

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

Tuesday, September 25, 1951.

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

**ILLNESS OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING.**

Consideration of the following resolution received from the House of Assembly, in which it requested the concurrence of the Legislative Council:—

That a joint address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying His Excellency to transmit to His Most Gracious Majesty, the King, the following address:—

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty—  
May it please Your Majesty:

We, Your Majesty's faithful subjects, the members of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of South Australia, on our own behalf and on behalf of the citizens of this State, express to Your Majesty our most profound and affectionate sympathy with Your Majesty in Your Majesty's illness. It is our earnest hope and desire that Your Majesty may be blessed with a speedy recovery to a full measure of health and strength. To Her Majesty the Queen and the other members of Your Majesty's family we convey also our loyal sympathy in this time of grave anxiety.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—Every citizen of this country has been saddened by the news that the indifferent health from which His Majesty has suffered recently has necessitated a severe operation. We cannot help feeling that the loyal and devoted service which His Majesty has given on behalf of the subjects of the British Empire has made a severe call on His Majesty's strength. We were looking forward to a visit from Their Majesties last year and everybody was filled with regret when the change in His Majesty's health prevented that from occurring. We are thrilled with the anticipation of a visit from their Majesties at an early date and I am sure we join in the prayers of His Majesty's subjects that he will have an early recovery to sufficient strength to enable the projected visit to take place next year. One could perhaps say a lot more and still not express the feelings of all of us, and I shall therefore content myself by moving that we associate ourselves with the resolution wholeheartedly.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Central No. 1—Leader of the Opposition)—It is with deep regret that I second the motion. We all sincerely hope for a speedy recovery of His

Majesty to full health, but let it be some comfort to Their Majesties and all the members of the Royal Family to know that the people of South Australia share their anxieties. May God comfort them in their time of trouble and spare the King to reign over the British Empire for many many years is our earnest prayer.

The motion was carried by members standing in their places.

The PRESIDENT—I will arrange to convey the message to His Excellency as soon as possible.

**ASSENT TO ACTS.**

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Acts:—Constitution Act Amendment, Payment of Members of Parliament Act Amendment, Supreme Court Act Amendment, Audit Act Amendment, Public Works Standing Committee Act Amendment, and the Land Settlement Act Amendment.

**ABOLITION OF SUBURBAN FIRE BRIGADE STATIONS.**

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I have been approached regarding a proposal to abolish certain suburban fire brigade stations. Will the Government consider the damage which may result to property in case of fire in the event of such a proposal being made effective, and prevent any such action being taken?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—No such suggestion has been brought under my notice. I have read some comments in the press regarding the matter, but who is responsible for them I have not ascertained, I have no doubt the suggestion is due to the continued rise in costs of fire brigade services. Much money is being spent on new and fast moving equipment, and I should imagine that this, plus the expense of and improvements in fire fighting appliances generally and the fact that a considerable amount of passive time has to be charged to the services at the stations may be the reason. Until I receive something which would actually bring the subject before the Government I feel that there is nothing for the Government to consider.

**DISTRIBUTION OF POTATOES.**

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I ask leave to make a brief statement with a view to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I desire to draw the Minister's attention to the report of a court case on September 22 in which a

man from the East End market was prosecuted by the Potato Board and fined for purchasing potatoes from a grower. Will the Government take up with the board the question of abolishing the potato distributing centre, which levies 12s. 6d. a ton on potatoes coming into the city, which, with a further 3s. contribution to the board, makes a total levy of 15s. before the retailer handles them? What is the necessity for the continuance of a potato distributing centre, and will the board consider taking over its powers and thereby abolishing the 12s. 6d. a ton levy?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—The honourable member has asked a rather involved question upon which I would require more information before giving a reply. The Potato Board was established by statute to handle the business, and the honourable member asks a number of questions as to how much the Government is prepared to interfere with the functions of properly established boards. As this question involves the Potato Board's administration unless I can get some further information I cannot give a reply.

#### GOODWOOD-MARINO LINE DUPLICATION.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—As work on the Goodwood-Marino line duplication has been suspended for some months, can the Chief Secretary indicate when it will be resumed?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—I will refer the question to the Minister of Railways.

#### BUTTER SUPPLIES.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (on notice)—What quantity of butter was stored in South Australia (a) as at July 31, 1950; and (b) as at July 31, 1951?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—No table quality butter was actually cold stored in South Australia as at July 31, 1950, or July 31, 1951. Normal stocks were on hand at the various butter factories in South Australia as at July 31, 1950, whereas this year there were only 101 tons of local manufacture practically fresh from the churns, and eight boxes of Victorian butter. The normal weekly demand in South Australia is 200 tons and the current restricted supply of 75 per cent of demand is 150 tons. Therefore, the 101 tons on hand at July 31, 1951, was half a normal week's requirements and two-thirds of the restricted sale for the first week in August.

#### COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (on notice)—

1. What representation is afforded the University of Adelaide on the Commonwealth Universities Commission?

2. What method is adopted to determine the pass marks of students in their leaving examination to enable them to participate in the scheme?

3. Is there any means test applied to applicants?

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

1. The University of Adelaide is not represented on the Commonwealth Universities Commission. There is, of course, close liaison between the University of Adelaide and the Commonwealth Universities Commission in the award of Commonwealth scholarships.

2. The method of determining the minimum qualifications of candidates for Commonwealth scholarships is at present under review. Up till now the policy has been to award the scholarships on the aggregate marks obtained by the applicant in his five best subjects at the leaving certificate examination at any one attempt. Supplementary examination results are ignored and no applicant is selected to commence a course if his marks on the above basis amount to less than 300.

3. There is no means test in respect of the payment of fees by any scholarship holder, but there is a means test in respect of the payment of the living allowance.

#### HUNDRED OF SHANNON WATER SUPPLY.

The President laid on the table the final report of the Public Works Standing Committee on the hundred of Shannon water supply, together with minutes of evidence.

