

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

Wednesday, September 21, 1955.

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

**QUESTIONS.****NEW CITY OVAL.**

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—The following paragraph appeared in this morning's *Advertiser*:—

The development of a second city oval, which may eventually surpass the Adelaide Oval, will be discussed at the next meeting of the Adelaide City Council.

Can the Attorney-General say what powers the council has as custodian of the parklands, and whether it has any authority to carry out such a project without the sanction of Parliament; and will he consider the appointment of a Parliamentary Select Committee to deal with the matter before the project is commenced and report back to Parliament?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—It is not possible for me to give a detailed answer at present, but I will look into the matter and advise the honourable member in due course.

**FROST DAMAGE.**

The Hon. C. R. STORY—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Irrigation a reply to my question of yesterday regarding frost damage in River Murray fruitgrowing areas?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—I have had a look into the matter raised yesterday by the honourable member and also conferred with the Minister of Irrigation. He advises me that immediately he was notified early yesterday morning of possible damage he sent an officer from the Department of Agriculture and also one from his own department to the area to investigate the position to see what had actually transpired. He has also asked all his officers in the Murray fruitgrowing areas to make reports on the possible damage, and as soon as those reports are to hand I will make them available to the honourable member.

**JUVENILE SEX OFFENCES.**

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government has had time to consider the report submitted to it by Mr. Scales, S.M., concerning increased juvenile sex offences, and if so what action, if any, is it proposed to take?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—The report was submitted and laid before Parliament but no consideration has yet been given to it by the Government.

**LOTTERY AND GAMING ACT AMENDMENT BILL (RACING DAYS).**

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary), having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Lottery and Gaming Act, 1936-1954. Read a first time.

**MARRIAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary) obtained leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Marriage Act, 1936-1950.

**PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.**

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

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—I move—

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

The Bill provides for expenditures on capital works amounting to £28,300,000 in 1955-56. In addition, the Commonwealth Government will make available £3,600,000 to the State for expenditure on housing pursuant to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, making a total estimated expenditure of £31,900,000. This compares with an actual expenditure during 1954-55, including housing, of approximately £30,600,000.

At the Loan Council meeting last June a borrowing programme of £190,000,000 was approved for this financial year. The council, in approving a programme of this magnitude, decided that this would be sufficient to finance the carrying on of State works programmes at approximately the same level as had ruled during 1954-55, when the available loan funds amounted to £180,000,000. Last year, proceeds of public loans raised in Australia amounted to £123,000,000, and the balance of funds necessary to finance the total programmes of the States was obtained from Australian currency proceeds of loans arranged overseas, supplemented by finance provided by the Commonwealth from its own sources. In order, then, that funds may be available to finance the whole of the programme of £190,000,000, it would appear that borrowings on the local loan market will have to at least match up to the results of last year, and that, even after the whole of the Australian currency proceeds of international bank loans, which are estimated

this year to yield about £20,000,000, are made available to finance State works programmes, the Commonwealth will be called upon to supplement the funds as it did last year. At this juncture, however, the Commonwealth has not committed itself as to the extent to which it is prepared to guarantee the borrowing programme. It has undertaken to make monthly advances to the States for the first six months at the annual rate of £190,000,000, and then, having regard to the amount of moneys raised during the first half of the financial year, to review the situation and determine the amount of its contribution.

This Bill, however, has been prepared on the assumption that the full amount of £190,000,000 will be available. If subscriptions to public loans do not come up to expectations, or if the Commonwealth finds that it cannot supplement the programme to the extent necessary to carry out the full programme, then it may be necessary to restrict expenditures later in the financial year. This, of course, would be highly retrograde. The carrying out of a works programme of the magnitude envisaged in this Bill is not something which can be stopped and started at will. Major capital works require to be planned in advance, stores and supplies laid in, and labour obtained. A certain tempo is achieved only after a large amount of preparation, and it would be a tragedy if, through lack of finance, it became necessary to bring some of these works, which are all very urgent and very necessary, to a standstill. This State's share of the £190,000,000 programme is estimated at £22,550,000, and in addition the State will receive £3,600,000 for housing. The total amount proposed to be expended from the Loan Fund on capital works in this State, as set out in this Bill, is £28,300,000, and this will be financed as follows:—

	£
From loans raised in Australia ..	22,550,000
From repayments to the Loan Fund .. . . . . .	4,250,000
From moneys in the hands of the Treasurer .. . . . . .	1,500,000
	£28,300,000

For the information of members I will now give some comment on the main works and purposes for which provision is made in this Bill, together with a brief resume of the progress made during last financial year on the main projects.

**ADVANCES FOR HOMES, £1,450,000**—Of this amount £500,000 will be required to finance progress advances in respect of loans already

approved, and £950,000 is set aside for advances under mortgage in connection with over 650 new homes. Last year the State Bank disbursed £1,441,000 under the Advances for Homes scheme, when advances were made in connection with the completion of 435 new houses, and progress advances made in connection with 782 homes under construction. In addition nearly 350 applicants received advances to enable them to purchase existing houses or to discharge mortgages.

**LOANS TO PRODUCERS, £200,000**—This amount is provided for the purpose of making advances to approved applicants for the construction of and additions to cool stores, extensions to fruit packing sheds, milk product factories, wineries and distilleries, and for assistance to fishermen.

**ADVANCES TO SETTLERS, £50,000**—Last year £40,000 was disbursed pursuant to this Act in making 41 advances, and the £50,000 now provided in this Bill will enable similar advances to be provided during this financial year.

