

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, September 27, 1955.

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

QUESTIONS.

NEW CITY OVAL.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—Will the Attorney-General state whether he or the Government has any power of review or veto over decisions of the Adelaide City Council with regard to the use of the parklands?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—I understand the question to mean whether either I or the Government has any power to veto or in any way affect the proposal of the Adelaide City Council regarding the provision of a new oval on the south parklands. The council has power under sections 457 and 458 of the Local Government Act to lease land for the purpose of recreation grounds or to construct facilities for sport in the parklands subject to the restriction set out in those sections. As the legislation stands at present the Government has no power to prevent a council from proceeding under either of those sections.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Last Wednesday I asked the Attorney-General what powers the Adelaide City Council had to proceed with the construction of a new oval, and also whether the Government would set up a committee to review the matter. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—Under sections 457 and 458, there are certain restrictions on what the council can and cannot do. I have not yet had the opportunity to consider the suggestion of a special committee, but I shall do so and advise the honourable member in due course.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Will the Attorney-General indicate the Crown Law opinion on whether these restrictions confer on Parliament the power to hold up or prevent this project?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—I do not know that I can take the matter any further than I have done, but I shall be glad to obtain any further information required.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Can the Minister representing the Minister of Education inform me whether secondary education examinations, particularly the intermediate, are carried out by

the University of Adelaide, and whether the examinations are fully competitive?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—I am not able to answer that question without reference to the Minister of Education, but I shall obtain the information.

FROST DAMAGE.

The Hon. C. R. STORY—Has the Attorney-General any further information in relation to the question I asked last week relative to frost damage in the River Murray areas?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—I have obtained the following further report from the Minister of Agriculture:—

Reports received from the district officers show that frosts were experienced in all irrigation areas on the 17th, 18th and 19th September and that widespread crop losses will result. The losses which vary in intensity will be most severe in stone fruits, sultanas and other early shooting varieties of vines. Little damage has been reported to citrus and this is confined mainly to young trees. The information received is from quick surveys of the position and although closer investigations will be made the actual losses will not be known until the crops have been harvested and delivered. There is enough evidence available at this early stage, however, to say that the over-all losses will be appreciable and that in many cases individual losses will be high.

MARRIAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by the Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Chief Secretary) and read a first time.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 21. Page 826.)

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—A few years ago, when a Public Purposes Loan Bill was introduced into Parliament, little information was given to explain the proposed items of expenditure, and I desire to compliment the Chief Secretary on the very full explanation he gave this year. Although this Council cannot amend the Bill I think it is one on which members are entitled to the fullest information. I take this opportunity, Sir, to refer to the attitude you are taking in curtailing questions. In the House of Assembly members are allowed to take four or five minutes to ask a question and the replies sometimes take about 10 minutes, but here members, particularly Opposition members are asked to couch their questions in a very few words or ask leave to make a statement. I think more latitude should be extended

to members, irrespective of the side of the House they are on, when they want to ask questions, and I put that to you, Sir, with the greatest respect.

This Bill provides for an expenditure on capital works of £28,300,000 for the year 1955-6. In addition, the Commonwealth Government will provide £3,600,000 for housing under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, making a total expenditure of £31,900,000, or an increase of £1,300,000 above the previous year. There was a hint in the Minister's second reading speech that this expenditure may have to be curtailed if the Commonwealth's borrowing programme is not fulfilled, so it is just as well that we should examine the position facing the country today. Our Loan expenditure in 1950-51 was £20,623,000 so that in a space of five years there has been an increase of £11,250,000, with a consequent increase in the interest payments, including sinking fund, of £3,250,000. In view of this I would ask if we are getting full value for our money, or if it is being spent in the right direction. I think if there were a little more decentralization it would be more efficient. Would it not be to the advantage of the country to finance public development by the use of our national resources. Public loans have been filled in the past and I think the people should have enough faith in Australia to continue to subscribe to public loans.

The Hon. E. Anthony—What does the honourable member mean?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—We did it in wartime. The interest Bill on borrowed money is a heavy burden so why cannot we raise the money in Australia? Everyone says what a wonderful place Australia is and that we should have confidence in it, so therefore I think we might be able to do a little more in this way.