#### LeFEVRE PENINSULA WATER SUPPLY EXTENSION.

The President laid on the table the report of the Public Works Standing Committee on LeFevre Peninsula water supply extension, together with minutes of evidence.

#### IMPRINT BILL.

Bill read a third time.

On the motion that the Bill do now pass—

The Hon. F. T. PERRY (Central No. 2)—Previously I raised a point, but did not receive a satisfactory answer from the Minister. I consider I should receive an answer because it is important that members should know what

the Bill actually covers. The advance of printing during the last 100 years warrants that the matter should receive further consideration.

The PRESIDENT—Order! I draw the honourable member's attention to Standing Order No. 318, which is as follows:—

So soon as a Bill shall have been read a third time, the President shall, except as provided in Order No. 285, without permitting discussion, amendment, or adjournment, put a question "That this Bill do now pass."

The discussion should have been on the third reading; it cannot be on the motion that the Bill do now pass.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—Before the question is put I hope the Minister will redeem his promise to me.

The PRESIDENT—Order! The honourable member will have to ask the Minister at some other time.

Bill passed.

#### INDUSTRIAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

#### PORT PIRIE PARK LANDS ACT REPEAL BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

#### HOMES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—The Homes Act, 1941, enacts a scheme under which the Treasurer may guarantee the repayment of loans made by financial institutions to persons purchasing or otherwise acquiring their own homes. Under the Act a guaranteed loan may be made up to 90 per centum of the value of the security and the guarantee relates to the amount of the loan in excess of 70 per centum of the loan. The Act now provides that a guarantee is not to be given in respect of any loan exceeding £1,500. Since the passing of the Act in 1941 until August 8, 1951, a total of 5,536 applications had been approved under the Act. The total loans made to the applicants amounted to £5,308,798, and of this £1,041,981 was guaranteed by the Treasurer. As previously mentioned, the maximum loan which may be made under the Act is £1,500. This limit was fixed by an amending Act passed in 1949 which increased the maximum loan from £1,250 to £1,500.

Since 1949, when the matter was last considered by Parliament, very substantial increases in building costs have occurred. There have been increases in the basic wage,

some of considerable proportions, and the inevitable effect of those increases has been to increase the cost of site labour and of building materials. As building costs increase it follows that, unless the amount of the maximum loan is increased, there is an ever-widening gap between the cost of building a house and the maximum amount which a prospective home owner can borrow in order to secure his own home; and, of course, as that gap widens so is home ownership made more and more difficult for the person of moderate means. It is accordingly proposed by the Bill to increase the maximum loan under the Homes Act from £1,500 to £1,750 and thus provide further assistance to those desiring to avail themselves of the scheme for home ownership provided by the Homes Act. I move the second reading.

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

#### PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 19. Page 596).

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD (Central No. 2)—I do not think I am exaggerating in saying that the first reaction of members to the figures submitted in this Bill was almost in the nature of a shock by reason of the total being so far ahead of the previous years. If we look back over the last five years we will find that in 1946-1947 the sum called for was £4,720,000; in 1947-1948 it was £7,485,000; in 1948-1949 it increased to £11,500,000; in 1949-1950 it was £14,000,000 and last year the figure rose to £21,000,000. This Bill calls for the sum of £41,160,000. I am sure all members will probably remember that when presenting the Loan Estimates 12 months ago the Treasurer said he did not expect that the programme of works arranged would be carried out. It was assumed, that owing to the difficulties arising through the shortage of both labour and materials, £21,000,000 would have been more than adequate. General approval was expressed that it was desirable that a margin upwards should be provided rather than that an exact estimate should be attempted. It was generally expected that the amount expended in 1950-1951 would have been definitely less than £21,000,000; actually the expenditure was slightly in excess of £20,500,000. In fact, the programme for last year, which appeared incapable of accomplishment, absorbed almost the whole of the amount estimated. This year, as the Minister and other speakers

pointed out, a much larger amount is to be provided for. Rapidly increasing prices and consequently greater costs make it necessary for what has been referred to as a reservoir of approved works to be arranged for. I think all members will acquiesce with the contention that this is a reasonable and desirable line to take because if, owing to shortages of materials or requirements, it is found that it is impossible to proceed with one work, some other essential work can be proceeded with for which materials are available. That, at any time, is a sound and wise plan, particularly under such conditions as surround us today. When the various State Treasurers met recently at Canberra at a Loan Council meeting and estimates of requirements were submitted there was, as we recollect being informed through our press the following morning, a cut of 25 per cent made. The Chief Secretary when introducing this Bill a week ago particularly mentioned that fact. I believe that the total programme of all the States and the Commonwealth amounted to over £308,000,000. That sum was reduced by 25 per cent, and the new figure is therefore about £225,000,000. It is expected that South Australia's programme can be carried out without serious curtailment of the works which would normally have been done had further money been available. The allotments to the various States are therefore now:—New South Wales, £64,000,000; Victoria, £56,000,000; Queensland, £22,500,000; South Australia, £28,000,000; Western Australia, £16,500,000; and Tasmania, £15,000,000.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—Why are we asked to pass a £41,000,000 Loan Bill?

