

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Thursday, February 27, 1964.

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

**QUESTIONS.****APPRENTICES.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Yesterday the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) asked a question about the shortage of skilled tradesmen in industry. The Trades and Labor Council has gone out of its way to try to improve apprenticeship conditions, but not sufficient boys are entering the various trades. I believe that our technical high schools could be a good field for recruiting apprentices. Will the Premier consider appointing a body comprising representatives of the Education Department, Trades and Labor Council, and employers to visit technical high schools with a view to recruiting suitable boys as apprentices? If boys were available for apprenticeship training, employers might be willing to indenture them.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I agree entirely with the Leader that it is essential that we get into industry as many trained persons as possible. That is one reason why the Government has spent so much recently on technical schools. Not long ago we had only two technical schools in South Australia, but the Government has rapidly expanded technical education because of its concern with the present situation in industry. I shall have the question investigated to determine whether anything can be done.

**TANUNDA COURTHOUSE.**

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Can the Minister of Works say whether plans have been completed for a new courthouse and police station in Murray Street, Tanunda, and when such building will be erected?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Director of the Public Buildings Department expects that tenders could be called to enable a contract to be let late this financial year.

**SWIMMING POOLS.**

Mr. HUTCHENS: During the last three months or so articles have appeared in the press indicating that the Minister of Education, in his capacity as Minister and, I think, President of the Royal Lifesaving Society and Vice-President of the Amateur Swimming Association, has made strong appeals for swimming pools in the metropolitan area and at the

same time has explained the difficulties that teachers and trainers have in carrying out the important function of teaching pupils to swim. As one who has been interested in trying to get an Olympic pool established in the western district, I have concluded that the pool could not be established at a cost of much less than £200,000, including the acquisition of land and the provision of necessary parking space. A leading article in the *Advertiser* of February 8 stated the position clearly. It drew attention to the fact that the Government was giving a subsidy for swimming pools, but it stated in a mild way that this was thought to be insufficient. Appreciating the difficulties of local government in finding the sum required, and in view of his many statements, will the Minister consider asking the Government to increase the subsidy in order to supply this necessary facility?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I certainly have made public statements on this matter recently. I am greatly interested in the question of swimming pools, or the absence of them, because I am responsible for the conduct of the juvenile learn-to-swim campaign that I inaugurated in 1955. Since then the total enrolments in the Education Department's learn-to-swim campaign have exceeded 368,000. This summer alone the numbers have exceeded 58,000. In the Christmas vacation period of about 10 days, the total of entrants exceeded 30,000, and nearly 9,000 girls and boys who were previously non-swimmers were taught to swim more than 10yds.; another 16,000 received swimming certificates and more than 4,000 received lifesaving certificates. The fact remains, however, that during more than half of that Christmas vacation period the weather was inclement and the waves were too strong and sandy for teaching young children to swim. We have only 30 centres of any kind, including all the seaside centres, for the whole of the metropolitan area, and we have 102 centres in the country. In those 132 centres, 627 instructors versed in both swimming and lifesaving were giving the benefit of their teaching experience to the young people. However, I am firmly convinced that the expert opinion throughout Australia is that swimming cannot be taught properly, particularly to young people, in the open sea water: it has to be taught in pools, and we are woefully deficient in this State, particularly in the metropolitan area, in proper pools. I do not necessarily advocate Olympic pools, although I should like to see one such pool in the metropolitan area. I think the Premier,

as Treasurer, has already stated, without giving a definite assurance, that he would be prepared to make a generous subsidy to one pool of Olympic size in the metropolitan area, but he is not prepared to subsidize a number of pools. I know that the Burnside council has been making very strenuous endeavours to secure the acceptance by its own ratepayers of such a scheme. Whether these endeavours will be successful or not remains to be seen. Possibly the honourable member's constituents will get in earlier.

Mr. Hutchens: They may not, because they cannot find the money.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Like the Premier, I would welcome one large Olympic pool, but I am not so much concerned with those standards as I am to see in the metropolitan area more practical pools where young people, particularly young children, can be taught properly to swim.

#### EYRE PENINSULA LAND.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Has the Minister of Lands further considered the subdivision of 92,000 acres in the hundred of Hambidge for settlement? This land is now held as a wild life reserve and on the 250,000 acres there I do not suppose there is enough feed for even one sleepy lizard or one kangaroo. I understand that other land in the district could be exchanged for some of this good agricultural land. Has the Minister any up-to-date information?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I have most up-to-date information: that the area will remain a wild life reserve and not be cut up for land settlement. The Hambidge Reserve is an area of 92,000 acres. I think about 40,000 acres of this land would be suitable for development, but if it were developed the rest could be given away as useless for the function it was intended to fulfil, which is to give an area complete in all its ecological associations. This is the last remaining area in South Australia that has these associations. It will be retained as a wild life reserve and preparations are being made to fence it. Fencing will be expensive, but it is considered so vital by people who have these interests so much at heart that the Government has seen fit to meet this expense and to preserve this area as the last link with the ancient type of fauna which we have in South Australia and which, if its immediate associations are destroyed, can never be replaced. I regret it if my statement does not

fit in with the wishes of the honourable member's constituents. However, other areas there—about 250,000 acres in the Hincks Reserve and other areas apart from the Hambidge Reserve—will also be preserved because nobody wants them for development, as they are unsuitable for development, but the areas offered in exchange for the Hambidge Reserve will not adequately replace what would be lost if we threw open the Hambidge Reserve: I have had expert opinion on this. Water will not be a problem. This generation must consider future generations and it is up to us to preserve the precious heritage we have in the marsupial life and its flora associations. We aim to do that. I am sorry that the honourable member must be disappointed, but I am not sorry that this area will remain a wild life reserve.

#### ELIZABETH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. CLARK: Since April, 1961, the Elizabeth Grove Primary School Committee has tried to get something done to prevent flooding of the north-eastern corner of the schoolgrounds. For the past three winters teachers and students have endured the smell of water and stale mud from this area, and it is feared that this could become a danger to health. Recently, two new classrooms were erected but no drain or bitumen was put around the building. The school committee considers that, unless new drains are laid before the winter rains, access to the main buildings from the north-east may have to be closed and that students may not be able to use the new classrooms. Will the Minister of Works inquire whether the problem can be solved before the coming winter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. From memory I think I have seen some minute and correspondence about this matter. There has been some problem associated with it and some delay in consequence of recent building activity, but I will investigate the matter and endeavour to have it rectified before the winter because it is not easy to do this type of work in winter and it would be advisable in the interests of all concerned to have it done before then. I will inform the honourable member by letter of the result of the inquiry.

#### COUNCIL ROADS.

Mr. COUMBE: In reply to a question yesterday, the Premier announced that he would shortly be attending a Premiers' Conference in Canberra, at which the principal subject under discussion will be the new Commonwealth

Aid Roads Act, which will operate until 1969. Is the Premier aware that the demand for road and traffic works within the various municipalities has changed dramatically during the last few years and that, instead of the normal requirements for annual maintenance of main thoroughfares and the development of private streets, councils have suddenly been confronted with the necessity of completely reconstructing some roads to higher standards, of installing traffic signals and channelization schemes, of improving street lighting, and, in some instances, of employing numerous staff to handle parking and traffic problems? Councils regard this as a danger to their existence. There is a danger to community shopping centres because pedestrians and fast-moving traffic will not mix readily, and many mothers of small children are worried because of this traffic problem. When the Premier attends this conference, will he emphasize, without denying the claims of other parts of this State, the claims of metropolitan councils and request the Commonwealth Government, under the agreement that is to be negotiated, to increase materially its level of funds for roadworks and to make a specific allocation from this additional sum for capital city roads?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The submission suggested by the honourable member has already been made to the Commonwealth Government, but that does not include the last sentence of his question. The State Government believes that this Parliament is fundamentally the authority that should tackle the traffic problem and the distribution of road money. We have never objected to the Commonwealth Government making a specific allocation in respect of outback roads because there are specific problems in those areas and, in any case, those roads are to be regarded as arterial and strategic roads rather than, in some instances, traffic roads in the sense that we know them. The State Government has already pointed out to the Commonwealth Government the enormous traffic problems arising in every capital and the urgent necessity to begin building freeways. Freeways will not be built at the expense of the local government authorities but will be built by the Highways Department, because they would be beyond the means of local government authorities. Dealing with the question, the submissions suggested by the honourable member have been made, except for the submission that specific allocations be made for a particular area because, fundamentally, that matter should be subject to question by members of this House.

