

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, September 3, 1958.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.**OPENING OF QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL.**

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Can the Chief Secretary say whether there is to be an official opening of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and, if so, when it is expected to take place?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—The hospital was officially opened by the Queen Mother on the occasion of her recent visit.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—I am referring to the general hospital.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—The whole hospital, the general section included, has been officially opened, but I hope that it may be possible, when the hospital is furnished and comes into active operation, to hold some sort of function such as a visiting day to commemorate the occasion and to give members an opportunity to see the building in its finished state. Completion of the contract is well on the way, and furnishings are being procured. Some little delay occurred pending a final decision on the size of special beds which are to be used, and I obtained one as a sample as a result of my visit overseas. This arrived only this week and is now being tested at Royal Adelaide Hospital. However, as soon as we get some definite decision regarding furnishings and equipment and it is possible to put even a section of the hospital into operation it will be possible to consider the arrangement of some function. That, of course, also involves the period of the year, for once we reach the middle of December it is no longer appropriate to have a function of this nature as so many others are taking place, and it would be inadvisable to risk non-success. I think I can say, however, that it would take place either towards the end of the year or early in the new year.

APPOINTMENT OF HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Can the Chief Secretary say how many applications have been received from overseas and within Australia for the positions of administrators of the Royal Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—That, of course, is in the hands of the Public Service

Commissioner. I believe that the number of applications is in excess of 30, but what percentage is from overseas I cannot say. I know that there are some, because letters of recommendation have reached me and I have sent them on to the Public Service Commissioner. These are important appointments and it is encouraging to know that they have attracted so much interest.

PREMIER'S VISIT TO U.S.A.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Some weeks ago the Premier visited the United States of America for the purpose of negotiating for the establishment of a new industry in South Australia. Upon his subsequent visit to Canberra a statement appeared in the press purporting to disclose the nature of his visit and the company concerned. Has the Chief Secretary any statement to make in connection with the negotiations and how they have proceeded since the Premier's return?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—No. The Premier has not been in a position to make any statement and I have nothing which I can communicate regarding the matter.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE SCHEME.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—With reference to the question asked by Mr. Anthoney yesterday respecting the disappointment of the councils concerned in the delay in implementing the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, will the Minister representing the Minister of Works ascertain from those concerned what date they were asked to submit evidence and what is causing the delay in presenting it to the Public Works Committee?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—The honourable member's remarks rather imply that there has been a delay, which may be so, regarding the submission of evidence to the Public Works Committee. However, I will endeavour to obtain the information from my colleague but I would have thought that it would have been more readily available to the honourable member through the committee.

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 total expenditure proposed by the Bill is £27,350,065, being £26,722,000 on works and

services and £628,065 for funding deficits. The necessary funds will be obtained by borrowing £24,300,065 pursuant to the Financial Agreement and £3,050,000 repayments to the Loan Fund. In addition £5,000,000 is being made available to the State under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. Of this amount £3,500,000 is to be allocated to the South Australian Housing Trust, and for the purpose of making advances to home builders £1,200,000 will be made available to the State Bank and £300,000 to building societies. I shall now give honourable members an outline of the major items for which the Bill provides.

STATE BANK.—Advances for Homes, £1,000,000.—Funds for advances for home building have been increased substantially this year. The State Bank will be allocated £1,000,000 under Advances for Homes and £1,200,000 of Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement monies so that the total amount available to the Bank for loans for housing will be £2,200,000.

Loans to Producers. £600,000.—This amount is required to finance the establishment of the new co-operative fruit cannery at Berri, for which approval has already been given, loans to distilleries, packing sheds, etc.

Advances to Settlers, £100,000.—To meet the requirements for finance under the Advances to Settlers Act for the erection of houses and farm buildings, the clearing of pastures, and the purchase of plant, £100,000 is proposed for 1958-59.

Advances to State Bank, £455,000.—This amount will enable the Bank to carry out its normal trading bank services for primary producers and for secondary industry.

ROADS AND BRIDGES, £200,000.—Of this provision £100,000 is required for works associated with a new bridge at Blanchetown, the estimated total cost of which is £667,000. This will enable the Highways Department to go ahead with design work, to carry out investigations such as the sinking of test piles, and to commence work on approach roads and cuttings. The amount of £95,000 will be required for the commencement of work on bridges at Renmark and Cadell, and £5,000 is provided for preliminary investigations connected with a proposed new bridge over the Port River to replace the existing Jervois Bridge.

CROWN LANDS DEVELOPMENT ACT, £100,000.—During 1958-59 further development work will be carried out in the Hundreds of Woolumbbool, Lochaber, Short, Monbulla and Grey, and investigations will be continued in the Woods Well

district, Hundreds of Field, Colebatch, and Messent.

LANDS DEPARTMENT (BUILDINGS, PLANT, ETC.), £25,000.—This amount is provided for purchase of plant and equipment, motor vehicles, and minor buildings as required.

IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION OF SWAMP LANDS, £200,000.—The proposed expenditures for 1958-59 are:—

The sum of £115,000 for further pumping plant electrification, including £43,000 for the completion of Berri and £72,000 for reclaimed areas. This year's provision is to cover the cost of civil works and contract payments for pumps and rising main.

The amount of £20,000 is provided for the commencement of a comprehensive drainage scheme at Cooltong.

The sum of £10,000 is provided for the installation of an additional pumping unit and alterations to the rising main at Moorook.

An amount of £55,000 is required for improvements to various town water supplies, for drainage works, channels and embankment sluices, and for buildings, plant, and minor urgent works.

SOUTH-EASTERN DRAINAGE, £400,000.—This year £363,000 is provided for construction of drainage works and acquisition of land in the Western Division of the South-East. An amount of £200,000 approximately of this provision will be required to complete development in the areas south of Drains K-L, and the balance of £163,000 is to enable work to be commenced in the area of 140,000 acres north of these drains. An amount of £37,000 is provided to enable the construction of petition drains and bridges and the purchase of plant and stores.

AFFORESTATION AND TIMBER MILLING, £975,000.—The principal work financed from this Loan Account which was in progress at the end of last financial year was the Central Mill at Mount Gambier, on which approximately £1,645,000 had been spent out of the total estimated cost of £1,800,000. The sum of £155,000 is proposed this year to cover the completion of the project. It is anticipated that the bandsaw line will be operating and the entire plant in full production by the end of 1958.

Other proposed expenditures for 1958-59 are as follows:—

The sum of £153,000 to cover the work of replanting, control of weeds and suckers, spraying, fire protection, etc.

The amount of £112,000 for preparation of land and planting. The 5,000 acres planned

as the 1959 plantation will take the total area of Government pine plantations to 137,000 acres.

An amount of £20,000 to purchase land for forest establishment.

£37,000 for erection of homes, buildings, etc., in forest areas.

£40,000 for plant and machinery for forest areas. This provides for the purchase or replacement of trucks, tractors, and miscellaneous forest plant.

£10,000 to complete the softwood sleeper treatment plant at Mount Gambier.

£224,000 for the erection of employees' homes, a shopping centre at Nangwarry, a recreation hall at Mount Burr, other buildings, and sundry works including improvements to the Nangwarry water supply.

