

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, September 18, 1951.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

CENTRAL DISTRICT No. 1 BY-ELECTION.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Are you able to announce, Sir, your intentions with regard to the issuing of writs to fill the vacancy in Central District No. 1, and when the election is likely to take place?

The PRESIDENT—Nothing has yet been finalized. Because of the referendum the Electoral Office is very busy, but I have consulted the Chief Returning Officer and I have in mind issuing the writs on Monday, October 15, nominations to close on Wednesday, October 24, and the election, if any, to be held on Saturday, November 17.

SUPERANNUATION ACT.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—In his speech His Excellency referred to the possibility of the Government's introducing legislation to increase the pension rate under the Public Service Superannuation Act. Has the Chief Secretary any information on this matter?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—The Government will shortly introduce legislation for the purpose of improving superannuation benefits.

FREE MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Are any private schools included in the free milk scheme which, I understand, comes into operation this week?

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—Yes. The scheme embraces all schools, including kindergartens, whether under the control of the State or otherwise. All will be on exactly the same basis.

POLIOMYELITIS.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I notice from press report that 30 definite poliomyelitis cases and one suspected case were admitted to hospital last week. Can nothing be suggested to combat this unfortunate disease?

The Hon. A. J. McEWIN—The problem is under regular consideration by the special committee which advises the Government regarding it, and beyond what is being done apparently there is nothing else which can be done to prevent the disease. We can only watch the position as regards hospitalization and after-treatment, and so far we have been able to meet the situation in that direction. At times there are some difficulties, particularly in regard to the availability of physiotherapists, two of whom have contracted the disease

themselves. We have been able to meet problems as they arise, and the position is being watched to meet any further increase, which I hope we shall not have. The longer it remains with us we must surely be nearer the end of the problem.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (on notice)—

1. How many persons have entered the Education Department under the emergency teacher training scheme?

2. Of these, how many have (a) their leaving certificate; (b) their intermediate certificate?

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—The replies are:—

1. 196.

2. 18 have their leaving certificate and 45 their intermediate certificate.

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN, having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Health Act, 1935-1950. Read a first time.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—This Bill authorizes the Treasurer to expend up to £41,166,000 on public works and purposes, and to borrow £38,666,000 which, together with repayments to the Loan Fund estimated at £2,500,000, would finance the programme if all the works could be carried out. However, the Government does not expect that such a programme of works can be carried out before presentation of the Public Purposes Loan Bill for 1952. It is, however, in these times of uncertain material supplies, necessary to have a reservoir of essential works approved by Parliament so that if it becomes impossible to proceed with one work for which material is not available another essential work for which material is available can be proceeded with without delay. All of the works included in the programme are urgent and essential and the submission of a programme of this size to Parliament for approval gives the programme the flexibility which is so necessary in these times of rapidly changing conditions. It should be pointed out, however, that to carry out a programme of works during this year at the same tempo as was experienced during the latter months of 1950-51 would require approximately £30,000,000. The allocation of loan moneys which have been secured by this State at

the recent meeting of the Loan Council (£28,000,000) together with loan repayments and moneys in hand will enable the Government not only to continue its programme at the very satisfactory rate which pertained during the latter part of 1950-51, but will also enable some expansion to be made in those cases where it becomes desirable and practicable. I make this explanation because there may be some impression that as a result of recent Loan Council decisions considerable reductions might have to be made to this State's plan of urgent works for development and construction.

Clause 3 defines the Loan Fund and the moneys which shall be paid into that fund. Clause 4 authorizes the Treasurer to borrow £38,666,000. I point out that this State's share of the borrowings authorized by the Loan Council up to June 30, 1952, is £28,000,000. This Bill will operate until the Public Purposes Loan Act for 1952 is assented to (see clause 9), which will probably be October or November, 1952. Therefore the borrowings authorized by this Bill cover a period of at least four months beyond June 30, 1952. During this four months it is estimated that the Loan Council will raise at least one public loan, and perhaps two, to finance the works programmes of the States. It is therefore essential for the Treasurer to have the authority of this Parliament to accept this State's share of such loans. Clause 5 deals with the issue and application of moneys from the Loan Fund and authorizes the expenditure of £41,166,000 for the works and purposes set out in the schedule. This clause further authorizes the Treasurer to vary the amount set down for any particular work or purpose if the amount shown in the schedule is insufficient, provided that the expenditure does not exceed in total the amount mentioned in the schedule, viz., £41,166,000. Clause 6 authorizes the Treasurer to borrow moneys which are required to repay such advances as have been authorized by the Governor pursuant to the Public Finance Act, and which are set out in the second schedule. Clause 7 authorizes the Treasurer to borrow and issue from the Loan Fund any moneys required to meet discounts, charges, and expenses which may be incurred in borrowing the moneys authorized by this Bill.