Mr. RICHES: My question follows on those that have been asked this afternoon and previously concerning local government finance and the need for additional money for the cities to provide for roadworks and necessary services. Something in the nature of a financial crisis is developing in most local government bodies in the State. The Municipal Association and other local government associations have recognized this for some time, and I think for about the last three or four years have been asking the Commonwealth Government and the State Governments if they would meet together in conference with representatives of local government authorities for the purpose of trying to arrange a different apportionment of the revenue available for these services throughout the State. I understand that, although some Governments have indicated that they would be willing to attend such a conference, other Governments have rejected the proposal outright. Can the Premier say whether this Government has considered requests that I understand have been placed before it by the South Australian Municipal Association and, if it has, can he tell the House what the Government's attitude to such a conference would be?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will try to get the honourable member an answer to this question from the Minister of Roads later this afternoon.

#### PENSIONERS' CONCESSION FARES.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked yesterday about concessions for pensioners?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. It is too long to read to the House so I ask leave to have the report be incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### PENSIONER CONCESSION TRAVEL.

##### *Metropolitan.*

From October, 1959, a concession travel scheme for pensioners has operated in the metropolitan area. A broad outline of this scheme is as follows:

1. Classes of Pensioners granted concession fares:

(a) Department of Social Services pensioners:

- Old age pensioners.
- Invalid pensioners.
- Widow pensioners.
- Recipients of wife's allowance.

(b) Repatriation Department pensioners:

- (i) Service pensioners:
  - Aged service pensioners.
  - Permanently unemployable service pensioners.

Tuberculosis service pensioners not in receipt of a tuberculosis allowance.

Wives of permanently unemployable or tuberculosis service pensioners not in receipt of a tuberculosis allowance.

(ii) War pensioners:

Parents in receipt of war pensions under Repatriation Regulation 34AA.

Dependent parents of deceased servicemen under Repatriation Regulation 34, who receive maximum rates of pension.

Dependent widowed mothers of deceased servicemen under Repatriation Regulation 32, who receive maximum rates of pension.

2. Fares to be charged.—Both the South Australian Railways and the Municipal Tramways Trust permit pensioners who produce a current pensioner's concession fare certificate to the booking clerk, conductor or operator, to travel at children's rates. These are approximately half the adult rates.

3. Restriction on travel at concession rates.—Travel at concession rates is not allowed on M.T.T. vehicles for journeys commencing before 9.30 a.m. or between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays inclusive. Similarly concession rates are not available on trains which are scheduled to arrive in Adelaide before 9.30 a.m. or to depart from Adelaide before 9.30 a.m., or between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays to Fridays inclusive. Approval has been given for concession travel on certain rail services to Bridgewater (for passengers beyond Belair) and North Gawler which are scheduled to leave Adelaide a little after 4 p.m. In these instances the previous rail service is considerably earlier. There are no restrictions on times of travel on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays.

Concession fare certificates cannot be used for travel on special services, such as to race courses and other sporting fixtures. For travel on S.A. Railways trains at the concession rates the metropolitan area is defined to extend as far as and including the stations of North Gawler, Virginia, Noarlunga, and Bridgewater.

From July, 1962, the Government extended the concession fares scheme for pensioners in the metropolitan area to include private enterprise bus services licensed by the Municipal Tramways Trust. Some services not licensed by the trust, but transporting people from the fringe of the metropolitan area and rapidly developing areas nearby, were also brought into the arrangement. Their inclusion depended upon provision of a significant 'off-peak' service in districts not served by State transport systems.

Private bus operators included in the scheme received a Government subsidy varying in most cases with quarterly revenue from ticket sales. Pensioners presenting a concession fare certificate issued by the Municipal Tramways Trust are entitled to travel, at children's fares, during the same 'off-peak' hours as apply on trust vehicles.

On certain private bus services running to the hills these time restrictions are not adhered to rigidly. Some operators voluntarily extend the hours fixed for concession travel for pensioners to include the next service outside the hours stated.

*Country.*

Concession travel for pensioners outside the metropolitan area (as defined above) has been provided since July, 1961, on the following basis:

1. Persons entitled to the concession:

(a) Pensioners (including service pensioners) who hold Pensioner Medical Entitlement Cards issued by the Department of Social Services and who are permanently resident outside the defined metropolitan area.

(b) Dependent wives of such pensioners who are in receipt of a pension or a wife's allowance.

2. Nature of the concession.—A person to whom the concession has been granted can secure from the Railways Department two warrants each year. The warrants entitle holders to two journeys (single or return) at half fare anywhere upon the State railways.

The Government will also reimburse a regular private bus service, but not a tourist service, where the operator honours these warrants, by granting half fares for journeys for which rail facilities are not available.

From December, 1961, pensioners entitled to country travel concessions also became eligible for a metropolitan concession fare certificate. Country travel concessions were originally not available over Christmas and Easter holiday periods but, from April, 1962, this restriction was removed.

*Hospital.*

Another arrangement under which there is no restriction on hours of travel provides free travel for all pensioners, and their dependants under 16 years of age, who are required to attend Government hospitals or the Adelaide Children's Hospital for outpatient treatment. They are reimbursed the actual cost of the return fare incurred in travelling to and from the hospital by train, or vehicles owned by the Municipal Tramways Trust. They are also reimbursed costs incurred in travelling on privately operated bus services where Government transport facilities are not available. Fares are not reimbursed however, if incurred for travel to receive casualty or in-patient treatment. This arrangement has been in force since March 1959, and was widened to include non-government public transport in August, 1960.

PIG DISEASES.

Mr. McANANEY: Pig breeders in this State are perturbed at the incidence of disease and at the fact that it will be impossible to eliminate tuberculosis among pigs without an amendment to the Brands Act. It has been suggested to the Government that body tattooing by the owner of the pigs immediately prior to sale would help solve

the problem, although it would not prevent the spread of the disease from Victoria and other States. By this method it would be possible to find out whence diseased animals are coming. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the Government has considered this matter?

The Hon D. N. BROOKMAN: This question has been raised on several occasions by the South Australian branch of the Australian Pig Society (I think that is the organization), and it has been considered closely by the Government so that necessary legislation can be introduced. The merits of the case can be argued in two ways. First, it may reduce the incidence of disease by making it easier to trace animals suffering from the disease by the inspection of carcasses. This would show the area from which the animal had come. On the other hand, it has been argued that it is a somewhat unusual measure to adopt. I do not know whether compulsory branding applies in any other animal industry. Some expense and much trouble is involved, especially with multiple changes of ownership. However, the society is satisfied on this point and, as a result of its deputations both to me and more

recently to the Premier, the Government is inquiring in other States about the effect of compulsory tattooing. No conclusions have yet been reached, but should it be considered desirable to introduce legislation, I should expect it to be introduced next session. I shall know more about this matter in the next few weeks after the inquiries have been concluded.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Mr. RYAN: Has the Minister of Education obtained a report of new schools, building of which has been approved by Parliament in the present financial year?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have a comprehensive statement by the Director of Education. It is too long to read, and I ask leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

*New Major Works Authorized in the Loan Estimates, 1963-64.*

The following is a complete list of the new major works authorized by the Government and Parliament for 1963-64. Opposite each is an indication of the stage which each of these works has reached at the present time:

Locality.	Estimated Cost. £	Type of Construction.
<b>Primary and Infant Schools:</b>		
<b>New Schools:</b>		
Beefacres . . . . .	105,000	Brick—Tenders due 18/2/64
Brahma . . . . .	105,000	Brick—Tenders due 25/2/64
Elizabeth Field . . . . .	162,000	Brick—Tenders due 18/2/64
Hawthorndene . . . . .	110,000	Brick—Tenders due 25/2/64
Millicent South . . . . .	80,000	Brick—Being designed
Parafield Gardens . . . . .	162,000	Brick—Tenders due 18/2/64
Salisbury West . . . . .	146,000	Brick—Tenders due 10/3/64
Steventon (Tea Tree Gully) . . . . .	180,000	Brick—Tenders called 17/2/64
Tonsley Park . . . . .	105,000	Brick—Tenders due 11/2/64
Vale Park . . . . .	106,000	Precast concrete—Contract let 18/10/63
Whyalla (Stuart Avenue) . . . . .	130,000	Brick—Tenders due 24/3/64
<b>Additions:</b>		
Athelstone . . . . .	105,000	Brick—Tenders due 11/2/64
Belair . . . . .	57,000	Brick—Tenders due 25/2/64
Brighton . . . . .	128,000	Brick—Tenders called 27/1/64
Para Hills . . . . .	65,000	Brick—Bill of Quantities being prepared
Pennington . . . . .	157,000	Brick—Bill of Quantities being prepared
Pooraka . . . . .	105,000	Brick—Tenders due 11/2/64
Seacliff . . . . .	80,000	Precast concrete—Bill of Quantities being prepared
<b>High Schools:</b>		
<b>New Schools:</b>		
Underdale . . . . .	345,000	Brick—Tenders due 28/1/64
<b>Additions:</b>		
Gilles Plains . . . . .	99,000	Precast concrete—Contract let 2/10/63
Elizabeth . . . . .	95,000	Precast concrete—Working drawings being prepared

Locality.	Estimated Cost. £	Type of Construction.		
<b>Technical High Schools:</b>				
New Schools:				
Kidman Park Girls . . . . .	240,000	Precast concrete—Contract let August 1963		
Mitcham Girls . . . . .	201,000	Precast concrete—Tenders due 24/3/64		
Port Pirie . . . . .	332,000	Brick and precast concrete—Bill of Quantities being prepared		
<b>Area Schools:</b>				
New Schools:				
Geranium . . . . .	161,000	Brick—Contract let 8/11/63		
Additions:				
Cummins . . . . .	279,000	Brick—Tenders to be called late March		
Yankalilla . . . . .	25,000	Brick—Tenders due 14/1/64		
<b>Adult Education Centre:</b>				
Gawler . . . . .	170,000	Brick—Tender to be called shortly subject to approval for funds by Cabinet		
<b>Change Rooms:</b>				
High Schools—Findon, Gawler, Plympton, Taperoo, Willunga.	85,000	Brick—All tenders due by 10/3/64		
Technical High Schools—Angle Park Boys, Croydon Boys, Croydon Girls, Strathmont Boys, Strathmont Girls.				
<b>Craft Centres:</b>				
Adelaide Boys High—Science and Woodwork . . . . .			60,000	Brick—Sketches being prepared
Thebarton Girls Technical High—Domestic Arts . . . . .	38,000	Brick—Contract let 9/1/64		
<b>General:</b>				
Building and Furnishing Trade School—Marleston—Woodworking Mill . . . . .	42,000	Concrete block—Contract let 9/12/63		
Electrical and Radio Trade School . . . . .	305,000	Brick—Specification Bill being prepared		

If all of those for which tenders have been called or for which tenders are due are let to contractors shortly, a total of 23 new major works out of 30 should be begun by June 30, 1964. The other seven are in various stages of preparation from the preparation of specifications to the preparation of bills of quantities.

In addition, the craft centres and change rooms approved for the programme are already in progress or will be in progress with the exception of the craft centre at Adelaide Boys High School.

#### FLUORIDATION.

**Mr. MILLHOUSE:** On February 19 I asked the Premier a question about a report on fluoridation made by departmental officers. On the same day it was announced that Sydney's water supply was to be fluoridated. The Premier said that he would have to consider the report to see whether in any circumstances it could be regarded as privileged before he could say whether it could be made available. Can the Premier say whether the report is available and, if it is, will he make it available to members?

**The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD:** I have not yet had an opportunity to study the report, which is from the Minister of Health's department. I have inquired and I believe

that the report could probably be made available, as I understand that there is nothing in it that could be regarded as privileged. I will check on this matter during the next few days and inform the honourable member.

#### DRUGS.

**Mr. McKEE:** I have received letters from several physiotherapists claiming that there is some confusion within their profession about the meaning of the word "drug". The relevant section in the Act provides:

A registered physiotherapist shall not in the course of his practice as a physiotherapist administer, sell or supply to or prescribe for any of his patients any drug for the treatment of a disease or ailment of the human body.

The penalty for this offence is £25. Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Health, define the word "drug" and say whether or not it includes all patent medicines?

**The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD:** Off-hand, I should not like to define that term. I have seen the Crown Solicitor's definition of it and it presents problems when used in the context of the regulation the honourable member has quoted. Although I think that it would not be wrong for a physiotherapist

to use embrocation for massaging, I understand that the Crown Solicitor's opinion would rule that out. The matter is being examined and it may be necessary to obtain some other definition of "drug" than that used only in connection with this legislation. The purpose of the legislation is to prevent physiotherapists, who may not understand what is involved in some potent drugs now in use, from prescribing them for their patients. I think every honourable member would realize that this should be done only by a medical practitioner. I will not define "drug" because my definition would be inaccurate. The matter is being considered.

#### WOMEN ON JURIES.

Mrs. STEELE: Last year the Hon. Mrs. Cooper and I introduced to the Premier a deputation that requested the introduction of legislation to enable women to sit on juries. Subsequently the Premier announced the Government's intention to introduce such legislation. Can he indicate the stage the preparation of that legislation has reached?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As a result of that deputation the question was submitted to Cabinet, which approved of women sitting on juries. It gave instructions for the legislation to be drafted. However, some problems have emerged, particularly concerning exemptions from compulsory service. If the system is to be successful, compulsory service should be prescribed. In one State where the service is voluntary, only two women have ever sat on a jury. With the provision of compulsory service, however, exemptions must be specified. This involves all manner of problems. For instance, do we exempt from jury service the wives of all members of the Police Force? Again, do we exempt the mothers of small children? The Parliamentary Draftsman is working on the legislation and it should be ready for next session.

#### MILLICENT SOUTH SCHOOL.

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question concerning the construction of a new school at Millicent South?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Director of the Public Buildings Department has informed me that sketch plans for a 12-classroom primary school at Millicent South have been completed and forwarded for estimate. As the cost will be over £100,000 it will then be necessary to submit the project to the Public Works Standing Committee for consideration. After allowing time to complete

working drawings, specification and quantities, it is unlikely that tenders can be called before the end of June. It would then take two months to obtain prices and let a contract, and about 12 months to build. Therefore the school is unlikely to be ready much before the end of 1965.

#### ADELAIDE WATER.

Mr. HARDING: This morning's *Advertiser* contains two articles relating to Adelaide water. The first stated:

It may well be, as the wine and spirit merchants say, that Adelaide water is not fit to associate with the goods they sell.

The other article, headed "Our Water More Health-Giving", states:

Adelaide's water had greater health-giving properties than Melbourne water, it was claimed yesterday in discussions with State water and health officials. Yesterday an Engineering and Water Supply Department official said that Melbourne water contained a mere three grains of salts a gallon compared with Adelaide's "nutritious" 21 to 23. The dissolved salts were entirely harmless, and stock benefited from the mineral intake. Doubtless human beings did also.

