

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, November 20, 1952.

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

QUESTION.**DUDLEY PARK WATER PRESSURE.**

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I ask leave to make a short statement with a view to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—It has been reported to me that the water pressure at Simpson and Sons' factory at Dudley Park, where over 1,000 persons are employed, including a considerable number of women, is inadequate to meet requirements. Will the Chief Secretary have this matter investigated with a view to improving the position?

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

EARLY CLOSING ACT AMENDMENT ACT.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor intimated by message his assent to the Act.

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

Later the House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the Legislative Council's amendment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

Later the House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the Legislative Council's amendment.

RETURNED SERVICEMEN'S BADGES BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

STAMP DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).

Second reading.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is one of the taxation proposals which the Government has been compelled to adopt in order to achieve a balanced Budget. It

increases the stamp duty on cheques from 1½d. to 2d. In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia the duty is already 2d. and in Tasmania it has recently been raised to 3d. The increase to 2d. in this State will produce approximately £40,000 in a full year.

At present there are in existence very many cheque forms printed with words indicating that a duty of 1½d. has been paid on them. When these forms are used as cheques, it will be necessary to denote the additional duty of ½d. either by adhesive or impressed stamps. The Bill provides for this. The Bill will come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. But whatever commencing day is decided upon, there will on that day be some cheque books which have been previously issued by banks to their customers, and which bear 1½d. stamps or imprints. The banks have represented to the Government that if all these cheques have to be further stamped with ½d. stamps there will be much inconvenience in the daily work of the bank and to the general public. The Government has investigated the position, and is of opinion that the difficulties are real and substantial. For this reason the Bill exempts from the additional duty any cheques made out on cheque forms issued by banks to their customers before the new rates operate. Some duty will be lost by this provision and there is a possibility of some small evasions of the Act. But the Government, after inquiry, is satisfied to take this risk in the general interests of the public.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—Clause 7 states that the additional duty to be imposed shall not be payable on a cheque made out on a form issued by a bank or financial institution to a customer before the commencement of the Act. Does this only relate to cheques? There are different forms which are affected by stamp duty and I wonder whether this clause will affect them all or only cheques. Clause 4 inserts a new section after section 47 of the principal Act which reads:—

The duty on a bill of exchange (including draft payable on demand), promissory note, coupon, or interest warrant may be denoted by an adhesive stamp. Provided that in the case of a bill of exchange or promissory note drawn or made out of South Australia, the duty shall be denoted by an adhesive stamp only.

Clause 5 relates to licences for duty paid cheques and clause 6 to the rate of duty on cheques. I support the second reading.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Midland)—There is little that need be said on this Bill because the

Minister covered the matter fairly clearly. I am interested in the question raised by the Leader of the Opposition and also as to the day this measure will come into operation. I think, for certain reasons, that some further consideration should be given to that matter. If the point is not covered at this stage it can be taken in Committee. It is a taxation measure, there can be no real objection to it, and I support the second reading.

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON (Northern)—This is only a short Bill providing for an increase in stamp duty from 1½d. to 2d. In 1927 an Act was passed levying a duty of 2d. on cheques over £2 and 1d. on those under that amount. There was so much confusion that in 1938, on the recommendation of business houses, the duty was altered to 1½d. on all cheques. I was pleased to note that the Premier, in another place, agreed to an amendment providing that cheque forms which are in the hands of customers at the time of the measure coming into operation shall bear duty at the present rate. At this period many business houses are sending out cheques and paying bonuses and if that provision were not included in the Bill a considerable amount of time and money would be involved in making alterations to the duty. This is another measure designed to assist in meeting the rising costs of production. Costs of Government are continually rising and increases in duties must be made in order to meet them. If we continue in this way the time will come when the economy of the country will be unable to meet the position. It behoves everybody in the State to realize the position. Recently there was trouble over an employee drilling a certain sized hole, causing a loss of more than £10,000 in wages. Until we, as a people, get down to work and produce and observe conditions in a decent manner costs must continually rise. I support the Bill as a matter of necessity.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—I do not oppose this Bill. The Government has provided ample evidence that it requires more revenue and this means of raising revenue has been generally accepted. The Bill proposes to increase stamp duty on cheques from 1½d. to 2d. When in Committee I will suggest that the new clause which was inserted in another place be amended to specify that the Act will come into force on November 20, 1952. I support the second reading.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 6 passed.

Clause 7—"Operation of Act."

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—I move—

To delete the words "commencement of this Act" in the last line and to insert in lieu thereof the words "twentieth day of November."

Many persons and businesses have cheques which are stamped with a 1½d. imprint but after the date of operation of this Bill the duty will be 2d. At the request of the banks the Government has agreed that people who hold cheque books imprinted with 1½d. duty shall be permitted to use them without the additional duty. Clause 2 provides that the Act shall come into operation on a day to be fixed by the Governor by proclamation. Clause 7 does not affect the banks and it does not matter how many cheque books they have on hand. If the Act is to come into force on a day to be fixed people will rush the banks to obtain cheque books and that will be unfair. It will be far better for everyone if we fix a definite date.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)—The Government is prepared to accept the amendment.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Earlier I asked the Attorney-General whether this clause applied to transfers and other forms or was restricted to cheques. As yet I have received no reply.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—Because of the adjournment I overlooked the question raised by Mr. Condon. It is quite clear, however, that the Bill does not refer to transfers and other forms, but relates to cheques.

Suggested amendment carried.

Clause as suggested to be amended passed.

Title passed. Bill reported with a suggested amendment and Committee's report adopted. Read a third time and passed.

Later the House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the Legislative Council's suggested amendment.

STIRLING NORTH TO BRACHINA RAILWAY (LAND AND MATERIALS) BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

LOANS FOR FENCING AND WATER PIPING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

PHARMACY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

NARACOORTE TOWN SQUARE
(PRIVATE) BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONTROL OF
RENTS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The House of Assembly intimated that it agreed to the Legislative Council's amendments.

VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT
AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)

—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to make amendments to the Veterinary Surgeons Act dealing with the constitution of the Veterinary Surgeons Board and the grounds upon which registration under the Act may be granted to persons who possess foreign qualifications as veterinary surgeons. As this legislation has not been before Parliament since 1938 it may be desirable to summarize what is done by the Act. It provides for the constitution of a board which is, among other things, given the duty of hearing and determining applications for registration under the Act, which provides for the registration of several classes of persons. In the first place, a qualified person may be registered as a veterinary surgeon. Subsection (1) of section 17 deals with persons holding proper academic qualifications. This subsection provides that, subject to a person being 21 years of age and of good fame and character, he is to be entitled to registration as a veterinary surgeon if he holds a degree or diploma in veterinary surgery of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons or of any university in Australia or New Zealand. The subsection also provides for the registration of persons who hold degrees of other universities if the board is satisfied that the course for that degree is not lower in standard than the degree course at the University of Sydney, and that the applicant is legally qualified to practise as a veterinary surgeon in the country of the university at which he took his degree. Subsection (2) of section 17 provides for the registration as veterinary surgeons of persons who, although lacking academic qualifications,

had practised during the seven years immediately preceding the commencement of the 1935 Act. Application for registration under this subsection had to be made within six months of the commencement of the Act. Thus, the position is that for a person now to become registered as a veterinary surgeon he must comply with section 17 (1) and possess the academic qualifications referred to in that subsection.

The second class of registered persons are veterinary practitioners and the law relating to them is contained in section 18. A person who practised for five years or was a qualified stock inspector, and who applied within six months after the commencement of the Act, was entitled to registration as a veterinary practitioner. It will be seen that no further registrations can be effected under this section. In 1938 an amending Act was passed which provides for the issue by the board of permits to persons whom the board is satisfied are competent to treat animals for diseases and injury. Every such permit authorizes the permit holder for reward to treat animals for disease or injury but a permit is limited to the part of the State specified in the permit. A permit holder is, of course, not expected to hold academic qualifications and the purpose of this enactment is to give some authority to treat animals to these people in localities when the services of a qualified veterinary surgeon are not available. It should be noted that the penal sections of the Act do not prohibit an unregistered person from treating animals, but section 29 and following sections make it an offence for an unregistered person to hold himself out as being registered or to hold himself out as a veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner, as the case may be.

At present the following numbers of persons are registered under the Act and are entitled to practise. There are 33 veterinary surgeons registered under section 17 (1), that is, who hold proper academic qualifications. Two persons are registered under section 17 (2), whilst 18 persons are registered under section 18. In addition, there are another 22 persons who have been registered but have not paid their annual licence fee and are not practising. There are 14 persons to whom permits have been issued under section 28a in respect of the current year.

The Act is administered by the Veterinary Surgeons Board which has the duty of determining applications for registration, and in

an appropriate case, of hearing proceedings for the cancellation or suspension of registration. The constitution of the board is provided for by the amending Act of 1938. This Act provides that there are to be four members of the board. The chairman is *ex-officio* the Chief Veterinary Officer, and the other three members are nominated by the Minister. One is to be a person registered under section 17 (1), that is, a veterinary surgeon holding academic qualifications, one is to be a person registered other than under section 17 (1), and one is to be a person who is familiar with stock husbandry. Thus, of the four members, only the chairman and one other member needs to possess the academic qualifications necessary for the profession, the conduct of which is, in effect, controlled by the board. Whilst it may be that these provisions for the constitution of the board were appropriate in 1938, the Government is of opinion that the board should now be reconstituted and that the time has arrived when at least a majority of the board should be properly qualified members of the profession. Clauses 2 to 6 and 9 therefore provide for a number of changes in this regard.