**ADVANCES TO STATE BANK, £200,000**—This amount is required to enable the State Bank to make loans to primary producers and to industry generally on overdraft or on long term credit foncier basis.

**ROADS AND BRIDGES, £200,000**—This amount is provided to supplement the funds normally available for road construction and maintenance, and which are obtained from the proceeds of motor and petrol taxation. This supplementary provision is required because normal funds have been barely adequate to carry out the programme necessary to keep our roads in reasonable condition. The amount now provided will enable the Highways and Local Government Department to purchase road-making machinery and plant, and will also provide for advances to be made to local government authorities for similar purposes.

**CROWN LANDS DEVELOPMENT, £75,000**—This amount is required to meet expenses in connection with the acquisition and development of land pursuant to the Crown Lands Development Act, and will be required principally in connection with development in the Hundred of Jeffries.

**IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION OF SWAMP LANDS, £259,500**—Last year the expenditure on irrigation works amounted to £233,000, principally in connection with electrification of pumping plants in reclaimed areas, concreting unlined channels in the Chaffey Irrigation Area, construction of an irrigation pipeline from

Loveday to Nookamka, and comprehensive drainage works for the Cobdogla Irrigation Area. The amount provided will enable further progress to be made in the electrification of pumping plants in the reclaimed areas which is 30 per cent finished at present, and a similar electrification at Berri. Channels, pipelines, and drainage works at Loveday, Nookamka, Cobdogla and Glossop, will cost £81,500; and improvements will be made to town water supplies, and embankment sluices on reclaimed areas.

**SOUTH-EASTERN DRAINAGE, £540,000**—The principal work being carried out under this heading concerns the drainage of about 260,000 acres north of Millicent, the estimated total cost of which is £3,187,000. Up to June 30, 1955, over 4½ million cubic yards of excavation had been carried out at a cost of £1,680,000, and it is expected that work on the main channels will be completed by 1957. Of the amount now provided, £491,000 is required for the continuation of these drainage works and for the acquisition of land in the Western Division of the South-East. Work will also be carried out on the construction of bridges over existing drains and on the construction of petition drains.

**AFFORESTATION AND TIMBER MILLING, £1,750,000**—Last year expenditure on afforestation amounted to £1,397,000. The establishment of forests was continued and to this end 5,236 acres of land were purchased at a cost of £36,669. The establishment of 3,800 acres as the 1955 plantation is almost completed and the preparation of 4,000 acres is planned for the 1956 plantation. This will result in approximately 125,000 acres being under plantation by the end of 1956. It is estimated that 118,000,000 super feet of log timber will be produced from the forests in 1955-56 as compared with 101,000,000 super feet during the last financial year. A production increase is expected from State sawmills. An output of 20,000,000 lineal feet of flooring for housing, and 3,500,000 million cases for the fruit industry is estimated during 1955-56. This compares with approximately 17,000,000 lineal feet of flooring and 3,250,000 cases produced during 1954-55.

Work on the construction of the new sawmill adjacent to Mount Gambier has continued during the year, and of the total estimated cost of £1,000,000 for this project £313,000 was spent to June 30, 1955. The sum of £335,000 is provided for this year and the Engineering and Water Supply Department will shortly commence the construction of

drainage and water supply works. Improvements have been made to other sawmills. At Mount Burr the power station has been completed and will shortly be brought into commission; the cost of this plant is in the vicinity of £130,000, and when in full operation it will adequately provide the present and prospective power requirements of this mill. At Nangwarry recent extensions to the dry box mill and salvage units at a cost of approximately £14,500 will enable the output of dried fruit cases to be stepped up. The amount provided covers working expenses of the department in addition to funds for capital works. All recoveries through sale of forest products are credited to the Loan Fund, and it is estimated that the working expenses for 1955-56, amounting to £1,066,000, will be more than covered by recoveries estimated at £1,270,000.

**RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION, £2,300,000**.—Expenditure last year amounted to £1,867,000. Work was completed on the siding at Nairne for the loading of pyrites for transport to the new sulphuric acid plant at Birkenhead, where operations at this new plant commenced a few weeks ago. During the year additions to rolling stock included the completion of 100 "O" class freight cars, 100 cattle vans, and 40 hopper waggons. Of this year's provision civil engineering works are expected to absorb £540,000. Work will be continued on the duplication of the Goodwood to Marino line and on betterment work in connection with the South-East gauge widening.

The amount of £1,760,000 will be needed to pay for additions to rollingstock. Work will continue on 10 750 h.p. diesel electric shunt locomotives, the first of which is scheduled for delivery in February, 1956, and on six 1,750 h.p. diesel electric locomotives, the first of which will be delivered in December of this year. The remaining five are scheduled for delivery at the rate of one a month thereafter. The sum of £649,000 has already been spent on 14 diesel hydraulic rail cars for broad gauge operation, the total cost of which is estimated to be £1,350,000: two of these cars are at present running trials, a further three cars will be in traffic this month, and the balance will be proceeded with progressively as components become available. Associated with these rail cars are 11 trailers and progress on these will keep pace with the rail car units with which they will operate.

**HARBOURS ACCOMMODATION, £900,000**—Expenditure last year amounted to £824,000. A large cargo shed equipped with offices, conveniences

and amenities for the use of port workers and the general public was provided at No. 8 berth following the completion at Port Adelaide of the new concrete wharf at Nos. 8 and 9 berths. The old timber wharf at No. 6 berth was demolished and replaced with one of steel and concrete. At Osborne foundations were installed for two new cranes which are due to be completed towards the end of this financial year. The new wharf forming an extension of the existing coal handling plant wharf was completed and road work on the wharf apron was almost completed.