Clause 8 provides for the use by the Treasurer of other moneys in the Treasury to meet the cost of various works and purposes if the money in the Loan Fund is at any time insufficient. Any money so used must be repaid

as soon as the Loan Fund has sufficient to its credit to effect repayment. Clauses 9 and 10 deal with the duration of this Act and its date of commencement. The schedule shows the works proposed and amounts provided in accordance with the Loan Estimates, which are not presented in this House. Following my practice of recent years, so that members may have knowledge of the programme of works on which this Bill is based, I propose to comment on some of the more important items which are included in the works programme to be financed from loan borrowings.

The principal problems confronting this State are transport, water, housing, and power, and of the programme of £41,166,000 set out in the schedule over £27,000,000 is earmarked for railways, water supplies and sewerage, housing, electricity, and the Leigh Creek coal field. Members will therefore see that the amount left for all other works represents a small part of the programme. The labour position during this financial year is expected to be more difficult, if anything, than last year when some relief was obtained through the employment of new Australians and assisted migrants. The fact that the contracts of many of the new Australians have either already expired or will expire during this financial year, when these people will be able to decide for themselves where to seek employment, will probably have some prejudicial effect on the ability of the number of Government instrumentalities to complete their programmes. However, in an endeavour to offset this difficulty, arrangements have been made to obtain about 1,300 additional new Australian workmen for the Railways Department, and other public utilities are endeavouring to attract suitable labour for essential works by providing housing.

In all, as in other years, every effort has been made in framing the programme of works to avoid as far as possible any interference with the building of homes. Some materials which are essential for home building purposes have to be used in works which are included in the Government's programme, but as far as is possible the call on these materials is reduced to a minimum. It will be appreciated that in many cases the Government has directed its attention to the acquisition of imported materials in order that house building programmes may have first call on the cheaper local resources. Much has been said and written of recent months of the measures which should be taken to combat the present highly inflationary trend

and much has been made of the necessity in particular to restrict public works programmes. I agree that this is no time to be putting into operation any scheme of doubtful benefit to the people. This Government has always taken the view that all projected works should be closely examined with a view to eliminating those which make no early contribution to social welfare. I assure the Council, however, that a very great proportion of the works now submitted for approval must be carried out if inflation is to be met. In simple terms, inflation can best be met by raising production to the stage where it is able to meet all demands, and the Government may make its best contribution to this by ensuring that essential public utilities, such as power, water, and transport are available to meet all demands that may be made upon them by our productive capacity. I do not imagine for a moment that this is the only answer to the problem of inflation. Inflation is a phenomenon which is due to many causes arising both here and overseas, and the problem of dealing with it in its entirety is extremely complex. I do not think that the restriction of production can do other than aggravate the trouble and, in the realization of this, the Government proposes to press on as far as the material and labour situation will permit with all of the works which stand to assist the nation's productive capacity. With this end in view many desirable public works have been deferred in favour of those which are more urgent from the point of view of public welfare, and in favour of those other works which make a more substantial contribution towards the protection and increase of the nation's productivity.

Turning now to the first schedule, members will appreciate that the moneys there provided cover a lengthy and detailed programme of works. This being so, I do not intend to occupy the time of members with the less important of these, but will confine my explanatory remarks to the main works and purposes for which provision has been made.

STATE BANK, £1,995,000.—The amount provided in the schedule for the activities of the State Bank is £1,995,000. The principal activity of the bank for which the funds are provided by the Government is in connection with advances for homes where the bank has been the agent of the Government for many years in a scheme for financing the purchase of homes.