It is proposed that the board will, in future, consist of a chairman and four other members, all of whom are to be appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister. In view of the fact that the board is called upon to decide questions relating to the qualifications of applicants for registration and, where necessary, to investigate such as charges of unprofessional conduct against registered persons, the Government considers that it is most desirable that the chairman should have legal training. It is therefore provided that the chairman is to be a special magistrate or a practitioner of the Supreme Court. Of the four remaining members, it is provided that at least three are to be persons registered under section 17 (1), that is persons holding degrees or other academic qualifications. The fourth member may or may not be such a person but this matter will be left to the discretion of the Minister. Section 11 of the Act already provides for three members to be a quorum. It follows that this provision will be appropriate for a board of five.

Section 7 now provides for a term of office for members of two years. It is considered that this term is too short and clause 4 provides for a term of four years. Of the members to be first appointed, two will be appointed for two years but thereafter members will hold office for four years with some members retir-

ing at the end of every two years. At present, no provision is made in the Act to fix members' fees and clause 6 therefore provides that the Governor may, from time to time, fix the fees on recommendation of the chairman and members of the board.

Clause 9 provides that these provisions for the re-constitution of the board are to come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. This will enable a new board to be appointed and a convenient day fixed upon which the new board can take over from the old board. As before-mentioned, to be registered as a veterinary surgeon an applicant must either hold a degree or diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons or an Australian or New Zealand university, or must hold the degree of a university outside the Commonwealth or New Zealand and must then satisfy the board that this degree course is equal in standard to that of the University of Sydney. There are a number of persons holding degrees of European universities who have or who may seek registration under this latter provision. The question whether a degree of, say, Vienna University, is equal in standard to that of Sydney is, of course, one of proof and one where proof is extremely difficult unless there can be produced a qualified person who is familiar with the courses of both universities.

In order to deal with these foreign applicants for registration clause 7 sets out additional grounds for registration as a veterinary surgeon. It is provided that on applicant can be registered if he proves that, after a four year course, he has received a degree from a university in a country outside the Commonwealth, that he is by law entitled to practise in that country, that at the time of the passing of the Bill he is residing in the Commonwealth, and that he has resided in the Commonwealth for at least 12 months. In addition, he is required to pass an examination conducted by the board in such subjects as the board thinks desirable. Power is given to the board to dispense with the examination in any case in which it deems it unnecessary. Provision is also made for the conduct of examinations by the board, including the power to appoint examiners. It is provided, however, that applications under the clause must be made within three years of the passing of the Bill so that, after this period, section 17 (1) will provide the only test for registration as a veterinary surgeon.

Clause 8 deals with a minor administrative matter. Section 28 provides that in every year

a copy of the register of registered persons is to be published in the *Gazette*. Clause 8 provides that this published list is not to include the names of persons who have not paid their annual fees or whose registration has been cancelled or suspended. In such cases the person concerned is not entitled to hold himself out as registered and, obviously, the list published in the *Gazette* should not include his name.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)
—I am not opposing this Bill, but certainly think it requires some alteration. We have agreed that certain refugees who came here with qualifications from their own countries should be allowed to practice the professions of which they are members, under certain conditions, but we have rather jealously guarded the standards which should be maintained in admitting them. Those desirous of entering the medical profession have to do the last two years of the university course and satisfy the examiners, who are the people whom our own boys have to satisfy, before they can be registered as doctors. More recently we amended the Pharmacy Act to allow immigrants with a knowledge of chemistry to be admitted as pharmacists, but they have first to serve a period with a registered chemist and satisfy examiners as to their ability to speak English, as well as to pass examinations set, not by the Pharmacy Board—and that is my whole point—but by the Board of Pharmaceutical Studies at the university; that is to say, the same university authorities who examine our local people examine these people.

This Bill is designed to admit people from overseas who have qualifications as veterinary surgeons, and as originally introduced it gave anyone an opportunity to import veterinary surgeons from other countries, as it were, in batches. We must bear in mind that we have only one veterinary science school in Australia and that is attached to the Sydney University, although I believe one has just commenced in Brisbane. The Sydney faculty has the same high reputation as that of our medical and other schools in the eyes of the world, and therefore we must be careful that we are not letting down that high standard. Approximately 200 students are doing the veterinary science course in Sydney from all the States, some from South Australia, and about 30 are returned men who served in the last war. Therefore, we have to be very careful to see that we do not prejudice them in getting jobs when they have completed their course. Members who live in the country will realize that

at one time we had only about four veterinary surgeons in South Australia and country people were screaming for veterinary help. Consequently we introduced a system of permitting people who had certain experience to perform veterinary work and charge fees for it. This Bill has nothing to do with that. Firstly, it sets up a new board, which I think is a very proper board, but it is only for the purpose of registering certain people and under this amendment certain immigrants.

I have not had much opportunity to study the amendments made in the House of Assembly but I gather that under clause 7 no-one can be registered under the special provisions unless he resided within the Commonwealth at the time of the passing of this Bill. That overcomes my first objection. My next is that this Bill gives the board power to conduct examinations, which seems to be entirely wrong. We compel doctors and chemists to be examined by the appropriate university authorities. We have a medical board and a pharmacy board, but they have nothing to do with the examinations, and therefore I want to include in this Bill a provision that the examination shall be conducted by the Veterinary Science Faculty in Sydney, the only authority in Australia capable of doing it. I hope that if and when the Bill reaches the Committee stage the Minister will agree to reporting progress to enable me to draft an amendment to ensure that we maintain exactly the same standards in this as we do in other professions. I support the second reading.

The Hon. A. J. MELROSE (Midland)—I listened with interest to Mr. Cudmore's remarks and concur with everything he said, although I go a good deal further than he does. In the last few years we have dealt with the need in the primary industries for veterinary surgeons by licensing men without university qualifications but with some practical experience. We style them veterinary practitioners and they are providing useful service to stockowners. Their numbers have been limited by the time factor, as only those practising at the time of the passing of the Act were licensed and consequently they are a vanishing race.

The increase in the livestock population and the fact that it has largely taken place in the higher rainfall areas as distinct from the semi-arid areas where diseases, particularly of the internal parasite type, are practically unknown, has created a real economic problem, and I think the time will come when the need for veterinary surgeons will be greater than the

supply. I can remember in my youth that I was advised not to go into either the medical or the legal profession because they looked like being overcrowded. It seems there is plenty of room in them yet, and I am sure that even highly developed estates could well employ fully qualified veterinary surgeons to care for the health of their animals. The Veterinary Board was quite competent to deal with these hard working servants of the stock-owner who have no university qualifications, and I have nothing to say about that, but it seems to me that we are losing sight of the fact that a university qualified veterinary surgeon is perhaps as highly qualified as a doctor.

The professions are usually regarded as medicine and law, but to become a qualified veterinary surgeon one has to pass several years of the ordinary medical course, and when finally qualified these men have to practise among patients who are inarticulate; they cannot say to them, "Where does it hurt?" or "What have you been eating?", and I am certain that the successful work of veterinary surgery is much more difficult than that of the medical profession. One cannot lift a one-ton horse and turn it over, palpate it here and there and find the answer. In every respect it is a very difficult profession and these men are just as much entitled to be styled professional men as either the doctor, the dentist or the lawyer. Therefore, I think that the board set up by this Bill is quite inadequate. I am certain that members of the other professions would not tolerate for one moment submitting themselves for registration by a board appointed entirely by the Government. Is the Pharmaceutical Board or the Dental Board Government-appointed? The Government appoints perhaps the chairman, but the craft itself selects the members, so that men wishing to practise are approved by recognized members of that profession. If we are going to consider any alteration to the board dealing with the registration of veterinary surgeons we should put it on a proper basis. It may be said that we already have a Veterinary Board of this nature, but I suggest that when that board was instituted there were ample numbers practising in the profession, and practically all of them in Government services. There have been few additions to the profession, but I visualize, with great hope, the time when there will be an ample supply of veterinary surgeons. There is a need for them in the country. The nearest man to me is 50 miles away but if more men were available I would hire one full-time and in the rainfall

areas most primary producers would require veterinary surgeons to safeguard their livestock.

The Hon. R. J. Rudall—How many veterinary men are there in the State outside the Government service?

