

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, August 19, 1965.

The SPEAKER (Hon. L. G. Riches) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS

FISHING LICENCES.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I understand the Minister of Agriculture recently made a statement concerning new provisions in respect of fishing licences. As I have not seen the statement, and as I have received inquiries about this matter, will the Minister explain how it is intended to alter the existing system of licensing fishermen?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The honourable member is not quite correct in saying that I made such a statement. I did say that I had been approached by a group of fishermen in the South-East, and that I had attended a meeting at Millicent one evening at their request. At this stage no suggestion has been made of changing the way in which fishing licences are issued. Substantially, the request made to me was that the fishing industry should be protected by the issuing of two types of licence, one to be an A class licence that would apply to people engaged in fishing as their principal means of livelihood, and the other to apply to amateur fishermen. It was suggested that people in the former category should be able to sell their catch, whereas the amateurs should not be able to do so. It was suggested not that the amateurs' activities should be retarded, but that the industry should be protected. After listening with interest to the submissions, I said that I did not intend to make any statement at that stage, but that I would consider what had been said. The matter has its problems, as the honourable member knows.

GOODWOOD SCHOOL.

Mr. LANGLEY: Last year I received a letter from the former Minister of Education concerning the Goodwood Primary School, which states:

The property (alongside the school) has a 50ft. frontage with a depth of 165ft., and it would provide a natural extension of the school grounds. I have been advised that this land has been inspected by the Supervising Surveyor of the Public Buildings Department and currently is with the Land Board for valuation. When the board's valuation is received, the proposal will receive consideration, and I shall be pleased to advise you when a decision is made.

Will the Minister of Education investigate this matter and inform me when this land will be purchased?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to get that information.

COFFIN BAY ROAD.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to a question I asked on July 27 about the possibility of surveying on a new alignment the new road from Flinders Highway to Coffin Bay, part of which passes through a fauna and flora reserve?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: As yet my department has had no request from the Highways and Local Government Department in respect of a road, but the District Engineer at Port Lincoln has been in touch with the Commissioners of the National Park and Wild Life Reserves. The Commissioners have stated that they are charged with the responsibility of keeping intact such areas as the Coffin Bay wild life reserve, and a roadway bisecting the reserve would seriously limit its effectiveness. The road itself would account for a large area, roadmaking equipment and earthworks would destroy an even greater area, and the area for some distance on either side of a road is regarded as ineffective for a wild life reserve because of traffic and its accompanying contamination. The reserve is just over 4,000 acres in area, and this is considered small. If a road divides this area it will mean that the reserve will be reduced to several small areas because the existing road, even though it may be closed legally, will still be accessible.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS.

Mr. CASEY: Can the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs say what progress has been made on a project announced some time ago in relation to an administration centre for the Aboriginal Affairs Department at Port Augusta to serve the northern part of the State?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Early in the life of the new Government it was announced that the building of an administration centre at Port Augusta would be proceeded with. Until recently the accommodation of the department was in a very small room that was formerly part of the stable quarters attached to the Port Augusta courthouse. This was inadequate, and it was planned, with the expansion of staff at Port Augusta, to build an administration centre at a cost of about £13,000. On examining this project, which had reached the stage of our being ready to call tenders, it

was found that a substantial building, which provided all the facilities required of the new administration centre and which was solidly constructed on a very much better site, was for sale or lease. This was the old Goldsbrough Mort building opposite the proposed Electricity Trust centre. I am pleased to announce that we have successfully tendered for the lease of this building at an advantageous figure, with the option to purchase at a figure substantially lower than the cost of building a very much less effective centre on the plans we had. In consequence, we have already occupied the building, and accommodation is there to be provided for the planned expansion of staff at Port Augusta. It has been a most satisfactory arrangement.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I was pleased to hear that the problem of accommodation for Mr. Weightman and his staff at Port Augusta had been resolved, and I hope happily. I am wondering whether the establishment of an administration headquarters at Port Augusta presages any major or even less than major development of Port Augusta as an Aboriginal reserve. Considerable facilities have been provided at the Davenport Reserve to meet the needs of Aboriginal families who come to Port Augusta for medical treatment and to meet the requirements of aged couples, and so on. These facilities have been of considerable advantage to them.

News of the provision of amenities at any point travels quickly in Aboriginal circles and I think the Minister would agree that the establishment of considerable facilities at Port Augusta would tend to attract large numbers of tribal and semi-tribal Aborigines from the northern areas, possibly more rapidly than the township of Port Augusta could absorb them. I refer particularly to the matter of employment for those people who may want to live in and around Port Augusta. Can the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs say whether the provision of administration headquarters also envisages any further marked development of the Davenport Reserve and of the accommodation available there for Aboriginal families?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Mr. Speaker, you, as member for the district concerned, are well aware that the developments at Davenport Reserve are independent of the provision of the administration centre.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I understand that.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is intended to provide more housing on the Davenport Reserve. We had another advantageous purchase of housing made available by the Com-

monwealth Railways to accommodate more people on the reserve. The purposes of the reserve are necessarily restricted to the care of people who will be centred around the old people's welfare centre; the care of the old people on the reserve generally; the Umeewarra Children's Home; and a small number who will be given training on the reserve. It is not envisaged that we will accommodate at the reserve anyone who likes to come to Port Augusta. The policy of doing so would be quite ruinous, and it would be impossible to provide employment on the reserve. As the honourable member knows, people on the reserve capable of being employed must have employment. To provide additional employment on the reserve costs £750 a year for each additional person employed, and this is an impossible burden for the Aboriginal Welfare Department budget. We do not intend to remove restrictions on entry to the reserve, although it is not envisaged that the reserve will increase in the size of its population to any noticeable extent.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Are there any restrictions on entry for full-blood Aborigines?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, depending on accommodation available. At present we are not prepared to accept into the reserve people who cannot find reasonable accommodation on the reserve. This is necessary because of the breakdown in housing standards that otherwise occurs. The responsibility of controlling this has been offered to the council on the reserve. On reserves, councils have been told that as soon as they like to assume the responsibility for controlling entry, we will be happy to give it to them. Some are making rules, particularly Gerard, for this purpose. The development of the administration centre is basically to provide an administration headquarters for the expansion of welfare and patrol services throughout the North of the State.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I understand that.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is not directed to providing additional facilities for Port Augusta. There must be some expansion of administrative staff to control the activities of patrol and welfare officers who are the additional persons to be provided through the North of the State, where the major part of the work in Aboriginal affairs must now take place. This is an area of urgent need in the affairs of Aborigines. The administration centre is purely related to that expansion, and not to the provision of additional facilities at Port Augusta.

SEWERAGE REBATES.

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a question I asked yesterday concerning water and sewerage rebates on Housing Trust subdivisions?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Director and Engineer-in-Chief advises that application of the general principles of agreements entered into by the department with private subdividers applies to the South Australian Housing Trust in the same manner as if the trust had entered into agreements with the department. A Joint Services Committee has been established comprising officers of the Housing Trust and the Engineering and Water Supply Department to give effect to this intention. The estimated annual cost for 1965-66 of water and sewerage services provided in Housing Trust areas and borne by the trust is about £275,000.

LAND AGENTS.