£129,000 is provided for plant, machinery and equipment for sawmills. This amount covers new kilns at Nangwarry to season increased output, a new planing mill, and a record gang saw at Mount Burr to replace existing plant which has reached the end of its useful life. Provision has also been included for such other items as may become necessary during the year.

£95,000 is required to meet that portion of administrative expenses applicable to forest establishment which will be a charge against Loan Account.

RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION, £2,500,000.—The amount of £693,000 of this total is provided for Way and Works Branch. Items such as relaying, improvements to buildings, signalling and communications equipment, safety devices, lighting, etc., which are continuing requirements from day to day and which are made up of a number of small jobs, will require £567,000. The sum of £50,000 is required for residences for staff and £76,000 for plant and sundries.

For rolling stock in 1958-59 the aggregate provision is £1,807,000. To permit completion of a contract for the supply of 20 1,750 h.p. diesel electric main line locomotives £484,000 is provided. In respect of this project six locomotives had been issued to traffic to the end of 1956-57, and in 1957-58 a further seven went into service, making a total of 13 up to date. The remaining seven are expected to be in service by December next.

Diesel electric locomotives now in traffic are handling the Adelaide-Melbourne passenger traffic, practically all freight traffic on the southern and south-eastern lines, and assisting with freight traffic on the northern and Angaston lines. These locomotives can haul 1,000 gross tons through the Adelaide Hills in one train compared with a maximum of about 500 tons for steam locomotives.

The sum of £916,000 is proposed to be spent on further work on four projects for the construction of suburban diesel rail cars as

follows:—For the first group of 12 cars nine had been issued to traffic to the end of June last and the remaining three are to go into operation early this year. Final payments amounting to £7,000 are provided for. For the second group of 12 cars £28,000 had been spent to the end of June last on components, equipment and material. This group is scheduled to be completed by June, 1959, and £553,000 will be required for 1958-59. For the third group of six cars £314,000 will be required, and it is expected that all cars will be issued to traffic before the end of this financial year. For the fourth group of 12 cars £42,000 will be required for purchase of material and fabrication of details during 1958-59. The 12 cars are expected to be available for service during 1959-60.

A sum of £75,000 is provided this year to complete a project for 11 diesel mechanical rail cars for country passenger services, £62,000 is provided to complete a group of three diesel power baggage cars, £57,000 is required to meet South Australia's share of payments incurred this year on the construction of four joint stock cars for the Adelaide-Melbourne passenger traffic and £27,000 is provided to complete the dieselization of model 75 rail cars used on narrow gauge lines. Plant and machinery and motor vehicles will entail continual expenditure throughout the year and £121,000 is provided. The balance of the amount proposed is to cover payments for spares, retention money under a physically completed contract, conversion of rail cars from petrol to diesel operation, and improving the suspensions of "D" vans.

HARBORS ACCOMMODATION, £1,600,000.—An amount of £69,000 is provided for further work on the reconstruction of berths numbers 13 and 14 at Port Adelaide. This work, approximately 95% completed at the end of June last, provides for two new concrete wharves, four 6½-ton wharf cranes, two cargo sheds, rail tracks, roads and other services. The wharves were completed during 1957-58, the four cranes brought into operation recently, and work on the cargo sheds is continuing. This year's provision is intended to cover further payments under the main contract for cranes, the cost of electro-magnets for the cranes, and the completion of cargo sheds and roadways.

A sum of £160,000 is provided so that work may commence on the project to reconstruct North Parade Wharf. Under this work it is proposed to improve facilities for intra-state

vessels by reconstructing some 1,500ft. of wharf on the eastern side of the river between Birkenhead Bridge and Jervois Bridge, by deepening and by providing sheds and services.

An amount of £83,000 is required for work on improvements to the dockyard at Glanville, including the sheetpiling of Hawkers Creek, a small arm of the Port River, and the erection of a new store for dockyard plant and equipment; £24,000 is required for the purchase of spare parts for the cranes at the Osborne coal handling plant; and £82,000 is proposed to be spent on land acquisition to allow for future port expansion.

For Port Lincoln Bulk Handling Installation and shipping accommodation £190,000 is provided for 1958-59 to enable the completion of the project. This amount will be used principally for payments under the contract for the bulk handling plant. An amount of £290,000 is proposed to be spent this year on further dredging at Port Pirie to improve the channel and harbour, £80,000 is provided to enable work to commence at Thevenard on the modification of the pier and construction of a bulk handling installation, £59,000 will be required for the final payments under the contract for Wallaroo Bulk Handling Installation; £50,000 is provided for progress payments on a new grab dredger to be purchased for an estimated £160,000, £80,000 for work on the modernization of an existing dredger, £100,000 for plant and equipment as required, £2,000 for improvements to the Meyer Oval, and £331,000 for various works which may be authorized during the year.

WATERWORKS AND SEWERS, £6,970,000.—In the Adelaide Water District, during the year the Mannum-Adelaide Pipeline delivered over 14,000 million gallons of water. This made it possible to avert drastic water restrictions which would otherwise have had to be imposed in the metropolitan area last summer. To enable the Department to continue the construction of storages on the gravity section of the pipeline, and to commence the Anstey's Hill tunnel, £150,000 will be required during 1958-9, while £300,000 is proposed to be spent this year on further work at the South Para Reservoir, £246,000 being provided under Adelaide Water District and £54,000 under Barossa Water District. This year is expected to see the completion of the excavation and concreting of the spillway, and by June next the whole project will be practically completed.

An amount of £1,159,000 is set aside for the Myponga Reservoir and it is expected that by the end of the year some 40% of the contract work on the dam will have been carried out and about ten miles of trunk main will have been laid in the vicinity of Morphett Vale. Then £300,000 is provided for the Onkaparinga Valley Scheme, and this sum is intended to cover construction of mains, reticulation of Nairne and Littlehampton, and construction of two more tanks. Also £150,000 is to be spent on the Clarendon-Belair-Blackwood scheme for further purchases of pipes and the laying of mains. This scheme is designed to provide Belair and Blackwood with a new source of supply from Clarendon Weir. A sum of £100,000 is provided for further work on laying of mains for the Elizabeth water supply. It is anticipated that main laying this year will continue to keep pace with house construction by the Housing Trust. Other works provided for this year include improvement to supply in Noarlunga country lands, erection of tanks, improvement and extension of mains, and construction of a new pumping station to serve Northfield and Clearview areas. Provision is also included for plant and machinery and other recurring items.

Barossa water district.—Apart from the £54,000 for South Para reservoir which I have already commented on under Adelaide water district, £2,000 is provided to complete the enlargement of mains at Hamley Bridge, and £19,000 for minor works which may become necessary from time to time.

Warren water district.—An amount of £715,000 is provided for continued work on the enlargement of the Warren trunk main. This scheme is designed to provide a large proportion of the water requirements of Yorke Peninsula and to improve the supply in areas now served by the Warren Reservoir. Provision is made for the electrification of a pumping station at Hansborough, completion of the Angaston station, booster plant and mains extensions at Nuriootpa, plant and minor works.

