

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

Wednesday, August 26, 1959.

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

**QUESTION.****FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE IN COUNTY OF JERVOIS.**

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—On Eyre Peninsula, situated between the Tooligie Hills and Rudall, is a large area known as a fauna and flora reserve. It has never been used for the purpose for which it was reserved and, in my opinion, it never will be in as much as the Lands Department has divided the area into hundreds which contain a large percentage of good agricultural land with a 13 inch to 14 inch rainfall. The area consists of 55,629 acres in the Hundred of Hincks, 29,620 acres in the Hundred of Nicholls, and 27,520 acres in the Hundred of Murlong, a total of 112,769 acres. This is in its virgin state and, as I said, contains a large percentage of good agricultural land. Young men who are share farming are very anxious to obtain and develop portions of this area but invariably, when an approach is made to the Lands Department, the answer is that there are no surveyors available, and the same reply is given in respect of many other areas. As it is obvious that our population will increase rapidly I maintain that primary production must be increased, and here is an opportunity to encourage young men who are capable and willing to develop it. I therefore ask the Chief Secretary, representing the Minister of Lands—

(1) Are allocations of agricultural lands being held up because of a shortage of surveyors?

(2) If so, does the Government intend to seek qualified surveyors from overseas countries?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I know there are difficulties in relation to obtaining surveyors and that they have been sought overseas, but if the honourable member wants really factual information I will endeavour to obtain it for him if he puts his question on the Notice Paper.

**LIMITATION OF ACTIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 18. Page 460.)

The Hon. F. J. POTTER (Central No. 2)—I support the second reading and, as a member of the legal profession, I think that all my colleagues would say with me that it is long overdue. I suppose, in colloquial terms, it might be termed a lawyer's Bill, but of course it affects all members of the community who are engaged, or may be engaged, in actions principally against the Crown. For the benefit of members who may know very little about the Limitation of Actions Act and what it deals with I will describe it very briefly. It provides that certain causes of action have to be brought within 15 years; they are very special kinds of action and we do not need to discuss them further. The main body of causes, such as actions for simple debt, have to be brought within six years, and in other special causes the action must be brought within three years from the cause of action arising. However, as the Chief Secretary said in his second reading speech, there are many other Acts of Parliament that contain restrictions or limitations of those three basic periods. Most of them, of course, concern the Crown or instrumentalities of the Crown.

For instance, under the Harbors Board Act it is necessary to bring an action within six months of the cause of action arising. A similar provision exists in the Highways Act, but I suppose the worst one is the Waterworks Act, section 115 of which reads:—

115. (1) All proceedings other than proceedings for an offence against this Act to be commenced against any person for anything done, or for anything omitted, which ought to have been done in pursuance of this Act, shall be commenced within three months after the fact was committed, or omitted, as the case may be, and not otherwise. Notice in writing of the action, and the cause thereof, shall be given to the defendant one month at least before the commencement of the action.

There are two restrictions which, I know from personal experience, have caused a good many headaches to lawyers. Of course, it is not only lawyers who are trapped in these matters, but members of the public who do not know of the existence of provisions such as this one. On one occasion a person consulted me on a question arising under the Waterworks Act and it was on the last day of the three-month period. That made things difficult in the circumstances. It is to be said to the commendation of the Crown Law Office

that it has not always exercised its rights under this particular section and limited the claimant to the three-month period. I think it is a bad thing generally that it should be within the province of a particular law officer to say whether or not he will take the benefit of such provisions.

The Government should be commended for making this particular alteration to the law. It may be asked, "Why should the Government get any better protection than the ordinary citizen?" A good case could be made out for putting the Government or the Crown on the same footing as an ordinary citizen. I question whether the Bill goes as far as it should, and perhaps the period of three years, as applies in some other cases, should also apply to the Crown. Any department such as the Engineering and Water Supply Department, is running a pretty big undertaking, but in his speech last year Sir Arthur Rymill said that there were many public companies running bigger undertakings than the Government and they have to put up with the limitations as they apply to the private citizen. The effect of the amendment broadly is to extend in all cases the period to 12 months for bringing an action, provided that notice is given within six months after the cause of action arose. To me, that is a reasonable compromise in all the circumstances. In such a Bill it is difficult to imagine all the circumstances that may arise and little nooks and crannies may have to be blocked up. No doubt other honourable members may raise matters that are not specifically covered by this legislation.