Mr. BROOMHILL: A constituent of mine who purchased a block of land recently at Steventon Estate has provided me with information that suggests a land sale racket exists. A clause in the contract provides that the land sale is subject to one of five named builders being engaged to build a house. However, it is pointed out to purchasers that the clause is not binding and is inserted only to maintain building standards. Quotes obtained from the five builders and from three outside builders varied by as much as £2,300, and the highest quote from an outside builder was £350 lower than the lowest quote from the five named builders. The company concerned has threatened an injunction against my constituent despite legal advice he has had that the contract is illegal. As the cost involved in proving this clause to be illegal would be considerable and, therefore, a deterrent, will the Attorney-General investigate this matter? I shall be pleased to provide him with full details.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am grateful to the honourable member for raising this matter. If he will supply me with a copy of the contract I shall have it referred to the Land Agents Board for investigation. Activities by certain land agents have caused the Government grave concern over a substantial period, and it has in view legislation to be introduced this session that will obviate some matters about which the honourable member has spoken.

M.T.T. FARES.

Mr. COUMBE: Earlier today it was announced that it was intended to increase Municipal Tramways Trust fares. Can the Premier inform the House of the extent of and reasons for these increases? When are they likely to apply? Will they apply to pensioners and to students' concession fares? Was this action taken by proclamation or by regulation, and will honourable members have an opportunity to discuss the matter in the House?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: If there was a report in today's press, I did not see it. From memory, I believe that the third, fifth and sixth sections are involved. There have been no increases in the fares in respect of these sections since 1959. The last increases were made in respect of other sections. The three-section fare is to be increased from 1s. to 1s. 6d., and I believe the fares in respect of the other two sections will be increased from 1s. 6d. to 2s. The half fare will apply to children under 14 years of age, I think. There will be no increase in the concession rates previously announced for schoolchildren and students. I do not want to get too involved concerning this matter this afternoon because a recommendation has been approved by Cabinet determining where concession fares to pensioners are to start and finish. It was announced by the Commonwealth Treasurer on Tuesday evening that pensioner entitlement cards would not operate as hitherto but that all pensioners, irrespective of their pension, would benefit from the new scheme announced in the Budget, so the present position is somewhat involved. But the Tramways Trust informed both the Minister of Transport and me (and I reported the matter to Cabinet) of the increased costs that it would have to bear as a result of recently announced wage increases and other increased costs, so we agreed that it should be permitted to increase the charges in respect of the third, fifth and sixth sections by the amounts I have mentioned.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question arises out of the answer given by the Premier in regard to what seemed to be the extremely steep (indeed, alarmingly steep) increases in fares on Municipal Tramways Trust vehicles. In view of the announced policy of his Party at the last election to encourage greater patronage of public transport in this State, can the Premier say whether Cabinet has considered the effect that the steep increases just announced will have on patronage of M.T.T.

vehicles and, if it has, whether any estimate has been made on whether the increases are likely adversely to affect the use by the public of trust vehicles?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The honourable member will appreciate that any increases in fares are disliked and they promote a buyer resistance. An alternative to further subsidize the travelling public was closely examined, but we could not do this for the particular sections for which increases have been made. Also, the expected increases in salaries and wages for tramway employees had to be considered, as this will further aggravate the general position of the trust. Honourable members will realize that no increase in fares on these sections has occurred since 1959, although the basic wage has increased since then. The trust also had to consider the effects of the introduction of decimal currency next year on fares for these sections. It is common knowledge that any increase in fares is resisted for some time; it may even be longer than we expect. The trust provides a public service, but has only one form of revenue. I assure the honourable member that, if this Government can do anything to encourage people to travel on this form of transport, it will leave no stone unturned to accomplish this.

COMMONWEALTH BUDGET.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Can the Premier indicate the likely effects on this State's Budget and general financial position of the provisions of the Commonwealth Budget announced on Tuesday last?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The general effect of the recently announced Commonwealth Budget is that most people will have to suffer drastic reductions in their net incomes but, broadly, considering the effect of the Commonwealth Budget on our State Budget, I am unable to say anything about that this afternoon. Honourable members will appreciate that the House met last Tuesday and sat in the evening; yesterday we sat in the afternoon and until after 11 o'clock in the evening; so if I am asked whether I have considered this matter, the answer must be "No". Both South Australia and New South Wales benefited more than we thought we would from the Financial Agreement arrived at earlier this year in Canberra and, to the best of my knowledge, there will be no alteration of the formula agreed upon for the next five years.

MURRAY RIVER.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yesterday I addressed a question to the Minister of Works regarding the increasing concern being felt about the salinity of the water in the Upper Murray area, and the Minister said that he was investigating the matter to see what action could be taken. I understand now that my question is to be answered by the Minister of Irrigation. As I understand from reports I have received that this is an extremely urgent matter, can the Minister of Irrigation say whether any decision has been made on the release of water, or just what action will be taken?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Apparently the Leader of the Opposition did not hear the reply I gave yesterday to the member for Chaffey, which was in substance that the people in charge were quite aware of the situation and were now endeavouring to build a weir to stop the low water from coming into the settlement. The water would flow over the top, and the salinity at the top is not so high as it is further down. This work is proceeding, and the whole situation is under constant vigilance because of its extreme importance. The engineers are investigating to see what other methods can be adopted.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: The report in the press is that the salinity even of the top water is about 40 grains a gallon. Is that report correct?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: My information is that it is 28 grains a gallon.

The Hon. T. C. Stott: What is the salinity further down?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: It is not possible to give a full reply on just how it will be further down. At present, only Chaffey is affected. The matter is being watched closely by the departmental officers, and perhaps at a later stage I will have further information to give the House.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I appreciate the Minister's action with regard to constructing an embankment to allow only surface water into the pumps. However, I do not think that will provide a solution in the long run; it would only temporarily alleviate the problems of one particular settlement at this stage. Will the Minister consult with his colleague the Minister of Works to ascertain whether the River Murray Commission could make a freshet of clear water available to flush out water that is fairly heavily salinated at present? From what has been said, I think that if the salinity were as high as it is at

Renmark at present, and unless more effective action were taken (instead of merely constructing an embankment to protect one particular pump) a serious problem could be created further down the river. Will the Minister take up this urgent matter with his colleague?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I appreciate the situation, as outlined by the Leader, as well as the fact that this measure would provide only a temporary alleviation of the problem. However, I assure the Leader that this matter has already been considered by the engineers concerned and the River Murray Commission; it is still receiving their attention, and we are waiting for further information.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I have directed several questions to the Minister of Agriculture regarding staffing of the Agriculture Department. Can the Minister say what action he has taken to fill the many vacancies that currently exist in the department.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Yes. I appreciate very much the assistance the honourable member has given me in raising this matter in the House, because it is one that has given me great concern. I was informed soon after taking office that there were 36 to 40 vacancies in the department, mostly for research officers. I promised the honourable member on an earlier occasion that I intended to take this matter up with the Director and also with the Public Service Commissioner. This I did, and we had quite a good discussion about the matter. Two things have to be borne in mind. The first is that to improve the position greatly might take some time, and this would best be brought about by encouraging more cadets. In the past it was mainly the academic cadets that were able to go into the department under scholarships, but very often this did not provide for someone who would perhaps be more lasting in the department and who was used to life on the land. It is now suggested (and I intend to put this into effect) that another type of cadetship for people who have been associated with the land will be introduced to encourage people associated with primary industry to come into the department by way of scholarship. We think that those people will stay longer in the department than perhaps some of the city-born people who have not the same interest in the land but perhaps have slightly higher academic qualifications. The people in this latter group are often lost to other worthwhile institutions such as the university.