Country water districts.—During 1958-59 it is proposed to carry out further work on the Jamestown-Peterborough pipeline and on schemes in the hundreds of Bright and Winninowie. Other projects are provided for at Encounter Bay, Kingston (South-East), Loxton, Meningie, Milang, Moorook, Mt. Gambier, Murray Bridge, Naracoorte, Orreroo, Paringa, St. Kilda, Swan Reach, and Warooka. Total provision is £316,000.

Tod River water district.—An amount of £51,000 is provided for the laying of 4in. and 6in. mains to improve supplies in the hundreds of Boothby, Brooker, Lincoln, McLachlan, Mann, Shannon, Tarlton, and Yadnarie. Other works envisaged are the exploration of the Lincoln underground water basin and completion of the installation of pumping plants at Lock and in the hundred of Wanilla.

Beetaloo, Bundaleer and Baroota water district.—A total of £640,000 is proposed to be spent on further work on the Yorke Peninsula scheme. It is anticipated that this year will see the extension of fibrolite pipelines to Port Victoria, Port Vincent, Stansbury, Yorketown, and Edithburgh; the construction of nine of the remaining 18 tanks; and the reticulation of some country lands near these tanks. Provision has been made to cover the construction of tanks at Bird's Hill and Caltowie and the laying of various mains.

Adelaide sewers.—The sum of £343,000 is provided for the extension and replacement of main sewers, and for the sewerage of new Housing Trust and other residential areas. An amount of £364,000 is required for further work on the extensions to the Glenelg treatment works. By the end of this financial year the first half of the additions will be completed and in operation, and the second half of the project will be in course of construction. Provision is also made to complete the Queensbury pumping station and for house connections, sewer ventilation and minor works.

Salisbury sewers.—For the construction of an extension to the Salisbury treatment plant and for further work on the sewerage systems of Elizabeth and Salisbury £187,000 is required.

Country sewers.—The amount needed to permit preliminary work on a sewerage scheme for Mount Gambier, the commencement of work on a project to provide Naracoorte with sewerage, and work on a sewerage system at Port Lincoln is £220,000.

RIVER MURRAY WEIRS, DAMS, LOCKS, ETC.—The sum of £280,000 is provided to meet South Australia's share of the cost of work carried out by the River Murray Commission.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND LAND, £7,500,000.—Of this amount £3,150,000 is set aside for hospital buildings, £3,600,000 for school buildings, £300,000 for police and court-house buildings, and £450,000 for other government buildings. I propose to comment on

the proposals for this year under each of these four headings.

Hospital buildings.—Actual expenditure in 1957-58 was £2,933,000, including £1,697,000 at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and £1,236,000 at other hospitals. The principal work completed last year was the nurses' home at the Mount Gambier Hospital. The home, which cost £294,000, provides accommodation for 120 nurses. At Parkside Mental Hospital two large buildings were completed. The final cost of the new men's admission block was £142,000, and the new men's T.B. block £93,000. A new kitchen at Northfield Mental Hospital was completed at a cost of £80,000. A number of projects were in progress at the end of June and I shall comment on them as I deal with the amounts proposed to be spent on further work in 1958-59. The 1958-59 proposals are as follows:—

Royal Adelaide Hospital.—An amount of £236,000 is provided for further work on the dental hospital additions. This work consists of two new wings, one of five floors and one of three floors, and the construction of an additional floor on each of the two existing wings. Of the total estimated cost of £499,000, £28,000 had been spent to June 30, 1958. The planned completion date is the middle of 1960.

An amount of £330,000 is provided for the radio-therapy building. The initial work provides for a ground floor, a basement and a sub-basement, but the foundations will permit up to nine additional floors being added. Of the total estimated cost of £694,000, £19,000 had been spent to the end of June. December 1959 is the anticipated completion date of this first section of the building. Plans for the upper floors to provide accommodation to the extent of 444 beds are at present before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. It is anticipated that final plans and specifications will be completed in time to enable work on the building to be continuous, so that the rebuilding plan for the whole hospital may proceed.

The sum of £39,000 is required for a new chest clinic. This project provides for alterations to the ground floor of Ruthven Mansions and the erection of a single storey building at the rear. Of the total estimated cost of £77,000, £3,000 had been spent to the end of 1957-58.

A total of £30,000 is required this year for extensions to the McEwin Building to provide recovery wards containing 12 beds and two

additional operating theatres. The total estimated cost is £53,000, and the anticipated completion date is the first quarter of 1959.

The amount of £61,000 is provided for alterations and additions, equipment, furniture etc. This provision is to cover work on a new lift shaft in the Casualty Block, utility rooms in Bice Building, sterilising facilities, caesium treatment rooms, and improvements to a kitchen.

Northfield wards.—The sum of £78,000 is required for further work on the nurses' home—two buildings each of two storeys are being provided to accommodate 82 nurses. The total estimated cost is £108,000, and the anticipated completion date is December, 1958. A total of £15,000 is required for a new pharmacy and it is expected that the work will be completed this financial year; £25,000 is provided for alterations and additions, equipment, furniture etc. This is to cover the cost of a new mortuary and oil store, and improvements to the kitchen.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital.—The sum of £853,000 is provided for the completion of the hospital construction works and the purchase of furniture. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital will provide, with its Maternity Wing, Out-patients' Department and Casualty Section, a complete health service in the Western Districts, as well as being an additional teaching hospital for medical students and nurses in conjunction with the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The general hospital will now provide 384 beds, including 66 on the sixth floor, which was to have been left in a shell form but which has now been fully fitted out. On the seventh floor there will be some private and some intermediate bedrooms where patients can be treated by their own doctors. Half of this floor will be a nursing unit designated as a memorial to war nurses. The eighth floor will have private and semi-private suites for the use of patients of honorary staff at the hospital. The maternity section is now operating in a separate wing and provides 114 beds. New ante and post-natal clinics have been completed recently and are in operation. This maternity section commenced operations in the Nurses' Home which has now been re-converted to its original function. Accommodation has been provided at the hospital for 580 nurses and sisters and 80 doctors and students. It is anticipated that the complete hospital will be in operation early next year.

Parkside Mental Hospital.—An amount of £10,000 is required to complete payments in

respect of the men's admission block which I have already referred to as physically completed; £40,000 is provided for the central boiler house and steam reticulation. This scheme is designed to replace individual boilers in the various buildings and to supply steam and hot water for the whole hospital. The total estimated cost is £79,000, and a contract will be let early next year. The sum of £77,000 is provided for sanitary annexes. Of the total estimated cost of £80,000, £3,000 had been spent to the end of June last. These annexes are to be three-storey blocks attached to each of three existing wards and they are to provide bathrooms, showers, toilets, store rooms, and goods lifts; £113,000 is provided for alterations and additions, equipment, furniture, etc. This provision is to cover work on the workshop, dispensary, female and male wards, and airing courts.

Northfield Mental Hospital.—For additional accommodation for 280 patients £98,000 is provided and is to cover the completion of four blocks, namely, for senile men, senile women, girls and boys. The total estimated cost of the four blocks is £643,000. The men's block is expected to be completed by September, the women's block by November, the boys' block by December, and the girls' block early in 1959. The sum of £27,000 is required for further work on the boiler house and steam generating plant for which the total estimated cost is £170,000. This work will provide hot water and steam services for additional blocks which have recently been constructed or are now under construction. The anticipated completion date is early in 1959.