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD—The original estimate was £41,000,000, but when it was decided that it was unlikely that so much money could be obtained all the States had to agree to a cut of 25 per cent.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—South Australia got a much better deal from the Labor Government.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD—I have heard this many times from that same corner, but I am still far from convinced that was the case. I hope Mr. Bardolph will take the opportunity one of these days to confirm his statements by the production of figures. I am sure we will all listen with great interest and some degree of enlightenment if he will undertake the task. In addition to the figures mentioned, there is a further £80,000,000 for semi-Government and local government, making a total of about

£300,000,000 which will be required to carry on works in the various States. We in South Australia are confronted with the necessity of developing and maintaining the requirements of our part of Australia, therefore it is somewhat to the point to remind ourselves of our experience of revenue and expenditure during the last four years. In 1946-47 our revenue was nearly £17,200,000. We have become so accustomed to speaking in what might be termed astronomical figures that a few hundred thousand pounds does not seem to matter to us collectively; individually, of course, a very small proportion of that would be appreciated. But as a community we seem to be able to secure and to expend sums which a few years ago would have created more concern than is the case today. In 1946-1947 our expenditure was £17,250,000. In the following year revenue was £18,800,000 and expenditure £19,100,000. In 1948-1949 revenue totalled £21,800,000 and expenditure £22,100,000. In 1949-1950 revenue was £29,300,000 and expenditure £29,500,000; not very much more, and, considering all things, perhaps not so bad, excepting that we are making the pace on ourselves and, as recent experience of the loan market suggests, it is not going to be quite so easy to secure funds for the immediate future. The year 1914 was a milestone in the world's history, for it saw the beginning of the first Great World War, and from that point everywhere there seems to have been nothing but disruption, trouble, expense and difficulty, which has made the job of the statesman complicated and extremely difficult. In that year the public debt of South Australia was £34,300,000, or £77 9s. a head. Twenty years later, in 1934, it had risen to £105,400,000, or to £180 14s. a head. By 1949, 15 years later, it had risen to £124,000,000 or £185 6s. a head.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—It might have been different under another administration.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD—I propose to show that during that period our performances were extremely creditable, and whoever was in power—and I would have been too modest to mention it but for the interjection—can assume some small degree of credit. Whereas from 1914 to 1934 our public debt rose by £71,000,000, in the next 15 years, the period to which my friend directs special attention, it increased by only £19,000,000, so it must be agreed that the degree of restraint and care exercised by those in control of the administration of this State is something of which we can be justly proud. At the same

time each year it has become increasingly evident that we must develop our country with the least possible delay. Only by keeping before us the urgency of this task can we be permitted to continue to control its destiny. Our continent is a large one and the demands upon us are onerous. I think it is necessary to realize that it is not possible to keep pace with our needs solely from revenue. That is one of the reasons why we are confronted today with the consideration of this Loan Bill. We are therefore drawing upon the future to the extent of our loan liabilities, and as borrowers it is in our own interests to see that our bonds maintain some degree of popularity with investors. Communities, like individuals, must display prudence or they will probably find that the thrifty saver will be disinclined to subscribe to loans except at higher and higher rates of interest. From time to time we hear of the benefits of financing works out of national credit—whatever that may mean. I have heard it said by some of the friends of Mr. Condon that the efficacy of national credit has not been disproved; neither has it ever been proved. The total figure provided in the Bill is £41,166,000, and of that amount more than £27,000,000 is required for railways, water and sewerage, housing, electricity and the Leigh Creek coalfield, all of paramount importance and accounting for about three-quarters of the total sum in the Bill.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—And the remainder goes into smoke.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD—No. The other works provided for, such as forestry, buildings, roads and irrigation are absolutely essential to the continued maintenance and development of the State.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—What about unexpended loan moneys from previous votes of Parliament?

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD—That is all provided for. There was not much unexpended last year. The Government asked for £21,000,000 and spent more than £20,500,000. If my friend had listened to the Minister's second reading as carefully as he usually does he would have remembered that this Bill is to provide for more than 12 months—in fact well into the following fiscal year. The expenses of the State cannot stop because a certain date in the calendar has been reached. Experienced and trained labour is still difficult to obtain, although some relief has been secured by the employment of new Australians, and each year we can expect, with their assistance,

to improve production. At all times it is most desirable that bondholders' interests and enthusiasm for loans should be maintained as far as possible, but there has been a feeling for some time that interest rates have been too low. The effect of this has pressed especially hard upon the thrifty citizen who has practised frugality and relieved the Treasury of a burden by endeavouring to provide for his own old age. It is disturbing to examine the figures of the Commonwealth loan which closed a few days ago. Although the rate of interest offered was substantially higher than that offered for some time, about 16 per cent of the loan was not subscribed. One cannot but feel that this was caused largely by the disappointment at the low interest rates which had been ruling for so long. The lender plays no small part in public finance. I am reminded of the very famous line in English literature and change it to read, "They also serve who only save and save." The State cannot stand still but must go forward. We must not shut our eyes to the fact that Government spending, apart from defence expenditure, is rapidly reaching a point which cannot be sustained in less prosperous times without a further depreciation of the currency. We feel justly proud of the State's progress in a little more than 100 years. Our future is full of promise provided we work hard, as our forefathers did, and build up the value of our pound. We must never overlook the fact that it is by the industry of its people that a country flourishes. I support the second reading.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern)—Fifty-two items are listed in the first schedule of the Bill, but I do not intend to attempt to speak on all of them. Last year £21,000,000 was provided for loan expenditure, and all except £500,000 was spent. Although most of the money was spent, all the works provided for were not accomplished and the same position will recur this year. The Leader of the Opposition, in referring to the colossal amount provided, said that the Government was window dressing, but that is not so. Some of the works will not be undertaken because of the shortage of materials, but there are other essential works on which the money can be spent. An amount of £27,000,000 is provided for railways, water supplies, sewerage, housing, electricity and the Leigh Creek coalfield, leaving only £14,000,000 for such important undertakings as buildings, roads, forestry, irrigation, and land purchases. I do not think £41,000,000 is excessive when considering the

times in which we live. For the railways £4,483,000 is provided. Our railways and roads are entirely inadequate to carry our increased production. As in other States, little money has been spent on railway rolling stock for some time, and this is reflected in the condition of the railways on Eyre Peninsula. I have received a letter from the Port Lincoln district council which states that this year 55,363 bags of barley were transported by road to Port Lincoln, but until five or six years ago no grain was carted by road. Wheat to be carted from last year's harvest amounts to 89,940 bags, and when one considers the harvest to be carted in about three months, together with all that other grain still waiting to be removed, one gets an idea of the congestion. The roads have been knocked to pieces. Wheat has to be carted from Streaky Bay to Port Lincoln but parts of that road are impassable. Other roads have also been badly affected by traffic. I agree with the Highways Commissioner that they will have to be entirely reconstructed.