Mr. Quirke: What standard will they need?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: They would require a certain standard, but it would not necessarily be as high as the present standard. We hope this scheme will encourage cadets to come in from rural areas. However, it will not help in the immediate future, although there will be considerably more cadets coming out next year than was the case in the past. The Director has left for overseas and instructions have been sent to the Agent-General to advertise and to consult some universities in England, giving details of the vacancies that exist in South Australia. When the Director is in England in October, he will be prepared to interview any candidates likely to be interested in coming to South Australia. Of course, they would come under bond, and we are hopeful of being successful in getting some of these people.

The other factor in our not being able to maintain staff is the working conditions of some of these officers. When I was at Mount Gambier recently I was appalled at the offices in which the officers had to work. It is an old church building that was probably erected last century and is totally inadequate and unsuitable for the work done by these highly skilled officers. Further, I consider that the building in Gawler Place is a disgrace. I do not know how the officers can work under the conditions there, and the sooner I get them out of there the better I shall be pleased. The building is an old factory, totally unsuited for work of this nature. We have this matter very much at heart and are concerned at the situation. Everything possible is being done to interest research officers in coming into the department and to make them happy when they are there.

VIRGINIA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. HALL: In recent years, a very significant drop has occurred in the underground water levels in the Virginia water basin. This has become very marked in the last year or so and market gardeners have deepened their bores continually in order to reach sufficient water to enable them to water their vegetable gardens. Nevertheless, although they have deepened these bores, they cannot now obtain the same quantity as they could when they first began operations. Some properties now have dams, whereby pumping can be continued for a long period and water is stockpiled in the dams, and the market gardeners are taking water from the stockpile. This problem can reach very significant proportions if sufficient

water is not available in the next few years. Will the Minister of Education, representing the Minister of Mines, ascertain from his colleague whether any up-to-date information is available on the situation in the Virginia water basin regarding water supply?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Yes, I will get a considered reply.

RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT.

Mr. FERGUSON: The Rural Youth Movement in this State performs a useful function in the rural centres of South Australia. It is an important movement that is under the control of the Agriculture Department. Recently, two United Kingdom young farmers have been on an exchange visit to this State, and I have been informed by one of them that they consider that arrangements here do not compare favourably with those made for members of our own Rural Youth Movement who visit the United Kingdom. Will the Minister of Agriculture inquire into this matter?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I shall be happy to inquire into the matter, and I would appreciate it if the honourable member could furnish me with any more details. I am full of admiration for the Rural Youth Movement, for it affords young people the opportunity to get together to discuss matters of mutual interest. As an adviser connected with the movement at Murray Bridge, I have some knowledge of the work these young people undertake, and I should be only too happy to encourage and assist in this matter in any way possible.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.

Mr. McANANEY: Since certain statements were made in regard to occupational therapy as a career, from June 14 to 18 last, there have been many inquiries on this matter from interested students. Unfortunately, as they would have to go to Victoria or Western Australia to undertake this type of training, this prevents many students from embarking on such a career. As I understand the Education Department issues scholarships for students to travel to another State, will the Minister of Education ascertain whether training for this course could be undertaken in South Australia?

Mrs. Steele: They won't take any more in Victoria now.

Mr. McANANEY: I understand that is so.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall have this matter examined.

CLARE SEWERAGE.

Mr. QUIRKE: Last week I asked a question of the Minister of Works concerning the possibility of loans being made to local government bodies which intend to connect a drainage system to existing septic tank systems, in lieu of providing deep drainage. Although I understand a priority committee considers sewerage installations in country towns, it seems that projects in country areas are being hampered by the increasing demand for sewerage in suburban areas. Will the Minister say whether certain areas that are to receive priority may do well to wait a little longer for the provision of deep drainage, and thus obviate the installation of an incomplete system?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I think you, Mr. Speaker, will remember that you took this matter up with the former Minister of Works in about 1955, when it was suggested that the Government assist local government bodies committed to installing septic tank systems. Resulting from those inquiries, an interesting 10-page foolscap report was made available, and the department finally recommended against subsidizing these organizations. However, I notice that a certain paragraph of the report states:

Clare: The department is concerned with the possible pollution of underground water by septic tank effluent.

In view of this statement, and in view of the request of the honourable member (who, I know, appreciates the fact that a certain committee gives consideration to installing country sewers), I will take up this matter with my department to see just where Clare fits in. I suggest that we answer this particular question first before delving into the matters arising from the honourable member's initial question.

MARGARINE.

Mr. SHANNON: First of all, I am indebted to the Minister of Agriculture for pursuing certain matters that were raised in a motion moved in the House recently in respect of this State's being flooded with margarine. The Minister has probably noticed a letter in this morning's *Advertiser* dealing with this topic and signed "L. F. Bullock, Secretary of the Poly Unsaturated Food Society of South Australia". I searched without success for some evidence of the society. I then searched for L. F. Bullock with some success, and discovered that he was a storeman living at Colonel Light Gardens. If this is the man who signed the letter (and I can find only one person with this name and the

initials) I can give his full address so that he can be contacted. Some years ago the Public Health Department took successful action concerning advertisements for Truby King baby foods. The term "poly unsaturated" is not what may be termed common. My understanding is that "poly" is a Greek word meaning "many", and "unsaturated" has various meanings depending on what is to be saturated and with what it is to be saturated. It is a wide term, and I suppose the Minister will find it difficult to obtain a definition even from officers of the Crown Law Department. The public is being flooded with advertisements for this margarine from Marrickville. The author of this letter, who calls himself the secretary of the society (not the honorary secretary), possibly has a salary from the same source as that from which the margarine comes. Will the Minister of Agriculture take up this matter to see whether action cannot be taken by the Public Health Department with regard to this rather misleading advertising?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I will see what substance there is in the statements referred to. I have been informed that a doctor was brought from Victoria to explain this matter to a group of people interested in this subject, and I understood from correspondence I had had that some people were interested. However, I was informed that the meeting was not well attended, which led me to believe that there was not as much interest in this matter as these people would have us believe.

NARACOORTE HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. RODDA: Some time ago the Naracoorte High School Council approached the Education Department and requested that surplus land known as the police paddock, which adjoins the high school ground, be included in the high school reserve. I understand that the Education Department has approached the Commissioner of Police, who had no objection to the land being ceded to the school, and that all that now remains is for the Lands Department to dedicate the land and for it to be included in the high school reserve. Will the Minister of Lands say what progress has been made in this matter?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The honourable member was good enough to inform my office this morning that he had this matter in mind, and I am informed that the matter is in hand and a definition for dedication of section 1098, hundred of Naracoorte, as a school reserve is being prepared.

ENFIELD BY-LAW.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I ask the Chairman of the Subordinate Legislation Committee whether that committee has considered by-law No. 20 of the Enfield corporation regarding zoning and whether it intends to take any action concerning the regulation. I point out to him that only two more days remain in which a motion for disallowance can be moved in this House. As I have had an objection to this regulation, I would normally, unless I were to be considered unparliamentary or rude, consider moving a certain motion.

Mr. McKEE (Chairman of the Subordinate Legislation Committee): The committee is considering this matter at present. In fact, it is calling witnesses from the district to give evidence about the matter, and we have deferred making a report until that evidence has been taken.

Mr. HURST: In view of the apparent misunderstanding that has arisen in regard to regulations (and the time for giving notice in the House for disallowance of regulations and by-laws), is the Chairman of the Subordinate Legislation Committee prepared to offer any advice to the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. McKEE: If the Leader desired to attend a committee meeting I should be delighted to be his host.

ARTESIAN BASIN.