Mount Gambier Hospital.—Provision is made for £464,000 for work on the new general hospital at Mount Gambier. Of the total estimated cost of £1,207,000, £619,000 had been spent to the end of June. This work provides for a new six-storey hospital to accommodate 217 patients, and is expected to be completed by the end of 1959. The sum of £72,000 is required for the boiler house and steam generating plant. A contract has been let for the steam generating plant and tenders will shortly be called for the boiler house. The total estimated cost is £120,000. Provision is made for £5,000 for work on a new pathological laboratory, the estimated cost of which is £65,000 when completed. The laboratory will be situated near the new general hospital and pathological work will be undertaken for other centres in the south-east in addition to Mount Gambier.

Port Augusta Hospital.—At this hospital £20,000 is provided for additions to the maternity block.

Port Pirie Hospital.—The sum of £16,000 is required to continue work on the new theatre and men's block. This building, which will be completed in September, will consist of three floors and will contain two operating theatres, X-ray facilities, sterilizing and staff rooms, and accommodation for 70 patients. The total estimated cost is £210,000. An amount of £202,000 is provided for a project for a new kitchen, laundry, boiler house, workshop, equipment, and sewerage system. The total estimated cost of this work is £405,000 and the building contract has been let.

Mareeba Babies' Hospital.—The sum of £9,000 is required for alterations, additions, equipment, furniture, etc., including work on a laboratory and the x-ray department, and a new lift.

General.—£250,000 is provided for minor alterations and additions and £80,000 for furniture and equipment at the various hospitals as the need arises.

School Buildings.—During 1957-58 eleven new schools were occupied and craftwork centres were completed at 11 schools. At the Finsbury Works Branch 300 prefabricated classrooms and 50 classroom equivalents were manufactured. At the end of the year work was in progress on the following new schools or on major additions to existing schools—primary schools at Broadmeadows, Croydon Park, and Hampstead; infant schools at Forbes, Gepps Cross, and Linden Park; technical schools at Croydon and Norwood; area schools at Eudunda and Oakbank; and high schools at Bordertown, Brighton, Enfield, Findon, Loxton, Marion, Port Augusta, Salisbury, Unley, and Waikerie. Work was also progressing on craft centres at high schools at Birdwood, Booleroo Centre, Kadina, and Mount Barker.

The provisions for 1958-59 include £919,000 for 19 new primary and 6 new infant schools. This proposed expenditure is to cover further work on the Broadmeadows and Croydon Park primary schools, and the Forbes, Gepps Cross, and Linden Park infant schools, which I have referred to as being in progress at the end of June last, and to finance work on primary schools at Burnside, Christies' Beach, Clapham, Elizabeth East, Elizabeth Grove, Elizabeth Park, Fulham, Fulham Gardens, Kirton Point (Port Lincoln), Klemzig, Lockleys North, McLaren Vale, Mitchell Park, Mt. Gambier

North, Netley, Seacliff and Warradale; and also to finance work on infant schools at Challa Gardens, Mt. Gambier East, and Willsden.

It is proposed to spend £19,000 on completing the additions at Hampstead and commencing a new wing of four classrooms at Hectorville primary school. The sum of £137,000 is required for work on Elizabeth Girls', Gilles Plains Boys', Gilles Plains Girls', and Le Fevre Boys' new technical schools, and £210,000 is required for major additions at technical schools at Croydon Boys', Croydon Girls', Norwood Boys', Port Adelaide Girls', and Whyalla.

A new area school at Parndana, Kangaroo Island, will require £90,000, and £40,000 is provided for the completion of the additions at Eudunda and Oakbank area schools. Further work on new high schools at Bordertown, Loxton, Salisbury, Seacombe Gardens, Unley Boys', and Waikerie is provided for to the extent of £461,000, and £358,000 is needed for alterations and additions to high schools.

The amount of £160,000 is provided for craftwork and domestic arts centres; £73,000 for work on Adult Education Centres at Gawler and Mount Gambier; £315,000 for prefabricated buildings; £50,000 for furniture for new schools; £150,000 for a further grant to the School of Mines towards extensions to the Playford Building; £153,000 for the purchase of land for future schools; £65,000 for new residences; £10,000 for the purchase of land for recreation areas; £370,000 for miscellaneous small works as the need arises; and £20,000 for investigations and other preliminary works.

Police and Courthouse Buildings.—The provisions for 1958-59 are as follows:—

£10,000 is required for the commencement of work on a new police station at Port MacDonnell.

£21,000 is proposed to be spent on continued work on Mount Gambier and Renmark additions.

£15,000 is required for the commencement of work on new courthouses at Naracoorte and Port Pirie.

£86,000 is set aside for further work on the five-storey Supreme Court additions. This reinforced concrete-framed building will contain the main library, offices for the Sheriff's Department and for reporting staff, an additional courtroom and accommodation for the Industrial Court.

In addition, provision has been made to cover combined police stations and courthouses at Angaston, Barmera, Elizabeth, Kapunda, Kingseote, and Morphett Vale; minor alterations and additions to police and courthouse

buildings; new residences; and preliminary work on various projects.

OTHER GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.—The proposed expenditures for 1958-59 are as follows:—

Architect-in-Chief's Department.—The sum of £32,000 is required to complete workshops at Netley, while the amount set down to complete new offices at Murray Bridge and Port Lincoln is £50,000.

Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department.—An amount of £65,000 is proposed to be spent to complete a new Security Block at Magill Reformatory. This block, which was 25% completed at the end of June, is expected to be finished by December 1958, at a total cost of £84,000. This building is to be a single storey brick structure containing 22 cabins, amenities room, kitchen, dining room, and toilets. It is to provide secure accommodation for youths who are thought to be potential absconders.

Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science.—An amount of £11,000 is provided to complete the building for the central sterilizing unit of the Institute.

Sheriff and Comptroller of Prisons.—The sum of £20,000 is set aside to cover the cost of new cells and improvements at Mount Gambier and Port Augusta Gaols.

A new prison establishment is to be set up at Cadell, estimated to cost £320,000 in total, and £20,000 is provided for the commencement of work this year.

EXPENSES AND DISCOUNTS OF FLOATING CONVERSION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES LOANS, £400,000.—This amount is provided to meet the expenses and discounts of floating loans.

TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY HOUSING ACCOMMODATION, £21,000.—The provision this year is to cover such small jobs as may become necessary from time to time.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST, £500,000.—During 1957-58 the Trust completed 1,674 houses for sale and 1,359 rental dwellings. An area of approximately 2,000 acres near the proposed refinery site at Christies Beach was purchased to be developed into a new town site at an appropriate time. At the end of June last the Trust had 2,357 houses under construction, and at Elizabeth the Lyell McEwin Hospital, to have 45 beds initially, and the three-storey nurses' quarters, were well under way. For 1958-59 the Trust plans to spend £10,286,000 on the construction of houses and associated works. Of this amount £500,000 will be required from State loan

funds and £3,675,000 will be available under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement; the balance will be available from the funds of the Trust.