The Hon. A. J. MELROSE—Very few. I believe someone has said that there are 200 students doing a veterinary course in Sydney. South Australia is in the van in the matter of highly-developed pastures, and surely the need for veterinary men will be felt here. If we are going to reconstitute the Veterinary Board why shouldn't we make a job of it and recognize these men as being as highly qualified professionally as barristers, doctors or dentists? They take years to pass a university course in order to raise themselves above the common level of quacks. I see not reason why this matter should not be held over so that it can be given more reasonable consideration, therefore I cannot support the Bill.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (Central No. 2)—I regret that the honourable member opposes the Bill. I thought he said there was a shortage of veterinary surgeons in this State but I take it this measure was largely designed to meet that situation. This is another measure to try to assimilate highly qualified migrants. I believe that as a result of an agreement made by the Commonwealth some years ago a veterinary school was established in Sydney. South Australia was the centre for forestry and we had a forestry school and practising forest at Kuitpo and there was also a centre in Melbourne dealing with another science. The forestry school has disappeared from the Adelaide University to Canberra and other veterinary schools are being established elsewhere than in New South Wales so that agreement seems to have gone by the board. I agree with Mr. Cudmore's contention that the qualifications of those who are to be admitted to our profession should be of the highest standard, and definitely should not be lower than those of men who are qualifying today. His suggested amendment is a good one and will present no difficulty because these people will not have to travel to Sydney to sit for examination. The papers can be forwarded to South Australia and the applicants examined here.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS (Northern)—I will not cover the ground already traversed by previous speakers in their explanations of the effects of this Bill. I would, however, quote the concluding paragraph of a report issued by the Commonwealth Immigration

Advisory Committee to the then Minister of Immigration concerning the responsibilities of Australia to those migrating from overseas. It reads:—

Australia must offer social security and work—not as a competitive item between the Australian and the newcomer—but as the natural accepted thing in a nation progressively planning its future and developing its resources, and seeking men and women in the Old World to come and help in the task.

We are giving effect to that in regard to veterinary science. I know of no great opposition to this measure from those who are intimately associated with veterinary science. Our attitude towards those who migrate here is incidental to this Bill. We have a distinct responsibility and must eventually aim at assimilating them into our society. We must encourage them to assist in our development and to populate this country and must open the avenues for them to enter our general economic life and the trades and professions in which they have qualifications. Some possess high academic qualifications. I have met migrants who are highly qualified in some of our most skilful trades and professions and I look forward with confidence to their mingling with those who are similarly engaged in our country today. It will be to their own advantage and to the advantage of the country. We cannot do otherwise than benefit from the infiltration of these people with new ideas and new outlooks who desire not only to help themselves but to play their part. I welcome legislation which has that objective in view. Sometimes we are inclined to give our attention to the material side of things and overlook that we have a moral responsibility to these people. I support the second reading.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—I support the second reading. I agree with what Mr. Cudmore and Mr. Melrose have said regarding this matter. I do not think any member objects to these people coming to Australia and we welcome them as new citizens. However, if we go to any other country and are possessed of academic qualifications and degrees from our universities, even if we become naturalized we are not permitted to practise in those professions. We do not wish to deny people the right to utilize the knowledge they have gained elsewhere, but I do not think that any other part of the British Empire spends as much money per head of population on primary, secondary and university education as we do in Australia.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Rubbish!

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—It may be rubbish so far as the member is concerned but I refer to other countries in the English speaking world. Be that as it may, the fact remains that large sums are being expended by the various State Governments and the Commonwealth Government by way of university grants through the University Commission. Mr. Cudmore suggested that in pruning Government expenditure we should prune the education vote in order to save money.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—I was quite definite and referred to secondary education.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—One cannot go to any university unless he has had a secondary education. State Governments have spent vast sums, which have been supplemented by the Commonwealth Government, for the purpose of making professions open to the sons and daughters of ordinary citizens. I do not object to migrants practising in the professions, but if a standard is to be maintained they must conform to that standard. There has been a standard built up in veterinary science that makes it rank equally in academic and practical training with medicine and law. The Bill states:—

The board shall, in respect of every applicant for registration under this section, determine the subjects relating to veterinary surgery and practice in which the applicant shall be required to pass an examination as aforesaid. In any case in which the board is of opinion that it is unnecessary to require an applicant to pass any such examination, the board may determine accordingly.

The Hon. E. H. Edmonds—They may already have the necessary qualifications.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Then why not have a board set up similar to the Pharmacy Board? We have agreed that Deans of various faculties, with two practical members of different professions, shall determine the qualifications of people and set examinations. These people from overseas should comply with our standards before they are registered.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern)—For the past 12 or 15 years we have been asking for a veterinary surgeon for Eyre Peninsula, but the reply has always been that one was not available and stock breeders have had to rear their stock without the services of a veterinary surgeon. I strongly support Mr. Melrose's remarks. I do not cast any reflection on the proposed board, which would be the board of examiners in this State, but it should be fully qualified to deal with the qualifications of persons who

desire to become veterinary surgeons. I understand that about 200 people are undergoing the course in Sydney. I remind members that it takes years to qualify as a veterinary surgeon and we cannot be too careful to see that only highly qualified men are appointed to carry out this important work.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY (Southern)—It appears that the requirements for persons to be appointed as veterinary surgeons are well taken care of under the Bill. There is still a dearth of qualified people to act as veterinary surgeons in the country. It is common for members to receive requests from districts to support applications for permits to be granted to men who are not fully qualified as veterinary surgeons, but who are capable of giving first-aid and elementary treatment to stock. It is better to have a "stock doctor" in a district than nobody at all. People who act under permit are fully tied down. In my district recently there was a complaint from the board because one man held himself out to be a "stock doctor" and another as a veterinary practitioner. They were told that they had to remove from the telephone directory reference to any qualifications they held.

The Bill makes it clear that persons must be fully qualified to act as veterinary surgeons. These migrants must have been granted a licence in the country from which they came, hold a diploma, have had four years education in veterinary work and must have resided in the Commonwealth for a year. The Veterinary Board sets the subjects which applicants must pass before they can be registered as veterinary surgeons. It is desirable to be a little more definite as to who are to be the examiners. The way is left open at present for the board to appoint proper examiners, but on the other hand people who are not proper examiners could be appointed. We should include a provision that examinations should be conducted by a university professor or some other highly qualified veterinary man. I do not think the board itself should conduct the examinations; it should be in the hands of the veterinary school in Sydney or Brisbane, which could set the examination papers.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—"Veterinary Surgeons' Board."

The Hon. A. J. MELROSE—The gist of my remarks on the second reading was that we should recognize that we are not dealing with people who have made a rugged existence out

of attending sick animals and should register them as veterinary practitioners. We propose to appoint a board to examine, approve and register such applicants. Since my second reading speech I have looked up the Medical Practitioners Act, the Dentists Act and the Pharmacy Act and note that the university carefully guards the qualifications of professional men and their appointment to boards covering those professions. Dealing with the constitution of the Medical Board, subsection (2) of section 5 of the Medical Practitioners Act states:—

The board shall consist of five members, who shall be appointed by the Governor, after being respectively nominated as follows, namely

Three shall be nominated by the Minister:

One shall be nominated by the persons registered under this Act and for the time being resident in the State:

One shall be nominated by the Council of the University of Adelaide.

The constitution of the Dental Board is set out in subsection (2) of section 6 of the Dentists Act as follows:—

The board shall consist of—

(a) The Dean of the faculty of dentistry in the University of Adelaide, who shall be president of the board:

(b) One legally qualified medical practitioner nominated by the British Medical Association:

(c) Three registered dentists elected by the registered dentists in such manner as the board directs.

Under the Pharmacy Act the board is elected by practising chemists. If we are to reconstitute the Veterinary Surgeons Board to deal with applicants, all of whom we insist shall have university qualifications, it should be established more on an equal footing with the boards I have quoted. The Bill provides that the board shall consist of a chairman and four other members, who shall be appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister and that the chairman shall be a special magistrate or a practitioner of the Supreme Court. Why? Under the Medical Practitioners Act the chairman is nominated by the British Medical Association. The university should be recognized more than it is in these matters. We talk about veterinary practitioners and veterinary surgeons as if they are of a lower social order than medical practitioners. There is a valuable institute in this State—the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science—which could deal with the qualifications and examinations of applicants. The practice of veterinary science is much more difficult than that of medical science as it calls for greater self-sacrifice and self-abnegation. I would like to see the board lifted above a board appointed

by the Minister. The University should have a practical say in the appointments. The board will not be appointed to deal only with the present crisis, but will have to deal with things for years to come.

The CHAIRMAN—Does the honourable member move anything?

The Hon. A. J. MELROSE—I suggested that the Bill be withdrawn for further consideration, but did not get much support. It is within the Minister's power to report progress while this matter is considered.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)—I am sorry I cannot accede to the honourable member's request. It is possible that this profession will grow in numbers, and I doubt whether there is a single member of the Council who does not realize the qualifications necessary for a person to act as a veterinary surgeon. It is a profession of very high standing and does extremely important work. I do not think the numbers are sufficient to justify what Mr. Melrose wants. When that time arrives we could go into the question of the constitution of the board. If the Bill is thrown out it will mean that the present board will continue to operate. On that board there is only one qualified man, whereas under this Bill there will be, in addition to a special magistrate as chairman, four members, three of whom must be qualified veterinary men. That is a tremendous improvement on the present position. The Government would not proceed to appoint men who would not properly carry out their duties and I therefore ask the Committee to accept the clause as drafted.

Clause passed.

Clauses 4 to 6 passed.

Clause 7—"Additional qualification for registration of veterinary surgeons."

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—This clause deals with the conditions we are to provide for registration of people coming from overseas who claim to have the necessary qualifications to act as veterinary practitioners. The Pharmacy Board can admit foreigners as chemists if they have passed an examination set by the board of Pharmaceutical Studies at the University. They must pass the same standard as our own people. I draw the Committee's attention to paragraph (d) of new section 17a, as follows:—

He has within the period of three years next after the passing of the Veterinary Surgeons Act Amendment Act, 1952, passed an examination conducted by the board in such subjects relating to veterinary surgery and practice as the board determines.