Mr. HEASLIP: North of Orroroo there is a large artesian basin where settlers have sunk bores to 350ft., but the sand problem eventually cuts off the water. Recently, on a nearby property, a bore, sunk to 750ft., finished in rock and no sand problem was experienced. Before the present Government took office I was told that the Mines Department expected to have money made available from the Commonwealth Government, some of which it was prepared to spend on further exploring this artesian basin to make settlement possible and to use water that at present cannot be used. Will the Minister of Education ascertain from his colleague, the Minister of Mines, whether this money has become available and, if it has, whether it will be applied in this direction? If the money has not been made available, will he ascertain whether the present Government can make money available towards the further exploration and testing of this basin?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I will obtain the necessary information and inform the honourable member.

MODULAR CONSTRUCTION SCHOOLS.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My question concerns modular construction schools of a type which the Education Department has finished constructing at Mount Barker (with which, I understand, the Minister is very much impressed), and of a type similar to a school being built at Saddleworth, which, after inspecting, I consider to be satisfactory. I understand that a substantial saving in costs is made on this type of building compared with solid construction schools of the conventional type. Can the Minister of Education give honourable members some idea of the saving in building costs in respect of this new type of construction?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: At present I am unable to give exact figures on savings. This type of school building is in the experimental stage, and the actual cost of production and construction is expected to decrease with time. Therefore, I think it might be inadvisable to predict differences in costs at this juncture. However, I will examine the matter to see whether some approximate figure can be given.

FLINDERS RANGES SHOOTING.

Mr. CASEY: The Premier is probably aware that recently the Flinders Ranges Tourist Development Association was formed in the Flinders Ranges in the Far North. These and other people in the area, particularly graziers, are concerned about the indiscriminate shooting taking place in certain areas of the Flinders Ranges. Only last weekend, while talking to a grazier in that area, I was informed that they were most concerned about this matter. Will the Premier take it up with his colleague the Chief Secretary to see whether a detailed report cannot be made available, including a recommendation that a ranger be stationed at Wilpena Chalet for the purpose of policing this area against this indiscriminate use of firearms?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I am prepared to take this matter up with my colleague to see what we can do in that direction.

EGGS.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: On August 12 I asked a question of the Minister of Agriculture about the apparent movement of eggs by truck into South Australia from Victoria. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: It is a fact that some eggs in shell have been brought over by the South Australian Egg Board from

the Victorian Egg Board. Under the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities plan, State Egg Boards agreed not to send any further supplies of eggs in shell to other States after June 30 this year, other than at the request of another State board. Prior to this, large quantities of eggs in shell were coming into South Australia from the Victorian Egg Board to a private buyer, and those eggs were sold in competition on the local market with South Australian Board eggs, and at a discount on the South Australian price. The quantities were so large that the South Australian board was of the opinion that at the short period of production, that is, during the months of July and August, the board would not have sufficient eggs to supply the local market. Therefore, arrangements were made with the Victorian Egg Board to supply certain quantities to the South Australian Egg Board. Under the C.E.M.A. plan, these eggs are supplied at the ruling wholesale price, which is practically the same in every State of the Commonwealth, and C.E.M.A. funds pay the cost of freight on the eggs. This is probably true co-operation and equalization between State boards. However, there have been no eggs from Victoria coming into this State for the last two or three weeks.

RAILWAY FARES.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: The Premier has stated that Tramways Trust fare increases are inevitable, and he has stated the reasons therefor. Can he say whether some of those reasons also apply to the Railways Department's operational costs and, if they do (and bearing in mind the statement in his policy speech that it was planned to collect an extra £1,000,000 a year revenue on the railways), is it intended to increase passenger railway fares and freight charges during the present financial year?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: At present no suggestion whatever has been brought to my notice that the Railways Commissioner desires to increase fares. Indeed, I would hope that the Commissioner would be able to avoid any such increase.

ARBURY PARK.

Mr. SHANNON: An announcement was made last night regarding Arbury Park at Bridgewater. Can the Premier say how far his negotiations have proceeded with the District Council of Stirling for the council's acceptance of the management and control of that portion of Arbury Park which I understand

is south of Sir Alec Downer's former residence? Will the district council, which will develop this area, be supplied with water from the bore which I understand is not to be included in this transfer of land but is to be retained for the use of the old Arbury Park garden? From my recollection of my talks with Sir Alec Downer prior to his leaving South Australia, this is a very good bore. I do not know that I can give any information at all about its capacity, but I would imagine that the Mines Department would have those details. Can the Premier say whether, if there is a surplus of water available, the Government will consider the desirability of making some of this water available for the development of some of the area now proposed to be passed to the council?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I desire to inform the honourable member that, first, there must be an arrangement between the Park Commissioners and the Government for the taking over of the property. As soon as that takes place, the Minister of Education will be the Minister responsible for the administration of this matter. When the Commissioners and the Government come to an agreement, we will then be able to discuss with the district council the question of the area that we would desire the council to have, at a peppercorn rental. I assure the honourable member that, on the question of the water supply, I would not have any doubt but that the council would have the opportunity, but we will examine that point fully to see what we can do to help if these arrangements are made.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I refer to a statement attributed to the Premier in this morning's *Advertiser*, to the effect that the previous Government had proposed to use Arbury Park as a museum, but that it had now been decided to use it for conventions, and for accommodation in connection with those conventions. I should like to correct one part of that statement: the previous Government never intended to use the property as a museum, but intended to make it an adjunct to the National Gallery. However, will the Premier say whether the functions to be held there—

Mr. Jennings: They won't be Young Liberals' conventions!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: —will be heavily subsidized by the Government, or whether the people attending such functions will be charged a fee sufficient to pay for the cost of their accommodation and the upkeep of

the property? Will he also say what type of convention will be permitted to occupy the accommodation?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I regret that the word "museum" was used instead of "National Gallery". As I have just mentioned to the Leader's colleague, some arrangement still has to be made between the Government and the Commissioners of National Parks, to whom I pay a tribute for the work they have done to preserve the area under their control to a very good standard. Although the question was directed to me, I will leave it to the Minister of Education to reply to the part relating to his portfolio.

The SPEAKER: Does the Leader wish to direct the question to the Minister of Education?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: This matter was broadly and carefully examined by the Education Department before a decision was made. It is expected that the receipts from people using the old building as a centre for in-service conferences will meet the running costs of the building during the year. Some expenditure will be involved in providing additional bedrooms to be used as a whole to accommodate conferences of up to 35 people. It is expected that the Education Department will need Arbury Park for 30 weeks of the year and that it will be used by other organizations requiring accommodation for similar types of conference for about 15 weeks of the year. That is the present proposal.

LAND VALUATION COMMITTEE.

Mr. CUMBE: Can the Premier say whether Cabinet has studied the Ligertwood report which made recommendations late last year about State and local government valuations and assessments? If it has considered this matter, does the Government intend to implement the recommendations in the report?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Cabinet has considered this report, but no finality has been reached. Consequently, I am unable to say whether any of the recommendations will be adopted, but I assure the honourable member that the matter is being closely examined.

CROWN LANDS.