It is expected that progress work will be carried out on 5,470 living units comprising the 2,357 under construction at the end of June last and 3,113 to be commenced this year. Of these 5,470 units on which the Trust will be engaged approximately 3,090 are expected to be completed during the year and 2,380 to be under construction at the end of June next. The amount of £795,000 is to be spent by the Trust this year on the purchase of land for future projects, £300,000 on roads, drainage schemes and other developmental works, £150,000 on the town centre at Elizabeth, and £250,000 on the erection of shops and factories, head office accommodation, etc.

THE ELECTRICITY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (LOAN TO), £2,000,000.—The Trust proposes to spend £8,666,000 on capital works during the year. To finance these works it will have £3,916,000 of internal funds and anticipates raising £2,750,000 from lending institutions and the public. The balance of the requirement, £2,000,000, is to be provided from State loan funds. The Trust's expenditure during 1958-59 on major power stations is estimated at £3,006,000, including £213,000 for Osborne "A" and "B" Stations, £40,000 for preliminary investigations for a new power station, £138,000 for Port Augusta "A" Station, £2,324,000 for Port Augusta "B" Station, and £291,000 for general works at Port Augusta. At Osborne this year's provision is to cover the completion of civil works at the "B" Station, the final payments in respect of generating equipment already installed, and payments for plant or services to meet the combined needs of the two stations.

For Port Augusta "A" Station this year's provision is for final payments in respect of generating plant already installed, for civil works, for extension of various services, for the purchase of other plant and equipment, and for progress payments on a chimney stack for which tenders have been called. The major expenditure on account of Port Augusta "B" Station this year will be progress payments on generating equipment amounting to £1,562,000. It is expected that £307,000 will be spent on other electrical equipment and £235,000 on civil works. Regional expenditure during 1958-59 is estimated at £71,000 for Port Lincoln Region and £476,000 for South-East Region. The £476,000 for South-East

Region includes £242,000 for the Mount Gambier Power Station to cover payments for generating equipment, other plant and station services, and £234,000 for distribution works. The sum of £4,130,000 is proposed to be spent by the Distribution and Supply Division, mainly on the 275kV transmission lines between Port Augusta and Magill. During this year it is expected that various extensions will add a further 10,500 consumers to the Trust's system.

THE LEIGH CREEK COALFIELD, £100,000.—The construction work still to be done at the field is mainly associated with extending the coal loading facilities and improving the township and service facilities. Expenditure on these items in 1958-59 will be approximately £324,000, of which £224,000 is to be found from depreciation and other funds, leaving a requirement of £100,000 from State loan funds.

MINES DEPARTMENT, £125,000.—This provision will permit the purchase of scientific instruments used by geological and geophysical parties in the field and laboratory equipment for experimental work in the Research and Development Laboratories. Funds are also provided for replacement of worn out and obsolete workshop equipment, motor vehicles and drilling plants.

URANIUM PRODUCTION, £100,000.—Although construction at both Port Pirie and Radium Hill is now complete some capital expenditure will be required during 1958-59. At Radium Hill it is estimated that £80,000 will be spent on additional mill equipment, replacement of mining equipment, and improvement to ventilation in the mine, while in the town further expenditure for septic tanks, roadways and services will be incurred. For Port Pirie £20,000 is provided to supply additional equipment to improve recoveries and to lower costs. The proceeds for 1958-59 are estimated at £2,600,000 (two-thirds in U.S. dollars and one-third in sterling). After meeting working expenses it is expected that there will be a surplus of £900,000 to be credited against capital cost.

MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS TRUST (LOAN TO), £300,000.—The proposed payments of the trust for capital works this year amount to £587,000, of which £287,000 will be provided from other than State loan funds, leaving £300,000 to be provided in this Bill. A sum of £314,000 is expected to be spent on the purchase of fuel buses, £6,000 is to be spent on paving at Hackney North bus servicing depot and £27,000 on city depot re-arrangements. Also,

£25,000 is required for motor vehicles, plant and equipment, £210,000 for the restoration of roadways by contract, and £5,000 for furniture and fittings.

METROPOLITAN AND EXPORT ABATTOIRS BOARD (LOAN TO), £100,000.—During 1958-59 the Board plans to carry out a capital programme totalling £217,000, of which £117,000 will be available from internal sources so that £100,000 will be required from State loan funds. The major project, for which £150,000 has been provided, is the construction of a meat hall to enable more efficient distribution; £25,000 is required for smaller works, including alterations and additions, equipment, etc.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT (PLANT, MACHINERY, STORES, ETC.), £30,000.—This amount is required for the purchase of a printing press and other plant and equipment.

PRODUCE DEPARTMENT (BUILDINGS, PLANT, ETC.), £20,000.—For 1958-59, £12,000 is required to complete the installation of two boilers and associated equipment at Port Lincoln and £8,000 for purchase of plant and equipment as required.

FISHING HAVENS, £100,000.—The principal provision for 1958-59 is £72,000 for construction of a slipway and workshops at Port Lincoln, and £28,000 is provided for such small works as may be approved. And now, turning to the Clauses of the Bill, Clause 3 defines the Loan Fund, Clause 4 provides for the borrowing by the Treasurer of £23,672,000, and Clause 5 provides for the expenditure of £26,722,000 on the undertakings set out in the Schedule to the Bill. Clause 6 makes provision for borrowing and payment of an amount to cover any discounts, charges and expenses incurred in connection with borrowing for the purposes of this Bill. Clause 7 authorizes the Treasurer to raise £628,065 for the purpose of funding the balance of deficits remaining for the year ending June 30, 1955, £40,209; and the year ending June 30, 1956, £587,856. These deficits remain as a charge to the State Revenue Account after the grants recommended by the Grants Commission have been brought to account. The amounts in question were financed pursuant to the appropriate Appropriation Acts from public moneys which will now be replaced on the amounts being charged to the Loan Fund.

Clause 8 makes provision for temporary finance if the moneys in the Loan Fund are insufficient for the purposes of this Bill. Clause 9 authorizes the borrowing of £9,000,000

for the purpose of carrying on loan works at the commencement of next financial year and until the Public Purposes Loan Bill for 1959 is considered by the House. Clause 10 deals with the duration of certain clauses to the Bill. Clause 11 directs that all money received by the State under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act shall be credited to a special account to be paid out as required for the purposes of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act. Clause 12 provides for this Bill to operate as from the 1st July, 1958.

I commend the Bill for consideration of honourable members.

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

BENEFIT ASSOCIATIONS BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General)—

I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It provides for the control of organisations which are in the Bill called "benefit associations". Most of these associations are companies which in return for periodical contributions undertake to meet the whole or portion of the expenses incurred by contributors or members for such matters as medical treatment, maintenance in hospitals, dental treatment, and the cost of funerals, burials and cremation.

Organisations which are already controlled under Acts (other than the Companies Act) are not within the scope of this Bill. Friendly societies for example, which are regulated under the State Friendly Societies Act and are also registered under the National Health Act, need no further supervision and are excluded from the Bill. Organisations registered under the National Health Act as medical benefits organisations or hospital benefits organisations are also exempt because the Commonwealth supervises them and, in any event, the State has no power to legislate about them. Life insurance companies registered under the Commonwealth Life Insurance Act are excluded from the Bill for the same reason. Furthermore, this Bill will not apply to any trade union, whether registered under Federal or State law. The Government has had no complaints about any benefit business conducted by these organisations.