I can see no provision in the Bill to deal with the bulk handling of wheat. We all appreciate what the Public Works Standing Committee is doing, but after the matter has been before the committee for four years and four months it is only natural that wheat-growers are expecting a report from it, even though it is only an interim report, to let them know what the provision is. We are continually told about our relations with Pakistan, which grows jute, and India, which manufactures cornsacks. Sir John Teasdale said recently that we will get through this year by the skin of our teeth with cornsacks at 69s. 6d. a dozen. There is no future security but the project at Ardrossan is much appreciated by wheatgrowers, because it will make available a considerable number of cornsacks which can be used for other grains. The co-operation of the B.H.P. is also appreciated.

Housing is another important item and the following figures which I imagine are substantially correct, have been collated by an independent research bureau in Sydney. The shortage of houses at the end of the war as estimated by the Commonwealth Housing Commission was 300,000. The annual requirement of newly married couples is 45,000 and the annual requirement of migrants 45,000, but the annual production rate is only 45,000, of which South Australia's contribution for the year ended June 30, 1951, was 6,800. Australia must have more people and they are arriving in large numbers. Practically all of them will

admit that although they like the country they cannot settle until they are able to live in their own homes. That is only natural, but it is also natural for our own people to have their own homes.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Why are New Australians getting homes before our own people?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I do not know, unless it is because they build with imported materials.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—They get them by their own energies.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Yes.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Don't you think they are getting preferences for material? People cannot be energetic unless they get material.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—This morning I introduced to the Building Materials Office a man who came from England last year. He had been a captain in the Imperial Army and had 11 years' service. He has a wife and three children and left the army to live with his family; he is now employed in the Tramways Trust. He has his house plans and does not require any assistance in the building because he intends doing the work during the week-ends. He requires only materials. When people, who are prepared to help themselves, come to Australia the Government should assist them.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Aren't there many Australians who would do the same if they had the opportunities?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Yes.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—What about the Australian Home Builders' Society, whose members are building their own houses? Why not give them credit?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I give them credit.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—They get second preference.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—No. I believe in giving first preference to the people of our own country. I merely quote what it is possible for some people to do. The amount of £300,000 is provided for the development of Crown Lands in the hundreds of Field and Jeffries in the upper South-East, an expenditure I am always pleased to see, especially when it is for developing virgin country. There are many applicants who are despondent, still waiting for land but the Government has done all in its power to provide land. I understand that the men serving in Korea will be eligible for land under the War Service Settlement Scheme. So at present we do not know

how many applicants there will be. Any development work not only satisfies the people, but augurs well for increased production.

The sum of £742,000 is provided for the Leigh Creek coalfield. One of the striking advantages proposed for that area is the construction of a new dam to hold 1,650,000,000 gallons of water. Members who have been through the coalfield will realize that that will be the greatest amenity the field could have. Water from the Sliding Rock Mine is poor and will not serve the people. A swimming pool will also be provided. In view of the dusty conditions under which people work in such an essential industry that is also an important amenity. This is an important Bill which gives members an opportunity to express their opinions concerning the various projects mentioned in it. I support the second reading.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY (Central No. 2)—A Bill of this magnitude must arouse a certain amount of interest and anxiety in members, and a jump of 100 per cent over last year indicates a big advance. We know money has decreased in value, and that cost of works has increased, and that the immigration programme of this country involves the provision of houses, services and other requisites necessary for making immigrants satisfactory subjects of this country. The expenditure of £41,000,000 in South Australia on loan work is large, in view of the fact that it has always been the accepted policy of Governments to spend loan money in times more or less of adversity, when the spending power of the public has run out. That was an axiom accepted by Governments at one time, but it is not so now. Circumstances have caused Governments to adopt other means.

I do not think any member will object to the proposed expenditure on housing. Housing was once provided by the individual savings of the people, or through ordinary financial institutions, but that duty now devolves on the Government. When money was made available at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per cent it was a great advantage to the house builder. From my perusal of the various items it appears that about £10,500,000 is associated with housing activities of the State Bank and the Housing Trust, and services to house properties. I am sorry the Government has to finance housing, but if the necessity is thrown on it I do not object to the amount proposed to be spent. If we have immigration and development programmes, housing the people is an essential necessity. Therefore it seems to me that between £10,000,000 and £11,000,000 is associ-

ated directly with the housing programme. The other big item is power. The Electricity Trust absorbs the rather astounding figures of £11,500,000, and the Leigh Creek coalfield £700,000. There is, perhaps, a further figure, under the Mines Department, also associated with power. Therefore, these two main items account for more than half the loan expenditure. Nobody can argue against the production of power. It is an essential in modern life, both for industry and the home user. Perhaps I should qualify that by saying that it is not in all cases so much essential as desirable, and it seems to me that at some time we shall have to reach a point where we distinguish between essentials and necessities. It is desirable that we should provide every house in the country with electricity, but it is not essential.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Why?

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—There is such a thing as economics and I am sure the honourable member would not expect me to go into details on that point now. He should know there is some relationship between costs and services. What may be desirable is not necessarily essential. I make that point because our full loan programme for the next 12 or 16 months was £41,000,000. It has been reduced to £28,000,000 by agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the Premiers of the respective States, but which of the items are to be reduced I do not know. It would have been preferable, and possibly a courtesy to this Council, had we been informed. However, the Government apparently has not thought it necessary and, although this Loan Bill represents its full programme, we know that it cannot spend more than £28,000,000 through the Loan Council this year.