Will the Minister of Works comment on these reports?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: On the general question of Adelaide's water purity, of course it is possible technically to improve the water from the point of view of solids in suspension, but it is not so easy to remove dissolved salts. The colour can be improved by filtration, but that is an extremely costly process, particularly when one realizes that possibly only 1 per cent of our water is used for human consumption. We would be required to pay a high price to install filtration plants in order to improve the quality of water for human consumption. As I am not an authority on water combined with spirits, I leave judgment on that question to people more experienced. However, I think that certain salts contained in Adelaide water are extremely beneficial to human health and human growth. I refer particularly to the calciums that are present in greater quantities than normal in the River Murray and to magnesium and sodium chlorides which we take in our food in small quantities daily and which are not harmful. In fact, many years ago my dentist, on being consulted about my children's teeth, told me to put a bag of lime in my rain-water tank. He said that the children's teeth would benefit from it. I did so, and the result was as he predicted. It is true that pure water contains no nutriment and no valuable salts for body building.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: That is probably why we beat Victoria at cricket last week.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, we demonstrated our superiority over Victoria on the Adelaide Oval in no uncertain manner!

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Seriously, it is true that the salts that occur in reservoir water are beneficial. Some, of course, are not. It is extremely costly to filter water and I do not think the House would agree to imposing the charges upon water that would be necessary to install the necessary plant, particularly when so much of the water would be used for industry and gardening and not for human consumption.

Mr. FRED WALSH: I do not want to debate the efficacy of the use of water with whisky, but I am concerned about the quality of water. For as long as I can remember, it has been argued that Adelaide water is more advantageous from a health point of view than the water in the other States because of its mineral content, and this was long before we ever used Murray River water. In certain European countries, particularly Switzerland, where they use mainly melted snows for their water supply, there is absolutely no mineral content in the water and, as a result, there is a heavy percentage of goitre sufferers among the population. I am led to believe that this is because of a lack of minerals in the water, notwithstanding that that water is very nice to look at and to taste. Before the next session of Parliament, will the Premier ask his colleague, the Minister of Health, to have an analysis taken regarding the incidence of persons in this State suffering from goitre compared with other States of the Commonwealth?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes; I think it will provide interesting information, and I shall be pleased to do as the honourable member suggests.

#### CADELL SEEPAGE.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Minister of Irrigation a progress report on investigations concerning seepage at the Cadell irrigation settlement?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: Yes. The irrigation drainage system is an old one and it is now losing its effectiveness. Inquiries have revealed that plans of the original installation are being checked and brought up to date in consequence of additional work being carried out since the original installation.

Further investigation will be necessary before a recommendation can be submitted by the engineers.

#### PINNAROO DEPOT.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister of Works say whether or not there is any truth in the rumour I heard recently that the Engineering and Water Supply Department's depot at Pinnaroo is to be transferred to Lameroo?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Engineer-in-Chief reports that it is neither proposed to establish a depot at Lameroo nor to close the existing depot at Pinnaroo.

#### KANGAROO MEAT.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Premier will recall that I have asked questions concerning kangaroo meat and the dyeing of it with the dye known as methyl violet. Has he an answer to this question?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Director-General of Public Health reports:

The regulation requiring the colouring of pet food sold in shops handling food for human consumption provides that the Central Board of Health may approve colouring agents other than methyl violet. No request for approval of alternative colours was made until February 13, 1964. At a meeting held on February 25, 1964, the Central Board of Health considered the matter and approved the use of two coal-tar dyes as follows:

44090 Green S.

42090, Brilliant Blue BCF (disodium salt).

Both of these colours are permitted colours under the Food and Drugs Act Regulations for use in food for human consumption and are readily available. Permission to use these colours should remove the objections to the dye, methyl violet.

#### WATER ASSESSMENTS.

Mr. LANGLEY: Recently I have had several approaches from constituents regarding the manner in which water rate assessments are notified. Section 76 of the Waterworks Act states that within one month after publication of the assessment in the *Government Gazette* an appeal may be lodged by the consumer. The *Government Gazette* notice is the only means whereby the public can become aware of a variation, and it is generally conceded that very few people have access to the *Gazette*. Consequently, the consumer is at a decided disadvantage. Will the Minister of Works consider having consumers notified directly of variations in assessments?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think the honourable member appreciates that it would be impossible for the department to notify each



ratepayer each year of his assessment. Such a course is not feasible because of the colossal amount of clerical and postal work that would be involved, and it has to be done in some general way. Further, the number of inquiries and appeals that we get is extremely small, which indicates that the public generally accepts quite cheerfully in most cases—perhaps with mixed feelings in others—the assessments made from time to time. There is general acceptance of the fact that water costs a great deal to bring to the household, that the service on the whole is very good, that the supply is constant, and that ratepayers therefore must expect to pay a reasonable charge for it. In fact, the charges are reasonable; they are generally speaking, over the whole State very much below cost. The *Government Gazette* is the official organ for the publication of all official Government announcements. I do not know whether it would be possible to publicize the matter in any other way. I think for the most part people who desire to lodge appeals are unaware of the time of the year that the *Gazette* notice is issued, and therefore, as the honourable member suggests, the time for appeals has expired before they realize that the assessment has actually been gazetted. As it may be possible to improve this matter in some way, I will discuss it with the Engineer-in-Chief. However, generally all Government announcements of whatever character and however important or unimportant appear in the *Government Gazette*, which is the recognized publication and which is available at all police stations and at other places for examination.

#### WALLAROO GRAIN DISTILLERY.

Mr. HUGHES: A few days ago a carrier who has been engaged in carrying oats to the grain distillery building at Wallaroo called on me and said that the outside elevator and the chute built in conjunction with the small silo at the distillery had deteriorated to such an extent that it had become dangerous. Will the Premier have one of his officers investigate this?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Minister of Works has said that he will have the matter examined.

#### ROAD MAINTENANCE (CONTRIBUTION) ACT.

Mr. CURREN: Has the Premier a reply to a question I asked on Tuesday about the proclamation of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I informed the honourable member that I believed the date was April 1, but I evidently confused that date with something else. This Act will come into force on July 1.

#### SITTINGS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Will the Premier indicate when the next Parliamentary session is likely to commence?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I tried to work out the implications of recent Arbitration Court and other decisions on the Budget to see whether Supplementary Estimates would be required. I concluded that it would be impossible for me to know precisely what sums might be wanted in those circumstances. It will be necessary for Supplementary Estimates to be introduced before the end of the year. We have had some unusual expenditure, and the sum available to the Government in excess of the sum approved in the Revenue Estimates is very small, therefore I am sure that Supplementary Estimates will be necessary. I understand the Budget expenditure is going according to plan and, although there have been slight increases in various charges because of Arbitration Court or other awards, the revenue is buoyant. At present the actual position is a slight improvement on the Estimates. It will be necessary for the House to meet probably in the second or third week of June.

#### PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

Mr. COUMBE: Some time ago it was suggested by another honourable member that Parliament House should be made available during the forthcoming Festival of Arts for conducted tours by visitors to this State. As you were to inquire into this matter, Mr. Speaker, can you report on the result of the investigation and say what decision has been reached?

The SPEAKER: This matter was first raised by the honourable member for Hindmarsh. As honourable members know, Parliament House will be floodlit during the festival. If any persons or organizations wish to inspect Parliament House they should get in touch with the Speaker, who will try to arrange conducted tours of the House. The question whether the House will be available for night inspections is a difficult one because various staffs, such as the librarians, are involved, but that matter will be examined. Further, it would not be possible to have a continual flow of people passing through the House. However, if anyone wishes to inspect Parliament

House he should get in touch with the Speaker so that arrangements can be made and the concourse kept orderly.