At Kingscote progress was made on the widening and strengthening of the existing jetty to permit simultaneous handling of cargo from two ships and the movement of cargo by tow-motors and rubber-tyred trailers. The work of widening the jetty was more than half complete at June 30, 1955, and is expected to be finished by Christmas. A considerable amount of excavation was effected at the shore end of the jetty to provide grain stacking sites and a large level working area to relieve cargo and traffic congestion. New sheds for superphosphate and general cargo were provided. Provision is made in this Bill for further work on the improvements at this port. Provision is also made for the continuation of the reconstruction programme at Port Adelaide, including the rehabilitation of the dockyard, reconstruction of the coal handling plant at Osborne, and continuation of the work on various berths of the inner harbour. An amount of £160,000 has been set aside for the provision of facilities for the bulk handling of grain. It is expected that £130,000 will be spent at Wallaroo and £30,000 at Port Lincoln on the provision of wharf equipment and modifications for that purpose.

**WATERWORKS AND SEWERS, £5,600,000—**  
Expenditure last year amounted to £7,365,000. During the year work on the pipeline from Mannum was sufficiently advanced to enable water to be pumped from the River Murray at Mannum into our metropolitan reservoirs to meet the emergency situation which arose last summer. In addition the extremely acute water position in the Warren water district last summer was alleviated by the water pumped through a link on the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline which was completed during the year. A pipeline was also laid from Birdwood to the head of the Onkaparinga River at Mount Torrens at a cost of £220,000. Water from this pipeline enabled the depleted supply in Mount Bold reservoir to be aug-

mented during the dry summer last year. However, the complete scheme, which is estimated to cost nearly £10,000,000, is still only 70 per cent complete, and to date has cost approximately £8,000,000. The sum of £1,300,000 is included in the amount provided in this Bill to enable work to be proceeded with on this scheme during the present financial year. It is estimated that the work will be completed by 1957.

A temporary water supply from a bore at Woodside was provided for the Nairne Pyrites work during last year at a cost of £93,000. This system will eventually be linked up with the larger Onkaparinga Valley Scheme to supply hills townships. The Onkaparinga Valley scheme will ultimately derive its supply from the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline, and £20,000 will be required this year for the commencement of the work. Work was also in progress at the South Para reservoir, where an earthen dam across the South Para River near Williamstown will create a reservoir of 10,000 million gallons capacity. This scheme, estimated to cost £3,800,000, will supply water not only to the metropolitan area, but also to the Barossa Water district. All preliminary work has been completed and construction of the main bank is well under way. The work has cost £1,600,000 to date, and should be finished by 1958. This year it is hoped that the bank will be more than half completed and the spillway commenced.

Work has been carried out on the water supply for the new town (north of Salisbury). Mains are being laid in the new township to provide water facilities for houses being constructed by the Housing Trust, and £70,000 is included in the amount provided in this Bill to enable work to keep pace with housing construction. An amount of £308,900 will be required for water supplies for various country districts, many of which are rapidly approaching completion. Water supplies for Jamestown and Caltowie were provided during last year by the completion of a pipeline linked to the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline at Spalding. Reticulation works for these townships have been completed and water made available at a total cost of £557,000. Of the amount provided this year £50,000 is planned for work on the Jamestown-Peterborough pipeline, and £30,000 for electrification of the Loxton pumping station and cement lining of pipes.

In the Tod River water district provision has been made for further work in connection with the Uley-Wanilla water supply for extensions and improvements in rural areas, and for

reorganisation of the Port Lincoln reticulation scheme. Work will be continued on the Yorke Peninsula scheme, for which £1,000,000 is provided this year. This scheme, when complete, will increase the supply of water to the existing district and will provide an increased capacity to allow extension of a permanent water supply throughout the length of Yorke Peninsula. The scheme, which is estimated to cost £6,041,000, was approximately 30 per cent complete at June 30, 1955, and should be completed by the end of 1956.

Estimated expenditure for Adelaide sewers for 1955-56 is £556,000, and this will allow sewerage extensions to be continued to new Housing Trust areas and new War Service home areas, and miscellaneous extensions in the metropolitan area. £199,000 is needed for country sewers. Of this amount £4,000 is required for the Port Lincoln sewerage scheme which was completed last year in its initial stages to the extent of connecting the hospital and the school to the system. To June 30, 1955, £188,000 had been spent on the provision of sewerage facilities for the township of Salisbury, and £35,000 will be spent this year on the connection of houses and factories to the sewer mains. A sewerage scheme to serve the New Town (north of Salisbury) will require £160,000 in the coming year. The sum of £201,700 is included in the amount provided in the Bill for waterworks and sewers for water conservation purposes, and £324,400 for plant and machinery, the Sassafras Depot of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, and for stores.

**GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND LAND,**  
£3,680,000—Expenditure last year amounted to £2,353,000. The amount included in this Bill will be allocated as follows:—

	£
Hospital buildings .. . . .	2,250,000
School buildings .. . . .	1,150,000
Police and courthouse buildings .	75,000
Agricultural College .. . . .	30,000
Other Government buildings .. .	175,000

**HOSPITAL BUILDINGS,** £2,250,000.—Before dealing with the work planned for the coming year I will give members some idea of the works which have been carried out for hospitals in the immediate past. At the Royal Adelaide Hospital several works were completed during 1954-55. Wards have been remodelled to provide additional lavatory and other facilities at a total cost of £18,390. A building of six floors and a basement, situated in Frome Road, was completed to accommodate 300 nurses. Ruthven Mansions were purchased at a cost of £90,000 for future use as a nurses'

home. At the Northfield Ward of the Royal Adelaide Hospital additional accommodation has been provided comprising one single storey ward for 30 patients and one single storey building for 22 nurses.