The Hon. R. J. Rudall—Haven't you heard of the reservoir pool?

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—I have, and I approve of the fact that the Treasurer has been able to provide for this, but actually it is not clear to the country, or even to this Council, what that reservoir pool is. While it is nice to know that our loan works and services can go on we do not know the depth of that reservoir or the amount of water in it. Perhaps the Treasurer will enlighten us at some time as to what it is, because the question of raising money by public loan has received a jolt during the last few weeks and this has a serious effect upon industry and the savings of the people. Every loan issued at an additional rate of interest immediately depreciates

the value of the previous loans, for it is only when they reach maturity that they are worth the amount originally subscribed. I say, therefore, that the Treasurer of this State, in common with the Treasurers of all other States, is in a very responsible position and should be under a great sense of responsibility in putting forward loans for works that interfere with the amount of money that can naturally be made available for the development of the country.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—They are a lot of “yes” men.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—Our Premier is by no means a “yes” man, and I am simply trying to satisfy my conscience on this issue, and hope that what I say will be considered for whatever merit it possesses. The responsibility of the Treasurers of this country is a serious one and they will have to decide what is essential and what is desirable. We all agree as to the desirability, but as to essentials there is room for argument. I hope, therefore, that in approaching loans and the question of financing the development of the country the Government and the Treasurer of South Australia will study the position and not hurry forward a condition of things that upsets the general market and trading conditions and ultimately the homes, lives, and wages of the people. In agreeing to a loan programme of £41,000,000 we are agreeing to a big thing; perhaps we are agreeing to things which are desirable but the necessity for some of which may be open to question. I support the Bill and accept the Government’s opinion as to what is necessary. We have to rely on its judgment for it is impossible to criticize without knowing the full facts.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—We all know that it is impossible to spend it.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—I would not say that, for the spending of it can be done very quickly; we can spend it this year and regret it next. I have implicit confidence that the Government will spend it wisely, but I do urge that it be not led away with desirability without due deference to necessity. I hope that the money will last a little longer than 16 months and will not involve the country in paying a higher interest rate. No mention is made of the interest rate, but we have seen 3½ and 3¾ per cent loans fail to a degree, and a quarter or half per cent on £40,000,000 is a pretty big contribution in cash.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—At the outset I compliment the departmental officers who, under the guidance of their

respective Ministers, prepare the Loan Estimates and the applications to the Loan Council. All members will agree that these officers do a remarkably good job, as has been proved every year since the inception of the Financial Agreement which made it incumbent on the States to go cap in hand, as it were, to the Commonwealth Government for loan moneys. On every occasion they came away with more than they expected to get, especially when we had a Federal Labor Treasurer because of the Labor Government’s desire to assist the States. I listened intently to Mr. Perry, and although he asks the Government to watch the expenditure of this £41,000,000 and deprecates a rise in interest rates. On the other hand he indicated that the failure of the recent loan was due to the fact that the interest rate offered was not as high as investors desired.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—I did not say that.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—The fact remains that whilst there has been some lament regarding the huge amount to be spent on housing, the Savings Bank of South Australia, in common with other Savings Banks throughout the Commonwealth, have piled up huge amounts representing the savings of the workers. We can remember when a Bill was brought into this Parliament for the purpose of permitting our Savings Bank to lend money to the State Government, and incidentally to the Housing Trust, for the purpose of constructing homes at a very low rate of interest.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—That was only a small amount.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—It ran into millions.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—Three and a half millions.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—That was more than one-eleventh of the amount we are spending on housing now under this measure. I think it can be said, therefore, that the building programme being carried out by this Government is, in fact, being financed by the accumulated funds of the workers. The honourable member knows that, with the failure of the recent £40,000,000 loan, the Commonwealth Government will have to resort to the issue of Treasury Bills.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—Not necessarily.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—It will be found necessary because a percentage of the investing public is withholding its funds from Government bonds so that it can get a higher rate of interest from some other form of investment. I have always said that the Leigh Creek coalfield should have been carried on as

a developmental project and not attached to an undertaking such as the Electricity Trust, which is under the Government. It should have been worked as an ancillary to the trust.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—You voted for it.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Yes, and I think my friend did, too. Had it not been for the Labor representatives in this Chamber the trust would never have been founded. Developmental projects such as railways, roads, and bridges are not tacked on to other undertakings. Like Leigh Creek coalfield, they are for the general benefit of the State.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—You would not consider them comparable undertakings.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—They are for utility purposes.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—Is not development necessary in mining in South Australia?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I am not denying that, but the Leigh Creek coalfield development should not have been attached to the Electricity Trust. It will be interesting to see whether the benefits extended by the present Commonwealth Government to projects in South Australia are as liberal as under Labor Governments. The present indications are that the South Australian Government will not receive the same consideration from the Commonwealth Government as previously, because, as was ably pointed out by Sir Wallace Sandford, the Estimates submitted to the Loan Council were reduced. I do not think that has happened for many years.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—You have a short memory.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—It may be in some things, but in matters affecting the interests of South Australia I think I have a long memory. Politics do not enter into matters affecting the interests of the State, because it is our responsibility to see that South Australia develops on a plane equal to that of the other States. But for the representatives of Labor in this Chamber and in the Federal sphere many of the developmental projects in South Australia would not have been placed on the Statute Book. Credit for the development and progress of South Australia must be given to the State Parliament. As in the past, Labor will on this occasion vote for the Bill, as it is in the interests of South Australia.

The Hon. A. A. HOARE (Central No. 1)—Had the Commonwealth Government kept to its word and restored full value to the pound it would be necessary to borrow only £25,000,000

or £27,000,000 instead of £41,000,000. The State continues to increase its interest debt, and that is not good for any country. It has been pointed out that our roads are not in a fit state to carry heavy loads and that councils cannot keep them in repair. The question arises who should improve the roads to carry heavier loads. Hundreds of miles have been constructed parallel to our railways and are carrying traffic in competition with the railways, which are owned and controlled by the Government, therefore, the Government should not be called upon to pay for the cost of repairing or reconstructing roads to carry greater loads in still greater competition with the railways. This would result in the Government's difficulty to make the railways pay being even greater. However, it should maintain the roads which lead to the railways.