It is fairly obvious that in the great percentage of cases the Crown or its instrumentalities would be made liable in an action for damages through the action of an employee. In those circumstances it is fairly obvious that the Draftsman has tried, as far as he can, to bring this Bill into line with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, because under that Act one is required to give six months' notice. The wording in section 29 of that Act is very much the same as in the corresponding clause in this Bill. It would appear that the provision in the Workmen's Compensation Act is very much wider and the procedure set out is very much clearer than in the Bill. I deal only with the question of the service of the notice. Under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act a similar notice as that provided for in this Bill has to be served by delivery or by registered post at the residence or place of business, and it goes on to say that where the employer is a

body of persons corporate or unincorporate the notice may be served by delivering it or sending it by post in a registered letter addressed to the employer at the office, and, if there is more than one office, at any one of the offices of the body. Under the provisions of this Bill mention is made of individuals and of bodies corporate, but nothing at all of unincorporated bodies, and I think that is an omission that may have to be dealt with.

The Workmen's Compensation Act provides that notice is to be served upon the Crown Solicitor. Probably that is a better method than the one proposed in this Bill. Provision is made under the Workmen's Compensation Act for any defect or inaccuracy in the notice, but no mention is made of that in the Bill now before this Council. It differs in some respects from that before the Council last year. The differences are not great, but I think they are material. Firstly, in the Bill before the Chamber last year it was provided that notice was to be served on one defendant or, if more than one, on all defendants. That has been omitted from this Bill, I think as a result of a suggestion by Sir Arthur Rymill; probably the best way to deal with the matter is to do what the Government has done on this occasion and leave it out altogether. The necessity to serve notices on all defendants does not appear in any other Act, and I think that the litigant must take his chance in any particular matter.

Under new section 47 (1) (c) it is provided that if the court decides that the defendant has not been prejudiced by the failure to give the notice, that failure will not be held against him. I question whether that goes far enough. I think it is a very desirable provision to be incorporated but I also think that consideration should be given to the question of defect or inaccuracy in the notice. I would draw the attention of honourable members to what the Workmen's Compensation Act says on that in section 29:—

Provided that the want of or any defect or inaccuracy in such notice shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such proceedings if it is adjudged in the proceedings for settling the claim that the employer is not, or would not, if a notice or an amended notice were then given and the hearing postponed, be prejudiced in his defence by the want, defect or inaccuracy of the notice.

So it seems to me that it is possible, particularly in circumstances where a notice has to be given within six months of the cause of action arising, to give, for one reason or another, an inaccurate or defective notice.

I doubt very much whether in those circumstances the matter would be covered merely by the amendment to which I referred a moment ago, and a defendant might be prejudiced by failure to give proper, adequate and complete notice. I mention those facts merely in amplification of what I said a moment ago, that in a Bill of this nature it is not always possible to cater for all eventualities that may arise or ought to have been covered. These matters may have to be dealt with again in Committee, and I should like the benefit of the opinion of other members. This measure is long overdue and I have much pleasure in supporting its second reading.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### HONEY MARKETING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 25. Page 548.)

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES (Southern)—In supporting the second reading I should like to view it principally from the point of view of our primary industries in general. Before doing so I should like to congratulate the honourable Mr. Robinson on his excellent speech yesterday and quickly go over the domestic side of the organization of the Honey Board. As the Chief Secretary mentioned, the board was first appointed in 1949. Previous amendments have extended its operation to 1959. In 1955, the Minister of Agriculture in another place, who was then a private member, introduced several amendments to the Act which enabled the producers in case of discontent to take action to terminate the operation of the board. I congratulate the Minister on that piece of legislation, which has had the effect of putting the Honey Board on a fairly firm footing in that legislation does exist to terminate it if the honey producers in South Australia so wish.

The board has seven members, four selected from a panel of names submitted by the South Australian Apiarists' Association and three selected from a panel of names supplied by the South Australian Honey Packers' Association. One of the four primary producers is appointed chairman. Remuneration and expenses are paid to board members, and salaries and expenses to one full-time secretary and one other full-time employee of the board, the assistant secretary. These costs, advertising and other administrative costs connected with the board total, as the honourable Mr. Robinson pointed out

yesterday, only 1d. per lb. of honey. Working funds of the board are made up from a penalty levy of 5s. a tin from private sales not going through the honey pool, and also from the difference between the price given by packers on the one hand and, on the other hand, the appraisement price fixed by the Honey Board plus the bonus that they strike eventually. From those two sources spring the funds for the working of the Honey Board.