The nurses' home at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was completed during the year at a cost of £331,000, and for the time being will be used as a maternity hospital providing accommodation for 50 patients and as a home for 50 nurses, resident doctors, and students. At Mount Gambier Hospital a children's ward was completed at a cost of £18,162, providing accommodation for 18 children in a one-storey stone building. Forty-two nurses and sisters will be accommodated in a two-storey building comprising the nurses' quarters completed at the Port Pirie Hospital during the year. A nurses' home costing £114,000, and a female admission block costing £130,000, were completed at Parkside Mental Hospital. At the end of the year work was in progress on a building of five storeys to provide nurses' quarters at the Mount Gambier Hospital.

Work was also in progress on additions to the maternity block at the Port Lincoln Hospital, a three-storey building providing a theatre and men's ward at Port Pirie, the women's T.B. block at Northfield, and a single-storey building for a male T.B. block at Parkside. Provision made in this Bill is required for further work on all of these projects. Progress has been made on the maternity block at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the £340,000 required this year will enable this block to be well on the way to completion by the end of this financial year. Of the amount provided in this Bill for hospital buildings, £1,000,000 has been earmarked for progress work on the new general hospital comprising part of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Government has engaged a firm of Adelaide architects, in association with a firm of Melbourne architects, to design and supervise the construction of the general hospital. Tenders have been received from a number of well-known construction firms. These tenders have been considered and the contract allotted to Hansen & Yuncken Ltd. in association with Wilckens & Burnside Ltd., both contractors of Adelaide.

Other works to be carried out this year include, at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, a new dental wing, new radiotherapy block, additional post-operative wards, X-ray treatment wards in McEwin Building, and alterations and additions to other wards. At Parkside Mental

Hospital provision is required for a male treatment and admission block, alterations and additions to various buildings, and new equipment. The sum of £120,000 is to be spent on additional accommodation for 260 patients at the Northfield Mental Hospital. New boiler houses, kitchen, and kiosk at this hospital, together with alterations and additions to various buildings, new equipment, roadways, etc., will require approximately £84,000. Alterations and additions at a cost of £11,050 will be carried out at Bedford Park. At Mount Gambier £80,000 will be needed for progress on the new general hospital. Provision is also made for alterations and additions to the hospitals at Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and Wallaroo.

**SCHOOL BUILDINGS, £1,150,000.**—In planning the building programme for the Education Department the Government has been faced with a spectacular increase in school enrolments which has characterized the last decade. In addition to meeting current requirements we have had to pursue long range plans in order that we will be able to meet the increased commitments of the future. The enrolments in our primary and secondary schools have almost doubled over the past 10 years. In the metropolitan area the increase has been most marked in the south-western, northern, north-western, and western suburbs, where there has been extensive building of primary and secondary schools. Schools recently completed, such as Forbes, Gepps Cross, and Hendon have had to be extended within 12 months of opening. The Government has met this situation in large measure by the use of prefabricated wooden portable buildings. These buildings provide quite quickly an eminently suitable form of classroom accommodation and are even used in some cases to establish whole new schools pending the provision of solid construction buildings. When the latter are available the portable rooms will be moved to other sites to meet commitments as they arise. The construction of these portable wooden buildings will be continued during this financial year.

The amount provided in this Bill for school buildings—£1,150,000—will see the completion during 1955-56 of primary schools at Dover Gardens, Hampstead, Hectorville, Mount Gambier East, and Payneham; infant schools at Plympton and Ridley Grove, as well as the area school at Yankalilla and a large workshop at Nailsworth technical school. Progress will also be made on new primary schools at Belair, Macclesfield, Nairne, Renmark, Seacliff, and at the new town (north of Salisbury),

on new infant schools at Gepps Cross, Hendon, Highgate, Salisbury North, and Thebarton, on new technical schools at Gawler, Nailsworth boys, and Croydon girls, on new area and higher primary schools at Yankalilla and Lucindale, and on new high schools at Enfield and Unley boys. In an endeavour to overcome a lag which has existed for many years in accommodation for craftwork and domestic art centres £42,000 will be spent on the commencement of 21 woodwork or domestic art centres in the metropolitan and country areas.

The sum of £57,500 has been allocated for alteration and additions to 64 primary and infant schools, £35,000 is required for alterations and additions to technical schools, and £29,500 for similar work at area and higher primary schools at Cleve, Cummins, Eudunda, Karoonda, Oakbank, Pinnaroo, and Wudinna. Additional accommodation at high schools, mainly in country centres, will require £14,800. An amount of £50,000 is set aside for the purchase of land to provide sites for future schools and for extensions of building sites and playing areas at existing schools. Alterations and additions to Port Lincoln and Port Pirie teacher's hostels and the Adelaide Teachers' College are planned to cost £7,500, and £10,000 has been provided for buildings at the School of Mines.

**POLICE AND COURTHOUSE BUILDINGS, £75,000**—The amount provided is required for a new police station at Enfield, new courthouses at Berri and Naracoorte, and additions to the Supreme Court library block. Alterations and additions will also be made to residences, offices, etc., for various districts.

**AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, £30,000**—This amount will enable further progress to be made in the building of a new dormitory block at the college.