Sufficient houses should have been provided for immigrants prior to their arrival, but the cart has been placed before the horse and thousands of people are arriving here without a home being available for them. In addition thousands of Australians are unable to get accommodation. Every encouragement should be given to the building of houses. I do not know of any body in Australia which could have provided homes more efficiently than the Housing Trust. One of the bottle-necks in house building is timber, but large supplies of *pinus radiata* are being obtained from our State forests to relieve the position, particularly for flooring. Every consideration and encouragement should be given to induce people to remain at such an outlandish place as Leigh Creek. If the swimming pool promised has not yet been provided, it is one of the first amenities that should be installed. The proposal to widen the gauge on the line from Stirling North to Brachina has been temporarily held up because of argument between the Commonwealth and the South Australian Governments as to the route. That is only one section of our railways which should be widened. For years we have been complaining in South Australia about the shortage of beef, but what has the Commonwealth Government done to relieve the position? Evidently it is not anxious to complete the construction of the North-South railway, and the longer it leaves it the longer it apparently wants to leave it. If our people are to be fed, production of foodstuffs must be increased. This applies not only to beef and mutton. Little has been done for those living in the outback country where beef is produced. One

of the biggest cattle stations in the world is situated in the far north and it provides several thousand head of cattle a year. Its area is measured not in acres but in square miles. Every inducement should be offered to help the people in the outback, but little has been done by the Federal Government. Railways should have been constructed many years ago. In some instances there are not sufficient water holes to carry the stock brought from outback areas to the railway sidings. Much could be done but the Federal Government does not appear anxious to help. If Australia's population is to increase sufficient food to feed that population must be grown. At present 20,000,000 people would be the limit of our productive capacity. Unless production is increased we will be importing food instead of exporting it. There is a shortage of certain commodities at present but I cannot say whether that shortage is wilful or natural.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—You do not think about the seasonal conditions. Don't you think rain has something to do with it?

The Hon. A. A. HOARE—Yes, but even in good seasons there have been shortages. Once, because the price of wheat was low it was dumped in the sea. In good seasons sufficient food should be retained to feed people in the event of a failure in the next season. Australia is a place of many and mighty contrasts and whilst there may be a good season one year, the following season may be poor. The Government should be compelled to retain sufficient food supplies to carry the population over two years. We do not want any more failures.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—And we do not want any more compulsion.

The Hon. A. A. HOARE—That is as may be. Something must be done to keep people in the dairying industry. I recently heard of a Victorian dairy farmer who complained because his two sons who helped him had left the farm to seek employment in the city. One of them was carting bread and was not anxious to return to the farm because he knocked off on Friday night and did not resume until the Monday morning and received higher wages than he would have on the farm.

The Hon. R. R. Wilson—How do you think Victoria will fare now that it has introduced a 40-hour week to the dairying industry?

The Hon. A. A. HOARE—The honourable member is a farmer and I know something about dairy farming. It is absolute drudgery every day, all day, and half the night. We

must consider not what we would like to do but what we are compelled to do to keep people on farms. Numerous amenities provided in capital cities do not exist in the country. People in the outback receive less wages although they work longer hours. Unless more inducements are offered to them we will not keep them in that industry.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—What inducements?

The Hon. A. A. HOARE—Less hours and better amenities. We talk about increasing production but the Government must find out how it can be done. It is not an impossibility. At the commencement of the war people were recruited from country areas for essential industries but they have never returned to the land and every day we read that rural industries are lacking in labour. The State Government should do something to help the position. Why does not the Menzies Government pay the same subsidy as the Chifley Government did to the butter industry? If that was done we would not have the trouble today.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—Does the honourable member suggest that the Menzies Government has not?

The Hon. A. A. HOARE—Yes.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—You had best look up the facts, because that is not so.

The Hon. A. A. HOARE—Mr. Menzies promised to put value back into the pound and had he done so we would only require half the proposed amount for loan works. There are two main powers in the Federal Government and as a result there is a certain amount of dissension between them. The estimated loan is apparently to be spent wisely; the extension of electrification from Port Augusta to farms and outback blocks is a good move. I sympathize with people in the outback, for whom everything possible should be done. They have not had the advantages of electric light and other facilities which are available in the city and the Government should not hesitate to provide them with those amenities. The electrification of the outback will be costly but it will be money well spent. People should be paid to live in some parts north-west of Port Augusta. They live in the same houses which were built by their grandparents and in many cases the houses are merely iron lean-tos. They have always said they would build a better place after the harvest but the harvest which would enable that to be done has never been realized. They have been pinched by banking

institutions. Many have slaved for years and paid interest to the banking institutions, but ultimately have walked off the country in debt.

The Hon. R. R. Wilson—The marginal lands scheme helped them out.

The Hon. A. A. HOARE—Yes. I am not a farmer but the honourable member should know that there are thousands of acres taken up for wheat growing beyond the marginal line.

The Hon. R. R. Wilson—They would not walk off today.

The Hon. A. A. HOARE—That would depend on the seasons and whether they were in debt when they started. I trust that the Government will endeavour to go on with the various projects mentioned in this Bill and that the people will reap the benefit.