ROADS AND BRIDGES, £200,000.—The cost of road development and maintenance is normally met from two sources—the Highways Fund,

which consists of revenue received from motor taxation (less administration, etc. charges), and a grant from the Commonwealth under the Commonwealth Aid Roads and Works Act. The amount provided in the Bill is for the purchase of roadmaking plant for the Highways Department and for advances to local authorities for the purchase of similar equipment, but will only be called upon if the monies in the Highways Fund and the Commonwealth Aid Roads and Works Fund are insufficient to finance the full roads programme for 1951-52.

The sum of £300,000 has been provided under the heading "Lands—Crown Lands Development Act," and will be required for the development of 30,000 to 40,000 acres of land in the upper South-East. The principal scheme included under "Irrigation and Reclamation of Swamp Lands" is the Loveday-Nookamka drainage scheme which has been delayed because of difficulty in securing pipes and other materials but which must now be pushed on urgently in order to overcome seepage and salt problems which are rapidly developing and to provide drainage outlets for vineyards and orchards. The principal work under "South-Eastern Drainage" is the large drainage scheme in the western division of the South-East which, when reported upon by the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement in 1949, was estimated to cost £1,600,000. Contracts have been let for two major works under the scheme and work is now in hand which it is expected will absorb over £630,000 of the amount provided.

AFFORESTATION AND TIMBER MILLING, £1,161,000.—Members are aware that the whole of the activities of the Woods and Forests Department is met from Loan Funds and all of the receipts of the department, other than interest and super-annuation, are repaid to Loan. For some years receipts from the sale of forestry products have exceeded the expenditures. However, during 1949-1950 and 1950-1951 expenditures have exceeded the receipts and these higher expenditures are very largely accounted for by increased expenditure on capital equipment. The demand for forestry products is increasing to such an extent that, to the necessity for replacing obsolete plant, must be coupled the need for expanding the mills, and it is estimated that expenditure will continue to exceed revenues for the next few years. The department is experiencing difficulty in meeting flooring demands and arrangements have been made to install additional equipment both at Nangwarry and Mt. Burr in order

to handle an additional log intake. In common with other departments the Woods and Forests Department has experienced difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour to enable forestry and sawmilling operations to be expanded to the possible limits to meet an ever increasing demand. However, in the case of the Forestry Department, because of the rather isolated localities in which it operates, the labour problem is particularly difficult, and it is necessary, in order to retain an adequate supply of labour, to provide homes for employes at the various forest and mill sites.

RAILWAYS, £4,483,000.—The amount provided for the Railways in this Bill is mainly for the construction of rolling stock and building of cottages. These latter are being largely obtained by the importation of large numbers of prefabricated houses. The labour problem of the Railways Department during the last few years has been largely met by the employment of new Australian migrants who have been housed in departmental hostels. Many of these employees have either completed their contracts or will complete them during this financial year and probably many will leave the department to seek employment elsewhere. The Railways Department at present has 2,500 new Australians employed out of a total staff of 11,500, and any large departure from railway services of these personnel would be extremely serious. The Railways Department is now making arrangements to obtain a number of migrants from England and Europe. The Islington Workshops are engaged to their limits on new construction but is still unable to construct rolling stock at a rate sufficient to cope with requirements, so much so that tenders are being called both in Australia and overseas for a very large amount of rolling stock construction. The principal problem confronting the Railways Commissioner is that of bringing the railways into line with our expanding population and providing the facilities to cope with increasing business, and at the same time making up the leeway which occurred during the war when railway efforts were utilized largely in other directions. The main items of expenditure included in the £4,500,000 provided are as under:—

Way and Works—	£
Broadening the South-East gauge	400,000
Ballasting, buildings, platforms and stockyards, station yards, signalling and safety devices, main lines, bridges, and culverts, drainage, etc.	304,180

Way and Works— <i>continued</i> —	£
New cottages and other dwellings	699,000
Duplication of the Goodwood to Marino line	138,000
Rolling stock—	
Diesel-electric locomotives, 4-wheel louvre cars; class "N" locomotives from the Victorian Railways; diesel rail cars; joint stock-passenger cars; 4-wheel cattle and sheep vans; and Garratt locomotives for 3ft. 6in. gauge; etc.	2,683,000

HARBORS BOARD, £1,752,000.—The Government is anxious to provide shipping with adequate facilities for the efficient and speedy discharge of cargoes, through the provision of adequate berth accommodation, cargo sheds, rail tracks, roads, water services, electric light and power, and conveniences. For this reason work will be pushed on with reconstruction of wharves to provide berths at Nos. 1, 6, 8, and 9 at Port Adelaide, with deepening and improving channels, and the purchase of sheet steel piling for wharf construction. Included in the amount provided for Harbors Board is £65,000 as a first instalment of the wharf extension project for the Osborne coal handling plant.