The associations to which this Bill will apply are at present not subject to any special control in their benefit business. The Government understands that most of them are conducted for private profit although the

profit may not result in dividends to shareholders. The Government has received numerous complaints about associations of this kind. It may not be fair to condemn all of them, but it can be safely asserted that a number of them are of little or no value to the community. Those which provide hospital or medical benefits all suffer from the fundamental defect that because they are not registered under the National Health Act, their members do not, by virtue of their membership, obtain any rights to the hospital and medical benefits which are provided by the Commonwealth and paid only through registered organisations. It is therefore impossible that any unregistered association can for the same contribution secure for its members the same amount of benefit as an organisation which is registered under the National Health Act. It is quite clear that some of these unregistered associations have been in financial trouble because the Government has received frequent complaints from different sources about failure by the associations to meet claims and about sudden increases in contributions, without any increase in benefits.

The control of these unregistered associations is a difficult matter. For some years it seemed probable that the Commonwealth Government would institute control by legislation under the Federal insurance power, and for this reason the State refrained from taking any action. The Commonwealth however has now decided not to extend the ambit of its present control, and has in fact made its attitude quite clear by recently passing an Act exempting funeral benefit societies from the Life Insurance Companies Act. The whole field of unregistered benefit associations is now left to the States, although the problem is more difficult for the States than for the Commonwealth. One reason for this is that some societies have interstate operations and no one State can exercise full control.

The Government is informed that some societies have their headquarters in Canberra and this also makes State control difficult. Again, any system of licensing or registration involves difficulties. When a society is licensed or registered by a Government, even though the licence or registration implies nothing as to the Society's financial position, the society invariably uses the fact that it is licensed or registered as evidence of its soundness and many people are misled. If, on the other hand, registration or a licence is to be granted only to societies which are actuarially sound, an immense amount of actuarial investigation

would have to be conducted as a preliminary to the institution of any control. There are not enough officers to do this work within a reasonable time. Furthermore, there is the problem of the compulsory winding up of any societies which are refused Government recognition and this involves difficulty, especially where a society conducts operations in two or more States.

In this Bill, therefore, the Government does not propose a system of licensing or registration. The general scheme is to require unregistered associations to file annual financial returns with the Public Actuary and to enable the Public Actuary in due course to take action to restrict the activities of societies which are financially unsound.

The Hon. Sir Collier Cudmore—Why not the Auditor-General?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—It has been suggested that the Public Actuary should be the person to do this particular work, but I am quite happy to have a look at the honourable member's suggestion and get some further information upon it. The Government believes that under this Bill unsound societies will ultimately be compelled to cease business.

The explanation of the clauses is as follows: Clause 3 sets out the societies which will be excluded from the operation of the Act. As I mentioned these are friendly societies, organizations registered under the National Health Act, registered life insurance companies, trade unions, and any other association declared by proclamation to be exempt from the Bill. The Government has reason to believe also that there are some associations, not conducted for profit, which provide funeral and death benefits for members and are quite honest and sound and will not need control under the Act. These can be exempted by proclamation.

Clause 4 sets out the definitions. The principal definition is that of "benefit business," which limits the scope of the Act. Benefit business is defined so as to include the making of payments to or on behalf of contributors or others in respect of hospital, medical and therapeutic services, medicines, dental treatment, or funerals, burials and cremations. Clause 4 also makes it clear that the Bill will apply to any association, wherever formed, if it provides any of the defined benefits for, or accepts contributions from, residents of South Australia.

Clause 5 provides that within three months after the end of each financial year every bene-

fit association must furnish a return to the Public Actuary. The return must contain the information prescribed by regulations relating to the income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the association. The Public Actuary is also empowered to obtain special returns from an association on notice.

Clause 6 enables the Public Actuary to investigate the finances and management of an association at any time. For the purpose of an investigation he may appoint authorised persons to help him or act on his behalf and both the Public Actuary and the authorised persons will have full powers to inspect and examine books and records and enter premises where books and records are kept.

Clauses 7 and 8 enable the Public Actuary to make recommendations to a society in cases where the society has a deficit or a surplus. In the case of a deficit recommendations may be made for the increase of contributions or reduction of benefits, and, in the case of a surplus, for the reduction of contributions and the increase of benefits. Recommendations may also be made for the restriction of management expenses. It is admitted that the proposed powers of the Actuary to make recommendations are wide. In many cases it may not be necessary to use them at all, but it is essential that the Actuary should have sufficient powers to protect contributors and members of the public against insolvent associations and overcharging and exploitation.

Every recommendation of the Public Actuary will in the first instance be provisional and notice of it will be given to the association concerned. The association may at any time within eight weeks after receiving the notice, make representations to the Public Actuary to show cause why the recommendation should not be confirmed, or should be altered or added to. After considering all the representations the Public Actuary will make his final recommendation. It will be the duty of a society to carry out any final recommendation applicable to it. If a society does not carry out a final recommendation it will not thereafter be entitled to take any new members, and in addition it may be required to circulate among its members a report prepared by the Public Actuary on its financial position.

Clause 12 makes it an offence for an association to state falsely that it is registered or licensed or approved under any Act or regulation of the State or the Commonwealth. The Government has noticed several misleading

statements of this kind in the advertising literature issued by unregistered associations. Clause 13 provides for making the administrative regulations, and clause 14 for a fine of not more than one hundred pounds for any offence against the Bill. The Government considers that the powers conferred by this Bill, though they may result in an association having to give up business, are amply justified. A number of unregistered associations have, by their own conduct, clearly showed that they cannot be trusted, without control, to conduct benefit business on sound lines and with justice to their contributors.

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

MAINTENANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from September 2. Page 605.)

Clause 4—"Other moneys received on child's account."

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—In his speech on the second reading Mr. Bardolph referred to the conditions of this clause. The answer to the honourable member's query is contained in sections 133 and 134. Section 132 provides that the wages of the ward may be paid to the board and 133 states:—

All moneys deposited in the Treasury pursuant to the next preceding section shall bear interest at the rate of four pounds ten shillings per annum for every one hundred pounds, to be calculated upon such money and the balance thereof, and any accrued interest thereon, the first day of each month.

The honourable member will therefore appreciate that they are getting a much better deal than if, as he suggested, the money were paid into the Savings Bank where the rate of interest would be $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or 3 per cent.

Section 134 ensures that the money shall be passed on to the ward, for it says:—

(1) All or any part of the money so deposited, and any interest thereon, may be expended by the board for the benefit of the child when and in such manner as the board may from time to time deem advisable.

(2) All moneys so deposited, and not paid or expended as aforesaid, shall be payable to the child upon his or her attaining the age of twenty-one years . . .

I think that satisfactorily answers the point raised by the honourable member.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I unreservedly accept the Minister's explanation. Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (5 to 7) and title passed and Bill reported without amendment; Committee's report adopted.

SHEARERS ACCOMMODATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from September 2. Page 620.)