From the producers' point of view, I imagine it has had many excellent effects. First of all, it enables the producers of honey to carry on in this State with a continuity of production and an assured price. This is important because in these days, with scrub and gum plantations receding all the time at the expense of greater pasture development, the work of the beekeepers is made much more difficult; so they are aided by that section of the Act. Secondly, grading through the packaging side with blended honeys, on which there is more than one argument as to its advisability, has the effect of allowing an equalization of price between producers, whether they sell today on the home market with its advantageous price level, or whether, in the case of 75 per cent of the honey of Australia, they sell on the export market. So no producer is victimized by the working of this Act.

This leads, I think, conveniently to the main reason why I rise to speak on this subject, which is that the overall importance of the beekeeping industry in this State is far greater than just protection or equitable means of marketing to those who produce honey. I suggest that any measure that the Government takes to encourage the keeping of bees in South Australia will have a great impact on our agricultural enterprises generally. I congratulate the Government on having been a step or two ahead of other States over the last 10 years in the organization of this board through the Honey Marketing Act. If we go back many years in the agricultural scene, we get back to the days when superphosphate was first introduced to Australia. Many members will remember the feeling against the application of superphosphate in some areas, and the main reason for this amongst farmers who knew their business was that more troubles came into the stock and stock marketing than were in evidence before the application of superphosphate. Such things as worm infestation and stock troubles arose in later years because of the use of superphosphate and minor elements; but growth was being forced and stock raised

and the action was a corrective one taken to balance out deficiencies in the soil. If we go further than that we think of more modern practices in increasing agricultural production where nitrogenous fertilizers are being used with a resultant new series of stock troubles. Taking it even further we come to the antibiotics in terms of stock health which again produce most interesting situations on which I hope one day to state my views to honourable members. There is a very good series of facts and figures to prove that since the introduction of antibiotics mastitis in dairy cattle has increased, but although the evidence indicates an increase in the incidence since the advent of antibiotics it also suggests a higher cure rate.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Who is the veterinary surgeon who gives that to the bees?

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES—I do not know, but I stated that because bees and their activities on the agricultural scene fulfil a natural function that some other practices do not. I could talk of the use of gibberellin acid in America which forces about four to five times the normal top growth produced by any other fertilizer used today. The further we go in considering the struggle for more extensive and heavier production the more we lose track of some of the processes that have been adopted. If we get down to bedrock, soil health is of prime consideration and that brings up the question of pasture health, followed by animal health, and in the end result, to the health of the population of the country, and all those things must be of some interest to honourable members.

The effect of bees on cross pollination raises several relevant points. First of all, quite apart from the bees, we have the action of the wind in spreading pollens from one area to another and from one tree to another, and, secondly, we have the action of such insects as thrip, moths, aphids and others. Getting back to my point of a little while ago, when I perhaps seemed to be off the track, the action of such sprays as D.D.T.'s has diminished, in a lot of cases, the numbers of aphids, moths and thrips, and has put the onus back on the bee as the one and only method, in some areas, of carrying out the essential process of cross pollination.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill—Does D.D.T. affect bees?

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES—Yes. On the whole the bee works a field of agricultural crops at any one moment. If a farmer should depend on the natural number of bees in a

paddock of lucerne which he is growing for seed—which is very valuable at the present time—and it should happen that native plants such as banksia or other native shrubs in the paddock flower at the same time as the lucerne, that could have a very injurious effect on that crop of lucerne seed. In my area, for that reason, very many farmers who depend on lucerne seed for a great part of their income today have seen fit to pay large sums of money to encourage 100 or so hives into the area, the idea being that, if one can bring the population rate of bees operating in the area to a fairly high level, apart from any extraneous ripening effect in the area, the bees will give a very good coverage in working in that fashion.