#### ROOF CONSTRUCTION.

Mr. HUTCHENS: In the *News* of December 18 last appeared an article stating that a firm had demonstrated the fixing of a roof with pre-assembled trusses. The Minister of Works attended this demonstration, which apparently showed that a roof could be put on in five hours compared with the normal three days, that it would save timber, and that this method could be used for the building of private dwellinghouses. Can the Minister of Works say whether this method is as satisfactory as the orthodox method and, if it were used, what saving in costs would result? Has his department and the Housing Trust considered using this type of construction?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: At the invitation of the company's principal I visited the site at which was demonstrated this method of construction. Also present were the Chairman of the Housing Trust and his officers, and we saw what the company was doing. The basis of the scheme is the mass production and reproduction of standard-size trusses and roof sections. I understand that the company has installed machinery that is capable of adjustment to different jig sizes for various jobs, but standardization is the basis of the method. The company can manufacture cheaply any number of units of standard size, and these can (and I saw it being done) be taken by truck to the site where an ingenious crane lifts the section on to the roof. In about half an hour a house, which is up to wall-plate level, is transformed into a house with the whole of the roof under-frame completed. There is a valuable saving of time on the job, but I cannot say whether the roof is as strong as a roof constructed by the ordinary method or how it compares with the normal method of construction. As I am not an expert I would not stick my neck out by expressing an opinion, although the company suggests that this method is satisfactory in several ways. The Chairman of the trust and his officers were interested, although I am sure they have an open mind on whether or not it would be advantageous to their contractors. On that occasion, the Chairman did not express to me a firm opinion about it. The company should be commended for its endeavour to evolve a method that may possibly reduce costs without reducing quality. Beyond saying that, I cannot express an opinion.

#### DENIAL BAY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Has the Minister of Marine an answer to my recent question about the use of Denial Bay?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Information I have received from the General Manager of the Harbors Board confirms my suggestion that the inward and outward tonnages at the Denial Bay jetty have continued to decline almost regularly each year during the 10-year period under review. The total tonnage handled in 1953-54 was 2,870 tons; it rose the next year to 3,260 tons, but that is the highest year in the review period. In recent years it has dropped to below 2,000 tons, the last two years' figures being 1,735 and 1,881 tons respectively. No doubt the figures have suggested to the board that the proposed expenditure would not be justified in order to maintain the jetty as a commercial proposition. An examination of the jetty was made in July, 1963, and the cost of replacements of worn-out and eroded timber (I have the details of the defects, if they are required) was £17,000. The board has not made a decision, but the facts on which they are considering a decision are as I have stated them.

#### DENTAL SERVICE.

Mr. CORCORAN: I received a letter today from the District Council of Lacedpede, Kingston, South-East, which is concerned with the services of a dentist in the Kingston and Robe districts. I believe that previously the dentist from Millicent serviced this area, but he does not do so now. There are 1,500 families in this area, and at present they have to travel long distances to either Millicent or Naracoorte to obtain dental treatment. The council has taken steps through the Immigration Department to try to obtain a dentist, but up to the present without success. If I give this correspondence to the Premier will he examine it to see whether assistance can be provided?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I shall be pleased to do so.

#### SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

Mrs. STEELE: My question is in the category of a hardy annual and concerns the position of Supervisor of School Libraries. Some time ago this position was advertised throughout Australia, as well as within this State, at a vastly increased salary which raised the status of the position. Can the Minister of Education say whether any applications have been received for this position and whether an appointment is contemplated soon?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The honourable member's first statement is correct: following discussions I had late last year with the Public Service Commissioner, the Director of Education and the Principal Librarian of the Public Library, the Public Service Board agreed to raise considerably the status and salary of this position. The Public Service Commissioner re-advertised the position at the new status and salary in all States. However, in order to allow ample time for the most highly qualified applicants to investigate the position and to apply I approved of the temporary appointment of Mrs. Gwen Lamshed (formerly Miss Gwen Fulton) as Acting Supervisor of School Libraries. She has enjoyed a distinguished academic and professional career and I am pleased indeed that she accepted the position, if only temporarily.

#### FAUNA EXPORTS.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Has the Minister of Lands a report relating to the Adelaide Zoological Society concerning which I asked him a question yesterday?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I have a prepared statement as follows:

As stated by the honourable member, a ban was imposed on the export of Australian fauna except for *bona fide* zoological and scientific purposes in December, 1959. Export for zoological purposes was banned except on a zoo-to-zoo basis, and on the distinct understanding that no commercial trading would be involved. The Customs and Excise Act provides for the strict control of the export of native fauna, and material for scientific purposes may be exported under controlled conditions and zoo authorities may trade on a zoo-to-zoo basis with permits issued by the State Department of Fisheries and Game.

During 1962 the Director of Fisheries and Game became dissatisfied with the information afforded him by the zoo for the issue of permits. He began an investigation which indicated that some fauna had been exported ostensibly with the Zoological Society's authority but not, in fact, with it. Inquiries were taken over by the Commonwealth and a conviction was recorded under the Customs and Excise Act. The committee of inquiry reported that the Royal Zoological Society entered into an arrangement with a certain individual to act as the zoo's agent, but to quote from the judgment of the stipendiary magistrate in the abovementioned case—'Unfortunately this arrangement was loose as the wind. Nothing was reduced to writing beyond a mere minute of the discussion and a memorandum book kept by the Director of the Zoological Gardens—which was not formally confirmed.'

The committee went on to say that in particular the agent's remuneration seems to have been left very much in the air. A loose

arrangement was made whereby when stock was not available from the Zoological Gardens, the agent purchased it elsewhere. When stock was obtained from the gardens, a certain figure was paid, but when obtained elsewhere a commission was paid to the society. The Director of Fisheries and Game, immediately after becoming aware of the unsatisfactory nature of the export of fauna from the zoo, and with the authority of the Minister of Agriculture, refused to permit the export of fauna and for several months no permits were issued.

Recently the Director of Fisheries and Game has issued export permits under new conditions which ensure that full documentary evidence is available, both as regards the origin of the fauna and its destination, and this system applies to export by the Royal Zoological Society and also to those for scientific purposes. Although the Director of Fisheries and Game was dissatisfied with the Zoological Society's administration at the time, no evidence was forthcoming to take action against any person or persons, but he now insists that he must be fully satisfied before any permit is issued.

The committee of inquiry found no evidence which would implicate any member of the council in sale or exchange activities for their own aviaries in breach of quarantine regulations. However, it found it necessary to draw attention to the failure of the society to properly observe these regulations, particularly Regulation 58 (1) (f) thereof, which requires the society, *inter alia*, to keep complete records of the numbers and kinds of animals on the premises, particulars of the death of any animal, particulars of any animal transferred from the gardens to another place, and particulars of any animal introduced into the gardens. It was found that no complete record of such stock had existed for some years, and the absence of such proper records was a breach of the quarantine regulations and made the proper administration of these laws extremely difficult.

The society is governed by the council which is responsible for all the activities of the zoo, and although the president clearly took a leading part in the administration of the zoo affairs, responsibility for anything which happened must be accepted by the council. In the opinion of the inquiry committee, it would be normal for the day-to-day administration of the zoo affairs to be in the hands of a director, subject to general direction and control by the council in all matters of policy.

That statement was prepared by the Agriculture Department and by the Lands Department and I hope that it will be the final statement that it is necessary to make on this matter. As far as I am concerned, (and I know it would be the wish of the Minister of Agriculture) this account should be ruled off. I do not want to answer any further questions on the matter. I do not want to perpetuate this subject, which is hurting people. In order to finalize the position, the officers I appointed to investigate the affairs of the zoo stated

that Mr. Gasking has not been treated very well. Mr. Gasking has been offered work by the Commissioners of the National Parks and Wild Life Reserves to assist in the investigation and promotion of a wild life reserve that is to be established next year, if possible. With the knowledge he gained as Director of the Healesville Sanctuary in Victoria I am certain that our Wild Life Commissioners made a wise choice in obtaining his services to assist in building up in South Australia a reserve like the Healesville Sanctuary.