Therefore it is for the board to say. Sub-section 2 provides:—

The board shall, in respect of every applicant for registration under this section, determine the subjects relating to veterinary surgery and practice in which the applicant shall be required to pass an examination as aforesaid. In any case in which the board is of opinion that it is unnecessary to require an applicant to pass any such examination, the board may determine accordingly.

I disagree with that and move—

In new section 17a (2) to delete "In any case in which the board is of opinion that it is unnecessary to require an applicant to pass any such examination, the board may determine accordingly."

My amendment means that the board will have to examine those people before it registers them. That is only reasonable and proper. It is not right that the board should say "We think this fellow is wonderful. We do not need an examination in his case, as his qualifications are so good." We do not allow that with any other professional class, and there is no reason why we should do it in this case.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—I hope the Committee will not accept the amendment, because it takes away from the board the power to say that a man can practise without first passing an examination, and deprives it of its discretionary power. The chairman, who is to be a trained professional man, is not likely to lower the standards of any other profession. Omitting him, there are still three men on the board who are qualified, and is it to be suggested that they will say to an applicant, "It is not necessary for you to pass the examination" unless they are perfectly satisfied that he is qualified to practise? It takes all discretion away from the board and I ask the Committee not to agree to the amendment.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—The Attorney-General has confirmed my opinion absolutely. What he is asking us to do is to provide that this local board shall be in a position to say whether a person is qualified to be registered or not; that cannot happen in any other profession. For goodness sake let us keep the thing on as high a plane as possible.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—There is a good deal in the honourable member's contention. The University Council has had to deal with men who were highly qualified according to their own credentials and to reject them. In this case I have no doubt that men will come along with the highest qualifications from some foreign university, but they will not be accustomed to practising in our climate under

different conditions and therefore should have to pass an examination the same as everyone else.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—I do not think we can take much exception to this amendment. It must be remembered that the board can grant permits, which other professional boards cannot do, to enable persons to practise. It is desirable to keep the profession on the highest possible basis and I feel that the amendment would place the matter beyond doubt. If a person cannot pass an examination the board still has power to grant him a permit to practise, which puts him on the same plane as many of our own people who have not passed examinations but nevertheless practise veterinary work.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS—I think the amendment has some merit and I am inclined to support it.

Amendment carried.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—I move—

To strike out all the words up to and including "and" in line 4 of new section 17a (4) with a view to inserting in lieu thereof—

"For the purpose of every such examination the board shall appoint as examiners persons who act as examiners in subjects relating to veterinary surgery and practice in a university in the Commonwealth of Australia. It shall be the duty of the examiners to set the examination papers and to determine whether any person taking the examination has passed the examination. The board"

That means that the board here can submit people to an examination, but that the examiners are to be people in authority in a university conducting a school of veterinary science. If later we have a veterinary school at the Adelaide University it will conduct the examination here, and therefore the standard will be maintained.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clauses (8 and 9) and title passed.

Bill reported with amendments and Committee's report adopted. Read a third time and passed.

Later the House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the Legislative Council's amendments.

ENFIELD GENERAL CEMETERY (EXCHANGE OF LAND) BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 19. Page 1443.)

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—A few years ago a number of

leading clergymen of Adelaide, looking ahead, found that it would be necessary in the course of a year or so to provide for another cemetery in addition to those already established. A deputation waited upon the Premier requesting financial assistance for the establishment of a cemetery at Enfield, and in 1944 an Act was passed which resulted in the establishment of this general cemetery in the northern suburb now controlled by the Enfield General Cemetery Trust. With the growth of population in that locality it will become increasingly important as a cemetery, for even now it is sometimes difficult to find burial places in other cemeteries. The Bill deals with the adjustment of boundaries and exchanges of land between the Housing Trust, the Cemetery Trust and the corporation, on which all parties are mutually agreed.

The only other aspect of the Bill relates to the finances of the trust. At the outset the Government was empowered to finance it to the extent of £12,000 but, as in other things, with rising costs this has proved insufficient and it is now sought to raise this limit to £18,000. Recently the financial position of the trust has shown an improvement and there is no doubt that the money lent by the Government will eventually be repaid. As the Bill has been approved by a Select Committee I support the second reading.

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

BUSH FIRES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 19. Page 1455.)

The Hon. N. L. JUDE (Southern)—This is a short amending Bill and in many ways a satisfactory one. Generally speaking, the clauses relating to scrub burning are for the purpose of alleviating some of the difficulties experienced by persons at times in getting a decent burn. From a practical standpoint that is desirable. The practical application of parts of the Act still worries many people. If we cannot have total prohibition declared by the Minister during a fire hazard period with high winds and high temperatures there is a danger that the provisions will be too slow and cumbersome to operate or else it will be abused by councils which declare a period of a month when perhaps a week would suffice. While that matter may be dormant it is not forgotten by country people. Although clause 4 may appear tricky, in layman's language it merely amends the

provisions to bring any alteration of the period of burning into line. In other words, if a council alters its burning period by a month—which south-eastern councils do—these other clauses would not work properly unless they came into line with the altered period. This is more or less a machinery measure and I am happy to support it because it straightens out the Act considerably. Clause 5 will assist councils to declare virtually a total prohibition for a shorter period than that mentioned in section 13 of the Act. That is highly desirable although there are the dangers I have already mentioned.

Clause 6 refers to the duty of providing fire extinguishers on caravans. This has been the subject of some discussion. To my mind it is quite obvious that the provision of a fire extinguisher is a matter of commonsense. They are required to deal with fires which may break out in the caravans or adjacent to them, not for the purpose of putting out bush fires. A small amendment might clear the trouble. The words used in the proposed new section are "an efficient fire extinguisher" but I know many justices of the peace who could easily be convinced by farmer Giles that a green bough or wet bag is a highly efficient fire extinguisher. I believe that if the word "chemical" were inserted before "fire" it would make clear the intention of that provision. The relevant words would then be "an efficient chemical fire extinguisher." Clause 7 deletes the words "trailer pump" from section 29 (6b) of the principal Act. Trailer pumps are almost obsolete and fire fighting appliances are now carried on trucks. I congratulate the Government on bringing the Act as up to date as possible and I support the Bill.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern)—Although this Bill has been introduced in the dying hours of the session it would seem unusual if a Bill amending the Bush Fires Act were not introduced in any session of Parliament. Mr. Jude has dealt in detail with the various clauses. I pay a tribute to our emergency fire services. The worth of the work performed by these voluntary organizations cannot be assessed by anyone. There are approximately 124 units in this State and between 1,500 and 1,800 volunteers. To June 30, 1952, there were 392 fire calls and the estimated total of property and goods saved was £317,349. The causes of fires are set out in the *Emergency Fire Services Manual*, and the principal ones are—unknown 120, burning

off out of control 57, unattended burning rubbish 13, spark from railway train 32, spark from exhaust combustion engines 29, chimney fire 10, children playing with matches 22, spark from incinerator or chimney 12, and lightning 10. The co-operation of property owners and others is appreciated by all, but we should concentrate on the motto that "Prevention is far more valuable than fire control." These services operate efficiently under the direction of Mr. Kerr. Fire controllers are appointed and their positions are highly responsible, but I believe they should pass some form of knowledge test.

Last year near Port Lincoln there was a disastrous fire which burnt many properties and valuable stock. Had proper measures been taken the fire could probably have been stopped at the Poonindie Hill road which runs between Port Lincoln and Tumby Bay. Over 100 men were on the scene but they were not prepared to burn back without an order from the fire controller. It was estimated that over 100 men were on the scene but they were not prepared to take the risk of lighting a fire break without an order from a fire controller and there were no properly identified fire controllers present. Last year £2,000,000 was paid by fire insurance companies in Australia as compensation as a result of last summer's bush fires in Australia, of which South Australia received £20,000. The emergency fire service has prevented many fires. In Victoria fire insurance companies pay one-third towards the Victorian country fire authority and in New South Wales one-half of the Eastern Districts Fire Fighting Fund but in South Australia they pay nothing towards the purchase or maintenance of bush fire fighting equipment. It costs fire fighting volunteers a lot for maintenance and contributions and they have a just claim on insurance companies to pay something towards that. I hope that next session provision will be made to compel fire insurance companies to contribute towards the cost of maintenance and fire fighting equipment. I support the Bill.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 5 passed.

Clause 6—"Duty to provide fire extinguisher with caravan."

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—In my second reading speech I referred to what I considered was an obvious necessity—to have an efficient chemical fire extinguisher on a caravan. I think I make it clear what I meant and I do not want

anybody to advance the theory that a bucket of water, wet bag or bough is sufficient. I move—

To insert "chemical" before "fire."

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 7 and title passed.

Bill reported with an amendment and Committee's report adopted. Read third time and passed.

Later the House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the Legislative Council's amendment.

S.A. HOUSING TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to amplify the powers of the Housing Trust to issue debentures as security for loans raised by it. In the past it has not been found necessary for the trust to raise a public loan by the issue of debentures, but it may be found desirable for it to follow this course in the future. In such an event it is desirable that the powers of the trust with regard to the issue of debentures should be clarified. Accordingly the Bill provides that, with the consent of the Treasurer, the trust may issue debentures as security for money borrowed for the purposes of the S.A. Housing Trust Act or the Housing Improvement Act.