There are three matters in the Bill which we might well consider and which I shall touch upon. I do not want always to be talking about the Public Works Standing Committee, but there are a few things that ought to be cleared up and with that object I ask members to take particular notice of the present situation. It is an easy matter for someone to raise an objection against any report by the committee; it is all very well for somebody to get the ear of a member of Parliament and raise objections to reports on bulk handling, the Tonsley spur railway, or any other matter, but we are here to think in the interests of the State and not of a particular Party.

Let us consider the inauguration of bulk handling, for which an amount appears on the Estimates. It would be easy for any member to consider this project from the point of view of his own interests or those of his district, but it is the duty of members of the Public Works Committee to consider it from the point of view of the State's interests. The committee came to a conclusion which was not satisfactory to certain persons, and they have appealed to the Government to have the matter referred back to the committee, members of which do not mind that; but if the State is to spend twice as much on any work as is necessary, Parliament must accept the responsibility.

The Hon. E. Anthony—If we could get a better solution, there would be no harm.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—One reads in the press and hears statements in Parliament that the Committee has delayed its report. It is not going to be dictated to by anyone.

The Hon. E. Anthony—Has it received the second reference yet?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Yes. It is no use thinking that the committee will involve the State in double the expenditure necessary without any further inquiry, that it is a rubber stamp committee, or that it will be dictated to by individuals. The blame which has been centred on the committee is not fair or reasonable. The Government has sent two of its officers overseas to inquire into the latest bulk handling developments. Therefore, is not the committee justified in saying that it will not alter its recommendation without reasonable grounds? It does not intend to alter its decision unless it receives evidence warranting the alteration. Therefore, the committee refuses to submit an additional report until it receives evidence from these two officers.

The Committee took evidence from Chrysler Australia, Ltd., to decide on the route of the spur railway line to serve its works at Tonsley. Three schemes were examined. The committee listened to evidence from those in authority and considered the question from all angles. It cannot think of only the individual persons concerned, but must arrive at a decision in accordance with the evidence. I assure members that it arrived at its conclusion in accordance with the evidence. The committee could have said, "We will make a recommendation which will cost the State double the cost of the recommended route." One project would have cost £386,000, and another £170,000. If Parliament wants to alter the committee's recommendation, it is justified in doing so, as

there is no obligation on the Government to accept the recommendation. If members decide that the State should spend £500,000 on a job when an equally good job could be done for £250,000, that is their responsibility. The committee is obliged to recommend the best economic proposition and consider the interests of the State and not one individual part of it. Can that be challenged? If evidence could be submitted to show that the proposed route will result in hardship and that it should be altered, I have enough confidence in the members of the committee to know that they will do the right thing. Honourable members who complain here from time to time about Government expenditure, must accept responsibility if they want a scheme that will cost twice as much as the one recommended.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—We have not seen the committee report yet, so we do not know what we are legislating about.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—The honourable member is like many others, kicking up a fuss and saying that the information is not before them. Such members do not know what they are talking about and do not know that a report has been submitted, not having looked on their files to find out. An interim report has been submitted to the Government. The same applies to bulk handling, and what a sorry thing that, when experts were called in and questioned, they did not know anything about it. It looks ridiculous, but people criticize when they do not know what they are talking about.

Recently, a reference was submitted to the Public Works Committee in relation to the establishment of a prison farm at Loveday. The Sheriff came along and gave evidence. This was published in the press and immediately there was a hue and cry by people who objected to the camp being there. Members for the district came along and said that certain people objected; although that may be so, the business people are in favour of the camp.

The Hon. C. R. Story—Would you qualify what you said about members of the district?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I said that of course members were up in arms because of representations made. I do not object to the honourable member listening to complaints but I am criticizing him because he does not know the facts. The neighbouring council wanted the prison camp to be in its locality. On one hand some objected and on the other hand others were in favour, therefore the matter

should be left to the Public Works Committee, which is comprised of people appointed by Parliament and the Government to administer these things.

Representatives of the Highways Department stated in evidence to the committee that the proposed Port Adelaide bridge should be at Dale Street, the business people said it should be somewhere else, and then the Harbors Board representatives said they had another scheme. Who are we to believe? Can everyone be pleased, or is the committee there to do what is best in the interests of the State? Although in the minority, I strongly opposed the construction of the Birkenhead Bridge in its present position. I said it should have been constructed at Commercial Road or Elder Road and there would not have been the trouble we have today. Honourable members should not be misled by individuals who have some axe to grind or have some vested or other interests. If they are not satisfied with the committee, at least they should study its reports. It is not necessary to accept what the committee has said but at least the reports are entitled to consideration as they have been given after evidence has been taken. Members of the committee have to consider, not their own constituencies, but the interests of the State.