Clause 3—"What is proper and sufficient accommodation."

The Hon. A. J. MELROSE—I understood that the Minister proposed to adjourn the debate further on this clause with a view to obtaining some information that I desire.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Minister of Industry and Employment)—The honourable member desired some further information regarding the question of increasing accommodation from 300 cubic feet to 480 cubic feet and in the circumstances I ask the Committee to agree to again reporting progress.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

MINING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 27. Page 543.)

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Minister of Mines)—The Bill contains three clauses of real importance, namely, those relating to the basis of royalties, the granting of licences and forfeiture because of non-registration. These seem to be fairly simple things, but during the debate opinions were expressed indicating some confusion in the minds of members, and the debate developed into a certain amount of general criticism, in some cases of the administration. For example, Mr. Densley said that although the Bill sought to protect owners there was a trend nowadays towards bureaucratic control and that it was undesirable to destroy the confidence of investors who often had to wait some time before receiving any return for their money. I was rather surprised that any such general remarks should be made to apply to the Mines Department, for surely the whole work of the department is one which assists both primary and secondary industry in every way.

I gave some information to the Council during the Address in Reply debate regarding the work of the department, and I reiterate some of it. For instance, geological advice and water drilling for primary industry, as well as the analysis of water, is done on a cost basis. I have obtained later figures than I gave on that occasion. A half a million feet

have been drilled representing 4,742 bores, 83 per cent of which are productive and from which the daily output is 101,000,000gall. I gave some figures earlier in relation to Loan expenditure allocated to the Engineering and Water Supply Department. If we take the total output and compare it with the 101,000,000gall. that have been made available, we get some idea of the importance of the work carried out. Surely, this cannot be looked upon as bureaucratic control; it is a straight out assistance to industry.

In the field of secondary industry a prompt and efficient service is given in the way of analytical work, mineralogical and petrological surveys, and research work in the chemical, engineering and metallurgical fields. Possibly no department, other than a straight out social services department; does more for the people associated with it. One can only conclude that Mr. Densley's comment is tied up with his later remarks dealing with the Mines and Works Inspection Act, under which it is necessary to police certain safety measures in quarries. I noted that the honourable member said the mining inspectors may have no qualifications whatsoever, but I assure him that no mining inspector may occupy the position unless he is a qualified mining engineer. Those holding the positions of inspectors are qualified men, and if the work they carry out can be called bureaucratic then all our traffic laws and every interference with the public for the safety and protection of a minority are much more so.

The honourable member went on to refer to Western Australian laws. I could not discover just what was worrying him, but he maintained that the whole of our mining legislation should be overhauled and that a special committee should be appointed, and for some reason or other he held the Western Australian laws up as a model. This is the first I have ever heard of that being so. I claim that the mining laws of this State are quite up-to-date, and if they are lacking in anything it is only the means I am now placing before the House to put us in a position where perhaps our legislation is complete.

With regard to the Bill itself, I think it is necessary to clarify some remarks that have been made. Unfortunately, I was not in the House last year when a similar Bill was before Parliament, but it seems that some members are forgetful of what their attitude was 12 months ago and now take another point of view. The need for this legislation was brought to the notice of the Government

through a question asked in another place last year. That question, which appears at page 1590 of *Hansard*, was directed to the Premier by Mr. Laucke and concerned mining rights. It is as follows:—

I refer to what could well be described as a fantastic intrusion and absurd impediment to a desirable subdivision for building purposes at Teatree Gully. Approximately 32 acres of land adjacent to the Main North-East Road and Hancock's Road has been purchased by the Wakefield Land Company Pty. Ltd., for subdivision. The subdivision has been approved by the Town Planner. Roads have been constructed by the company and, where necessary, the land has been levelled, resulting in excellent and valuable building sites. On January 30 miner's right No. 9097 was pegged in the heart of the subdivision, covering approximately 70 building blocks. Will the Premier have an immediate inquiry made to determine the validity of the miner's claim?

The Premier replied:—

Without examining the matter I imagine that if the mining claim was not valid the peg would have been pulled out before this by the owners of the land. The mining laws of this State do, to some extent, impinge the Real Property Act and there is sometimes conflict between the two laws. I will have the matter examined.

The matter was then referred to the Director of Mines, who reported as follows:—

After an inspection of the property by two officers of the Department of Mines, it was ascertained that the land in question had been surveyed and levelled, and that roads had been made, and that the holder of the miner's right, by virtue of which the mining claim had been pegged, was searching for sand for building purposes. The prospector could have been searching for any other material, such as gold, rutile, etc., and the pegging would have been quite valid, and had the claimholder proceeded with mining operations the land would, at least temporarily, have been rendered virtually valueless to the landowner for the purpose of sale as subdivided land.

The Hon. Sir Collier Cudmore—Can you tell me whether the mineral taken from this land belonged to the owner or the Government?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—In this case it belonged to the Government. It makes no difference what mineral a person is mining for.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill—Oh, yes, it does. You cannot mine for sand on private property; it is expressly excluded.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—The honourable member says there is a difference, but it is ridiculous to say, as I think was suggested, that we could consider sand in a different category from some other type of mineral. It is quite easy to upset the whole thing by saying, "Oh, I pegged it for gold

and not for sand," and the whole thing becomes ineffective. I hope, as I proceed, to make that position clear to honourable members, because I rather fear that members are not completely aware of the origin of the legislation, what it means, or how it works. I was referring to the fact that it could have been any other mineral, and the pegging would have been quite valid. There is no power to do anything about it. The mining could eventually render it completely useless for any other purpose and as the Act stands at present, nothing could be done by the Department.

After due consideration, the matter was referred to the Crown Solicitor, whose opinion was:—

It might be considered desirable to amend section 39 of the Mining Act so as to provide that before a claim is registered the mining registrar shall give the owner of the land an opportunity of being heard as to the application to register, and that if sufficient reasons are shown why the claim should not be registered the registrar may refuse registration.

So amending legislation was introduced last year. It was not proceeded with, however, following objection to other clauses, but not to clause 5, which has become a matter of contention here. Legislation is now being introduced because the Government considers it essential in the public interest.

The honourable Sir Arthur Rymill has raised a number of matters which I hope I shall be able to clarify to some extent. Whether it is relevant or irrelevant, it is proper to have accurate information. He quoted me as saying:—

In the early days of the State it was the practice when granting land to reserve minerals to the Crown, and as a result, a certain amount of privately-owned land is liable to be mined under the ordinary provisions of the Mining Act without reliance on the special provisions dealing with mining on private property.

In clarification of that may I say the position is that all land grants after February 1, 1889, reserve the minerals to the Crown. This type of land is dealt with under the provisions of the parts of the Mining Act dealing with "mineral lands." The Governor, by the power conferred under section 6 of the Act, proclaimed in the *Government Gazette* of December 21, 1933 (pages 1239-40), what lands are mineral lands within the meaning of the Act. This includes the type of land under discussion, land held under agreement for sale of Crown lands and leased lands held under the Crown Lands Act.

Sir Arthur stated further:—

The portion of the Mining Act that relates to mining on private property is Part IIIa. I think it was part of the old Mining on Private Property Act.