Mr. NANKIVELL: As the Minister of Lands knows, considerable interest has existed for a number of years in the possibility of developing Crown lands in areas outside of hundreds in the counties of Buckingham and Chandos. Has the Minister considered this matter? If he has, does he contemplate introducing legislation some time this session to

deal with the particular problems associated with settling these areas?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The honourable member knows, as Chairman of the Land Settlement Committee, that we had a rather bumpy ride through this particular area two or three years ago. As a result of investigations made on that occasion, strong recommendations were made to the previous Government that certain protective legislation should be introduced before any further opening up of this land occurred. Since becoming Minister of Lands, I have given this matter much thought, and I have received inquiries from people concerning the area. At the moment, legislation has to be prepared (a draft of which will be available shortly), and it would then, of course, be considered by Cabinet and referred to the Parliamentary Draftsman, so that he could prepare the necessary Bill. If this Bill is ready in time (as I hope it will be) I shall endeavour to have the legislation brought down later this session.

DOCTORS AND NURSES.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Will the Premier take up with his colleague the Minister of Health the problem of the shortage of doctors and nurses in country districts? It has come to my knowledge that in Loxton, for instance, the relieving matron at the hospital there urgently requires more nursing staff. I believe this also applies to a hospital in the district of the member for Albert, as well as in other districts. Will the Premier ascertain whether the Hospitals Department can assist in alleviating this problem in country districts?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I am prepared to take up this matter with my colleague. Indeed, I know that much attention has already been given to this serious problem. However, the criticism levelled at Dr. Rollison in last weekend's *Sunday Mail* does not help to solve such problems as these.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: It was unjustified.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I thought it was in very bad taste, particularly when a responsible Government officer was unable to defend himself. I assure the honourable member that Cabinet is perturbed about this position. Discussions have already taken place, but I shall refer the matter again to Cabinet, to see whether a solution to this problem can be found.

PORT BROUGHTON AREA SCHOOL.

Mr. HALL: Will the Minister of Education obtain a further report on the progress that

may have been made in providing a new school-house for the head teacher at the Port Broughton Area School?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I have not got the information at the moment, but I will get it for the honourable member.

WATER RATES.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: On June 24 I addressed a question to the Minister of Works about a committee set up to consider giving water rate concessions to industries that required concessions. The question arose out of the announced increase in the price of water. The Minister promised to look into the matter and to let me know who were the members of the committee and on what basis concessions would be given. Has he a reply?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I regret that I have not got a detailed reply, but this matter comes under the jurisdiction of the Premier, and I understand that Mr. Hourigan is the officer-in-charge of the section and of the inquiry that will be made into all industry.

EQUAL PAY.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Following the announcement that the Government intends to grant equal pay to women employees of the Education Department, will the Premier say whether, as a natural corollary, this principle will be followed in relation to female employees of other Government departments, and whether Cabinet has considered what effect this will have on the Budget? Will he also say whether any figures are available of what additional sum will have to be provided in the Budget if equal pay is given to all Government female employees?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Government has announced that equal pay for equal work of equal value is to receive further consideration and that it will consider who else may be included. The South Australian Institute of Teachers has been informed of and has agreed to the policy of equal pay for equal work, particularly in relation to margins. This will become effective for women teachers as from July 1, 1966, and it will take five years for the difference of £3 15s. between the male and female basic wages to be made up. That is the broad principle of the matter. The Government has not yet stated any policy about women in other Government departments, but I believe it can be taken for granted that when a decision is arrived at it will be broadly on the same basis; that is, it will be over a five-year period from July, 1966. If the

variation between the male and female basic wages becomes greater as a result of basic wage adjustments, I assume that the yearly increase will be greater. In other words, instead of the increase being 15s. a week a year, it may be 16s. or 17s. In any case, it will be over a five-year period.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: NEW ZEALAND TRADE AGREEMENT.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS (Minister of Forests): I ask leave to make a statement. Leave granted.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: This statement follows a question asked yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition and a private request for information by the member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Burdon). It relates to the free trade agreement between New Zealand and Australia. The Standing Committee of Forestry Ministers prepared a report indicating its uneasiness in regard to several aspects of the matter, and advised the council as follows:

It is the conclusion of the standing committee that the questions involved are too important to be decided without a more comprehensive study of the problem. The committee therefore expresses its firm belief that the Australian forest authorities should undertake this study and submit their conclusions to the council for consideration before a commitment is made on the proposed free trade agreement.

Subsequently, each member of the council endorsed this report, and the Minister for Trade and Customs was advised of this on August 6. In spite of this, the agreement was signed a few days later. At this stage, we have no knowledge of the precise description of commodities finally included in the schedule, nor do we have any information on the terms and conditions of the signed agreement. It may be that the safeguards previously mentioned are adequate, but comment on that would be premature. On the other hand, from a short-term point of view, it would appear that the forest industry in South Australia, including the supply of raw material to sawmills and pulp mills, is so well established that no serious disruption of activity is expected to occur. I believe the situation may be different in other States of Australia.

A consultative joint committee comprising representatives from each country examined for several months the possibilities of a free trade area being implemented, and their preliminary findings were transmitted by the Minister for Trade and Customs (Mr. McEwen) to the first meeting of the Australian Forestry Council on August 21, 1964.

At the meeting, Mr. McEwen explained that virtually all the items proposed for acceptance were at present duty free, and that the Commonwealth Government would consult with interested parties, including State Governments, before any additions to the schedule were made. The most important items from a forest products point of view were newsprint, paper pulp and undressed timber (all duty free at present). Some concern was expressed by council members of various implications involved, and Mr. McEwen undertook to arrange further consultations if desired.

Late in July of this year, however, the New Zealand Government introduced a further list of commodities that it desired to have added to the schedule. Among these items were dressed timber (present duty 16s. 6d. per 100 super ft.), plywood (3s. 9d. per 100 square ft.), tongued and grooved timber (26s. 6d. per 100 super ft.), and dressed box timber (14s. per 100 super ft.). This application was fully discussed at the third meeting of the Australian Forestry Council at Bulolo on August 2. Mr. Carmody, a senior official of the Department of Trade, was present to explain the situation. At that meeting, Mr. Carmody was emphatic that there were sufficient safeguards written into the agreement to protect Australian industries should the necessity arise, including stringent anti-dumping provisions. Mr. Carmody also explained that the talks between the Australian and New Zealand Ministers could be regarded only as a further stage in the negotiations, and the council expressed appreciation of this. At the conclusion of this discussion, the council felt that it should have further advice on the subject in relation to its effects on Australian industry, and accordingly requested the standing committee to examine the position in the light of Mr. Carmody's remarks.

LOAN ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 18. Page 1138.)

Highways and Local Government, £821,000.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): Last night the Leader of the Opposition raised a query about the Renmark Irrigation Trust and I now have some information to give him in reply. The financial arrangements necessary to implement the recommendations of the Auditor-General in respect of assistance to the Renmark Irrigation Trust would be as follows: The extension from 18 years to 40 years of the term

of repayment of the £175,000 loan presently authorized in the Act will require a statutory amendment. The final instalment of £25,000 of this loan is provided for in the Loan Estimates at present before Parliament.

The provision, in the first instance, of £560,000 by the Government towards a pumping station and rising mains will require statutory authority, as will the terms of repayment of £400,000 thereof. Apart from a relatively small figure for designing and preliminary costs, no other appropriation is likely to be required in 1965-66, and the necessary amount may be provided in accordance with section (32b) of the Public Finance Act, so long as the arrangements generally are first given statutory authority. The proposed provision of up to £500,000 over 10 years for subsidies for further rehabilitation and drainage relates to the period after June 30, 1966, when the present arrangements will be completed. An appropriation for a grant of £150,000 is proposed for the 1965-66 expenditure Estimates. This will be the final instalment in accordance with the present statutory authority, which will need amendment for subsequent grants. The Parliamentary Draftsman is preparing the necessary legislation.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: (Leader of the Opposition): The Opposition is strongly opposed to the subtraction of moneys from the Highways Fund to general Loan purposes, as is proposed in the Loan Estimates. I understand that last year £300,000 was subtracted, and it is intended to take from the Highways Fund another £320,000 this year. For the life of me, I cannot see how this can be justified when the charges to truck users have been increased. Truck users have been charged an additional sum because of the need to maintain roads. The tax was introduced barely a year ago, yet Parliament is now asked to approve taking from the Highways Commissioner some of the funds available to him, and it is a substantial sum.