In these Estimates £1,450,000 is provided for advances for homes. One would have thought we would have caught up with housing, but for a few years the State Bank was handicapped and a housing scheme was introduced. I compliment the Housing Trust on the wonderful part it has played, but the position has not improved very much and despite its wonderful work there are insufficient houses, not only in the metropolitan area, but throughout the State. Although private enterprise has done a good deal I am sure we would not have accomplished as much as we have done if the trust had not been established. It is just as difficult for members to secure accommodation for constituents today as it was five years ago, particularly in the metropolitan area. I shall not weary honourable members by mentioning individual cases, but the thing that worries me most in my Parliamentary life is the appalling housing conditions under which many people have to live. From the remarks made by the Chief Secretary when introducing this Bill I inferred that there would have to be a curtailment in the housing programme. The Federal Government may have to come to our aid in a small way but we have lost the chance because this State has lost a Federal Minister. Today we heard that a

Minister from a smaller State has been appointed to Cabinet. This leaves South Australia with only one Minister, but in view of the part it has played in the economy, the welfare and interest of the Commonwealth, it is worthy of greater representation. We cannot expect the consideration to which we are entitled without sufficient representation. There are other South Australian members in the Federal House who are quite capable to carry out the duties of a Minister.

An amount of £200,000 is provided for loans to producers for construction of and additions to cool stores, fishing boat havens, fruit packing sheds, milk products factories, wineries and distilleries. One would have thought that in these prosperous times there would not be the necessity for making further loans. Over the last 10 years Australia has experienced prosperous times with high prices and good seasons, yet the same position exists today as existed two years ago. These loans may be justified, but we are not improving our position; instead we are becoming more and more involved in debt. Out of this we are asked to provide a certain amount for fishing boat havens at Port Hughes and Thevenard. I visited Thevenard a few weeks ago and the conditions the fishermen have to work under are certainly not the most pleasant. I think they are entitled to all they earn, but what do they get? The price they receive for their fish ranges from 1s. 9d. down to 10d. a lb., but look in the fish shops in Hindley Street and see what the public has to pay for that fish for which the fisherman is paid 1s. 9d. Thirteen shillings a pound! If the fisherman received a fair payment no-one would object, but I think there is any amount of room for objection in view of those prices. The difference is far too much.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Who is getting the rake-off?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—All I have to say is that the price of fish is not controlled. I am not suggesting that it should be, but I do suggest that a little inquiry would not be out of place. This is a matter of great importance to the public, and if it is to be called on to provide the amount of money set down under this Bill it is entitled to some consideration, and the position should be examined. We are asked to provide about £250,000 to help producers. I know that a great deal of money is involved in capital in the wine and dried fruits industries. I get a sly look from my friend Mr. Cudmore, when I mention the milling industry, but other industries are now

going through the same experience. We are asked to provide £50,000 for advances to settlers for permanent improvements including the erection of buildings, and I can heartily support that line. The man in the country is entitled to the same consideration as the man in the city—

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Don't you think he gets better consideration?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Looking through the various items you will find he has not been overlooked, and I am not objecting. All that we are asked to do is at least have a look at the Loan Bill because we cannot do anything else. It is our duty, however, to take sufficient interest to point out these things even although we cannot do anything else.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—Don't you think they have been considered?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—If they have been considered by the supporters of the Government all I want to say is that the Opposition is considering them this afternoon. I know that, irrespective of politics, every member of this place is in sympathy with what I am saying. The Loan Estimates are before the House of Assembly for five or six weeks yet we are expected to pass the Bill in three days. Well, they are not going to be passed by the Opposition without careful scrutiny and I cannot see anything wrong with that even if it takes a little time to do it. Very often people say that this House of second thought is just a Punch and Judy show. I do not agree with that. This House is of the same importance and gives the same consideration to Bills as the House of Assembly.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Frequently better consideration.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—That is true, and although it may be said that we do not sit as long as the other House, at least we pass the same legislation and members who address themselves to Bills are always relevant in their remarks. A sum of £7,000 is set down for loans for fencing and water piping. Again I can only say that I thought the time had passed when this sort of thing was necessary. It may be because there are some new settlers who require assistance, and as far as I am concerned they will get it. Vermin proof fencing requires a sum of £38,000.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—There have been considerable losses on that.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—When things were bad in our innocence and generosity we helped settlers by writing off large amounts, but when