ENGINEERING AND WATER SUPPLY, £5,807,000.—The amounts included for Engineering and Water Supply are set out in some detail in the schedule to the Bill and I do not propose to elaborate to any great extent on the individual works to which these funds will be applied. I should mention, however, that £1,500,000 has been provided for progress work on the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline, which is expected to make some material progress during this financial year when it is hoped that the entire rising main section of the pipeline will be laid. The other big work to serve the metropolitan area is the South Para Reservoir, for which £430,000 has been provided. It is anticipated that all preliminary work will be completed and some material progress made on the construction of coffer dams and the main embankment. Under the various water districts provision is included in the Bill for the carrying out of water conservation and reticulation schemes in a large number of country areas. £1,170,000 has been provided for the purchase of tractors, motor vehicles, and general construction plant.

HOSPITAL BUILDINGS, £400,000.—The shortage of hospitalization facilities in both metropolitan and country areas is sufficiently well known to honourable members for them to

realize that at all costs the Government must take some positive step to alleviate the present position. With this in view the programme for hospital buildings submitted this year envisages pushing on as fast as possible a number of schemes for new hospitals and for extending existing accommodation where such is necessary. Provision has been made for urgent works at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Northfield wards, but the main contribution towards mitigating the present situation in the metropolitan area will be made by the completion at the earliest date of the new Western Districts Hospital. When this hospital is completed it will have a capacity of 402 beds and will consist of a seven-storeyed hospital unit. At the same time it will be necessary to construct accommodation for 440 nurses, 28 residential medical officers, and 15 students, and various ancillary buildings. Provision has been made in the Bill therefore to proceed with work on this hospital, the first portion to be proceeded with being the maternity section and some staff accommodation. Provision is made for work on a new Nurses' Home and a new female block at Parkside Mental Hospital, and for alterations and additions to the kitchen and to nurses' quarters. Alterations and additions to various buildings and new equipment is proposed for Bedford Park, Enfield Receiving Home, Mareeba Babies' Hospital, and the Government Country Hospitals at Barmera, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, and Wallaroo. Further in order to provide for future demands for additional hospital accommodation, an amount of £61,000 has been included under Hospital Buildings for the purchase of land and urgent accommodation for hospital purposes.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS, £1,100,000.—In all districts the department has been hampered by the shortage of school accommodation. The enormous expansion of housing construction over the last few years has imposed additional problems in school accommodation, both for new schools and extensions to existing schools in areas which have been built up over the last few years. The Government will within the limits imposed by material and labour shortages press on as rapidly as possible with the building of new schools and additions and alterations to existing schools. Without reciting the very lengthy list of activities included in this provision in the Bill I would mention that new schools are proposed as follows:—

New infant schools at Blair Athol, Port Lincoln, Brighton, and St. Leonards.

New primary schools at Ascot Park, Forbes, Hendon, Mount Gambier, Salisbury North, and Whyalla West. Prefabricated aluminium alloy units for primary schools will be provided at Barton Vale, Morphettville Park, Findon, Oaklands, Woodville Gardens, Paringa Park, Taperoo, and Northfield.

New technical schools at Norwood and Nails-worth.

New area school at Allendale East.

New high schools at Brighton and Naracoorte.

In some cases, as I have just mentioned, prefabricated aluminium alloy units will be utilized. In many other cases the situation is being met by the provision of prefabricated portable classrooms which are being made at the Education Department's Building Division at Finsbury. Approximately a quarter of a million pounds for portable buildings, and £50,000 towards the cost of a new factory at Finsbury for the manufacture of further prefabricated classrooms, is included in the education building programme. Provision is also made for the purchase of land for school purposes, for new residences for teachers, and for urgent accommodation as required.

POLICE AND COURTHOUSE BUILDINGS, £58,000.—Provision has been made for a number of new police stations and for additions and alterations to police and court premises.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, £40,000.—The principal work for which provision is made under this heading is the rebuilding of the College Chemistry Laboratory which, as will be recalled was destroyed by fire. The heading "Other Government Buildings," for which £244,000 has been provided, is for the erection, alteration, and addition of buildings for various Government Departments.