Fluctuations in the amount of honey produced, as Sir Frank Perry mentioned yesterday, are very considerable. The fluctuations are caused not only by poor seasons, but also by a falling off in numbers of bees because of the inability of hives to support themselves in and after a poor season. Figures that are significant, perhaps more so than export figures, which are open to abuse from the effects even of the home market demands, are given in the Statistical Register for South Australia for 1955-56 and show that the numbers of hives dropped from a maximum of 93,000 in 1948-49 to the low level of 58,000 in 1954-55. The last figures available are for 1955-56 showing the number of productive hives at 62,000 in round figures. That is quite a fluctuation and is caused not only by poor production but by the effect on individual hives or colonies in bad seasons, and the ensuing one. May I conclude by very humbly suggesting certain things. First of all I think there is a good case for thinking seriously in future in terms of a Commonwealth Marketing Act in this matter.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Why be humble about it?

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES—Perhaps I would not be if I had the honourable member's experience, but I think we should keep that firmly in mind. A Commonwealth Marketing Act seems to be accepted by a great many producers as a good basis to cope with future marketing trends.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill—They might not think it a very good one once it got into their hands.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES—They didn't think that in 1954, I believe. The second point is the vexed question of marketing and I appreciate the Honourable Mr. Robinson's remarks

in this matter. He was loth to suggest the selling of specialized lines of honey either on the home market or on the export market, with the possible exception of white clover honey, which is a honey possessed of no tang or taints to which exception could be taken in most markets. The situation today is that 75 per cent of Australian honey is marketed overseas. If we take off special lines of, say, pink, blue or red gum honey—presumably sold at high prices on the home market—we are left with 75 per cent, and I imagine that a compromise is probably necessary. In these days when people like to be able to buy a top grade article, and are prepared to pay a premium in order to get it, limited quantities of straight lines of honey would be saleable on local markets. Nevertheless I appreciate the difficulty that a certain amount must be reserved to cope with the blending of the other 75 per cent which goes to export. Thirdly, I must mention that I have had more than one letter on the following matter. It seems that there is a body of honey producers who consider the price fixed by the Honey Board to be much too high. They maintain that in certain cases a black market is working in reverse whereby people, in order to sell their honey, are accepting a lower price and thereby short-circuiting the Honey Board, no doubt conveniently omitting to apply the 5s. a tin levy. They further maintain—and possibly there is ground for thinking this—that in the battle for the export market the price fixed in Australia is too high. I appreciate the fact that our price is fixed lower than the price in most other States. Nevertheless I would think that is not necessarily an argument to use against the previous one.

The Hon. C. R. Story—Does the complaint come from the producers or the packers?

Mr. G. O'H. GILES—The producers. May I conclude by saying that although I see great benefits to the producers of honey from the operation of this Act and the board I still insist that the prime importance and the prime wisdom of the Government's action in safeguarding this industry—and I hope to encourage it—is in the agricultural sphere, particularly in terms of pasture work in order to set the seed for the ensuing season by means of cross-pollinating, particularly subterranean clover and wimmera ryegrass and other shy germinating varieties of pasture. Probably that is not as important as the direct impact on the fruit industry where it helps, not only in evenness of ripening, but in giving a greatly

increased yield which would not obtain without the action of the bees. Cross-pollinating through wind drift would not achieve a percentage of effective pollination to compete with the bee. It is also applicable in exactly the same way in relation to nut production. Consequently, on various grounds, but particularly because of the importance of the bee industry to the general agricultural enterprises of this State, I support the second reading.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment; Committee's report adopted.

#### PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL (No. 2).

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.*

A total expenditure of £29,000,000 on works and services is proposed by this Bill. Of this amount £25,400,000 will be obtained by borrowing under the terms of the Financial Agreement and £3,600,000 will be available from repayments to the Loan Fund. The State will also obtain £5,000,000 under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement for the purpose of making loans to prospective home owners, and for constructing houses. Of the £5,000,000 of Housing Agreement funds £3,500,000 is to be allocated to the South Australian Housing Trust, £1,100,000 to the State Bank, and £400,000 to building societies. I shall now give a brief description of the more important works for which this Bill provides.