prosperity returned they forgot to repay. The amount provided for the State Bank this year is £200,000. If we can provide any person with a home we are doing something in the interests of the State, so I have no objection to that amount. The Highways Department requires £200,000 for the purchase of roadmaking machinery and plant. I think we all agree that roads throughout the State, particularly on the West Coast, are in a very bad condition so no doubt this expenditure is justified. The allocation for the Woods and Forests Department is £1,750,000. Out of this £335,000 is required for the erection of the central sawmill at Mount Gambier. This is money well spent and I may say in passing that most of these works are recommended after careful investigation by a committee set up by Parliament. Having recommended a project and the Government having started it we have to pass these Estimates in order to continue the work. A sum of £2,300,000 is set down for railway accommodation, including an item of £150,000 for new cottages. If anything is necessary it is to make the cottages of railwaymen at least a little better than they are today. Men in far-flung parts of the State are living under conditions no better than they were 20 years ago.

The Hon. A. J. Melrose—In New South Wales they live in tents.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Quite so, but we are in advance of that.

The Hon. A. J. Melrose—Better Government.

The Hon. C. R. Story—Good administration.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—It may be so, but we could have better and we will after next March.

Much of the railway expenditure will be for rollingstock. What does it matter if we have to spend another £180,000 for the Tonsley spur line? That doesn't come into it, but people who criticize the railways are prepared to say that the Government should spend a greater amount.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Where is that?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—My honourable friend and Mr. Cudmore listen to people who do not know the facts. People should never take sides until they understand the position, and should not blow in the ears of others to make themselves good fellows when they do not know what they are talking about. Mr. Anthoney was a very good member of the Public Works Standing Committee and always pulled his weight, and he knows that members

receive certain private information which is not available to the public, and therefore should be in a better position to express an opinion.

Only £900,000 is provided for the Harbors Board, which this year will be called upon to undertake an extensive programme, and compared with the money available to certain other departments it is not much. At Port Pirie it is proposed at a cost of £1,500,000 to deepen the channel and reconstruct the wharves. This is a most important project. There is a threat that if something is not done trade may go elsewhere.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—You told us just now not to listen to that kind of thing.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—It is quite possible that before the year is out an even bigger amount than that provided on the Loan Estimates will be necessary for the programme to be fulfilled. An amount of £160,000 is earmarked for bulk handling installations at Wallaroo and Port Lincoln, and in providing for bulk handling the railways and Harbors Board are called upon to spend considerable amounts which they would not otherwise have spent. It is proposed to spend more than £24,000 on fishing havens at various parts of the State, and I hope that as a result the public will be able to benefit by the purchase of cheaper fish.

More than £5,500,000 is set aside for the Engineering and Water Supply Department. If I am any judge, within two or three years we will be called upon to provide additional funds for the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla main. It is true that the estimated cost of the Mannum-Adelaide main will be more than doubled, and what has happened with the Morgan-Whyalla main will also happen with the Adelaide main, because branches to various towns en route will be sought. In the last 15 years the cost of such works has increased enormously, possibly by two hundred per cent. An amount of £2,403,000 is provided for the Adelaide water district, including £1,300,000 for the completion of the Mannum-Adelaide main. In addition, a scheme costing £3,000,000 is to be undertaken at Myponga.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—What places will that supply?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—It will augment the metropolitan water supply and provide water for Noarlunga, Yankalilla and other towns in the south. This year's Estimates include £490,000 for the South Para reservoir.

This project has been under construction for a number of years and possibly will not be completed for another two or three years. I consider that a similar amount to that provided this year will be necessary in the Estimates for each of the next three years. Honourable members must bear in mind that the £28,000,000 provided in this year's Loan Estimates is to meet expenditure only in the current financial year. Where we will finish I do not know. An amount of £70,000 is provided for the laying of water mains for the new town north of Salisbury, and this despite the fact that many other places have been seeking water for many years. Whether this town is to be called Cudmore, Melrose, Story or Rowe, I do not know, but if I had my choice I would call it Anthoney.

The Hon. E. Anthony—You had better Mark that one!