I believe that taking £620,000 from the Fund is a breach of confidence, because truck users were told that, if they paid the tax, money would be spent on improving roads. To take money from the fund and put it into the general Loan programme is false economy, and is contrary to the policy laid down in South Australia for many years. The Treasurer obtained authority to do this because of an amendment arising out of the Grants Commission's consideration of a grant for South Australia. To meet the technical matter raised,

legislation was passed, but never for a moment did we dream that at some time the Highways Fund would have substantial sums taken from it. If this can be done in one year it can be done again. Can the Treasurer indicate the justification for taking this money from the fund? Will it be the beginning of a policy of subtracting from the fund, year by year, substantial sums to augment Loan expenditures on other departments?

For years it was Government policy to provide additional sums of Loan money for the fund, which is a policy directly opposite what is being done now. Last year £200,000 was voted for that purpose, but it was not paid to the fund before June 30, so I presume the appropriation has now lapsed. However, it shows what was the previous policy. In previous Loan Estimates money has always been made available for roadwork, and particularly for bridge construction. In fact, some of our largest bridge work has been undertaken on Loan money.

I know the Treasurer can say with great assurance that the money received from the road maintenance tax will not be touched. He can say that because the money being touched is the revenue from motor registration fees. The High Court would not allow road maintenance money to be withdrawn. It is forbidden by legislation to take money coming from motorists through registration fees. I think I am correct in saying that for 20 years legislation has provided that all revenue received in this way shall be paid, less the cost of collection and interest charges, into the Highways Fund, to be spent exclusively on the road making activities of the Highways Commissioner.

If the Government's action in taking this money from the fund is accepted without comment, I am sure it will become standard practice. Each year the Treasurer will use money in that fund to make up deficiencies in the Loan programme. It would be bad financing, from the point of view of the economy of the State. I know of no circumstance that could possibly justify the subtraction of this amount from the Highways Fund. What are the circumstances that justify it? Is this the beginning of new Government policy in this respect?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Under Treasurer who now advises me is the same person who advised the Leader of the Opposition for so many years. He says now that the Leader has been pleased to describe the repayment of advances earlier made out of Loan

Account to the Highways Fund as a "raid" upon that fund. He repeats that this afternoon, with an added protest. This is a new view of finance when the repayment of advances is to be described as if it were stealing. Whilst the repayment has been arranged within a special section in the Act that the Leader may have intended 10 years ago for a rather different purpose, there is surely nothing unlawful in this and nothing improper or in the nature of raiding or stealing in requiring a borrower to repay advances, particularly when he is well able to do so. Will any honourable member deny that the Highways Department is not in a position to repay? It must be apparent to all members that, even after these repayments, the Highways Fund is in a position to expand its works to a far greater degree than practically any other Government activity.

It is all very well for the Leader of the Opposition to complain about another burden being imposed on road users, and particularly lorry drivers, but we have never attempted to spend that money in other directions. Is it suggested that the person who advised the Leader of the Opposition for so many years is wrongly advising me today? Before I accept the final advice of my adviser, I am always prepared to discuss matters with him. In this case, I am satisfied with what we have done. If the need arose, I would do the same thing again.

Mr. RYAN: Will the construction of the new Jervois bridge be financed from the Highways Fund or from Loan works provision?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I understand it is a matter for the Highways Department. However, at the moment I cannot inform the honourable member on that.

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Treasurer state definitely, in respect of this £320,000 that is being credited to the Loan Account, that the road and bridge-building programme for this financial year will not be cut back in any way? Will this repayment in any way affect the road programme? Parliament is entitled to more information about the activities of the Highways Department. Where is the credit for the sum allocated from the Highways Fund to Loan Account? Parliament should have more information about road works and such programmes, which are major capital works in this State. Honourable members should be able to discuss these matters during the debate on the Loan Estimates. At the moment, the only way in which an honourable member can get information about the current road pro-

gramme is by reading the daily press. The last Highways Department report that we have on our files is for the year before last, and this is too far back for members to be able to discuss intelligently the activities of this important department, which handles much of the taxpayers' money. Will the Treasurer assure me that, with the transfer of this £320,000, the road and bridge-building programme for this current year for which the motorists pay will not be retarded in any way?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The honourable member has had nine years in which to endeavour to remedy this matter he referred to, but he has left it until the tenth year. To the best of my knowledge, the State Government has provided a matching amount, particularly through its Loan money, in order that the full Commonwealth grant will be made available to it. I think the Leader will agree that that is so. We are over-matched at the present time. I said yesterday that a statement had been attributed to my colleague, the Minister of Roads, to the effect that the Highways Department was to spend about £15,000,000 this year. I am sorry that the honourable member's colleague who raised this matter yesterday did not follow up the question today, because he would have received an answer. I intend to take to Cabinet as soon as possible a suggestion that as from the next financial year the money to be spent by the Highways Department will be under the control of this Parliament; I cannot say at this stage whether or not it will come within these Estimates. I have no doubt that Cabinet will accept that recommendation. In the past the State has received full benefit from the Commonwealth under the matching fund.

It was only during the last few speeches on the first line that any Opposition members gave any credit to the Government for this Loan programme, and that was because their districts were to get some benefit. I listened to a long preamble about some water supply project, but as far as I know that project has never been before the Public Works Committee and I do not know whether even the plans have been prepared. I never heard a single suggestion about where £1 could be taken from a line and transferred to another line, so at least we can say that there is some sort of unity in the Opposition ranks. Its members are prepared to complain at length about what they want when we do not have enough overall funds, but if the cake is not big enough we must put up with it. The Highways Fund

is probably one of the best and most lucrative funds today, and we do not need to take further moneys to match it. I assure the honourable member that there will be no curtailment of the £15,000,000 programme planned for this year.

Mr. McKEE: The Port Broughton to Port Pirie road, which is used by many of my constituents, is dangerous in its present condition. Can the Treasurer say whether it is proposed to allocate any of this money to the sealing of that road?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I will obtain that information from my colleague and let the honourable member know.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: I am disappointed that no provision has been made in these Estimates for a bridge across the Upper Murray. The Blanchetown bridge was widely acclaimed. Everyone realizes what a wonderful structure it is and what a benefit it has been not only to the progress of the district but to interstate travel. I understood that immediately it was completed plans and specifications for another bridge were already in hand, and that such a bridge would be on similar lines, although a longer section might be involved. I cannot see why it should be necessary to send people overseas to look at other types of bridge, because the necessary drawings have been in the possession of the department since long before the Blanchetown bridge was commenced. Surveys were made at Kingston to ascertain the depth of the water, how such a bridge would overcome the problem there, and what were the requirements on the low-lying side of the river to prevent the roads from being flooded. The Mines Department has had that information for some time and the people in the district are now concerned about when the next step will be taken towards providing a bridge in the Upper Murray reaches, but action cannot be taken until the Government refers the matter to the Public Works Committee for inquiry into whether a bridge should be provided at a particular site, such as Kingston. The committee will make a recommendation, after hearing evidence. The Local Government Association decided that the Government should be requested to refer the matter of the provision of a bridge at Kingston to the committee. However, we have been waiting for months and do not know why the Government has not yet referred the matter. The department has the necessary information in regard to the site and I am not happy about the delay.