EXPENSES AND DISCOUNTS OF FLOATING CONVERSION LOANS, £200,000.—This amount is required to meet expenses which may be incurred during the year in connection with the conversion of any maturing loans.

PRODUCE DEPARTMENT, £60,000.—It is hoped that this year the new by-products division at the Port Lincoln Freezing Works will be completed and that progress will be made on the installation of a new boiler plant and on buildings and additions to the fish cannery. In addition, additional storage accommodation will be provided at Light Square.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST, £5,150,000.—Over the past four years the Housing Trust has achieved a very considerable expansion in its house building programme. This can be seen from the fact that

in 1947-48 the trust built 1,014 houses, in 1948-49 1,252 houses, in 1949-50 1,790 houses, and in 1950-51 3,057 houses. These figures include temporary and emergency houses built by the trust on the Government's behalf. Notwithstanding this construction rate, new applications for houses continue to be lodged at a rate in excess of the rate at which houses are being built. In an attempt to speed up its construction rate the trust has endeavoured to tap sources additional to those upon which it has drawn in the past. For instance, a contract has been made for the erection of 1,000 concrete houses for which the materials will be drawn from local sources. In addition, contracts have been let for a total of 2,600 timber houses to be imported from the United Kingdom, Sweden and Western Germany. Some of these are now coming forward and houses are actually being erected, and other overseas contracts will commence to produce houses in the later months of 1951. The trust therefore expects that during this financial year it will complete approximately 3,000 houses (exclusive of emergency dwellings) as compared with just under 2,000 houses last year. This expectation is based on the maintenance of supplies and materials and is dependent on no disturbance being occasioned to the flow of imported houses by reason of such causes as shortage of shipping space or re-armament overseas. In addition to its normal house building programme the trust has also commenced a programme for the erection of flats, and the foundations of 72 such flats are completed at Plympton. Considerable difficulty has been and is being experienced in obtaining the materials necessary to carry on the trust's contracts as many basic materials cannot be obtained locally in the quantities required by the trust for continuous operation, and for this reason the trust is seeking a substantial quantity of building materials from overseas.

LEIGH CREEK COALFIELD, £742,000.—When the new Port Augusta power station is operating, which at present is expected to be about December, 1953, it will be necessary to provide for a much larger output of coal from the Leigh Creek coalfield, and much of the moneys provided in this Bill are required by the Electricity Trust to continue the development of the field to provide for that larger output. With this in view the trust is taking the necessary steps to further extend the North Field steam power station to provide the necessary power to operate additional electrically driven power shovels and excavators which have been

found to be the most efficient for working at Leigh Creek. The east field will also have to be brought into production to meet coal requirements for the Port Augusta power station and it will be necessary to provide some means of transporting coal won from that field to the railhead. This will be achieved either by building a spur line off the main line or, alternatively, the coal will be moved over to the existing railhead by means of conveyor belts. In order that sufficient water will be available for steam generation and township purposes it has become necessary to construct a dam at Aroona Gorge which, when completed, will have a holding capacity of 1,650 million gallons of water. Work has already commenced on this dam, access roads having been completed, and the necessary plant to undertake the work is now being gathered at the locality. Quite apart from the requirements of the power station the supply of water from the Sliding Rock Mine is poor in quality and is tending to be insufficient in quantity to meet the demands of the growing township.

The housing shortage is very acute at Leigh Creek and the Housing Trust is co-operating with the Electricity Trust in the supply of prefabricated houses to provide homes for the field's workmen. At the same time investigations have been carried out into the use of Leigh Creek coal for the firing of brick kilns and some satisfactory experiments have been made at the Littlehampton brick works. As soon as a suitable kiln has been designed the Electricity Trust proposes to undertake the manufacture of shale bricks at Leigh Creek to provide bricks for the erection of houses. The current problem at the field concerns the maintenance of production in the face of train delays which occur for a variety of reasons. At present any delays in the train schedule hold up production at the field as adequate storage facilities for coal are not available. To avoid this situation bins are now being erected into which coal will be delivered and held for loading on trucks, and the completion of this project will not only enable coal winning from the field to be a continuous operation, but will minimize delays in train schedules as coal will be able to be loaded direct from the bins to the trucks as soon as trains arrive.

