South Australia. One party will be occupied in the Lower and Upper South-East, and the second in the Great Artesian Basin. Private enterprise is active in this field, notably the Delhi-Santos group, and the large French organization, French Petroleum Company (Australia) Proprietary Limited. The latter company is at present working in the Simpson Desert north-easterly from Oodnadatta.

The general mineral search programme is also being stepped up, both departmentally and by private enterprise. In metallics the department is engaged at Ediacara on a large low-grade lead deposit, at Burra seeking extensions of the former rich copper deposits, and copper investigation will also be carried out at Yudnamutana in the north-east Flinders Ranges and at Kapunda. In non-metallics efforts are being concentrated largely on the search for potash, bromine, etc., in saline lakes, both near the surface and possibly at considerable depths. Rock phosphate is also being actively sought. Private mineral search is proceeding at an increased tempo with Australian and overseas organizations working in a number of localities, including Wallaroo-Moonta, Callington-Kanmantoo, Radium Hill, Blinman and Pernatty Lagoon.

In concluding my comments on proposed payments for 1963-64 I would point out to members appropriations in the Estimates for two smaller proposals which I believe to be of general interest. Under "Minister of Lands—Miscellaneous", £62,000 has been provided for the purchase of land for national reserves. The Government has taken the opportunity to purchase a further 702 acres to add to the Para Wirra National Reserve, for which the existing 1,100 acres was purchased in 1960-61. An amount of £62,000 has been provided to cover this proposal and several smaller proposals for reserves. Within the funds made available to the Tourist Bureau is a provision of £60,000 so that the Windy Point area, a national pleasure resort, may be developed.

GENERAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL MATTERS.

The extraordinarily good autumn and winter rains of 1963 will have favourable effects upon the State Budget, and I have taken these into account in the Estimates submitted. Directly, there will be considerably reduced costs for water pumping which have already been

explained in some detail. Less directly rail and harbour revenues will benefit from increased transport of grain and other produce. Less directly still there will be gains in stamp duties, collection of Crown dues, and rail freights for general supplies and merchandise. A good rural season, moreover, benefits not only the rural community itself and the Crown revenues, but has a widespread benefit to the rest of the community and the economy of the State generally.

The 1962 season was a difficult one for most rural producers. The late start to the season, following an earlier false break, upset pasture growth, and extensive hand feeding of stock was necessary throughout the season. With below average winter rainfall and the absence of good spring rains in most districts, the cereal harvest suffered, and average yields were very similar to those of the previous year. Because of an increased acreage harvested, the overall production of cereals at 61,000,000 bushels was slightly greater than the 59,500,000 bushels produced in 1961-62, but was far less than the yield of 101,000,000 bushels of wheat, barley and oats produced in 1960-61. This year, following the early seasonal break and excellent winter rainfall, and with good growing conditions, crops are thriving. The marginal areas, too, are sharing in the benefits of a good season. With a reasonable finish to the season a record cereal crop can be anticipated.

A feature of South Australian agriculture in recent years has been the rise in acreage of cereal cropping, and in particular the area being sown to wheat. In the current season the area sown to wheat, barley and oats will be about 10 per cent greater than last year. The present season is also favourable to pasture growth, and prospects for livestock production are very bright.

In the last two years the majority of South Australian primary producers have faced not only the problem of indifferent seasons, but in addition the general problem faced by all primary producers—the uncertainty of markets. While it is encouraging to reflect on the improved seasonal outlook, one must not lose sight of the fact that the problems of marketing are likely to remain for some time. Continued attention to efficiency and a desire to take advantage of the latest scientific advances and management practices are essential for the agricultural and pastoral industries.

The prices at present being obtained for wool have shown a significant improvement on

those in the previous year, but this should not divert attention from the very serious necessity to meet the threat of synthetics. This can be done only by attention to quality, to marketing promotion, and the assiduous search for new outlets. Promise of a record cereal harvest makes more prominent the difficulties of placement overseas of an increasing volume of grain in the face of heavy production and surpluses of other countries. Disposal of wines, dried fruits and canned fruits also presents most serious problems. The increasing low-cost production in South Africa, which, because of trade embargoes against that country in a number of markets, is pressing more heavily upon our traditional British market, is reducing both the extent of the market and the price available to Australian producers. One temporary advantage to horticultural production is the improved outlook for overseas disposal of orange juice following the severe frost damage to United States orange groves.