Another matter affecting my district is the construction by the Highways and Local Gov-

ernment Department of the highway from Kingston to Waikerie. This road carries much traffic to and from Sydney and parts of northern Victoria and the road has been crumbling mainly because it is being used by this traffic. However, because money is being spent on this road, district councils, such as Loxton and Waikerie, are not able to obtain the ordinary allocations for expenditure on their district roads, and I do not think that this is right. The highway carries traffic for the benefit of the State as a whole, not for the benefit of a district, and if the Government has not sufficient money to meet the requirements of this highway as well as of the roads in district council areas, it should obtain the money for the highway work from the Commonwealth Government. Consequently, action that would benefit the State as a whole should be taken immediately on those two matters: the construction of the bridge across the River Murray in the upper reaches, and the provision of funds to enable district councils to carry out their normal programme of road works.

Line passed.

Lands, £51,000—passed.

Irrigation and Drainage, £555,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is in this item a serious tapering-off of activity in relation to South-Eastern drainage. An amount of about £500,000 has been made available annually in the past in order to make lands in this area highly productive. Last year, £500,000 was voted and £450,000 was spent, but this year £300,000 is provided, less £10,000 of repayments. We are told that, whenever there is a shortage of money for public services in the State, it is never the fault of the present Government but always that of the previous Government. However, the previous Government had the same financial problems as has the present Government. I have heard for 25 years the Treasurer and his colleagues when in Opposition making statements about not enough money being provided. This question of drainage in the South-East is one in which Party politics do not intrude. However, there has always been a division of opinion in the South-East about what drainage should be done. For many years my Government received less kudos for making available large sums for that purpose than for any other expenditure it undertook. This work is essential to obtain full production from the South-East, and it has always had a high priority. Is the sum provided this year the full amount requested by the South-Eastern Drainage Board, or is it a curtailed amount

which the Treasurer has considered necessary to fit into the Loan programme?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: First, the Government was concerned about South-East drainage and investigated the situation carefully. It was found that a certain type of work could not be speeded up to the same extent as could major drain construction. When introducing the Loan Estimates I said:

Satisfactory progress was made in 1964-65 on the excavation of the drain between the Bakers Range Drain and Bool Lagoon. To continue work in the Eastern Division in 1965-66, the sum of £261,000 is provided. Funds are also provided for minor works.

There appear to be fewer drains to be constructed with less expenditure involved, but the works will proceed satisfactorily. The Eastern Division provides for the drainage of 727,000 acres, and involves the construction of a main outlet drain from the Mosquito Creek at Struan, *via* Bool Lagoon, and an enlarged Drain M to the sea at Beachport.

Mr. Nankivell: The only approved work is for the outlet from Mosquito Creek to Bool Lagoon.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: No question has arisen of reducing the allocation to prevent the work proceeding. It is doubtful whether all the money will be spent this financial year so, obviously, there will be no stoppage of the work because of the lack of finance.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The Cadell irrigation settlement is one of the earliest in South Australia, and was established in about 1919-20 as part of the soldier settlement programme after the First World War. Little public money has been spent in the Cadell settlement area, despite the relatively large contribution made by this area to State and Commonwealth revenue, and this is the first major expenditure made in the area. Is £37,000 the total allocation expected to be necessary to complete the rehabilitation work?

Mr. RODDA: Are sufficient funds available to carry out the new work on Drain C from Penola swamp? Will the Treasurer say whether sufficient funds are provided to cover work on Bool Lagoon, Mosquito Creek, Drains C and D, and preparatory work for the Bakers Range Drain?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The answer to the queries is "Yes".

Line passed.

Woods and Forests, £1,050,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Enormous sums of money are now invested in our State forests, and South Australia is

proud to be the one State in the Commonwealth that has developed sufficiently large areas of radiata pine to establish industries here. Remarkable development has taken place in the South-East, where most of the forests are situated. Every honourable member must realize how dependent are Millicent, Penola, Nangwarry and Mount Gambier on the success of the forests. A trade agreement with New Zealand was recently announced, which ultimately will seriously affect our Australian timber industry, and which will mean that forests in the South-East will be subjected to increased competition.

Although the agreement was reached about a week ago, we are still in the dark as to whether it will affect our forests, and whether it will deprive South Australia of the opportunity to establish the pulp industry that was virtually promised for the South-East. I know that the Government cannot be criticized in respect of this agreement, because it had no say in the matter. The agreement came about because of the New Zealand Government's desire to get a better trade balance.

Previously, if importation of timber affected Australian industry, the Commonwealth Government attempted to stabilize the position, but if this agreement prevents the Commonwealth Government from giving protection we must be concerned. Although I am not competent to assess the ramifications of international trade with N.Z., and not competent to criticize the Commonwealth Government in this matter, I believe that our Government should give it more urgent consideration than appears evident at present. Will the Treasurer make urgent representations to the Prime Minister and get details of the proposed importation of timber and timber products, such as pulp and paper?

We should have this information before the agreement is ratified by the respective Parliaments. For several years the previous Government negotiated with the Canadian timber firm of MacMillan Bloedel and Powell River Limited to establish a major pulp industry in the South-East. However, those negotiations were affected because of the first attempt made to establish a free trade agreement with New Zealand. The Canadian firm's interest was considerably lessened as a result, and its representatives told me of the favourable contracts available to it in New Zealand. They pointed out that, in the circumstances, the firm must inevitably be attracted to the New Zealand market.

Further, will the Treasurer ascertain whether the importation of chemical pulp will prohibit

the establishment of an important industry which already has been negotiated with the company concerned? I have no doubt that it has been the subject of discussions involving the Treasurer and the Minister of Forests. Our timber industry is important to the State. Many of our people are dependent on that industry for good living conditions. Will the Treasurer also ascertain whether there is any provision to protect local industry? We should know just what problems are involved.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The fears expressed by the Leader have been well to the fore in Cabinet considerations, and this afternoon the Minister of Forests made a statement about the matter. However, it involves trying to drag something from the Commonwealth Government. The Minister has done all he can to obtain information from that Government, but apparently it is unable to give it. We are following up the matter, and I assure the Leader that we are not losing any opportunities to make ourselves known. There has been a long delay by the firm in deciding whether to establish a pulp industry in the South-East, and the matter is still being discussed. I have had a series of discussions, but as it is not a public matter I cannot say more than that some of the suggestions, not all of which were made by the people concerned, do not meet with my approval.

We have a stake in Cellulose Aust. Ltd. that we intend to retain. That undertaking will come to the fore again, and Apeel is going very well now. The South-East is so dependent on afforestation that this is a matter of national interest. Millicent, for instance, is entirely dependent on the forests. I assure the Leader that if we cannot obtain the information we want from the Commonwealth Government we will not hesitate to inform him, and we will expect co-operation from some senators, and perhaps a Commonwealth Minister. We will continue to give this matter our positive attention in the interests of the State.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: This year £29,000 is provided for control of the Sirex wasp. Can the Minister of Agriculture tell me how this allocation will be spent?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS (Minister of Forests): The money is allocated on a *pro rata* basis between the Commonwealth and the States. All States provide a sum according to their acreages of softwoods. As South Australia has the largest acreage planted it has the largest sum to pay. We are a little better off than we would be on a *pro rata* basis, however, as Victoria pays a little more than it

would on that basis and we pay a little less. The States pay their proportions and they are then subsidized on a pound-for-pound basis by the Commonwealth Government.