ELECTRICITY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, £11,550,000.—This provision is made in order that the Treasurer may make such loans to the Electricity Trust as he approves to carry on the extensions to the Osborne power station,

the construction of new power stations at Port Augusta and Port Lincoln, and the construction of associated transmission and distribution lines. During the last financial year the trust completed the erection of a further boiler at Osborne "B" power station. This boiler is fired entirely by Leigh Creek coal and uses "fines" which were previously dumped at Leigh Creek. The increased capacity of 15,000 kw. given by the introduction of this boiler has enabled the trust to meet all demands made on its system this winter, and as August is now passed it is unlikely, given regular coal supplies, that the trust will be unable to meet the demand for power on the score of capacity. On present indications a further boiler and turbine now in the process of being erected will add a further 15,000 kw. of generating capacity early next year. Work is now proceeding at Port Augusta on the construction of a 90,000 kw. power station and present indications are that the first machine at this location should be in operation by December, 1953. A smaller steam power station is in course of construction at Port Lincoln to supply the requirements of the town and local areas. Associated with the building and extension of these power stations is the work of erecting transmission line and distribution systems. Considerable work has been done on transmission lines from the Port Augusta power station and on the lines which will be required to supply the necessary power for the pumping of water from the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline. Copper cable for these various projects is now in very short supply, but every endeavour is being made to obtain the supplies necessary to avoid any dislocation of the trust's programme.

MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS TRUST, £625,000.—This amount is provided in order that the Treasurer may make such loans to the Municipal Tramways Trust as are required for extensions of services and purchase of necessary rolling stock.

PUBLIC PARKS ACT—PURCHASE OF LAND, £50,000.—This amount is included in the Bill for the purpose of making payments pursuant to the Public Parks Act. The remaining items shown in the Bill are to provide for plant and machinery for the departments indicated. I commend the measure to members and move the second reading.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON secured the adjournment of the debate.

PHARMACY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—The object of this Bill is to make it legal for a pharmaceutical chemist to have a part-time branch shop. Such shops cannot lawfully be opened at present. Section 30 of the Pharmacy Act, 1935-1947, provides that a chemist cannot carry on business in more than one shop or place of business unless there is "constantly and exclusively" employed at each such shop or place of business a registered chemist holding a current certificate under the Act. There is little doubt that the word "constantly" was used for the purpose of indicating that every shop had to have a registered chemist in it at all times during ordinary trading hours. The word "exclusively" supports the same idea because it indicates that the registered chemist employed at a particular shop is not to be employed at any other shop. In fact, if read literally, the word "exclusively" imports that a registered chemist employed in a chemist's shop is not to have any other employment at all; for example, he could not take other work in the evenings or at week-ends, even if the work had nothing to do with pharmacy.

This section, which was passed in 1897, goes a long way in restricting the rights of chemists. Although its full ambit may be doubtful, there is no doubt that it makes part-time branches either impossible or, at the very least, so difficult and expensive that no-one would care to open one under the conditions laid down. The Government has been asked to alter this state of the law in order to meet the convenience of people in country areas. There are, of course, many towns in this State not large enough to support a full-time chemist. In some of them chemists from larger country towns are willing to establish part-time branches where registered chemists will be in attendance from time to time to dispense medicines and carry on general pharmacy business. The Government sees no adequate reason why part-time branch chemists' shops should not be allowed. They will undoubtedly be a convenience to the public, and will tend to encourage chemists to establish themselves in country areas not well served at present.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—What about the position last year in regard to Port Augusta?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—There is nothing to stop another chemist from operating in Port Augusta. The announcement I made when the Bill was being considered last year