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

#### LOANS TO PRODUCERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—This Bill makes amendments to the financial provisions of the Loans to Producers Act. The provisions in question were first enacted in 1917 and were included in the consolidating measure of 1927, but are out of harmony with the present practice of the Treasury and of no use. Section 4 of the Act provides for the establishment of a fund called "The Loans to Producers Fund." The Treasurer is required to set apart to the credit of the fund the loan moneys voted by Parliament for that purpose, but not more than £100,000 in any year. It will be noted that this limitation is expressed as a restriction on the power of Parliament to vote whatever sum it thinks fit, and as such is invalid. In fact, Parliament has in the past ignored it and voted more than £100,000 in a year. The Act also requires that moneys repaid on account of loans to producers and interest are to be credited to the fund and all loans under the Act are to be made out of the Fund. The restriction of the maximum annual vote to £100,000 so far as it is a fetter on Parliament is invalid, and so far as it restricts the State Bank is embarrassing. For example, the bank's commitments for loans to producers last year had reached approximately £150,000 in June and more was likely to be required.

In addition, it is no longer the practice of the Treasury to earmark specific moneys for specific purposes. All loan money forms a con-

solidated loan fund available for any authorized loan expenditure; and the same principle applies to revenue. There is, therefore, no need to have a special fund for loans to producers. The proper practice is to make these loans out of such money as may be voted from time to time by Parliament; and if Parliament thinks fit to vote more than £100,000 in any year there is no reason or power to stop it. This year the loan estimates include provision for the raising and expenditure of £150,000 to be made available to the State Bank for loans to producers. For these reasons it is proposed to repeal all the provisions of the Loans to Producers Act concerning the Loans to Producers Fund and to provide instead that money required for purposes of the Act may be paid out of money provided by Parliament for those purposes. I move the second reading.

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

#### HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 19. Page 588.)

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Central No. 1—Leader of the Opposition)—The Chief Secretary, when introducing this Bill, spoke at length in order to convince members that it was necessary. It is a very important and far-reaching measure and very drastic in its implications, and at the moment I am not inclined to support it in its entirety. I take this stand on two main grounds. Firstly, I am against compulsion and, secondly, I am opposed to it on religious principles. A third objection is that it contains no provision for compensation. If it is necessary in the interests of public health to take a man out of industry against his wishes or consent, surely some compensation should be paid him for the sustenance of his wife and family.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—That is done under the social services, of course.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—£2 5s. a week.

The Hon. L. H. Densley—Plus.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Plus 10s. or 15s. a week, but a man may lose £10 or £15 a week in wages.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—There is child endowment.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—He cannot get both. We know what happened when the Venereal Diseases legislation was before this Chamber in 1920. The Act was passed, but only recently were certain clauses proclaimed.

The Government says this measure is introduced at the request of the Commonwealth Government.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—I do not think the Government is apologizing for it.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—The Commonwealth Government wants uniformity and therefore has asked every State to pass similar legislation.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—The last two Governments desired it.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I am not concerned about what Governments asked for it, but about the liberty of the subject. If my friend can convince me that it is necessary I am not one who cannot be convinced, but if this legislation is passed there should be some provision for exemptions. The Chief Secretary, referring to the compulsory clauses said, that perhaps it would not be necessary to put them into operation, and that probably, because we had the legislation nobody would object. I think that is wrong, for there is already a certain amount of objection to this measure. The Commonwealth has asked the other States to pass similar Acts, but I am unable to trace any such legislation having been passed by either Victoria or New South Wales, so that the argument that if we do not have this legislation affected people will come from other States falls to the ground. An Act was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament to provide for medical services in respect of tuberculosis. Under section 5 arrangements entered into with the State may provide for its reimbursement by the Commonwealth in respect of capital expenditure by the State after July 1, 1948; in the provision by the State of land and buildings for use in the diagnosis, treatment and control of tuberculosis and in the erection and improvement of buildings and the provision of furnishings and equipment and plant for such use. Any such expenditure shall be subject to the approval of the Federal Minister before it is re-imbursed to the State. This does not include any payment by the State for allowances to sufferers from tuberculosis and their dependants. The amount of any net maintenance expenditure shall be arrived at after taking into account payments for the year by the Commonwealth to the State under the agreement entered into under the Hospitals Benefits Act, 1945-47, at the Commonwealth hospitals benefits expenditure rate for public works in respect to beds occupied by sufferers from tuberculosis. Section 6 of the Commonwealth

Act defines the powers of the Director-General of Health, who can take steps to establish and conduct laboratories, hospitals, etc. Section 9 provides for payments to sufferers from tuberculosis and their dependants. Such people are encouraged to refrain from working and to undergo treatment. Under our proposed legislation a man can be taken from his work against his will and put on a miserable pittance. If he is compelled to undergo treatment it is Parliament's duty to see that he receives adequate financial assistance. I agree that it is in the interests of the State that he should be attended to, but a man should have the right to object. However, under this legislation he can be taken to court on a warrant and tried before a magistrate.

The Hon. R. J. Rudall—That is only after he disobeys the law.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—He is told by an authority that he should be examined and if he refuses he can be arrested, even in his own home, and taken before the court. It is for the magistrate to say whether he should be sent to an institution for six months. He has the right of appeal and if it is upheld costs are paid for him, but not otherwise. He can be fined up to £25 for a first offence and £50 for a second offence. Any payment received under section 9 of the Commonwealth Act shall be deemed not to be income for the purposes of the Social Services Act. Tasmania passed legislation in 1949 called the Tuberculosis Act. Section 3 deals with notifications by medical practitioners as to whether the disease is in an active form or is suspected of being in an active form, and whether the patient is in an infectious condition or suspected of being so. Under section 4, on the receipt of a notification by the Director of Medical Services the Minister may by notice published in the *Government Gazette* require all persons over 14 years to undergo radiological examination of their lungs. If a person fails to comply with an order a justice of the peace, not a magistrate, may issue a warrant. A penalty not exceeding £50 is provided for a first offence. The legislation will expire in 1958.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—Have there been any objections?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I am not concerned about objections in Tasmania, Queensland or any other State, but with the legislation proposed in this State.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—Then why quote them?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Because we are asked to introduce similar legislation. In Queensland it is the duty of the local authority forthwith, upon receiving notice of a case of suspected tuberculosis in his area, to report to his medical officer and for that officer to proceed to examine any premises mentioned and all persons who have been in contact with the suspected person. The medical officer can order a person to be detained and anyone who refuses to enter an institution or leaves that institution without permission once he has entered it is liable to a penalty not exceeding £50. In introducing the Bill the Chief Secretary referred to difficulties experienced in South Australia because of people leaving institutions and mingling with the public. In order to meet that position, is it necessary to have such drastic legislation? I am prepared to help the Government where possible, but I am not prepared to go to extremes. In my opinion, this is an extreme measure and requires modification. Under the Western Australian legislation a notice can be issued in the *Government Gazette* requiring all persons over the age of 14 years of any class or classes specified in the notice to undergo X-ray examinations for tuberculosis at such times and places as are specified in the notice, and all persons to whom the notice shall apply shall undergo the examination accordingly. If a person refuses to be examined he can be fined. He could be dragged before a magistrate and I suppose the hearing would be heard in public, and he would have to prove his case. A person who is ordered to an institution for six months may object because his circumstances do not permit him to be out of employment so long.