This money is being used for research into the eradication of the Sirex wasp, but we have no knowledge of the presence of the wasp in this State. There has been constant vigilance by land and aerial sighting, and members may have noticed a programme on television showing work done at the Mount Crawford forest by setting lures. That sort of thing is being done in other places, and everything possible is being done here.

At a conference I attended earlier this year it was pointed out that infested areas in Victoria and Tasmania were becoming confined, whereas in the first instance they were widespread. Work is being done at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in conjunction with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in this State and it is producing good results. The scheme is being continued this year. It will be reviewed again next year to see whether it is necessary to spend as much money again, and it is under complete review all the time. Many means are being used to eradicate the pest, which was brought into Australia in ships' dunnage, first into Tasmania and then into Victoria. It is thought that it came from another country where it is a natural hazard at any time. Where pests exist in natural circumstances there is usually a predator to combat them. Certain parts of America, Canada and Europe have Sirex wasps, but the predators that nature provides keep them down. Although they do some damage, it is recognized that they must be tolerated. South Australia does not have these predators, however, and once something is introduced out of its environment it has a free go because there is nothing to combat it. As a result, it is necessary for science to step in, and this has been done to good effect by biological control. The work being done by the Sirex Wasp Committee is of great value to the States concerned, particularly Victoria and Tasmania. It is also of great benefit that the pest is being confined and has less chance of spreading. Although we regret the incidence of the wasp in Australia it is right that we should contribute towards an attempt to eradicate it where it is now rather than let it spread into other States.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I refer to "Forest Establishment—land purchases, £40,000". Although South Australia produces

a huge proportion of Australia's timber production, it is still small in comparison with world standards of forestry. The pulp industry has been the foundation of the industrial progress in the South-East. We should encourage private landholders to grow timber. The Government must be able to purchase land when it is available. Sometimes, whatever the allocation, land is just not available. On the other hand, there have been occasions when the allocation has been considerably exceeded by the cost of purchases when land has become available. Can the Treasurer say whether the Government will keep an open mind about land purchase and, if land of greater value than £40,000 becomes available, will the Government make every effort to finance its purchase, provided conditions for forestry are suitable?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Yes. Certain other matters in the South-East are concerning the Government. Catchment areas must be preserved and used, and to do this much more money than is provided in the Estimates will be necessary. The greatest benefit that I can think of is to have more plantings in the South-East. As the honourable member knows, the Government will encourage people to plant. I assure the honourable member that if properties become available this money can be extended within reason.

Mr. RODDA: As the sum of £20,000 for employees' houses does not seem a large sum for this purpose, will the Treasurer comment on it?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: It is the Government's desire to preserve the family unit in the location to which it has become accustomed, and, if this can be done, continuity of tenancy will lead to the practice of some employees owning their own houses.

Mr. McANANEY: In 1964 it was estimated that 245,000,000 super feet of timber would be milled, and this year it was stated that over 235,000,000 super feet was milled. It was estimated that £1,300,000 would be repayment from the Woods and Forests Department to the Loan Fund. A sum of about £940,000 was spent on the Woods and Forests Department and the Loan Account was reduced by £70,000. Can the Treasurer say where the £300,000 went?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: It is not a question where the £300,000 went. Other working expenses would be involved. However, the Estimates are accurate and there is no need to panic about the £300,000, because the

Auditor-General would certainly report it if he discovered anything wrong. I have not the information at the moment.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Can the Minister of Forests say how the amount of £50,000 provided for barking and chipping equipment at Mount Burr will be spent? Will it be spent on plant to provide material for Cellulose or on plant of another nature?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: We have a highly qualified officer overseas at the moment to purchase this plant. He is Mr. Wellington, who will be taking over as the Manager of the Mount Gambier sawmill. He is gaining valuable experience overseas in the operation of this plant, which we hope will be an improvement on the present debarker. This new debarker will take larger and longer logs than at present used in the industry so, although costly, it will save much money in the long run. The need for a good quality article after the log has been debarked will be borne in mind to ensure that we purchase the right machine. When purchased, it will be a great asset to the industry.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The Auditor-General calls attention to the manner in which the accounts are kept. Does the Treasurer believe that "Maintenance of existing forests", "Preparation of land and planting" and administration expenses are reasonable items to be placed against the Loan Account instead of the working expenses account?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I will get an answer for the honourable member.

Mr. HALL: This morning I attended a meeting of representatives of the tomato-growing and vegetable-growing industries, who outlined the problems encountered in packing their goods. The Woods and Forests Department, when supplying components of boxes, is engaging in an unprofitable business but it provides the means by which our export vegetables are carried. The export of celery, for instance, requires about 200,000 cases a year, while cucumbers require 100,000 cases. It is estimated that last year 750,000 half-cases of tomatoes were exported from South Australia, mainly to Melbourne, so it is obviously big business. At present there appears to be an impending severe shortage of cases and case materials. We have asked the Minister for special provision to be made for the Woods and Forests Department to cut further timber suitable for cases. Small casemakers in my district are buying cut shooks from the department, whereas larger casemakers are buying

fitches and making them into smaller components. We are told that fitches are not available in sufficient quantities to meet the rising export demands, and they will become even scarcer as time goes on in the face of a greatly increased production of vegetables. There is the alternative of using cartons or pine timber cases, but there are various opinions about the suitability of cartons for tomatoes. One person with whom I discussed that said that they would be of sufficient strength and durability to stand up to transport to the Melbourne market. However, this morning a large exporter of tomatoes told me that he experienced great difficulty in the trial shipment to Melbourne in fibre cartons; he told me that with more than three layers they became squashed, and that there was a great resistance in the Victorian market to purchasing tomatoes in fibre cartons. He was supported in this statement by other growers, and as a result I am convinced that fibre cartons are no substitute for pine half-cases, at least for the tomato export industry.

Pine cases are needed, and the industry does not know where it is going to get them. I understand that a prepared submission will be presented to the Minister on this question. I know that the Minister has been involved in this matter for some time. As we are dealing with a Government enterprise, and as the export of these commodities from South Australia impinges greatly on the standard of living of many of our citizens, the question arises whether the Woods and Forests Department should operate solely for profit or whether it should operate to support our industries in this manner. I do not doubt that

its operations in the past have greatly supported these industries. In fact, it has supplied case components at the lowest cost. The solution may well be that the price should be raised to an economic level so that it becomes a suitable industry for the department. A limited supply of second-grade timber is used by tomato half-case manufacturers, but as this timber is not sufficient to supply the entire need a certain proportion of high-grade timber is required. However, the boxmakers are reluctant to stock up on higher grade timber when possibly they can get a lower grade case of second-grade timber, and it appears to me that this is a great obstacle to getting an adequate supply of tomato cases. I do not have a solution to this question, but I am sure the Minister is thinking about it and that he will look into all these aspects. I trust that when the submission is presented to him by the interested parties he will give this matter his best attention.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The £50,000 for the proposed installation of the barking and chipping plant is a fairly sizeable allocation. Can the Minister of Forests supply a little more information on what it is proposed to do with this equipment?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I will obtain the relevant information for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.5 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 24, at 2 p.m.