**OTHER GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, £175,000**—For the Children's Welfare Department £41,000 is allocated for additional accommodation and alterations at Lochiel Park, Magill Reformatory, Seaforth Home, and Struan Farm. Alterations, additions, and provision of new equipment at the various gaols have been allocated £42,100, and £10,000 is being made available for addition to the observatory building at the University. Provision is included for a start on the central steriliser and media making unit for the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science which is estimated to cost £71,500 when completed. Residences at various country centres will be erected for the Agriculture Department, and £47,600 is required by the Architect

in Chief to purchase plant and motor vehicles, to erect workshops, and to provide additional accommodation, etc.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST, £500,000.**—During the year ended June 30, 1955, the Housing Trust completed a total of 3,264 houses and has now budgeted for the completion of 3,160 houses for the current year. To achieve this programme £4,350,000 will be required, of which £500,000 is provided in this Bill: £3,600,000 will be provided pursuant to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, and the trust will raise loans of £250,000. The programme for this year has two major variations: firstly, the number of houses to be erected in country centres will form a bigger proportion of the total than last year and, secondly, the production of locally made timber-framed houses for rental or sale will be stepped up considerably on the 1954-55 figure to take the place of the imported dwellings which, over the past four years, have so materially assisted in the output of houses. A total programme of 3,827 imported dwellings was completed last year, 593 of these houses being erected during that year.

The trusts' policy of providing country housing is being carried out and its activities have now extended to practically all of the middle-sized and larger country towns. More than one-third of its output in 1954-55 was in the country. In addition to houses in country towns it has erected rural dwellings on farm properties in various parts of the State. The demand for this type of house is consistently heavy, 52 dwellings being erected by the Trust during 1954-55. This type of house has undoubtedly enabled the rural employee to occupy satisfactory modern housing, and it is expected that the output in this direction will be considerably higher in 1955-56. The Trust has continued to erect houses in country areas under the Soldier Settlement Scheme and has now completed a total of 759 such houses. The programme this year provides for an extension of the scheme for the erection of cottage flats in small groups for pensioners and those on low fixed incomes. It is planned to provide housing for widows with, say, a daughter, or alternatively for two elderly widows wishing to live together.

**THE ELECTRICITY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, £5,000,000**—This amount has been provided towards a total capital works programme for 1955-56 of £8,600,000. To achieve this programme the Trust will use funds in hand at June 30, 1955, amounting to £1,000,000; it will require £1,500,000 to be raised from insti-

tutions and the public, and will use depreciation funds of £1,100,000. During the past financial year £7,600,000 was spent on capital works and equipment for the electricity supply undertaking. Of this amount £1,550,000 was spent on the Port Augusta 'A' power station. This station operates independently of imported coal and has made an appreciable reduction in the Trust's fuel costs. This was one of the main reasons for the Trust being able to make an overall reduction in electricity tariffs last November.

During the year progress was made on the plant at the Osborne power station at a cost of £888,000, £89,000 was spent on the Port Lincoln power station, and £60,000 was paid in progress payments for the manufacture of boilers and turbo-alternators for the new Mount Gambier power station. The latter is being constructed in conjunction with the new Woods and Forests Department mill at Mount Gambier and its main source of fuel will be off-cuts from the mill. Its operation in the future will be of extreme importance to the welfare and development of the South-East of this State. In association with the construction of the Port Augusta power station the trust has developed a transmission system to carry the power to Adelaide and to certain major country centres. As a result the Port Augusta station is now supplying Adelaide, Radium Hill, the Upper Murray area, and the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline, and major sub-stations have been constructed at various points along the line between Port Augusta and Adelaide to form centres of supply in the country. These sub-stations are located at Waterloo, South Hummocks, and near Port Pirie.

During the past year the trust has supplied power to 10,582 new consumers. It is of interest to note that of the total number of new consumers connected to the system during the year 3,921 were in country areas as compared with only 1,367 in 1950. The growth of new consumers in country areas has been quite remarkable, and with the funds available this year the trust will continue to expand the supply of power to them. The works programme for 1955-56 has been allocated as follows:—£4,182,000 for power stations, including £1,740,000 for Osborne; £1,602,000 for Port Augusta; £340,000 for Port Lincoln; and £500,000 for Mount Gambier. The regional distribution system for the South-East of the State will require £170,000; transmission lines for all areas £425,000; and sub-stations £1,050,000. Consumers' plant and

appliances, distribution and sundries, and plant will absorb the balance, amounting to £2,773,000.

**LEIGH CREEK COALFIELD, £450,000.**—Last year expenditure amounted to £750,000. The programme planned for the coalfield this year will require £450,000 from the Loan Fund in addition to the balance of funds carried over from the last financial year amounting to £335,000. This programme includes £100,000 for the completion of the Aroona Dam. Construction of the dam progressed last year sufficiently to hold rains which fell during the year, and for the first time since the coalfield began operating there was an adequate water supply of good quality. It is planned to spend £131,000 on township buildings, and the sealing of road surfaces with bitumen and laying curbs and gutters for drainage will require £105,000. New machinery, particularly crawler tractors, will require £45,500, and £160,000 will be expended on the coal handling and treatment plant. Coal transfer facilities will be provided at Port Pirie at a cost of £35,000 to enable some Leigh Creek coal to be railed to Adelaide. It is estimated that during next winter at least 10,000 tons a week of coal will be required for the Port Augusta power station in addition to 4,000 tons a week in the city, and the expenditure for which provision is made in this Bill is to provide the facilities necessary for the field to meet this demand.