It is also provided that, in lieu of issuing debentures, the trust may issue inscribed debenture stock. The provision made for this purpose is similar to a clause which was passed this session as an amendment of the Electricity Trust of S.A. Act. As was pointed out when this Bill was before Parliament, this form of security is preferred by some investors. The Bill also provides for a Government guarantee of loans secured by debentures of the trust. A guarantee of this nature may be regarded as essential for loans raised by Government instrumentalities such as the trust, and the provision in question is similar to that enacted in section 20 of the Electricity Trust of S.A. Act relating to loans raised on debentures issued by the Electricity Trust.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—I support the second reading. Apparently the Government finds itself in a

political dilemma as we have passed the Succession Duties Act Amendment Bill and the Stamp Duties Act Amendment Bill to provide funds and now this Bill is brought before us because the Government is bereft of any political friends in the National Parliament to provide funds for it to carry out its housing projects. The Bill will give the trust power to become a borrowing authority and relieve the Government of the necessity for making up any deficits or providing funds required by the trust out of Loan moneys. Labor has always supported the Government in its housing proposals and will continue to support any scheme which has for its object the housing of people at lower rentals and providing homes for purchase at a fair price. The Government has realized that Labor's policy is right and has implemented certain planks of its platform.

The South Australian Housing Trust Act was passed in 1936 and amended in 1938. It was followed by the Housing Improvement Act, 1940-45. Under the last-mentioned Act the trust was empowered to construct houses both for rental and sale. The trust also administers on behalf of the Government the Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents) Act. It also administers and controls temporary housing under the Building Materials Act, 1949-51. During the last financial year the trust sold 1,123 houses and had 2,288 in course of construction. No fewer than 682 rental houses were completed and occupied and 1,312 were under construction. From a very small beginning it has reached huge proportions as a constructional instrumentality and has been given certain privileges in its building operations. I do not decry the trust's activities because it is doing a large amount of good work in attempting to catch up with our housing problem. Much of the trust's success has been gained through Government assistance and the Government basks in a reflected glory through its activities. The creation of the Housing Trust can be attributed largely to the support of Labor members.

Funds employed by the trust at June 30 last totalled £16,720,485, including £15,312,862 loan liabilities to the Government. Since its inception the trust has built up reserves totalling £413,113 and £994,510 is due to sundry creditors. The total funds employed at June 30, 1952, were higher by £5,423,000 than at the end of the previous year and reflected the expansion of the trust's housing programme at enhanced costs. These costs were brought

about by the high price of materials, increased charges and imported prefabricated houses which the trust bought in a large way and was unable to sell, although it tried to dispose of them, at landed cost in South Australia. Works in progress are valued at £3,648,000; land, plant and buildings owned by the trust at £2,796,000; and stores and materials at £639,000. Sundry advances and debtors stand at £167,000. I understand that the trust advances money to contractors in proportion to the work done in order that they may buy the materials they require in the best market. It is of interest to record that revenue from rented houses increased by £97,000 over the previous year, due to the increase in rents as from the end of May, 1951, and the increase of 682 in the number of houses let. The Housing Trust is not only the biggest landlord in South Australia, but the only tribunal with authority to fix the rents of all houses. The proceeds of sales total £3,000,000 derived from the sale of houses and land not required for housing purposes. During the year a further £4,750,000 was loaned by the State Treasury to the trust for the construction of houses.

Those figures indicate that the Housing Trust has become a very important organization and under this measure, by which it is constituted a borrowing authority, it will become a very formidable construction company; in other words, it will have a monopoly of the major portion of building materials and the construction of homes. As the Minister said, this Bill merely permits the trust to issue debentures and, as in the case of the Electricity Trust, security to investors is provided in the whole of the assets of the trust. That is the usual procedure and no objection can be taken to it. It is further provided, as an additional protection to investors, that the Treasurer shall, out of general revenue, make good any default of the trust in meeting any liability to any person, other than the Treasurer, under any debenture issued by the trust. Another provision appropriates from general revenue the money required for the purposes of the Act, so this is not only a Bill to create the Housing Trust a borrowing authority, but it is also an appropriation measure. I think there is ample protection in the Bill for those who subscribe to any loans which may be floated to enable the trust to continue its work, and it relieves the Government of making up any deficit out of Loan moneys which may arise from the fact that the present Federal Government has left

this Government out on a limb in regard to finance. Consequently, I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (Central No. 2) —As was to be expected, the trust has grown into an organization of large dimensions and I subscribe to the general view that it has done a particularly good job. I suppose the time is fast approaching—at least we hope so—when its activities will begin to diminish, but for the moment it is faced with, if not a critical situation, one which it deems necessary to prepare to meet. No doubt it will soon require a considerable sum to enable it to carry on and this Bill enables it to go on the loan market. It may not be necessary, for there may flow into its coffers sufficient money from repayments to keep it afloat. I do not know what they would amount to, but they must be fairly substantial judging by the large number of properties the trust has sold. These debentures will be gilt-edged security as they are guaranteed by the Government and I suppose that any loan which is floated will be fairly well received. The only thing which I do not like much is that all these recent semi-governmental borrowings are likely to weaken the Loan Council position and may eventually break it down altogether. I support the second reading.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY (Central No. 2)—Those of us who have been in this place for some time remember that the trust started from very humble beginnings, but it has now grown to a very heavily financed authority, and it occurs to me that possibly its constitution should be re-examined in the light of present day circumstances. It was intended at the outset to provide a number of small houses for rental purposes, but it is now selling houses and has taken over a large proportion of the house building trade in the metropolitan area and country districts. The Bill provides that the trust shall become a borrowing authority. The trust itself has no funds and Parliament has provided as much as £8,000,000 in one year. It think it a pity that there is necessity for this Bill. Presumably, from the Government's points of view, it is thought that the trust has a better chance of selling its debentures to the public than of obtaining its requirements from the Loan Council. If it is successful I do not suppose we should object, but it is another borrowing authority in opposition to those already in South Australia. No limitation of the amount

of borrowing is mentioned, nor is the rate of interest, both being left to the discretion of the Treasurer.

The Hon. R. J. Rudall—The interest rate will be settled by the Loan Council.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—I am not quite clear, and would like to be reassured on the point as to whether, if we give this blank cheque to the Housing Trust to borrow money, it passes from the control of Parliament. As the trust is the offspring of Parliament it seems to me that its authority and activities should remain under the control of Parliament and that its borrowing power should be submitted to Parliament in the ordinary way in the Loan Estimates. Neither does the Bill say what the money is to be used for. It may be to finance the importing of houses, or the completion of houses already started.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Don't you think we had better defer it until we do know something about it?

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—I presume the Minister will be able to clarify that point. The Housing Trust has done a very good job in providing homes, but an authority responsible for £16,000,000 to £18,000,000 assumes a very important place in the State's economy. The trust is carrying more interest charges than it should be expected to bear under ordinary conditions. In another measure we have considered increasing the rates of interest charged to borrowers for homes. It has always been a puzzle to me how rents on houses built between 1938 and 1940 have been fixed, whether the Housing Trust has averaged those rents or whether they have remained stationary. I know of one or two cases where averaging has taken place, but there seems to be a wide disparity in the rents of houses built for £800 in 1939 and those costing £2,000 today. Mr. Bardolph mentioned that the trust had a reserve of £400,000. Any authority that is committed as much as the trust is wise to have a large reserve. I have heard that the trust is unable to finance its building by the ordinary means of mortgage and that purchasers are not able to provide sufficient money for the deposit on the mortgage. The trust has been called upon to provide second mortgages for the purposes of sale. That may be a necessary business but it is a risky title. Because of the increased activities of the trust it would be advisable for Parliament to examine the general set-up for the purpose of approving or otherwise the increased responsibilities of the trust since its inception. I sup-

port the second reading and hope that the trust will continue to do the right thing in providing housing for the community.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—I do not support the Bill. I had much to say about the Housing Trust when the first Bill was introduced and I have not altered my opinions. I was attracted by the Minister's words that "a guarantee of this nature may be regarded as essential for loans raised by Government instrumentalities." The Electricity Trust and Housing Trust are sometimes Government and sometimes completely independent bodies, according to whatever the Treasurer wants them to be. The public of Australia has not subscribed to Government loans and the Loan Council has therefore not been able to give us as much Loan money as we want. In the meantime certain Governmental institutions throughout Australia, have borrowed at higher rates of interest than Commonwealth loans. The Housing Trust is a Government show and Parliament provides money for it and it is not an independent body in any way. The Government has not been able to borrow money and so it has the bright idea that Government instrumentalities will do so. In other words we are going to set up our departments and permit them to independently borrow at no stated rate of interest. I want to make it clear to my constituents and those I think I represent that I have a clear view of what this Bill is. I do not think it is right, but entirely wrong. It is a way of overcoming the Government's lack of ability to get Loan money. In explaining the Bill the Minister was short and snappy, but we have not been told what is to be done with the money and why it is required. I regard it as a subterfuge. This is a way of getting a little more money but we do not know for what purposes. I am not satisfied with the proposition and will vote against the Bill.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clause 1 passed.

Clause 2—"Power of trust to issue debentures."