has been fulfilled and another shop is operating. When there is a demand for a service someone will be willing to meet it. Pharmacists have discussed the Bill with me and are satisfied with its contents. It provides that if a man leaves his shop at one country town to dispense medicines in another town, he must close his shop unless he leaves a qualified chemist in charge.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Could he keep his shop open to sell other things?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—No, unless a qualified chemist is left in charge. Other professions are not subject to any restriction similar to that imposed by section 30 of the Pharmacy Act. It is common knowledge that medical practitioners, dentists, lawyers, and opticians pay periodical visits to towns other than those where they principally carry on business. There seems to be no reason why chemists should not do the same as long as the principle is maintained that every chemist's shop, while open to the public, shall be under the personal management of a registered chemist. This Bill, therefore, has been brought down to remove the requirement of the principal Act that every chemist's shop must have a qualified chemist constantly and exclusively employed in it. In place of this it is proposed to provide that every chemist shop shall, at all times, while open to the public, be under the direct and personal supervision of a registered chemist. There will be no obligation, expressed or implied, to make any shop a full time shop. The requirement of section 26 of the Pharmacy Act that no chemist is to have more than four shops will not be interfered with by the Bill. The Bill is supported by the Pharmacy Board, and it is therefore with confidence that I commend it for the consideration of members and move the second reading.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH secured the adjournment of the debate.

PORT PIRIE PARK LANDS ACT REPEAL BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—The sole object of this Bill is to repeal the Port Pirie Park Lands Act, 1932—an Act which empowers the Government to grant the fee simple of a certain area of park lands at Port Pirie to the Catholic diocese of Port Augusta. The history of the matter is that in 1932 an arrangement was made between the Port Pirie council, the Commonwealth Minister of Defence, the State Gov-

ernment, and the Catholic diocese of Port Augusta under which the Commonwealth Minister was to surrender a lease of certain park lands at Port Pirie which he then held in order that the land might be sold by the Government to the diocese for use as a school. It was intended that after the surrender, the price of the land should be fixed by the Land Board and it should be offered to the diocese at that price. The Commonwealth duly surrendered its lease and the price was fixed, but the diocese did not proceed with the purchase.

In recent years the Department of Lands has received a number of requests for rights to use portions of the Port Pirie park lands for such purposes as school reserves, recreation grounds, and club rooms. In order to grant such requests, where the Government considers they are justified, it is necessary to make proclamations dedicating the land for the particular purpose for which it is to be used. Before such proclamations are made it is desirable that the title to the land should, as far as possible, be cleared of outstanding rights and interests. The 1932 Act may be interpreted as creating a restriction on the Crown's interest in the land and the Crown Solicitor has advised that it should be repealed.

The Catholic diocese of Port Augusta has been written to and has informed the Government that it no longer desires to avail itself of any privilege of purchase conferred by the 1932 Act. The Act is therefore now of no use to the diocese and as it may be regarded as a restriction on the right of the Government to dispose of the park lands in other lawful ways it is proposed to repeal the Act. The Bill is for this purpose. I move the second reading.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD secured the adjournment of the debate.

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 5. Page 527.)

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Central No. 1—Leader of the Opposition)—The object of the Bill is to increase the salary and uniform allowance of the Commissioner of Police. The salary was previously fixed by Cabinet on the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner, but this year the question was referred to Mr. President Morgan who recommended an increase in salary of £279 and an additional uniform allowance of £5. He also expressed the view that in future Parliament should fix the salary. Some years ago Parliament by

special Act fixed the Commissioner's retiring age at 60 years but 2½ years before the then Commissioner's term expired it increased it to 65. In recent years crime has increased considerably, and consequently the duties of the Commissioner of Police. In 1944 the number in the Police Force was 866, and for the year ended June 30, 1950, it had increased to 1,014, and I presume that since then there have been further additions. During that period the expenditure almost doubled and in 1950 was £713,125. The cost to the individual of supporting the police force in 1944 was 11s. 11d., but in 1950 had risen to £1 0s. 4d. I support the second reading.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment; Committee's report adopted.

IMPRINT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 5. Page 527).

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Central No. 1—Leader of the Opposition)—It is necessary to have laws controlling the publication of books, magazines, papers, articles and so on providing substantial penalties for people infringing them. The object of this Bill is to correct certain anomalies and to afford further protection to the public. Some printed matter will be exempt but this Bill will tighten up the legislation. The public should be protected from persons who may offend in the many ways mentioned by the Chief Secretary. The Bill empowers the Government to exempt books and papers by proclamation. It repeals the Imprint Act, 1863-1935, and enacts an amended set of provisions. The Imprint Act was first assented to on November 12, 1863, and was amended in November, 1881. The Statute Law Revision Act was assented to in 1935 and required the name and place of business of the printer of any book or paper to be printed thereon. The penalty prescribed was not exceeding £5 or imprisonment with or without hard labour for two calendar months. Printers were compelled to retain for six months a copy of every paper or book and print thereon the name and address of the employer. The penalty for a breach of that law was a maximum of £20. Books printed by either Houses of Parliament were exempt. In these days of libel, which is hard to prove, some protection must be afforded the public. It is easy to defame a man's character without giving him the opportunity to reply. Once something

untrue has been stated it is difficult to trace its origin. The Bill increases the penalty to not exceeding £100 and alters the law concerning penalties collected. Under the original Act the prosecutor received half and the State half but the State will now receive the whole amount.