**URANIUM PRODUCTION, £2,750,000.**—Under the agreement with the Atomic Energy Commissions of the United Kingdom and the United States this State is required to provide the working capital for the Radium Hill mine and the chemical treatment plant at Port Pirie. The amount provided in this Bill will finance the operation of the Radium Hill mine and the chemical treatment plant at Port Pirie, and in addition provide for further capital expenditure. It is expected that a consignment of uranium oxide from the treatment plant at Port Pirie will be sent to the United Kingdom within the next few weeks. The Combined Development Agency representing the United Kingdom and the United States will take the product, and payments received from this body will be credited to the Loan Fund.

**METROPOLITAN AND EXPORT ABATTOIRS BOARD, £100,000.**—This amount is provided for a loan to the Abattoirs Board for general works including slaughtering accommodation, extension to chilling facilities, roadways, and housing.

**LANDS DEPARTMENT, £50,000.**—This amount will enable the department to purchase addi-

tional photogrammetric and photolithographic equipment, to provide residences in the country for officers, and to make alterations and additions to offices in country areas.

**PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT, £30,000.**—The Government Printer will require this amount during the coming year for the purchase of new machines and for the replacement of old machines which have outlived their useful lives.

**PRODUCE DEPARTMENT, £30,000.**—It is planned to use this amount for alterations to the refrigeration plant and additions at Light Square, and to provide extensions to slaughtering, refrigeration and treatment plants at the Port Lincoln works.

**MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS TRUST, £500,000.**—This amount will be made available to the trust to enable it to continue with its rehabilitation and conversion programme. Some time ago the trust decided to abandon trams on certain routes and replace them with buses. Funds are now required to meet payment for some of these buses which are scheduled for delivery this year. The trust will commence the erection of modern buildings and traffic offices at Port Adelaide and Glenunga for the fuelling and servicing of the expanded bus fleet, and should complete a similar depot at Hackney South in the near future. Funds are also required for the conversion of the trust's converter station in order to take power from the Electricity Trust. It is anticipated that by June, 1956, the Tramways Trust will draw all its power requirements from the Electricity Trust.

And now turning to the actual provisions of the Bill. Clause 4 gives power to the Treasurer to arrange for the borrowing of £24,050,000 which, together with repayments to the Loan Fund estimated at £4,250,000, will provide the moneys necessary for the expenditures set out in the first schedule to the Bill. Clause 5 provides for the issue of the amount of £28,300,000 from the Loan Fund, and gives the Treasurer authority to increase the amount for any line if the estimate is insufficient, provided that the total loan expenditure for the year shall not exceed £28,300,000. Clause 6 authorizes the Treasurer to borrow, in addition to other amounts authorized by this Bill, the amount required for the payment of discounts, charges, and expenses incurred in borrowing under the Bill.

Clause 7 provides that if at any time insufficient moneys are in the Loan Fund for the purposes of the works set out in the First Schedule the Treasurer may use other moneys



at his disposal, but any moneys used for this purpose shall be repaid from the Loan Fund as soon as there is sufficient money in that fund to make the repayment. Clause 8 authorises the Treasurer to borrow an amount not exceeding £7,000,000 in the year 1956-57 pending the passing of the Public Purposes Loan Act for that year. This authority is necessary because the moneys from the Loan Council are made available on a monthly basis, and unless the Treasurer is authorised to receive the amounts made available in the months of July, August, and September, this State would be out of Loan Funds.

Clause 10(1) gives the Treasurer authority to open a special account and to credit to that account moneys received from the Commonwealth pursuant to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, and to pay those moneys to the Housing Trust for the purposes of the Agreement. Clause 10(2) authorises the Treasurer to receive grants made by the Commonwealth under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act and to open a special account to take credit for those grants, and to pay the moneys to the Minister of Local Government for the purposes specified in the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act. Clause 11 authorises the Treasurer, out of moneys paid to him by the Housing Trust, to pay the Commonwealth the money which the State is required to pay under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. Under Clause 12 the Public Purposes Loan Act shall commence on July 1, 1955. I commend the Bill for consideration of honourable members.

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

#### SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 20. Page 774.)

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—I support this short but important Bill. In the earlier stages of this session we discussed the question of Ministers in this House introducing Bills concerning their own departments, and this is becoming rather more usual and is a change from the old practice, when it was considered that we were a House of review and that all matters ought to be considered in another place before they came to us. I think it proper that a Bill of this nature should be introduced by the Attorney-General, and my only regret is that it was not brought in earlier in order to give members reasonable

time to consider it. Everyone knows that a Bill can be considered properly only if it goes through its three stages in the ordinary way and members have an opportunity to go outside and think over it, get some information about it and come back and perhaps make some contribution.

In this case the Attorney-General told us quite frankly that the need for this Bill arose out of the expiry of the appointment of Mr. Acting Justice Hannan. However, I suggest that the Crown Law Department must have been well aware for a long time when Mr. Hannan's appointment would terminate. The Attorney-General went on to say that this was an old problem that had occasioned some difficulty in the past. If so, why ask us to pass it in two days so that it can be dealt with in another place in two days? I frequently mention these things, apparently without the slightest result, for I do not think that the Government treats Parliament with proper respect when it asks members to put things through as though they were rubber stamps. It is not right and I again enter my protest.

There are only two things in the Bill. One is to give the Government power to extend the term of the appointment of acting judges for so long as may be necessary for them to finish up work on which they are engaged and which is part heard and considered. That is admirable and it is quite proper that it should be done, but to show that it has not been thought of only in the last two weeks I point out that in 1944, when we provided for the retirement of Supreme Court judges, we enacted that they were to carry on and finish work on which they were engaged at the time of reaching retiring age. Otherwise, as the Attorney-General knows better than I do, an acting judge would stop work six months' before the end of his appointment because he could not say how long cases which he undertook were likely to last. I am supporting this point entirely, but I reiterate that it should have been considered much earlier.