This Bill is in conformity with an arrangement with the Commonwealth for the purpose of combating this disease. Parliament has authorized the appointment of a full-time director. I commend the men who have played an important part in the health of this community and probably at much personal sacrifice. I do not want to discourage them but to help if possible, but in helping them I do not want injustice to be done to anybody else. During the course of this debate we may be able to arrive at a Bill satisfactory to all concerned. We should give consideration to those people who object to examination.

The Hon. R. J. Rudall—If they object they will not come under the provisions of the Act?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—If a man objects on religious or other grounds he should be exempted.

The Hon. R. J. Rudall—What if he is a menace to the community?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—There are men and women at large today who are a greater menace to the community. Because there may be one or two who constitute a menace, should everybody be subject to the provisions?

The Hon. N. L. Jude—The Mental Defectives Act is on a par with this.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—A man should have the right to say whether he will be examined.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—If a man with tuberculosis is roaming about among the public don't you think he is a danger?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—There are people moving about with worse diseases. I may be proved wrong in my opposition, but at least I am submitting what I believe to be correct. We should not too lightly interfere with the freedom and liberty of a person. Clause 3 gives wide powers to the Director-General to notify any person suffering from this disease to attend at a time and place to undergo examination. In Dr. Rollison we have a capable man who is fair and reasonable, but would a majority of members like to give me absolute power?

The Hon. E. Anthoney—You would not misuse those powers.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Because of my politics some people might think I would and they would say that it is not a question of the individual but of whether it is right to give such power to one individual. If a person fails to comply with the notice he is liable to a fine of £20 for a first offence and £50 for a second. Following this an order can be enforced by applying to a special magistrate who may issue a warrant for his apprehension. A person can be detained in a hospital or any suitable place—even in a gaol. A warrant for the apprehension of a woman will be directed where possible by a woman constable. The Minister has further power to order groups or classes of persons to submit themselves for examination and to advertise when the examination is to be held. A person who fails to comply with the requirements of this notice is liable to a fine of £25 for a first offence and £50 for a second offence. He may be ordered away and treated for six months. He is permitted to appeal within 21 days but if unsuccessful is liable for the payment of costs.

Under section 4 of the Venereal Diseases Act of 1947 certain powers were given for persons to be detained. I remember the fight put up against that Bill and they were stronger than the one I am putting up now. There was a diversion of opinion as to what should be done. Under that legislation if a person is brought to the city from an area outside a radius of 20 miles he receives costs. I want to assist in tightening the legislation and to encourage the department to carry on the valuable work it has done but it is the duty of any member, if he thinks the legislation is going too far, to express his opinion. There is merit in this Bill and I support the second reading. I am entirely in agreement with the second portion of the Bill but there should be the right to object to examinations. If a person is compelled to submit to examination then he should receive some compensation. I hope members will consider the points I have raised and realize that what I am trying to do is to improve the present position without doing injustice to anybody.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### CATTLE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

#### PHARMACY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from September 19. Page 553.)

Clause 3—"Branch business."

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—In the second reading speech I raised some objections to this clause and the Chief Secretary reported progress for the purpose of obtaining opinions from the Crown Law office. Can the Chief Secretary say what those opinions are?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—I regret that I was absent when the honourable member raised his questions, but I have

a report from the Parliamentary Draftsman which, presumably deals with them. It is as follows:—

Mr. Bardolph has raised the question whether a chemist could open a separate shop in which he would not compound or dispense prescriptions, but merely sell cosmetics, patent medicines, and the like. The answer is that, so far as the Pharmacy Act is concerned, a chemist could open such a shop and the position in connection with this matter is not altered by the Bill. It is open to anybody whether a chemist or not, to keep such shops. It may be thought that if the Bill is passed chemists will be more likely than they were before to open shops of the kind mentioned. It is a matter of guesswork. Whether they will do so no-one knows. To me it seems unlikely, but even if such shops are opened what harm is to be expected? And if any harm should result, Parliament can deal with it. The point to be borne in mind is that the Bill maintains—even more strongly than before—the principle that every shop in which dispensing is done must at all times while open to the public be under the direct supervision of a registered chemist. This clear and sound principle is an answer to any fears that the Bill, in its endeavour to provide for the needs of the public, will subject them to risk.

I think that makes it clear that unless a registered chemist is in attendance a shop cannot be opened as a chemist's shop. The matter of a separate shop to deal with other lines is only what happens at present; there is nothing to prevent any grocer from selling patent medicines or cosmetics.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—That statement bears out the fears I voiced on the second reading, and I would appreciate it if the Chief Secretary would report progress in order that I may have an opportunity to frame an amendment on the lines I then indicated.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—I have no objection if the honourable member desires to submit an amendment, and I move that progress be reported.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.50 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, September 26, at 2 p.m.