This is not so. Part IIIa of the Mining Act (Mining on Private Land) is not part of the old Mining on Private Property Act, 1909-1916. Section 69aa was inserted as an amendment to the Bill in the Legislative Council during the passage of the Mining Act Amendment Bill in 1931. I quote further from the speech of the honourable member:—

Section 69aa of the Mining Act reads:—

Nothing in this Act shall apply to any sand, gravel, stone or shell in or upon any private lands in any case where the sand, gravel, stone or shell has been alienated from the Crown, and no right of mining over any such sand, gravel, stone or shell shall be conferred pursuant to this Act.

That, of course, is a quotation from the Act itself.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill—I must be right there.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—The honourable member cannot be wrong there. He proceeds to say:—

I think it is that at which the amendment is aimed. At present we cannot mine sand, gravel, shell or stone on private land where the owner has the mineral rights but we can mine them on private land where rights to those commodities have been reserved to the Crown. The example quoted by the Minister as to why the section should be passed related to building sand from land close to Adelaide, which has been subdivided, provided with roads and is in the process of being sold. The Minister said the Government formed the opinion that it was necessary to have the power to refuse to register a claim in cases like the building sand one he quoted. I agree that that is so because it seems that the Act is defective. It has been previously stated by the Act that we should not have the right to mine sand, etc., on private land where the mineral belongs to the owner but there seems to be the difficulty that we can do it on private land where the mineral rights have been reserved to the Crown. The two things are inconsistent. That is the matter I query and I hope the Minister will deal with it when he replies. Should the protective provisions to cover up the loophole go any further than the part relating to private property goes at the moment? The proposed provision covers not only sand, gravel, and so on, but any other minerals.

In reply, I must inform the House that the present amendment has no bearing whatever on, or any relationship to, section 69aa. It was only by chance that in the case mentioned the mineral sought happened to be sand. The fact that sand, gravel, stone and shell were exempted from the operation of the Act in

regard to private land (minerals alienated) by amendment in Parliament is the reason why the Act is inconsistent in relation to those same minerals on land where minerals are Crown property. The present amendment should apply to all minerals on "mineral lands." This should not be limited in the way it is limited on private land. We know that all the Act says is that, concerning private land where minerals are not Crown property, if anybody wants to mine there he must obtain the consent of the owner of the property or, if they fail to agree, he must obtain a special authority from the warden. If the mineral rights belong to the Crown and if he has a miner's right he may peg a claim. One may not like it, but the fact remains that he can peg a claim, and it is just as important for one mineral as for another, whether it is sand, gravel, stone, shell, gold, rutile, copper or anything else. Surely the private owner of the land is still as concerned with what happens as the man who mines on the property.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill—That seems to be an argument for amending section 69aa rather than justifying the clause you are now putting up.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—That is a matter for this House to consider. It seems to be causing all the trouble. Be that as it may, we will come back to the matter under discussion, which is that it should apply to all minerals, as this amendment does.

Finally, Sir Arthur said:—

My question is whether this clause should relate to mining generally. I wonder whether the section should not be limited in exactly the same way as section 69aa. I think I am justified in raising the point because the Minister in giving an example of why the Government felt it should have the power to refuse to register certain claims only gave the example of building sand, which is one of the materials I mentioned.

In reply to the honourable member's contention let me say that if the present amendment were limited to the minerals mentioned in section 69aa, it would nullify its desired effect, as the position could just as easily arise in regard to any other mineral. A similar position has arisen as to rutile at Moana. In this case the mineral claim was registered before the department was aware that the owner desired to subdivide. In any case, even if his desire had been known it would not, at present, have been possible to consider any refusal to register the claim, which was properly pegged out. A person pegging out a claim and working it could interfere with and

ruin the intake area for a water supply on pastoral lands where the water could be more valuable than the mineral being mined. It must surely come back to a sense of values.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry has likewise raised a number of matters, to which I feel called upon to refer. He said:—

This Bill seeks to amend the Mining Act, which has been in force ever since the State was founded.

Actually the Act first came into force in 1893. Prior to that year, mining titles were granted under the Crown Lands Act and the Gold Mining Act. As to royalties, he remarked:—

There is a commission in regard to royalties that is not covered in the Act. Evidently it is working at present, but is not regarded as legal by the department. It is sought to bring the Act into conformity with present practice—that royalties should be calculated with due regard to the user or owner of the land in respect of which royalty is paid.

In effect the amendment regarding royalties is to authorize the department to charge royalty on a lease that has been sublet, so that the royalty payable will be the same as if the lease is worked by the lessee himself. This is not at present provided for in the Act. Speaking on clause 5, Sir Frank Perry said:—

This clause limits the miner's right, because it will preclude him from mining on certain lands. It is true that it deals only with substances of limited value, but here again discretionary powers must be exercised by the warden and the Minister.

The amendment to clause 5 will not necessarily preclude the miner from mining. It is for the purpose of inquiry by the Registrar, and if very strong grounds can be advanced for refusal to register a mining title the Minister may approve such refusal. The honourable member also said:—

While we know that the protections for the owner forecast in this Bill are not in force where a claim is pegged on land that has been cut up and is presumably not continued with, I think the Act provides that, when anybody pegs a claim and works it, he has to satisfy the owner, and the owner has the right of appeal to the courts. Under the Bill he has the right of compensation and all sorts of protecting rights.

The position is that the person who pegs out a claim, registers it and works it does not have to satisfy the owner of the land. The owner has no right of appeal to the courts, apart from the fact that he could, if he is the holder of a miner's right, like any other person who holds a current miner's right, apply to the Warden's Court for forfeiture of the claim if it is not being worked in accordance with the regulations under the Mining Act.

The amendment will not prove detrimental to the continuing discovery and development of minerals, because the power which is being sought would be used only under special circumstances. The landholder can apply for compensation for damage to his land caused by mining.

That deals with the points raised in the debate that I think needed tidying up. I gathered by inference rather than by straight out suggestion that the power proposed may be all right in the hands of one Minister, but not in the hands of another. There was complicated machinery and delay in cases where an immediate decision was required. It may be a case where it is not desired to have a decision hanging over for 12 months in going through all the procedure, plus the cost, and it may be at the expense of an innocent person. Such matters could be settled through such channels as are suggested in the Bill. I have not lost my faith in Parliament, which I think would be sufficiently on guard to see that in such cases prompt consideration was given if a Minister used his powers improperly. If an application for registration of a claim is in order and proper measurements are given, it is purely a matter of procedure. If an attempt were made to mine in one's backyard there would be the opportunity to

make inquiries to see what it was all about. I can commend every clause as something which is considered necessary and useful and I cannot see that this legislation could in any way be abused.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—"Grant of Licences."

The Hon. Sir COLLIER CUDMORE—The Committee is indebted to the Minister for the detailed explanation he has given in reply to questions raised during the second reading, but I think all of us would be glad of an opportunity to consider the matters he has brought forward before going any further into details of the Bill. Therefore I ask if he will agree to reporting progress.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I am happy to accede to the honourable member's suggestion. The relationships of the various Acts involved are not easy to follow. They gave me some trouble and I have every sympathy with members.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.17 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, September 23, at 2.15 p.m.