In Australia we have concentrated with particular success upon the production problems in our rural industries, and we are producing more and more upon our available lands with the same, or even less, labour force. Our modern challenge is in disposal, and this involves two factors—control of costs and trade promotion. Trade promotion is of necessity mainly overseas, and in this, advertising, representation, and international agreements play a vital part. Much of this, of course, is in the hands of the Commonwealth Government and bodies representative of industry upon an Australia-wide basis.

Our timber industry, located mainly in the South-East of the State, has achieved remarkable progress. The Government forestry undertaking led to the establishment of Mount Burr mill in 1930, and Nangwarry and Mount Gambier mills have since followed. In 1940 Cellulose Australia Limited established a factory at Snuggery to make paper pulp for conversion to board. In 1960 Apcel Limited began operating a plant at Tantanoola to use pulp for the manufacture of tissue paper, and also in 1960 the Australian Particle Board Company commenced manufacture of particle board, using pine thinnings as raw material. A number of small private mills and plants also process forest products. These forestry undertakings have been the basis of an extensive development of industry and employment in the South-East, and have latterly provided increasing revenues to the Crown. The Government forests constitute a most valuable asset, having already returned far more than

their cost and promising much greater returns in the future. There is, however, the necessity to ensure profitable outlets for the increased volume of exploitation of both Government and private forests, with consequent further great boost to local employment opportunities and development. It is for that reason the Government has most energetically sought to arrange the establishment of a major pulp and paper industry in the area. Such an industry, if it is to be of economic size, would require to be assured of all available thinnings of the Government forests, together with those of the private forests, both in the South-East of this State and in western Victoria. This requirement means that the timber contracts must be worked out satisfactorily with the Forestry Board and also with the private forests interests, which have a rather different approach and outlook. The Government has no doubt that such an industry will be established eventually, but as yet a solution has not been found that satisfies the interests of all parties sufficiently to arrive at a firm mutual agreement. An attempt will now be made to constitute the industry on a wider basis than previously contemplated, and other interested parties will be invited to consider proposals.

In secondary industry the State continues the very satisfying expansion which has been occurring steadily since the Second World War. Whereas in 1939 there were 2,100 factories in South Australia, the number today is closely 6,000. In 1939, 43,000 people were employed in manufacturing industries, but the total today is about 102,000. The value of land, buildings, plant and machinery employed in secondary industry in 1939 was £19,000,000. The value of these items is now approaching £250,000,000. Whereas the annual value of the production of factories in 1939 was £14,000,000, the annual value today is approximately £180,000,000. Allowing for changing wage and cost levels, it can be seen that the real value of factory production today is three and a half times the 1939 value. The

major individual projects of recent times have been the oil refinery near Hallett Cove and the steelworks at Whyalla. The refinery came on stream in February last. The sight of tankers at anchor by day and the light of the refinery's flare stack at night are now familiar signs of the progress of the area. Progress at the steelworks is satisfactory. The structural rolling mill is expected to be in production at the end of this financial year, and early in 1965 the bloom mill and the basic oxygen steelmaking plant should be operating. The motor vehicle manufacturing industry continues to show its confidence in this State and in the future, and further expansion is planned.

As a consequence of growth elsewhere, and a rising standard of living, tertiary services of all kinds are expanding. The main visible sign is in the number of new commercial buildings and department stores which have been built lately or are now in progress. Since 1939 the population of South Australia has risen by almost 70 per cent, while the increase for Australia as a whole has been less than 60 per cent. In January last the State's population passed the 1,000,000 mark—a notable milestone. I believe that our achievement in population may be taken as an indication that South Australia has real confidence in itself as a State with a great future.

I am very much indebted to my Treasury officers for the preparation of the vast amount of material that goes to make up the Estimates each year. Honourable members will realize from the standard of work they have seen that our Treasury officers are second to none in the Commonwealth, and I am sure that all members will join me in expressing appreciation of the work done by these officers. Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.27 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, September 4, at 2 p.m.