The second point is in connection with commissions issued by the Supreme Court judges to persons to hear assizes in the country. The Supreme Court Act provides that persons with seven years' standing as barristers may be appointed by commission to undertake these matters, and the question has arisen—as the Attorney-General pointed out—as to whether, having part heard a case, they can adjourn it to the city or elsewhere. I am entirely in favour of the suggested amendment, but I would like to ask now—so that the point will

not be missed—whether it is necessary to refer to supplementary commissions mentioned in section 53a. Under this section—which we inserted in 1952—the Governor, on the recommendation of the judges, can issue supplementary commissions, and I suggest that the Attorney-General should consider whether we should include that.

I do not wish to comment any further on the two small provisions of this Bill, but I think that the extension of the appointment of acting judges brings up quite a number of other things. I believe quite strongly that judges, and many other responsible people in high positions, are being worked to death and not being given a reasonable change or holiday. In my speech on the Address in Reply I paid a tribute to the work of the Chief Justice; not only is he Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Chancellor of the University, but Lieutenant-Governor of the State; I think he is asked to do a phenomenal amount of work and it is entirely wrong that he should have to do so much. I had hoped—and if we carry this Bill it will be in the hands of the Government—that Mr. Acting Justice Hannan's appointment would continue not only until he had cleared up what he was doing, but until the Governor had returned and Sir Mellis Napier had been relieved of the Lieutenant-Governor's work and had at least six months' holiday on full pay. That is what ought to be done, and I draw attention to the fact that we are burning up all the people in high places which, as a community, we cannot afford to do. I start at the very top, with the Royal Family. They are asked to do far too much. Her Majesty, and all her relations, cannot possibly last unless the demand upon them is reduced. The last three Prime Ministers of Australia have died in harness; the present one, I fear, is killing himself, and no-one seems to be able to stop him; someone ought to be able to do something about these matters. It may be that he and others will not delegate their work and if they do not, of course, the country suffers when they go.

Supreme Court judges, of course, cannot delegate their work. They cannot appoint a junior to do it for them; it is their responsibility; they are the judges of the Supreme Court. Certainly, we increased the number of puisne judges from four to five some three years ago, but in view of the increasing population one may ask whether that was enough, especially when we consider that we are frequently asked to lend a judge to another State as a Royal Commissioner, as we lent

one of our judges for the Petrov inquiry for about a year. Some consideration should be given by the Government to people in high places getting leave after a certain period in order that they may have a really long holiday. I know that long service leave is a debatable point in any industry or community, but in private industry men in responsible positions are sent for trips—and a change is as good as a holiday. In some places, like the Melbourne University, there is a system known as sabbatical leave; when a person has done seven years' solid work he is entitled to a year's leave.

The Hon. E. Anthony—That applies here, too.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—No, it does not. The Adelaide University has a much better system. It is not a right, and it is not known as sabbatical leave, but study leave. It is granted to professors who feel that they would like to have a refresher course, as it were, and a change, with a chance to pick up something on the way. Some may have six months' leave every five years, and others may go every 12 years for a year's leave. That is an excellent system, but there is nothing of that sort in existence in respect of judges.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Why not send the Chief Secretary overseas for a well merited holiday?

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—I have tried to do that for three years and I will continue to try because his is a typical case of all that I am saying. We cannot go on working people into the ground and I am glad my friend mentioned that. I did not intend to do so, but I could not support it more. I mention these things because I am not advocating that we should amend the Supreme Court Act to give certain rights; rights incur liabilities as well, but I do suggest to the Government that every consideration be given, in the interest of good government, to the question of granting extended leave on full pay after a certain period of loyal, hard and exacting work—and there is no need for me to say that brain work takes as much, or more, out of one than physical work—so that they might come back better equipped to carry on the onerous duties they perform for the State.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—In order to assist the Attorney-General in the passage of this Bill I do not desire to secure the adjournment of the debate, but to say a few words in support of Mr. Cudmore's remarks. We are a very obliging

House because we seem to do what the Government wants us to do. Although the Loan Bill is under consideration in the other House for about six weeks, when it comes down here we pass it in a day or two. Now the Attorney-General has asked us to pass this amending Bill as quickly as possible. There is much merit in this measure, which provides for two important amendments. Years ago the Government should have increased the number of judges to cope with their additional work. Those occupying these high positions are sometimes called upon to undertake other duties, and undoubtedly their health suffers. Cases are adjourned from time to time because it is impossible for the judges to cover the work they are called upon to do. A number of stipendiary magistrates have been appointed during the last few years to deal with increased work in the lower courts. I would favour the granting of long service leave to judges and to all others who render service to the community. This would include many who have given 30 or 40 years to industry, but they cannot get long service leave. I would not favour long service leave for only restricted classes, but would support a Bill providing for every person after a specified number of years of service to have the right to enjoy long service leave.

The first amendment in this Bill deals with the extension of the term of acting judges. I support what Mr. Cudmore has said that other Australian Governments take the opportunity to secure the services of our judges to conduct commissions and inquiries. This is a compliment to the high standard of the persons selected. The other clause deals with the powers of commissioners to hold circuit sessions of the Supreme Court and removes any doubt as to their powers. Clause 4 provides that for the purpose of completing any business commenced at any circuit sessions a commissioner shall have the powers referred to in section 45 of the Act. That section reads:—

(1) The court may sit and act at any time and at any place for the transaction of any part of the business of the court, or for the discharge of any duty under this or any other enactment.