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—The Minister could have supplied more information regarding this matter. Will he tell us for what purpose the money is being borrowed and whether by passing this Bill we are permitting the trust—subject to the Treasurer's approval—to obtain further money? In the Estimates a line indicates the amount the trust obtains by

loan. We do not know whether debentures issued under this clause will be discussed by Parliament. All we know about the amounts borrowed is contained in the trust's report. Actually the authority to raise money by the trust passes to the Treasurer. The policy has not been for the trust to obtain money from the public but to receive money through the Estimates.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)—The question raised by the honourable member is already settled in the Housing Trust Act and not in the Bill. It has power to borrow under the main Act but this Bill provides a particular way in which it can borrow on debenture and inscribed stock with the guarantee of the Government. This clause does not extend the trust's power at all.

Clause passed.

Title passed. Bill reported without amendment and Committee's report adopted.

Read a third time and passed.

STEAM BOILERS AND ENGINEDRIVERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The object of this Bill is to enable an alien to be granted a certificate of competency under the Steam Boilers and Enginedrivers Act. There are eight classes of certificates under the Act. Two are concerned with crane and hoist drivers and boiler attendants, the remainder entitle holders to drive various kinds of engines. The Steam Boilers and Enginedrivers Act at present requires an applicant to be a British subject before he can be granted a certificate of competency, which means that an alien with adequate qualifications is excluded from receiving a certificate until such time as he may receive naturalization. The attention of the Government has recently been drawn to the case of an alien working as an engineer in the power house of a country town. This man has adequate qualifications to obtain the certificate of competency required to take charge of the largest of the three engines in the power house, but being an alien is prohibited from doing so. He cannot become naturalized before the end of 1955.

The Government believes that there is no justification for continuing to withhold a certificate of competency from every applicant

under the Act who is not a British subject, and that to do so may cause inconvenience and would be an injustice to alien migrants. The Bill therefore provides that the Enginedrivers Board may, in its discretion, grant a certificate to an alien applicant who complies with the other provisions of the Act dealing with the granting of a certificate.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Why can't he do the job?

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—I have pointed out that an applicant must be a British subject before he can be granted a certificate. This is a simple measure and I think members will realize the justice of it. There is no question about the man's competency; he has not been here long enough to be naturalized as a British subject and cannot be granted a certificate of competency to do the work unless we pass the Bill.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—To be candid, I am not in love with the Bill and I think members' time would be better occupied in dealing with more important measures. My only recollection of a similar Bill was one that was passed in New South Wales to remove a man from a board. He eventually appealed to the King, but did not get far. The Bill deals with the case of a man, not a British subject, who has been in Australia for only a short period. Parliament is being asked to give him preference over an Australian. At the same time as we are asked to grant this man a certificate people from other States are denied the right to vote for the Legislative Council until they have been resident in South Australia for a certain time. Parliament has laid it down that before a man can drive an engine he must be a British subject, pass a certain examination and obtain a certificate. Clause 3 amends section 56 of the principal Act by adding at the end of subsection (1) the following proviso:—

Provided that if an applicant for a certificate under this Act is not a British subject but complies in other respects with the requirements prescribed by this Act for the grant of the certificate applied for, the board may, in its discretion, grant him such a certificate.

The Hon. E. Anthony—Are there any special circumstances connected with this case?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I do not know, but it is against all the principles we have laid down. There is nothing personal in this matter so far as I am concerned. Section 56 of the principal Act provides that before the

board grants to any applicant a certificate he shall satisfy the board, amongst other things, that he is a British subject, and that his knowledge of the English language is sufficient to enable him to perform the duties required. There is no need for this Bill.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY (Central No. 2)—The Bill seeks to widen the scope of the Steam Boilers and Enginedrivers Act. It has apparently been introduced for the benefit of one person. This State has a big policy of immigration under way and a large number of people from foreign countries settled here are doing a good job. I cannot conceive of any reason why we should desire to keep these people as labourers for the rest of their lives. Here is a man, and probably there are many others, who is qualified to occupy a position that is considerably higher than that of a labourer. There is no reason why there should be any examination; all that should be necessary is the approval of the board and the issue of a certificate provided that the applicant has the necessary knowledge.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—But one condition is that he is a British subject.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—Yes, but the Act was passed three years ago. We have invited into this country a large number of people from overseas and having done so we should give them reasonable opportunities to obtain positions other than labourers. I regret that this man is not a British subject, but I believe he fully intends to become one when the necessary period has elapsed. Surely, we should not debar him from performing a necessary work in this State. I support the Bill.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—I support Mr. Condon's remarks. I have no personal feeling in regard to this man, but I take the same stand as I took on a previous Bill as regards standards of efficiency. The Act was passed to provide not only a standard of efficiency, but a standard of safety. Mr. Perry contends, in effect, that human life is not in question, but it is possible for a great number of persons to be injured by a boiler blowing up. Other than the fact that the person in question is not a British subject he apparently has all the necessary qualifications. The Act, however, requires that he must be a British subject before he can be granted a certificate. I do not know why we should break down the principles we have established to suit one particular case. I do not know whether the Government or the Minister has sought the advice of or brought the matter under the notice of the union concerned. It will lower the barriers of

efficiency. If any one of us migrated to another country we would find similar national barriers, and whatever calling we were following we would have to take our place in the ranks after having qualified. We should not be asked to pass a measure in the interests of only one individual.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (Central No. 2)—I thought the honourable member's Party was just as strong an advocate for immigration as any other? If we invite these people here we must hold out the hand of friendship.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Why don't you do it in every case, as for foreign doctors and solicitors?

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—I understand the man in question has a job in a country power house, which cannot obtain the services of another competent engineer. If this man's services are dispensed with because of a technicality a country town will probably be deprived of electric light. We should do our best to absorb migrants in employment in the capacity for which they were trained and take full advantage of their skill and ability. I support the Bill.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD (Central No. 2)—Apparently Mr. Bardolph is overlooking the fact that the man in question conforms in every requirement to the conditions of the job except one—that he has not yet become a British subject. I presume he will apply for naturalization. As he is otherwise qualified, it has been considered advisable that his services shall be made available. I imagine from what I have seen of many foreign countries that it would be much harder for any of us to get a foothold there than it is for foreigners to get one here. It suits us, as it suits the migrants, to have them here to help us develop the country. Consequently, it is proper that the Bill should be passed. No good reason has been put forward against it and I therefore support the second reading.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN (Central No. 1)—There are one or two points about which I am not clear or happy. In explaining the Bill the Minister gave me to understand that its object was to deal solely with one man and the position of one man, the idea being to allow him to be granted a certificate as he had all the qualifications except that of naturalization as a British subject. Surely there is one Australian available with the necessary qualifications to fill this position? I will not believe that we have not a qualified enginedriver or fireman who would not accept it.

Undoubtedly, others may be concerned. It is not for Parliament to make it easy for a certain section, or to give a certain section preferential treatment over our own Australian lads who have served an apprenticeship. There must have been a reason for the phraseology in the original Bill providing that the applicant must be a British subject.

The Hon. E. Anthony—We had no mass immigration in those days.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I have a vivid recollection of Australia embarking upon an immigration policy following World War II, and yet the preamble refers to the Steam Boilers and Enginedrivers' Act, 1935. It was then provided that those granted certificates must be British subjects. The time of Parliament should not be wasted in considering such a measure dealing with only one man.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—'Grant and issue of certificate.'

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I have a vivid recollection of several measures being introduced in this Chamber to grant certificates to certain professions, but each was strongly rejected. One related to physiotherapists who came from another State. We said that they could not practise here unless they had certain qualifications, one of which was a residential qualification. If we are prepared to accede to the request in this case, to be consistent we should deal similarly with measures concerning others. When the Act was passed a person did not have to pass an examination if he had been operating for a period of three years prior to its passing. This is not a question of an engineer, a doctor or a dentist, and I think it is making Parliament pretty cheap to introduce a Bill for one individual for a reason which has not been explained.

Clause passed.

Title passed. Bill reported without amendment and Committee's report adopted. Read a third time and passed.

BUILDING OPERATIONS BILL.

(Continued from November 13. Page 1321.)

Returned from the House of Assembly with the following amendments recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:—

Clause 20. Add the following subclause:—

(3) Where, under this section or section 10a of the Building Materials Act, 1945-1949, or section 24 of the Building Materials Act, 1949-1951, a licensing court has extended the time fixed pursuant to

section 39 of the Licensing Act, 1932-1949, for the erection or completion of premises for which the licensing court has decided to grant a licence under the Licensing Act, 1932-1949, when erected or completed, the right to the grant of that licence shall not be taken away by any resolution which is carried under Part VIII. of the Licensing Act, 1932-1949, before the expiration of the time extended as aforesaid.

Clause 25.

In the fifth and six lines—After "2" insert " , 20."

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)—The effect of the amendments is as follows:—Clause 20 (which is similar to section 24 of the existing Act) provides for the case where a person has obtained an order from a court under another Act giving rights to a licence with respect to premises to be built but a permit under the Building Operations Act for those premises is applied for but refused. The court in these circumstances is given power to extend the time during which the premises are to be built. This provision particularly applies to licences under the Licensing Act where the rule in the case of new licences, as laid down by that Act, is for an applicant for a licence to submit plans of his proposed building. The court in a proper case intimates that it will grant a licence upon the completion of the building within a time specified by the court.