#### SMALL BOATS.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Marine obtained a report regarding the mooring of small boats at Port Pirie? If not, can he say when an investigation is likely to be made?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: No, I have not yet received a report. This matter has gone forward to the Harbors Board in the usual way, and I imagine that when it has an officer or an engineer in that area an inspection will be made. I will let the honourable member have the information as soon as I get it.

#### WINDY POINT.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On October 29 I asked the Premier a question about the possibility of licensing the new restaurant we hope will be built at Windy Point. In reply, the Premier said that the Director of the Tourist Bureau had raised the matter but that no decision had been made. Can the Premier say whether in the meantime any decision has been made?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Cabinet has considered this matter and believes it would be desirable for the restaurant to have a restaurant licence. I propose to release, probably tomorrow or in the weekend newspapers, a sketch of the plans and specifications in this matter; the proposals are costly (running into some £60,000 or £70,000, speaking from memory) and the Government intends to call for applications to run the venture so that we may see whether the revenue will justify this very big expense. Cabinet decided that it would be appropriate to have two separate restaurants, and this will probably be the position: one part where liquor would be served under restaurant conditions, and the other where no liquor would be served. Plans and specifications of the proposal will be made public at the end of the week, probably in the *Sunday Mail*. I will be making a statement to the effect that Cabinet would be

interested in proposals for leasing (under proper conditions, of course) this restaurant and the facilities when they are established.

#### FLINDERS HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked yesterday concerning the construction of the Flinders High School at Underdale?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: A contract for the construction of this school was let to J. Grove and Sons on February 13, and work will commence in the first week in March.

#### SCHOOL ROWING SUBSIDY.

Mr. BYWATERS: Some schools are now promoting rowing as a sporting exercise. Although rowing boats are fairly costly, I am told that at present no subsidy is provided for them. Will the Minister of Education take up this matter with his department to see whether it would be possible to subsidize the cost of rowing craft and so assist the schools in this respect?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. I shall be pleased to investigate this matter, which I have never had brought to my attention before. It may well be that rowing should be placed on a parity with other sports. However, as I have pointed out before, there is necessarily a limit to the total sum allotted for the payment of all subsidies, and a school would have to judge whether it might have to forgo a claim for a subsidy on some other category. I shall be pleased to investigate the matter.

#### MOONTA RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. HUGHES: The weekend trains from Adelaide to Moonta depart from their normal run and make a detour through Elizabeth and Gawler, but they do not stop at Elizabeth to pick up passengers. Will the Minister of Works ask his colleague, the Minister of Railways, whether this train could pick up passengers at Elizabeth on Sunday evenings?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: If I understand the honourable member correctly, it is the down train to Moonta on Sunday night which he desires to stop at Elizabeth.

Mr. Hughes: Yes.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will inquire concerning the matter.

#### OUTER HARBOUR FACILITIES.

Mr. RYAN: Many inquiries have been made regarding the building of a suitable and more modern passenger terminal at the Outer Harbour. I know that the Minister of Marine

recently inspected one of the finest passenger terminals in the world at Fremantle. Can he say whether the inquiry into this matter has now been completed, and whether the stage has been reached when recommendations will be made on this important project?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Following a visit to Fremantle and discussions on the type of terminal required at Outer Harbour and on the purposes for which it would be used, the Harbors Board is now having prepared the sketch plan and estimates for the proposed building. After they are prepared, the Government will examine them and, if it is thought fit, send the matter to the Public Works Committee. I think it will certainly be a matter that will require a Public Works Committee inquiry.

#### OVERSEAS MARKETS.

Mr. HUTCHENS: My question to the Minister of Agriculture is prompted by a press article in the *Advertiser* of February 4, which quoted in part the annual report of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia. The article states:

Speaking on world trade, he (Mr. Gosse) urged society members to use their influence to establish overseas markets. "Where markets cannot be established on an immediately profitable basis, they should be established anyway, because if we do not capture them a competitor certainly will," Mr. Gosse said. He said India would almost certainly buy more Australian wool "if she had the money—so that a loan of some sort might be the answer here".

Although I appreciate that this is a matter for the Commonwealth Parliament and for the Minister for Trade and Industry, will the Minister of Agriculture say whether this matter has been discussed at meetings of Ministers of Agriculture and, if it has not, will he consider raising it at a future meeting?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will submit this question to the Commonwealth Minister and no doubt get a reply from him in due course. I think it is generally recognized by authorities marketing primary produce (and probably by secondary producers as well) that it is wise and far-seeing to market products that do not necessarily give the highest return. A little pioneering in the beginning is often a sound investment. I think that would probably be the thought of most trade authorities and the various boards marketing Australian primary produce.

#### PENOLA HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. HARDING: Will the Minister of Education give members some information concerning a canteen for the Penola High School?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The plans submitted by the headmaster on behalf of the school council have been considered by the Public Buildings Department and approved. The Education Department is in the process of writing to the headmaster informing him of this approval and asking him to obtain tenders and submit them for consideration.

#### GLOSSOP DRAINAGE.

Mr. CURREN: Has the Minister of Irrigation a reply to a question I have asked several times relating to drainage for the town of Glossop?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: Following a report dated January 21, 1964, on the above subject, the District Council of Berri was notified by letter on January 28, 1964, and at my direction was informed that if it desired to proceed with the scheme it should submit a Loan scheme, which would be studied. A letter received on February 26 from the council stated that it would be grateful if further consideration could be given to the request to make the drainage of the town of Glossop part of the comprehensive drainage scheme. The request will now be examined and a further report submitted for consideration.

#### OPPORTUNITY CLASS.

Mr. RICHES: On Tuesday last the Minister of Education replied to a question I had asked on notice about a request for the establishment of a senior opportunity class at Port Augusta. Parents and members of the school committee feel strongly that this is, and has been for some time, urgent. A remedial class is established to cater for children up to the age of 12, but when they reach that age, although they are still compelled to go to school, there is no class for them. They are not allowed to continue in the opportunity class and they are embarrassed if placed in any other class. This matter is reaching intolerable proportions. In his reply the Minister said that a decision was made in 1963 that special senior classes should be established at Port Augusta but that the matter was not considered urgent. My understanding was that the psychologist did consider it urgent; those associated with the children certainly considered it urgent. Will the Minister of Education say in whose opinion

it was not considered urgent and will he ask for another investigation to be made immediately to assess the necessity rather than wait, as the reply would indicate, until after the new school is erected at Carlton, which may not be for several years?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I shall be only too pleased to have a further investigation made. I must confess that I was a little surprised to see the report in the form in which it was supplied to me, as I imagined there was a degree of urgency in the matter, and the honourable member and some members of his committee made it clear to me when I met them on the spot last year that it was urgent. However, the reports I received were from the Superintendent and a couple of Assistant Superintendents and supported by the Deputy Director of Education. I know they went fully into the matter, as they always do, particularly regarding replies to questions on notice, but I shall be only too pleased to have the matter further investigated to see whether something cannot be done earlier than expected, because I think these officers said it would not be provided until the new school at Carlton was completed. I have a rather dismal feeling concerning the time of completion of that school, which I think will take some time, and I do not think we should wait until then. I do not want to disagree with my officers, for whom I have the highest respect, but I do not think we should wait until that school is completed to establish this class.

#### RELEASE OF PRISONER.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Has the Premier a report concerning the release of a prisoner named Brian John Turner, a matter I raised during the Budget debate?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have a report informing me that an investigation is being made into transferring this prisoner to some different accommodation at Cadell, after which he will probably be recommended for release. As the report is old and the proposals have probably now been worked out, it may be useful to the honourable member if I bring this matter up to date. I hope to be able to advise him next week. This prisoner is responding to treatment and the authorities are expected to recommend his release on probation.

#### ST. JOHN AMBULANCE OFFICERS.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Has the Premier a reply to a question I asked on November 7 about concessions for St. John Ambulance officers?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have been informed by the Chief Secretary that uniforms and protective clothing are provided free to employees by the St. John Ambulance Brigade. In respect of free transport on public transport they seem to be in no better position than any other employee. Voluntary workers of St. John Ambulance Brigade are paid fares to depots.