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Is this town to get sewers ahead of country towns?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Yes. For this area £160,000 is provided for sewers. For the extension of the main from Jamestown to Peterborough £50,000 is provided for this year, and naturally people at Terowie and other places en route will also want this water. What a wonderful investment the Tod River Reservoir has proved. It has meant much not only to the West Coast itself, but to the State generally. No one can rightly object to any expenditure on water proposals, no matter where they are. Unfortunately, the profits from our water projects are decreasing, and for the second year in succession there has been a decided loss. I understand that the Government has increased water assessments, and in this regard I think there is laxity on the part of the Minister concerned. A few months ago I introduced a deputation from the Port Adelaide and Woodville councils in relation to storm waters that were flooding parts of Rosewater, and a promise was made that a conference would be held between the Highways Department, the Engineering and Water Supply Department and both councils concerned. After some time I raised the matter again and was told that although some recommendation had been made nothing else had been done. Storm waters have done considerable damage in this district so the Minister of Works should finalize the matter. I understand that all concerned are prepared to come to some agreement but the matter is being delayed, if not in the Engineering and Water Supply Department, in some other place.

The amount provided this year for Government buildings and land is £3,680,000. Of this

amount £2,250,000 is provided for hospital buildings, including £340,000 for a maternity block at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Minister of Health is doing a wonderful job in providing hospital accommodation, not only in Government institutions but also in private establishments. This money is well spent because it is in the interests of the State.

An amount of £1,150,000 is provided for school buildings, £220,000 of which is for portable buildings. If the school leaving age were increased to 15 years it would be impossible to find sufficient schools and teachers, even though we are spending a great amount of money on education. Over the last 12 years a number of schools of all types have been built, for which we should pay a compliment to those concerned.

This year the estimated payments to the Electricity Trust will be £5,000,000, out of which £1,740,000 is for the Osborne power station, £1,542,000 for the Port Augusta "A" station, £60,000 for a coffer dam, sheetpiling, earth filling, dewatering, piles, and foundations for the Port Augusta "B" station, and £340,000 for the Port Lincoln power station. The operations of the trust have certainly grown. In spending this money a service is being given not only to industry but also to people in the outback. I do not wish to go into the amount provided for the Mines Department except to say that whereas a few years ago very little was spent in this way we are now endeavouring to catch up on the leeway by spending a great amount on surveys, research and development that mean so much to this State. This year a further £500,000 will be provided for the Municipal Tramways Trust which will take the total to over £7,000,000. All that we can do is discuss these Estimates and agree to them. I trust that there will be no letting up, that employment will continue at its present high level, and I assure members that the Opposition will do everything possible to assist the Government.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (Central No. 2)—This Bill provides the authority to borrow £24,050,000, and sets out the purposes for which the money is to be borrowed. We know that in the last few years loan requirements have been increasing and it is quite right that members should devote themselves to a consideration of the various items in the Bill. It would be much more helpful when considering matters of this kind if we had the Auditor-General's Report before us, but I understand that it is now in the Government Printer's hands. All I can do is to rely on

the report of last year because I do not suppose the amounts will vary very much.

Every time the Government borrows money it naturally places a further burden on taxpayers. In the last five years the sinking fund indebtedness of this State has reached about £27,000,000. This Bill will increase that amount, probably to a considerable extent, because money is not getting any cheaper—rather, it is tending to get dearer. There are many disquieting signs. It has been said by people in high places that we will have to curtail our expenditure. On the other hand, we see glowing reports from businesses making high profits, and the directors are not pessimistic about the future of this country. I must say that I am not pessimistic; we are suffering from considerable growing pains, and rather than doing too little too late we are doing too much too quickly. That is what Australia is suffering from more than anything else. We are endeavouring to make up the tremendous leeway too quickly. We were faced with a large migration policy. South Australia absorbed more immigrants than any other State, but each immigrant, in spite of the fact that he brought a certain amount of property with him, had to be fed, clothed, and hospitalized, which all meant extra expenditure to the community. Of course the amount that the Government will have to find in the future will increase, and we must be prepared for that. However, I do not think there is any reason why, considering the development of this country, loans that were made to assist settlers should not be reduced.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—You would not advocate that in the country, would you?

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—I would advocate it anywhere. There is no reason why those amounts should not be liquidated rapidly because the producers have never been in a better position to repay them. If they cannot repay now, they never will.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Do you believe in wiping them out?