It has occurred that, as a result of a local option poll in one area an increase of licences in the area was approved at the poll and the court has approved the grant of a licence in respect of premises to be built. However, a permit has not been granted for the erection of the new premises. If, however, another local option poll were held and the decision at the poll were for no increase or for a decrease in licences, the previous approval of the court would be nullified. This would result from the fact that a new licence has not yet been granted but that, in effect, the court has promised to grant a licence when the premises in question are built. As the reason for the non-erection of the premises and the consequent grant of the licence has been the statutory restrictions on building, it is considered that the rights of such an applicant should be preserved. Accordingly, the suggested amendment to clause 20 preserves these rights if the decision at a local option poll is as previously mentioned.

Clause 25 of the Building Operations Bill provides that the legislation is to come to an

end on December 31, 1953, except section 22 (which deals with the powers of the Treasurer to provide temporary housing accommodation). The suggested amendment to clause 25 provides that clause 20, also, is to continue in force until Parliament otherwise determines. If the suggested amendment is made to clause 20 it necessarily follows that, to give it full effect, clause 20 should continue in operation beyond December 31, 1953, the day upon which the legislation ceases to have effect.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—My first comment is that this is quite a wrong thing to come before us in a Governor's message. Had it been introduced at some stage during the passage of the Bill it could have been debated. I have always understood that a Governor's message should be merely to correct mistakes on non-controversial matters and therefore I enter my protest on the way that this has come before us. The second point is that we have discussed this question of amending one Act by inserting a provision in a Bill amending another Act. For example, we recently put a clause in the Coroner's Act Amendment Bill which amended the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. Both Mr. Rowe and I pointed out the difficulties that would arise.

In this case, notwithstanding the provisions of the Licensing Act, the amendment puts something into the Building Operations Act to override the provisions of the Licensing Act. The Building Operations Act is being used to restrict people from going on with their ordinary business and it shows how ridiculous is our building operations legislation. The same applies to our licensing legislation. We have heard it from international visitors before and this is a complete exposé of the stupidity of our legislation. I protest against these amendments coming to the Council as a Governor's message. The principle is wrong. A Governor's message should not relate to matters which are controversial and which affect not only the Building Materials Act but the Licensing Act.

The PRESIDENT—I think it is my duty to point out that I entirely agree with Mr. Cudmore's contention on the procedure being adopted. It is not one that should be encouraged. It would have been better, in my opinion, to have introduced a separate Bill and let it stand or fall on its merits.

Amendments agreed to.

MAINTENANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

Sitting suspended from 5.45 to 8.00 p.m.

HOMES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 19. Page 1450.)

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—The Homes Purchase Guarantee Fund was established under the provisions of the Homes Act, 1941-1951, which empowered the Treasurer to give guarantees to enable the building and purchase of dwellinghouses and conferred certain powers on institutions as regards building, selling and enlarging them and for other purposes. No guarantee will be executed if the loan or amount of purchase money, exclusive of any sum paid as a deposit, exceeds £1,750 or if the interest charge exceeds $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In cases where the interest is not paid within 14 days after becoming due an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent is added. Provision is made in the Act for the amount of guarantee to be reduced by one-half of the principal repaid. The total contributions to the fund at June 30, 1952, amounted to £26,865, no payments having been made under the guarantee. At the end of the financial year three institutions had advanced moneys under the Act, the amount at that date being £3,296,000. The Government's liability under the guarantee was £505,000. Clause 2 amends section 7 of the principal Act and alters the guarantee rate of interest in one case from $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 5 per cent and in the other from 5 per cent to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. I cannot offer any reasonable objection to the Bill and support the second reading.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Midland)—As usual, Mr. Condon has dealt with the relative facts of this matter very clearly and it is obvious to anybody that the purpose of the Act is to increase the rate of interest which may be charged under guarantee to 5 per cent, with a penalty rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent if the instalment is not paid within 14 days. In view of the fact that the tendency at the moment is for interest rates to increase the Bill is not unreasonable and I support it. I feel that many people have paid too much for their homes and are not in a very strong financial position and I do not look, in many instances, to their future position with any degree of confidence. No moneys have been paid under the guarantee and I sincerely hope that that will continue. I support the Bill.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (Central No. 2)—The original intention was that the Housing Trust should build homes for letting and sale. At that time the interest rate on mortgages was 5 per cent, rising to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent if people

did not pay within the time laid down. The Bill restores the original provision. It is symptomatic that the rates have increased with interest rates generally which will make it more difficult for persons who are purchasing homes today. Everybody appreciates that the Act has been of great service to the people purchasing homes. I support the Bill.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY (Central No. 2)—The question of loans made by the Government to various organizations has always been somewhat of an enigma to me. Owing to the speed with which Bills have been brought before this Chamber I have not been able to go into them fully. I would like to know from the Minister whether the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 5 per cent applies to future mortgages or whether the old interest rates remain. Mortgages are usually fixed for three years or so, at a fixed rate of interest, but I have often wondered whether the Housing Trust and other institutions financed by the Government made loans at a fixed interest rate, or whether provision was made for rates to be increased in the future. It seems to me that a certain class of people, who obtained recent loans from the Government, did not know whether there was a fixed rate of interest at the time they were made or whether the rate was subject to alteration. Can the Minister inform me on that point?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—As regards fixed interest rates on mortgages, I know that some lodges which lend money for home building purposes, whether the mortgages are for five or 25 years, have a saving clause in the agreements whereby the rate can be altered. If a person borrowed money today at, say, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and money values increased to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or 6 per cent, those lending authorities would be at a disadvantage as compared with other lending authorities if they could not increase the rate. Ever since the war there has been a saving clause.

The Hon. E. Anthony—It is a sort of blank cheque.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—No, it can only be the ruling rate. The borrower, as well as the lender, is protected to that extent.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)—I think Mr. Perry wanted to know whether the effect of this Bill would be to increase the interest rates on old loans. I am informed

that this will not be so, but that the new interest rates will apply only to new loans.

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

POLICE REGULATION BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly with the following amendments:—

Amendment No. 1—

Clause 8—Add the following subclause:—

(3) The salary and allowance of the Commissioner shall be paid out of the general revenue of the State under authority of this Act and without other appropriation.

(4) The rate of salary fixed by this section shall include the increase provided for in the Public Officers Salaries Act, 1952.

Amendment No. 2—

Clause 38. After "Governor" insert "to be the chairman."

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—The amendment to clause 8 provides for an appropriation for the revenue required to pay the salary of the Commissioner of Police. There is at present a standing appropriation for this salary and as this is a consolidating and amending Bill it is necessary to include the appropriation in this Bill. The appropriation clause was purposely left out of the Bill when it was introduced in the Council to ensure that there would be no breach of the constitutional provision relating to money Bills. The amendment also provides that the rate of salary provided in the Bill includes the latest increase.

Amendment No. 2 relates to the chairman of the board. There was some discussion here as to who the chairman should be, and I think everyone expected that, whether he was a special magistrate or a judge he would be chairman of the Appeals Board. The amendment does not alter the interpretation of the Bill.

Amendments agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 8.30 to 10.25 p.m.

CORONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the Legislative Council's suggested amendments.

PROHIBITED AREAS (STATE LAWS) BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

PUBLIC SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT
BILL.

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)
—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. This Bill deals with the leave rights of certain employees of the School of Mines who are to be transferred to positions in the Mines Department. These employees have been mostly engaged in assaying and arrangements have been made for the work to be done by them in future in the Mines Department. During their employment in the School of Mines they have accumulated certain rights to long service and other leave and it is desired that these rights shall be preserved to them when they transfer to Government employment. Under the present law the School of Mines is not identified with the Government and when the employees transfer they will, unless provision to the contrary is made, lose the benefit of their accumulated rights. The Bill will enable their service in the School of Mines to be taken into account in computing the leave to which they may be entitled under the Public Service Act.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (Central No. 2)
—This is the first time I have seen the Bill and I have not had much opportunity of perusing it. During the past few months, particularly since the development of uranium, the Assay Department of the School of Mines has been taken over by the Mines Department. The Bill will preserve the rights of officers transferred from the School of Mines to the Mines Department especially as regards long service leave and other privileges.

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

STATUTE LAW REVISION BILL.

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

Second reading.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)
—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. This Bill proposes to amend a number of Acts and to repeal some others. Though the amendments are of a technical or legal nature, they are of some importance in connection with the administration of the Acts affected. Most of them deal with the period of operation of war-time provisions, and questions are now frequently arising as to whether, as a matter of

law, the war has or has not ended. During the war a number of Acts were passed containing provisions which were to operate "during the war" or "until the end of the war" or "until the Commonwealth made a proclamation fixing the date of the end of the war." When these provisions were enacted it was assumed that the war of 1939-1945 would come to an end in much the same way as the 1914-1918 war. In that war, peace treaties were concluded between the belligerent nations within a relatively short time after hostilities ceased and the Commonwealth Government subsequently issued a proclamation declaring that Australia was no longer at war. But in the war of 1939-1945 the position was entirely different. Peace treaties between all the belligerent nations have not yet been concluded and the Commonwealth has not issued and does not intend to issue a proclamation declaring that the last war has ended. It follows that we cannot rely on any Commonwealth proclamation to indicate the date of the end of the war for the purpose of State legislation. It is necessary, therefore, that the State should take the matter into its own hands. For this purpose the Bill amends several Acts in which reference is made to the end of the war by providing that in each case the State Governor may issue a proclamation fixing the date which shall be regarded as the end of the war for the purposes of the particular Act.