(2) The hearing or further hearing or determination of any cause or matter commenced in the court may be adjourned from time to time, and from place to place, as the court thinks fit.

(3) A judge sitting in open court may adjourn for consideration in chambers any matter which in his opinion may be more conveniently disposed of in chambers; and any judge sitting in chambers may adjourn any matter to be heard in open court.

The object of the amendment is to remove any doubt as to their powers. I understand

that the Chief Justice has raised doubt as to the present position. The Public Works Committee inquired into improved facilities at the Supreme Court building. It inspected among other things the judges' chambers, library and other rooms, and I was amazed at the conditions existing. They are so bad that when counsel want to confer with their clerks, they have to do so in the lobbies or on the balcony. It is pleasing to notice that the Government is now proposing to spend £88,000 to improve the conditions at this building. It is over 90 years since our Supreme Court was established. In the first place it was at Whitmore Square. When High Court judges sit in Adelaide they have to use the rooms of the local judges because sufficient accommodation is not available. I support the Bill because it will provide something which should have been undertaken before. The time has arrived to consider the appointment of an additional judge because of the work before the courts.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—It is not often that members of the Opposition are found agreeing with Mr. Cudmore on all matters in a debate in this Chamber, but on this occasion we are unanimous in our views concerning the detailed and onerous work done by our judges and the shortage of judges. This is an occasion when members of both Houses can pay a tribute to our Supreme Court judges and others charged with the responsibility of interpreting the Acts we pass, especially when there is so much criticism of our present system of government and administration of justice. Those ready to criticise our judiciary should realize that it is an integral part of our democracy. It is true that the laws we pass are left to the judges to interpret. I shall mention one or two facts in support of Mr. Cudmore's contention that more judges should be appointed and more time given to them to carry out their detailed work which, in fact, is more detailed than that of some of our other learned professions. In 1925 Sir Frederick Richards, then Crown Solicitor, was appointed an acting judge from March to December and Mr. Walter Stewart was appointed from March until June in 1927. The present Chief Justice, Sir Mellis Napier, undertook a banking inquiry on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, which indicated the great regard held for the South Australian judiciary. That was from 1935 to 1936, and on that occasion Sir Geoffrey Reed was appointed an acting judge. Then Sir Kingsley Paine was appointed an acting judge from

March until July, 1949, from March to August, 1951, and from April to October, 1952.

Many members of the legal profession have been commissioned to hold circuit courts in country areas. I mention these matters to indicate that since 1925 there has been a demand for the appointment of acting judges to carry out the work in our courts and with the increase in population it is more essential not only to appoint acting judges, but to increase the number of the judiciary to relieve those at present occupying these high positions.

I agree with what Mr. Cudmore said about other members of the public service. It seems to be quite the fashionable thing to give high officers other jobs because they are expert in their professions. If this continues valuable officers, apart from the members of the judiciary, who have given many years of specialized service to the community in their respective professional fields, men who are comparatively young now, will age rapidly because of the extra work they are asked to do in connection with various researches and on boards to which they are appointed. It is the responsibility of the Government to rectify these things because these men can only go on for a limited time and all their training will be of no avail if they are only digging themselves into the ground. In supporting the second reading I compliment the judiciary on the high standard it has set and maintained.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General)—I am indebted to honourable members for their courtesy in debating this Bill to enable its passage to proceed. I have noted the comments made by Mr. Cudmore that it is desirable that Standing Orders should not be suspended and that Bills should take their normal course. These remarks have not gone over my head and as far as possible I will see that Bills are introduced as early as possible to give members sufficient time to consider them properly. I point out, however, that it is not possible at present to get the number of people we require in the Crown Law Office. Since my appointment two solicitors from that department have resigned to go into private practice, and although applications have been called the vacancies still exist. Although I wish to extend every courtesy to the Council I am looking at the matter from the other end, as I realize that members of the Crown Law Office are working considerable overtime with some difficulty to keep up the work. However, I realize it is my responsibility to get Bills here as quickly as possible, and that will be done.

Mr. Cudmore raised the matter of the pressure that exists on some of our high ranking officers, and mentioned in particular the work

done by the Chief Justice, Sir Mellis Napier. Some time ago I interviewed the Chief Justice, expressed to him the appreciation of the Government for the work he has done and informed him that if he wished to have any leave I would be only too happy to facilitate any arrangements to enable that to be done. Sir Mellis and other of our high ranking officers have such a high sense of public duty that it is sometimes difficult to get them to understand the responsibilities they have to themselves and their own health. They feel the responsibilities of their office so keenly that on occasions they have been loth to take the leave to which they are entitled and which they should take. As a member of the Government, I support entirely members who said that these men should look after themselves and in doing so look after us.

The conditions at the Supreme Court were also raised during the debate. As Mr. Condon mentioned, the Government has already approved the erection of a library that will cost £88,000, which will improve conditions very considerably. I have arranged for an architect from the Architect-in-Chief's Department to proceed with the necessary preparation of detailed plans, and this work will proceed as quickly as possible. In the meantime, some other temporary work to improve certain minor accommodation is being undertaken so as to make conditions as comfortable as possible until the other work can be carried out. I thank honourable members for their attention to the Bill and for the indication that it has their support.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 passed.

Clause 4—“Commission for holding circuit sessions.”

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—I would like to be quite certain that this clause will also cover supplementary commissioners appointed by the Government under section 53a.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General)—I submitted this amendment to the Chief Justice for his approval, which he gave; for that reason, and because of the provisions of section 53a (2), I think the matter raised is covered.

Clause passed.

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

Read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.45 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, September 27, at 2 p.m.