#### TRADES HALL BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF WATERS BY OIL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### SEMAPHORE COMMUNITY CENTRE TRUST DEED BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### MORPHETT STREET BRIDGE BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council with the following amendment:

Page 5, line 25 (clause 9)—Leave out "take all steps" and insert "borrow such amounts of money as may be".

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): Members will remember that clause 9 enables the Adelaide City Council to borrow money or take steps outside the Local Government Act to enable it to meet its obligation under the Bill. The purpose of the amendment, which was made in another place, is to make it clear that one of the ways for paying for the bridge will not be by a toll. I think the honourable Mr. Bardolph raised the issue that the clause previously was so wide that the City Council could have made a special rate or charged a toll. This amendment makes it clear that there will not be any unorthodox method of financing the bridge. The Parliamentary Draftsman's explanation is as follows:

The amendment made to this Bill in another place makes it clear that the intention of the special provision in clause 9 (3) is to authorize the City Council to borrow any money which it finds necessary to enable it to discharge its indebtedness to the Government. It was considered that the former phrasing might be too wide.

This amendment was moved by the Government when the matter was raised in another place, and I ask that it be agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

## LAND AGENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from February 20. Page 2051.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): One of the major purchases that face most young couples in their lifetime is the acquisition of their land together with the house that is erected on it. Any errors that occur in the original land transaction can lead to extensive negotiations as well as, of course, to a great deal of mental anguish for the people involved. I am aware of several such cases that have occurred, and I sincerely trust that the tightening up in the issuing of licences for individual land agents and managers of land agent corporations will reduce these unsatisfactory transactions. In addition, I agree that we should also bring persons under the supervision of this legislation when they arrange sales of home units or improvements on land. Apparently there has been some confusion whether a land agent was restricted to those persons who dealt in vacant land only. I can see no objection in extending the definition of a land agent to include a person who is instrumental in arranging both these classes of transactions, and this is provided for in clause 3 which brings home units within the definition of land, and stipulates that a land agent includes a person whose business, as owner or otherwise, is the selling of land whether with or without improvements.

The purchase of land and improvements represents a major transaction for many people. The persons who are arranging the transaction between the owner and the purchaser should be of sufficient educational standard to perform efficiently the duties of land agent. Sections 27 and 56 of the principal Act deal with the qualifications necessary for an individual applicant for a land agent's licence and for registration as a manager of a land agent's business, respectively. Clauses 4 and 7 provide practically identical amendments to these two sections, namely: "that in respect of any application for a licence made after the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six an applicant shall prove to the satisfaction of the board that he has complied with such educational standards and qualifications or passed such examinations as shall be prescribed." I believe this to be a reasonable condition and notice that it is not to operate until January, 1966, and therefore there is adequate time for any person not so qualified to obtain the necessary training prior to that time if he proposes to become a land agent subsequent to that date.

Clause 5 amends section 32 of the principal Act which deals with the renewal of licences. As the Act now stands, if an application for renewal has been delivered to the secretary before the last day of February in any year, but is not determined by the board before the thirty-first day of March following that day, the licence shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act, be deemed to be extended until the application is disposed of by the board in accordance with this Act. In addition, under the regulations of the principal Act, it is necessary for land agents to submit an audit certificate when they apply for renewal of licence, but at present some persons do not submit their returns in sufficient time for the renewal of licence to be considered by the end of March, and consequently, in accordance with section 32, they are permitted to continue to operate as land agents "notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act."

It is conceivable that when the audit returns do come in, the board may find something unsatisfactory about the report of the audit that would have meant that the application for renewal of licence would not have been granted, but in the interim the unsatisfactory agent has still been able to carry on. Therefore it seems reasonable to me that the board should be empowered to refuse a renewal of a licence if an applicant does not comply with the regulations concerning the audit of his trust accounts. This is provided for in clause 5 and is a satisfactory amendment. Clause 6 enacts a new section 38a which provides that a land salesman is prohibited from working for more than one land agent at the one time. If this is occurring, it is certainly a very unsatisfactory practice and I am in favour of its being stopped. Clause 8 relates to the establishment of branch offices by land agents and the efficient administration of them. I have no objection to land agents operating their business through branch offices if they are properly conducted and, therefore, I support this clause.

Clause 9 is a slight tightening up of provisions relating to trust accounts. No doubt members know of instances where land agents have misappropriated trust funds and any additional safeguard to assist in the protection of these funds is desirable. Clause 11 enacts new section 64b relating to advertisements by managers and land salesmen. We have heard a great deal lately about misleading advertisements in relation to sales of goods and this does not necessarily apply only to land sales.

If an advertisement is a genuine offer to treat then the person inserting the advertisement in the newspaper should have no objection to his name and address being shown in the advertisement. The new clause 64b makes this provision and therefore I am in favour of it. I consider clauses 12, 13 and 14 to be machinery amendments and do not propose to elaborate on them.

Members are no doubt aware of two advertisements that have appeared in the public notices of recent newspapers relating to a default by Henry Graham-Sutton and Graham-Sutton & Company Limited in terms of the Land Agents Act. This apparently has resulted from a breach of trust and, so long as these cases continue to occur, we should do our utmost to pass legislation that ensures that persons engaged in this profession are trustworthy and able to carry out the responsibilities of their chosen career. I believe this Bill to be aimed at this objective and support the second reading. I have here the cuttings that appeared recently in the press about Graham-Sutton & Company Limited. Another aspect should be referred to. New section 38a (1) provides:

38a. (1) A registered land salesman shall not accept or undertake employment or be or remain in the service of or by any means whatsoever hold himself out as being in the service of or act as a land salesman for or on behalf of any land agent at any time when he is employed by or in the service of any other land agent. Penalty: Fifty pounds.

I understand that at present land salesmen enter into arrangements whereby the man who sells a property shares his commission with the man in whose hands the property was originally placed for sale. Will this practice be permitted to continue? Is it incumbent on the owner of the property that is for sale to inform land salesmen who seek to sell the property that he has already placed it in the hands of another land agent? Can the original land agent expect a share of the commission when the house is sold by a land salesman not in his employ?

I am somewhat concerned at the educational qualifications required of land salesmen. Many migrants have become land salesmen, but some have been residents of this country for only a short time. Many of the documents associated with the sale and transfer of property are extremely complicated and if a mistake is made it can lead to legal difficulties. Land agents should be sufficiently qualified to be able to satisfactorily complete the necessary

documents. Not every land salesman or saleswoman is able to do so.

The Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson: Nor every land agent.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: That is so. The Land Agents Board should be requested to submit further improvements to the legislation to safeguard the interests of society generally. I have previously referred to an unfortunate person who unwittingly constructed his house on a block of land that was not his own. He obtained a loan from the State Bank to enable him to build his house, but that loan was granted on the security of his land, not on the house itself. He is already paying the interest on the loan, but the owner of the block on which the house is built is prolonging negotiations and the first man cannot occupy his house. Honest mistakes can happen. The second land owner owns several blocks of land, but the man who built the house on the wrong block has only one, and that is the block next to the one on which he built. Will the Minister inquire to see whether something cannot be done to assist this man? I realize that the mistake was not the fault of a land salesman.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON (Minister of Education): The Leader of the Opposition has made two or three valuable suggestions which I shall be pleased to refer to my colleague, the Attorney-General, to see whether some remedial legislation cannot be introduced during the next session.

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

[Sitting suspended from 4.4 to 4.43 p.m.]

#### POTATO MARKETING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### PROROGATION SPEECHES.

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

That the House at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday, March 24, at 2 p.m.

I am reminded that at the conclusion of the normal session we are able to extend seasonal greetings to each other across the Chamber, as the session usually finishes appropriately near the commencement of the holiday period, but on this occasion the session has been held over to conclude one or two matters. Therefore, I extend to members opposite and to those on this side of the House my personal wishes for their future.