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—Too much has been wiped off. We have spent millions of pounds on the Murray irrigation areas and this year we will spend another £250,000. The losses on these areas are very great and should be subjected to a close examination. The Leader of the Opposition, who is always a great supporter of the Public Works Committee, for which I commend him, complained that people who criticize the actions of the committee or its recommendations should know

what they are talking about. I quite agree with him, but how is the ordinary member to know what he is talking about unless the reports are placed where he can get them? He referred to the spur line to be constructed to the proposed Chrysler works in part of my district. The Public Works Committee held an inquiry into that line but I do not know what evidence was given. I do not know what its recommendation was yet I am told—I suppose I am included in the charge—that I do not know what I am talking about. I admit I do not know because I have not seen the evidence nor the recommendation. However, I do know that there has been quite a lot of agitation in the district regarding the proposed route, not, I think, because the people are objecting to the facility that the railway will give this company, but to its going through their properties and making it necessary to demolish homes that they have built up and cherish. They contend that a route can be found that will run through country that is not built on, and at less cost. If, on resubmission to the committee, it is found that this alternative route could be used so much the better, for the less we interfere with people the better. I am sure no one would welcome goods trains running close to their back doors as will happen if the recommended route is adopted.

We are spending more money on education than ever before. There are twice as many children and the cost of school buildings is tremendously high. The difficulty of obtaining teachers is great also. I suppose the State is suffering from the backwash of the bad old days when the teaching profession was regarded as the Cinderella of all professions, and when people were not encouraged to go into it because it was unattractive and had no social standing. The result is that we have not been getting teachers and have had to go out into the highways and byways to find them; we have even sent overseas, with little result I understand. The consequence has been that, much to the detriment of education, we have had to take on hundreds of teachers after a short course of training, and we have been very glad to have them. The work of carrying on this department is very difficult and I have every sympathy for those who are doing their best to keep things going. The Minister is endeavouring to get as many people as he can into the teaching profession and to that end is talking about building another teachers' training college in the city. If I may make a very humble suggestion, instead of increasing the training facilities in the city, why not put them in some

country centre as there would then be more opportunity of getting country people into the college?

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—What area would you suggest?

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—Perhaps some centre of population like Mount Gambier.

The Hon. C. D. Rowe—It would be handy for the students to go to the University every day.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—No doubt the Minister thinks he has put a smart one over, but it is quite possible to get a degree without going to a university. One can get it through correspondence if one works hard enough.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—That applies to anything.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—That is how the honourable member took his boxing lessons, I understand. If we do not tackle these problems we will never find a solution. It may be necessary to have training colleges in various parts of the State and it is a good thing to make a start somewhere. I cannot offer any better suggestion than to set up a training college in the country, as otherwise the Government will have to go to considerable expense in providing a hostel in the city for country students. Year after year we have been saying that we will eventually lose a lot of money on the city water supply and now we find that the losses have overtaken us and that the metropolitan supply no longer pays. I do not know why we should get a thousand gallons of water for 1s., for instance. Why not pay for water as we get it? Let us pay 1s. 6d. a thousand gallons instead of 1s. I feel certain that we would not waste so much and I do not think anyone would object.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Why not 2s.?

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—I cannot see why we should supply excess water at a cheaper rate.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—How much is it in the country?

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—I understand that they are paying a little more in the country now. We have to meet these liabilities and as the State grows so our liabilities are bound to increase. All that we can ask for is that the money is wisely spent. I do not wish to go through the departments serially as that would take too long but I think we can all agree that South Australia is making excellent progress.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Very slowly.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—I think very rapidly.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Don't you think a change of Government would be better for the people?

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—You ask them. I think that is the best answer I can give. I think their reply would be a flat "No." There is no reason why we should be pessimistic about the future of this country. It is young and it is developing and we have to pay for that development, and as long as everybody is profitably employed and is giving a good return for the wages and salaries they get all will be well and the money provided in this Loan Bill will be wisely spent.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland)—In view of the financial trends in Australia it behoves every member to examine this Bill most carefully. Our overseas credits have been built up over the years mainly by our exports of primary products. If the prices of those exports are depreciated or, through adverse weather conditions, or industrial disputes or things of that nature, are allowed to drop below the level which existed in the previous year our imports must be curtailed in accordance with the reduced amount we send out of Australia in the form of exports. South Australia has developed from a primary industry State to a very important primary and secondary industry State in a period of 10 or 12 years and, in common with most people, I am very proud of the progress that has been made and pay a compliment to those responsible, to the administrators, employers and employees alike. But let us not overlook the fact that it is from the country areas that the main wealth of the State is derived. If we should develop our secondary industries ahead of our primary industries we will very soon have a most lop-sided economy.