The proposed amendments to the Wrongs Act do not alter the policy of the Act, but are for the purpose of making a definition clause more adequately cover the ground which it is intended to cover and for removing a provision which overlaps with other provisions and is unnecessary. The Acts proposed to be repealed, which are set out in the first schedule, are five war-time measures which have all either expired by lapse of time or become obsolete by change of circumstances. In view of the difficulties which are arising in connection with the determination of the end of the war it is desirable that the Bill should be passed this session. I think members will realize the difficulties that are caused at present and will appreciate that the Bill is highly necessary.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)
—I support the second reading. We got into difficulties during the war and made certain Acts apply only for the duration of the war. This is a short and simple Bill to clear up the situation and as far as I am concerned it is necessary and most desirable. It would have been preferable had we had the Bill a week

ago in order to peruse it rather than getting it tonight. I was a member of the Consolidation of Laws Committee during the early days of the war when the whole of the State laws were consolidated. In supporting the Bill I pay a tribute to our Parliamentary Draftsman (Mr. Bean) who undertook the arduous task of consolidating all our Acts up to 1936.

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

SUCCESSION DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the Legislative Council's suggested amendments.

[*Sitting suspended from 10.50 p.m. to 12.20 a.m.*]

MARGARINE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly with the following new clause 3:—

3. The following section is enacted and inserted in the principal Act after section 24 thereof—

24. (1) No person shall sell any table margarine unless the table margarine is of saffron colour.

(2) In this section "saffron colour" means that colour as defined by the British Colour Council Dictionary of Colour Standards and therein designated as B.C.C. 54.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—I move—

That the amendment be disagreed to.

As I accepted all the Government amendments, I ask the Committee to adhere to the Bill as it left this Chamber.

Amendment disagreed to.

The following reason for disagreement was adopted—

Because the amendment will defeat the purpose of the Bill.

[*Sitting suspended from 12.37 to 1.30 a.m.*]

Later the House of Assembly intimated that it did not insist on its disagreement to the Council's amendment.

PROROGATION SPEECHES.

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL (Attorney-General)—I move—

That the Council at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday, January 13, 1953, at 2 p.m.

As this is the final meeting, not only of this session, but of this Parliament, I desire on behalf of members, to express to you, Mr. President, our thanks for the manner in which you have presided over our debates. You have

only repeated this session what we have been accustomed to since you took the Chair—your impartiality which appeals to every member; not only that, but the method of conducting the debate which adds to our enjoyment and at the same time preserves the dignity of the Chamber. I also thank the Clerk and Clerk Assistant for their work during the session. Both were appointed at the beginning of this session and we all realize that we are fortunate to have in these appointments two men who are carrying on their work so efficiently and providing members with all the information they require.

I feel that we should offer our thanks to the Parliamentary Draftsman, Mr. Bean. Mr. Cudmore, during the course of a speech last night, paid a tribute to the work of the Parliamentary Draftsman and I think everyone endorses those remarks. He is recognized not only in this State, but in all States, as being the most efficient Parliamentary Draftsman in Australia. To the assistant Parliamentary Draftsman we also owe our thanks. I expect that members have, from time to time, seen in this Chamber another assistant to the Parliamentary Draftsman in the person of Mr. Morgan, a son of a most distinguished father, and I feel certain that some day he will prove worthy of the tuition he is receiving from the hands of Mr. Bean and Mr. Cartledge.

As regards the *Hansard* staff, we always owe them a debt of gratitude because when we read our speeches we realize that they not only have the gift of reporting what we say, but also have the very remarkable gift of being able to put into words what we attempt to say but do not say quite clearly. They are extremely efficient. I seldom trouble to read the speeches I make because I have got tired of trying to find mistakes in the reports. We all owe a debt of gratitude to our library staff. We have in our librarian not only a trained librarian but a most courteous officer who gives to us with most extraordinary skill the information we require on various matters from time to time.

To our messengers we say "Thank you" for the work done because we depend on them to make our lives here much more comfortable and they serve us well. I join with them the domestic staff. I would like to place on record the services rendered to every member of this House by Miss Spurling, who is now retiring from her long occupancy of the position of manageress of the catering staff. I think that when the new Parliament meets many of us

will miss her in the dining room. Everyone hopes that the Chief Secretary will soon be restored to full health and be able to take his full part in debates in this Chamber. I am sure that every member appreciates not only his Ministerial ability but his work as the Leader of the House. Every member is proud of the conduct of this Chamber and must realize that the dignity of our Parliamentary assembly rests largely in the hands of Her Majesty's Opposition. I am sure every member is grateful for the way in which the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues conduct themselves without in any way losing the force of their arguments. We know that the Leader of the Opposition has not been well during the session, and rejoice to see him so fully recovered in health and all trust that that will continue. Notwithstanding that the Chairman of my own Party in this Chamber, the Hon. C. R. Cudmore, has on occasions opposed Government measures, I appreciate the work he does. Beyond doubt he is the hardest worker in the Council, and he has the enviable gift of being able to express himself concisely and with such force that all his arguments are clear to honourable members.

We are facing an election in the New Year and I see no reason to think that every member will not find himself in his seat in the next Parliament. I am sure that from the point of view of friendliness that is what everyone desires. Whatever our differences of opinion there exists between members a high degree of friendship. It only remains for me to say that I trust that the New Year will be one of peace and prosperity, and on behalf of my colleague I wish every honourable member the compliments of the season.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—I support all that my honourable friend has said regarding you, Mr. President, and other officers of Parliament. My respect for you, Mr. President, increases as time goes on. I loved your company and respected your advice from the first day I entered the Chamber, and have never had one moment of regret in having met such a gentleman of very high standard who is an acquisition to this Council and the State. We are very fortunate in having two such Ministers in this Chamber. Their loyalty is beyond reproach. Every member should be honoured to sit in this Chamber and be associated with them.

I fully endorse all that the Attorney-General said about the Chief Secretary. I would be

failing in my duty if I did not pay a compliment to my colleagues. No matter where one travels one would never find three more loyal comrades, and I want it placed on record that I deeply appreciate the assistance I have received from them, particularly from my friend, Mr. Bardolph, who is my Deputy Leader, and acted on my behalf during my enforced absence.

I feel somewhat proud to be a member of this institution because I respect and honour every member of it. Only recently I had reason to acknowledge their respect for me. I also honour and appreciate my friend, Mr. Cudmore, for his sympathy, assistance, generosity and kindness to me. He is a kind-hearted man and only too happy to do all he possibly can to help. I say to all members—whether they have supported me or not makes no difference—that I would do everything possible in my power to help anyone on his journey through life.

Time marches on. One very happy feature of this session is that the chain has not been broken—there is not a missing link. We are all gathered here this morning after a session in which we have endeavoured, no matter what our political opinions, to do what we thought right in the interests of the State and the Commonwealth. I wish all honourable members the best of health. Although some of us have got over the election hurdle others may have to face the music later, but I doubt whether there is any fear of losing any of our colleagues who have done so much to assist the work of this Council. I wish members a happy Christmas and above all the best of health for the rest of their lives.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—First, Mr. President, I should like to say how much I appreciate the work you have done. You have conducted our affairs in an exemplary manner and have kept up the standard of this Council—a standard which is not exceeded by any other State. It is something of which this House, when compared with other Houses in Australia can be proud. You, Sir, are responsible for it. Secondly I wish to express our regret at the death during the recess of the late Clerk of this House, Mr. Redman. He was beloved by all. I thank all the staff for the assistance they have given—the clerks, the messengers and all officers of Parliament. I congratulate them, and wish them and all my honourable friends a merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous and successful New Year.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) —First I would like to thank, on behalf of the staff who cannot reply for themselves, the Attorney-General, the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Cudmore for their kindly and congratulatory remarks with which I entirely agree. Coming into close touch with our clerk and assistant clerk, and over a number of years with other clerks who have set a particularly high standard, I am in a position to say that it was a big proposition for two newcomers to pick up the threads of office, and I can say without hesitation that they have done a most excellent job.

Members have referred in generous terms to my efforts to maintain order and decorum in this Council, but that is entirely in the hands of members themselves. No President can keep up the prestige of the Council without the assistance of members, and to this degree I have been exceedingly fortunate. When I was paid the honour of being elected President I admit that the reputation established by my predecessors was so high that I thought it would be difficult to emulate them, but with the assistance, goodwill and kindly spirit of all members it has been remarkably easy, and I sincerely hope that whoever may occupy this seat will continue to receive such cordial co-operation.

From this point of vantage one can see the little peculiarities of members; some want to make political speeches on Bills on which they know they have no right to do it, and sometimes they get away with it early in the session, but not towards the end. However, I am glad to see all honourable members present. The session has come to a close, and I think I can say that it has been one of the happiest we have had. Much legislation has been brought down, though some of it may have been of very little interest to the public. Some honourable members will have to face their constituents shortly, but irrespective of Parties and everything else I wish success to all at the elections and I hope to see every honourable member back in this Chamber again next year. To one and all I say, "Thank you for your assistance, good luck for the future, a merry Christmas and a happy new year."

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 1.58 a.m. on Friday, November 21, the Council adjourned until Tuesday, January 13, 1953, at 2 p.m.

Honourable members rose in their places and sang the first verse of "God Save the Queen."