Where a penalty is to be substantially increased members should carefully consider whether it is justified. Some penalties provided in our legislation today are not sufficiently high. In our courts it has often been stated that as Parliament fixed a high penalty it evidently intended that the offence was serious.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—This actually reduces the penalty in the Act, which is £5 a copy of any matter published. That could be any amount.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I raise the point because some offences are treated seriously when they should not be. It is no use my comparing our laws because penalties are often inflicted out of proportion to the offences. I support the second reading.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD (Central No. 2)—This Bill is non-contentious and the explanation submitted by the Chief Secretary made the whole position clear. Mr. Condon drew attention to the fact that the Imprint Act goes as far back as 1863 and for nearly 100 years, with the exception of an amendment which took place about 20 years after the original Act came into force, has apparently been found satisfactory. Possibly some abuses have occurred with the passing of time and some weaknesses have become apparent. It appears to me that this Bill may be expected to meet present requirements. The question of penalties naturally varies with the value of money and it is only to be expected that the penalty should be considerably increased from £5. True to form, Mr. Condon referred to the substantial increases set out in clause 9. All things considered I am of the opinion that although the penalty is much higher than that prescribed in the Act, it is probably desirable that there should be a substantial increase. I suppose all of us read far more publications than our fathers did, and I am sure that it is the experience of all members that it is extremely difficult to keep abreast of the communications and publications one receives, and which all seem to have a strong claim for perusal and study. This means that whereas a greater degree of publicity is obtained by reason of the tremendous output

of the modern printing press, it is far more likely something will be overlooked, for frequently one is asked if one has read a certain publication which one has not seen, and if the wrongdoer will be made to smart for his misdeeds I think even Mr. Condon will not press for a reduction of the penalty with the same degree of enthusiasm he usually displays. It is, of course, extremely difficult to catch up with a reflection on honesty, morality or character; if mud is thrown, some of it appears always to stick, and in consequence I suppose every community has found that substantial penalties and punishments must be imposed. Otherwise, instead of being the benefit that publicity should be able to claim by reason of the increased printing facilities, the very opposite would be brought about. I therefore approve of the penalty suggested and support the second reading.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—There appears to be some misconception concerning the penalty. The amount prescribed in the Bill is the maximum, whereas the penalty imposed under the Act was practically unlimited, in as much as the fine could be £5 for each pamphlet concerned; if 50,000 pamphlets were issued without imprint it is a matter of simple arithmetic to calculate the fine. Under this Bill no minimum is fixed, but a limit of £100 is imposed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—"Interpretation."

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—I am wondering whether "print" covers all forms of printing or communications that can be applied to paper. Can the Minister say whether type-writing or Roneo or Gestetner copies would be covered by the word "type?"

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—I agree that this is a much abbreviated

interpretation compared with that in the original Act, which covers about 15 lines. I would suppose that it would cover a type-written document, or any sort of type whether produced from types, stones or plates, but if the honourable member desires a report from the Parliamentary Draftsman on the point I will be happy to report progress.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—I would be glad if the Minister would do that.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

INDUSTRIAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 5. Page 532.)

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (Central No. 2)—This Bill amends the Act in two or three minor respects, and in the first place amends what was done last year. We then had a Bill before us to rectify some mistakes in a previous amendment. The previous Act apparently included a lot of obsolete industrial districts and these were deleted, although I cannot understand why they should have been included in the first place; someone must have blundered. However, that was rectified, but in doing it the municipality of Walkerville was omitted, and this Bill includes Walkerville in the schedule. It also provides for a slightly altered representation on the Board of Industry. Heretofore the Employers' Federation nominated two representatives, and the Chamber of Manufactures has asked that it should have the right to nominate one of those two. This has been agreed to by the Government and the Bill provides accordingly. I support the second reading.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.26 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, September 19, at 2 p.m.