It may be necessary at times to give financial encouragement to certain industries which, for the time being, are, through adverse conditions, in that position where they need a little help to get them over the stile. I am therefore pleased to note that a sum has been set aside for loans to producers. I was indeed alarmed to hear Mr. Anthony say that he could not understand why this line was provided. I thought I also detected a tone in Mr. Condon's voice suggesting that he did not approve of it either. Mr. Anthony said that terrific amounts had been written off in respect of the Murray River areas, but I would ask him if he had ever thought of the amount of money

which has indirectly been brought back to the country by the production in those areas. The amount brought back in the form of the value of exports, excise duties and indirect taxation must play a very big part in the State's economy. After all, it is only a temporary loan, which is employed in building up the country's assets. I was most surprised to hear Mr. Anthony's remarks on this expenditure.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—These debts will be wiped off later.

The Hon. C. R. STORY—I think most of the growers have paid their way.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—All depending on Empire preferences.

The Hon. C. R. STORY—If we had maintained Empire preferences instead of becoming involved in G.A.T.T. we would have been better off in many ways. I consider the change is not in the best interests of primary producers. In the line for assistance to primary producers an amount is set aside for the erection of packing sheds, milk processing factories, fishing boats, wineries and distilleries. All these projects assist in building up our export trade balance. One important omission is that no money is provided for the establishment of a co-operative cannery, and I hope that this will be rectified next year. Mr. Anthony suggested that primary producers received considerable assistance from the Government, but I remind him that this also applies to secondary industries. The Industries Development Committee has recommended huge amounts for the development of secondary industries, which are often established to the detriment of primary producers. In one instance a considerable sum was provided to a certain organization for the development of the canning industry. Everyone was looked after in that particular transaction—the Treasurer, the taxpayer, the committee itself and the man employed to see that he got his right and proper wage—and the only one overlooked was the unfortunate man who produced the fruit for canning.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Why did he slip?

The Hon. C. R. STORY—I suggest it was because he was not represented on the committee which made the recommendation. This State is fast becoming an important producer of canning fruits. The money derived last year from canning was second only to the returns from wheat and wool, when considering

the overseas credits which were built up. This industry brought into Australia £45,000,000 from the export of canned goods. I believe that South Australia will play a very big part in the Australian canning industry, but this can be done only when there are sufficient canners who can take and process the fruit and return to the growers a profitable margin. I suggest that the only way this can be done is by the establishment of a co-operative cannery. That is why I consider it most important that the amount provided for loans to producers should be increased and not decreased.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—There is nothing to stop a co-operative cannery from being established and then approaching the Industries Development Committee for support.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—What are the producers doing about it?

The Hon. C. R. STORY—Plenty. Several difficulties have arisen in the development of the canning industry. One is the inability of the canneries to process all the fruit available owing to the amount of finance required. Then there is also the difficulty of transporting perishable fruit from the source of production to canneries established in the city. Canneries should be near the source of the fruit. Also, there is the reluctance of South Australian canners to pay the prices fixed by the Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee for freestone peaches and apricots. The establishment of a co-operative cannery should be on somewhat similar lines to those operating in Victoria and New South Wales, which, after overcoming their early difficulties, were able to pay big bonuses to growers.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Why were these co-operative canneries established in other States?

The Hon. C. R. STORY—Because the proprietary canneries were taking it out of the hide of the growers, who therefore approached the Government. The percentage of the over-all areas affected by the recent frosts may not appear very high, but there were individual losses of areas of 400 to 500 acres in various places where losses were up to 90 per cent. Anyone understanding the industry will know that nothing can be done by the grower to produce anything on these areas until the next harvest, and the returns even then will be lessened because the frost has affected the shoots which would normally be available for the next years' crop. Because of adverse weather generally, in addition to

the frost, many growers will be placed in a very awkward financial position, and there may be some need for Government assistance. I hope it will act in the same way as it did for those who suffered in the fierce fires which swept our hills areas last summer. I was alarmed to notice that our cereal crops in certain parts of the State were affected by the recent frosts and I hope that in this case also if financial aid is needed the Government will assist growers.