I greatly appreciate the way the Leader of the Opposition has helped conduct the business of the House. Obviously, the Leader is not going to agree with all the legislation the Government introduces (in fact, we pay him not to agree with it), and that is understood. However, he has always been helpful in the conduct of the House and its business, and I thank him and members opposite. I particularly thank my colleagues in the Ministry. While the House is in session the Ministers' work is probably at least twice as hard as during normal times. Not only do they have their normal work but also the additional work arising from the preparation of legislation for presentation to Parliament. In addition they have more work because honourable members during the session address many more questions to them on matters of policy and questions concerning the districts, than they do during the recess. I thank my colleagues for the way they have undertaken the additional duties, and particularly for the help that they have given me.

I thank members of my Party for their co-operation in dealing with the various matters. In any Parliament, or in any Party, everyone cannot be expected to see eye to eye. On occasions my supporters have different views from the Government on various matters, but their views have been expressed. They have been willing to co-operate and some material good to the State has been effected. Mr. Speaker, I am sure every honourable member is conscious of the difficult position that you, Sir, are in with a House so evenly divided. I compliment you on the way you have carried out the duties of Speaker. The Speaker's task in a balanced House is not easy, but in the two sessions since your appointment you, Sir, have earned a reputation by your conduct of this House, and I compliment you on the way you have occupied the the position of Speaker and the way you have carried out the duties of that office. I thank my colleague, the Chairman of Committees, for the work that he has done. He is most efficient and courteous, and all members respect his rulings. This Parliament has always had an extremely efficient staff of Clerks, Library officers and *Hansard* officers. Their work has always been of a high order. This session the officers of Parliament have again indicated a zeal and willingness to help members who have sought assistance, particularly on forms of procedure under Standing Orders.

We greatly appreciate the assistance we receive from the Parliamentary Draftsman and his staff. I remember when if we considered 45 measures it was regarded as a substantial session, yet this afternoon I noticed that we were dealing with Bill No. 100 on our files, which indicates the increasing volume of work that is considered nowadays. This, of course, results in additional work for the Parliamentary Draftsman and his officers. Our thanks are due to them. I should also like to thank the Chamber messengers who keep our files in order, who distribute Bills, and who rapidly and intelligently obtain documents and information for us. I pay a particular tribute to our catering staff. This year Miss Bottomley left us after many years. I think all members regretted her departure. We now have a new caterer, but I am sure members will join with me in saying that the quality of the service has in no way deteriorated: we are receiving the same splendid service that we have come to expect.

This has not been an easy session. We have considered much controversial and difficult legislation. Not all of the legislation that the Government should have liked passed has been passed, but nevertheless I am sure that it can be generally agreed that much good legislation has been considered and accepted. I conclude by wishing members well in the future.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I gladly join with the Premier in expressing sincere appreciation to all those officers he mentioned. I agree entirely with him that it is not an easy task for a Speaker in an evenly divided House (particularly if members try to make it difficult) especially when Party politics are involved. Nevertheless we came through the session well, even though at times we scowled at one another. The Premier said that we had 100 Bills on our files; that is not so, there are 101.

As Leader of the Opposition I have greatly appreciated the competent assistance given me by my staff, and I am sure that all members have benefited from their efforts. The Clerk is to be commended for his work, as is the committee that investigated Standing Orders. It was a big task, but they performed it well. I commend the staff generally, including the messengers, and not forgetting the Parliamentary Draftsman and his assistants. He has a happy knack of saying what is required in a few words.

I notice in the Stranger's Gallery (in addition to the police officers who have nothing much to do except supervise things) four ladies who undertake the typing work for members. They have worked extremely well this session and members from both sides fully appreciate their services.

I believe that the catering staff should be mentioned first. Whilst we pay for the services we receive (and I say this lest the press gain the impression that we receive this as a free service) the services are outstanding and reflect great credit on those responsible. Mrs. Catten must receive a special mention because in the short time she has been here she has done much for members and for her staff.

In conclusion I wish all members well: I hope they receive a big Easter egg; and I trust that they return in full health to continue our further discussions in June. I extend my thanks to my colleagues for the manner in which they have assisted in the conduct of the business of this House.

THE SPEAKER: I should like to add my remarks as Speaker of this House. It must be realized that during the last two sessions no other Parliament has been similarly situated to our Parliament where the House has been evenly divided with a Speaker trying to keep the business going at all times. It has been a difficult and extremely responsible task. It is to the credit of all members on both sides of the House that on no occasion during this session or the previous one has the Speaker had to ask a member to leave the Chamber. All members have maintained the dignity and decorum for which this Parliament is so well known. This Parliament has accomplished a number of things. We have not been able to discover precedents established by other similarly situated Parliaments; we have been able to follow some precedents; and we have established new ones that will go down in history. Perhaps those precedents are not without legal technicalities, but they will stand up to any legal interpretation because the Speaker has made them and they cannot be challenged.

I thank the Premier and his colleagues for the way they have conducted the business of the House. They have answered questions courteously and have been meticulous in providing information for members. Sometimes I think Ministers' replies are a little too lengthy, and some members have been a little slow in seeking the permission of the Speaker and

the concurrence of the House when wishing to read letters and reports. The Standing Orders Committee, to which the Leader of the Opposition referred a moment ago, will recommend that we impose a stricter discipline in this respect, which I think will be all for the good of the House. I hope members will study the Standing Orders Committee's report and so be able to give us their impressions of it when the House meets next session.

The Clerks have done a magnificent job during this session. I do not like to discriminate, but Mr. Combe has given wonderful service. He is a most able and valuable assistant, and I deeply appreciate his worth. He is most courteous and cheerful at all times in the way he handles the big problems that arise. Mr. Dodd, of course, is going overseas to gain further experience, and no doubt he will improve his knowledge as a result of his visits to other Parliaments. I trust he will have a most enjoyable voyage, and on members' behalf I wish him well. I hope that Mr. Dodd comes back bursting with information for this Parliament to use in future sessions.

The messengers deserve special praise. They are always very courteous and pleasant and carry out their tasks with great dignity. I think we have a wonderful messenger staff in this House. A tribute has already been paid to Miss Bottomley, who gave 22 years of outstanding service to this Parliament. She came here as a shy young girl and left the service of this Parliament with wide experience and great knowledge. I had the pleasure of seeing her in the street recently; when I asked her what she intended doing, her reply was that she was enjoying herself relaxing, as she said, for the first time in 25 years. I am sure that Mrs. Catten, her successor, has been an excellent choice. It has not been easy for her to emulate the feats of her predecessor, but she is carrying out her duties in a most efficient and pleasant manner. Even in the short time she has been here, she has shown that she can be very popular and at the same time maintain discipline. Everyone speaks well of the way she has gone about her duties. The Joint House Committee has had some hard decisions to make, and it has done its job well.

I am sure all honourable members are looking forward to the Parliamentary visit to the Snowy Mountains on April 12. We are also looking forward to the Prorogation dinner this evening, when members will be able to get together in a convivial spirit as comrades after the spirited and energetic debates that we have had.

I am watching the conduct of this place with a great deal of interest, and I have made some personal notes to which I can refer at an appropriate time. People select the most improved player in a football team, and perhaps one day I might nominate the most improved member.

The Library staff has done a magnificent job and has made many important additions to the already fine collection of volumes. The Parliamentary Draftsman gets in a tangle sometimes, and I do not know whether it is he, the member for Mitcham, or the member for Norwood who wins the arguments. However,

I think it is a pretty even contest. All three have disagreed at times. I thank the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for the remarks that they have made, and I thank members for the co-operation that they have given me in the very difficult task of presiding over this evenly-divided House. I wish members the best of health, and hope that they will come back refreshed ready to work energetically in the interests of this State.

Motion carried.

PROROGATION.

At 5.8 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 24, at 2 p.m.