I am pleased to learn that the Electricity Trust, which has played such an important part in the development of rural areas, is to be supplied with substantial funds again this year. However, those who are prepared to go out and develop our sparsely populated rural areas should not be asked to pay the amounts they are asked to find. They should be given longer terms for payment, rather than have to meet high surcharges. I know that the Government subsidizes some of the loans, but it is necessary that there should be a number of people on a given service in order that the surcharge can be carried. When that gets up to about 70 per cent the Government could then assist with a subsidy. I feel it would be better to spread payments over a longer period. Much progress has been made in irrigation in the last 60 years, and particularly since World War I. Investigations have been made to ascertain soil types and what quantities of water they can absorb, without damage accruing. We know better now how long water should be applied to various types of soil. Since the end of World War II there has been much development in the sprinkler system of irrigation. However, we have not yet conquered the disposal of water which builds up underground as a result of irrigation. Whenever a new irrigation scheme is propounded it is necessary that an amount almost equal to that provided for the scheme should be set aside for drainage. Even in those soldier settlement areas where it was generally thought that the growers would be free from seepage troubles we find that the problem is already upon us after five or six years of irrigation, and that large sums must be expended for the drainage of these areas, and thus allow an established asset to be preserved. If the water is allowed to build up those areas will become like Lake Dismal in the Glossop area.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin—Does this apply when sprinklers are used?

The Hon. C. R. STORY—Yes, unfortunately, although one can gauge the quantity of water

more accurately with sprinklers than with furrow irrigation, but there still seems to be the build-up of water within three feet to six feet of the surface. I think that, with the money available to it, the South Australian Government does a very good job on roads. A few weeks ago I read a report that £27,000,000 of the defence vote for 1954-55 remained unspent by the Federal Government because it was unable to find the necessary materials and manpower. I feel strongly that the best way to defend this country is to develop good arterial roads and standardize Australian railway gauges. Recently, I visited Frenchman's Creek, Lake Victoria, where the Utah Construction Company is carrying out work for the State Government. I believe the company saved this State many thousands of pounds in its contract. The best method of defending this country is to have goods roads, and I suggest that this could be done by an allocation of £20,000,000 to £25,000,000 out of the defence appropriation. Road construction would open up a terrific area of country that would be inaccessible now if we were attacked. One area to which I refer is that which links South Australia with New South Wales on the northern side of the Murray through the Murrumbidgee country. During the war I was bogged down in this area for a month with heavy equipment after a heavy rain. This Government should do everything in its power to try to persuade the powers that be to use some of the defence money to construct decent arterial roads. There are many things one could talk on under this Bill, but I shall content myself with what I have said. I support the measure.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY secured the adjournment of the debate.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES).

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.

Honourable members are, no doubt, familiar with the report of the Electoral Commission and there is little need to explain it in detail. This Bill provides for alterations in the electorate exactly as recommended by the commission. The commission, however, did not assign names to the districts which it recommended and the names in the Bill are those selected by the Government. Most of the names are those of existing districts, but

several districts, owing to the fact that they differ very considerably from any existing districts, were assigned new names. Among the new names are Edwardstown, West Torrens, Enfield, Whyalla, Barossa, and Millicent.

The Electoral Commission carried out its task strictly in accordance with the terms of its Act. The Act directed the electoral quotas for the metropolitan area and country areas to be ascertained, and required the commission to keep the size of the electorates which it recommended within 20 per cent above or below the quota. A perusal of the commission's report will show that it has kept well within the margin of tolerance. In fact, the greatest margin of divergence from the quota in any of the recommended districts is about 12 per cent. The new electoral districts will be used only in elections held after the next expiration of the House of Assembly.

Any by-election which may be held before that date will be held in the electoral districts as they now exist, but in order to prevent any unnecessary elections in the present districts it is provided that casual vacancies

occurring between October 31 and March 1, 1956, other than a casual vacancy in the seat of a Legislative Council member who has three years or more to run, need not be filled. If a casual vacancy should occur in the seat of a Legislative Council member whose term has three years or more to run, it will be possible for the Governor to direct that the vacancy will be filled at the time of the next general elections. This is provided for in section 18 of the Constitution Act. The Bill contains a complete description of the boundaries of all the districts, including those whose areas have not been altered. This is necessary because in recent years there have been alterations in geographical names occurring in the definitions of all the districts whether the boundaries have been altered or not.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.9 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, September 28, at 2 p.m.