STATE BANK.—Advances for Homes, £2,750,000.—To meet the greatly increased demand for home finance it is proposed this year to make available to the State Bank a record amount to enable the bank to substantially increase the number and amount of advances for the building and purchase of homes. This year the bank will have available £2,750,000 under the Advances for Homes scheme, £1,100,000 of Housing Agreement moneys, and £850,000 which was specially provided by the Public Purposes Loan Act No. 1, passed in June, making a total of £4,700,000. This is an increase of more than 50% over the amount of £3,126,000 advanced during 1958-59.

Loans to Producers, £300,000.—This amount is provided to enable the bank to maintain its rate of lending to small co-operatives pursuant to the Loans to Producers Act.

Advances to Settlers, £50,000.—Advances under this scheme are made to primary producers for the erection of houses and farm buildings, the clearing of pastures, and the purchase of plant.

Advances to State Bank, £350,000.—Additional capital requirements for the bank's normal trading services for primary producers and for secondary industry are met by this provision.

ROADS AND BRIDGES, £250,000.—A sum of £100,000 is provided to complete preliminary works and to commence construction of a bridge at Blanchetown, the total estimated cost of which is £668,000. An amount of £60,000 is required for a steel and concrete bridge on the Morgan-Waikerie main road at Cadell at an estimated total cost of £90,000, and £40,000 is set aside for two steel and concrete bridges at Renmark Avenue, Renmark, at an estimated total cost of £65,000; and £50,000 is provided for work on four small bridges on the Sturt Highway between Renmark and Paringa.

CROWN LANDS DEVELOPMENT ACT, £100,000.—The £100,000 proposed for 1959-60 will be used for further work on the estates now being developed near Lucindale and Penola, and for work on other areas which on investigation prove to be suitable.

IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION OF SWAMP LANDS, £300,000.—A sum of £46,000 is required to complete electrification of the Berri pumping station. The station is now operating and the first general irrigation is in progress. It is proposed to spend £32,000 on further electrification of the pumping stations in the reclaimed areas at Monteith and Woods Point. By the end of this financial year work in the reclaimed areas will be practically completed. Provision is made for £115,000 for work to be continued on the comprehensive drainage scheme at Cooltong. Some of the pipes have been purchased, tenders will shortly be called for the construction works, including pipe-laying, and the scheme will be practically completed at the end of June next. The estimated total cost is £156,000. A sum of £26,000 is required for improvements to various town water supplies, £25,000 for channels, pipelines, and embankment sluices, £11,000 for the purchase of land, and £45,000 for buildings, plant and minor works.

SOUTH-EASTERN DRAINAGE, £500,000.—The proposals for 1959-60 envisage the spending of £400,000 on further works in the Western Division. Of this amount £100,000 will be required to complete the southern area and

£300,000 to continue work in the northern area. An amount of £80,000 is provided for the commencement of work in the Eastern Division where it is proposed to drain an area of 700,000 acres. The remaining £20,000 is required for the construction of petition drains, and bridges over existing drains, and for the purchase of plant and stores.

AFFORESTATION AND TIMBER MILLING, £1,150,000.—The proposed programme for 1959-60 includes a sum of £165,000 for the maintenance of existing forests to provide for the work of replanting, weed control, spraying, fire protection, eradication of suckers, and maintenance of forest buildings. The clearing of new areas and the establishment of new plantations requires £155,000, and £20,000 is needed for the purchase of land, and £54,000 for erection of homes, buildings, etc., in forest areas.

A sum of £67,000 is required for plant and machinery for forest areas, and £50,000 for small ancillary works at the central mill at Mount Gambier, where the major works are complete. Provision is made for £100,000 for a commencement on site works for a power station at Nangwarry, and for progress payments on boilers, turbines, and station buildings. Provision has been made for the expenditure of a further £99,000 at Nangwarry to improve the water supply, to complete the shopping centre, and to install a new drainage scheme. An amount of £136,000 has been provided for buildings and improvements, and for employees' housing at Mount Burr, Nangwarry and Mount Gambier. The sum of £204,000 is set aside for the purchase of plant and machinery for saw-mills, including £69,000 for a new planing mill and record gang-saw to be installed at Mount Burr; and £100,000 is required for administration expenses applicable to forest establishment, which will be a charge against this loan undertaking.

RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION, £2,750,000.—This year £609,000 is provided for Way and Works Branch items such as relaying, improvements to buildings, signalling and safety equipment, etc., which are continuing requirements from day to day and which comprise a number of small jobs. An amount of £50,000 is required for preliminary expenditure on surveys and the purchase of land for the new spur line to serve the oil refinery to be constructed between Halletts Cove and Christies Beach. The total estimated cost of the line is £365,000. A total of £80,000 is required for residences for staff, and £76,000 for plant and sundries. Of the

total requirement of £815,000 for Way and Works items £100,000 is to be met from materials already on hand, leaving a net requirement of new loan moneys this year of £715,000. Similarly £150,000 of the total requirement of £2,185,000 for rollingstock works can be met from materials already on hand, leaving a net call on new loan moneys of £2,035,000 for this purpose.

The sum of £190,000 is required for the final settlement in respect of a project for twenty main line diesel locomotives which is already physically completed, and £862,000 is provided for progress payments under a contract for £871,000 for the supply of ten 900 h.p. diesel electric locomotives which the department plans to use for branch line freight traffic—initially on the Murray lands and Pinnaroo lines and then elsewhere as required. It will be possible to couple these 900 h.p. units with the more powerful 1,750 h.p. main line locomotives, thus giving flexibility of operation.

An amount of £855,000 is planned to be spent on the construction of suburban diesel railcars and for the purchase of engines, and £43,000 is required to enable completion of a project for 11 diesel mechanical railcars for country passenger services and for the conversion of three railcars to diesel operation. The details of the programme for diesel railcar services in the metropolitan area are—42 cars now in service, 18 to go into operation within a few months, and a further 12 by the end of this financial year, so that at the end of June next the railways will have 72 cars in operation. Work will then be in progress on a further group of 12. With cars going into service as I have indicated, it is planned to have a complete diesel passenger service on the hills line by the end of December next. The sum of £18,000 is required to meet South Australia's share of payments to be incurred this year on the completion of two passenger cars for the Adelaide-Melbourne traffic, and £27,000 is provided for the purchase of three mobile cranes and £30,000 for sundry smaller rollingstock projects for broad gauge operation, including the purchase of rerailling equipment. It is proposed to spend £24,000 this year on narrow gauge rolling stock. Improvements to the suspension of ore waggons for the Broken Hill to Port Pirie traffic will require £12,000; and £12,000 is provided to complete the conversion of eight narrow gauge rail cars from petrol to diesel operation. An amount of £136,000 is provided to meet expenditure on plant and

machinery, and motor vehicles, as required throughout the year.

**HARBOURS ACCOMMODATION, £1,200,000.**—A total of £162,000 is provided for progress work on the reconstruction of North Parade wharf. Of the total estimated cost of £639,000, £129,000 had been met to the end of June last. The work provides for improved facilities for intrastate vessels. The old timber structures are being replaced with steel sheet piled wharves, the depth of water is to be increased, and sheds and services are to be provided. At the dockyard at Port Adelaide £54,000 is required for the replacement of mobile cranes and for the completion of mooring berths for floating plant, and £19,000 for the construction of moorings for dredging plant, the reclamation of land and the erection of a plant store; and £27,000 is provided for the purchase of spare parts for the cranes at the Osborne coal handling plant. The sum of £42,000 is provided for sundry small works at Port Adelaide and Outer Harbor as the need arises.

An amount of £75,000 is proposed for the commencement of work at Kingscote, where accommodation for a roll-on roll-off vessel is to be provided at a total cost of £170,000; and £18,000 is required to meet final payments in respect of the Port Lincoln bulk handling plant, which is physically completed. It is proposed to spend £120,000 on further work at the Kirtan Point oil berth. This new berth is required to isolate tanker traffic from the general shipping berths at Port Lincoln. The total of £20,000 is required for work at Port Lincoln on accommodation for a roll on, roll off vessel. At Port Pirie dredging improvements in the channel and harbour will continue and £300,000 is provided this year. The improvements are designed to permit the movement of deeper draft vessels carrying concentrates overseas and to avoid the use of lighters. An amount of £120,000 is proposed to be spent on further work at the bulk handling installation at Thevenard. The bulk handling plant to be supplied under contract will consist of a receiving hopper on high ground and a series of conveyors to the jetty where gypsum and grain may be discharged to a ship on either side of the jetty.

The sum of £48,000 is required this year for progress payments on a new grab dredger to cost in total £160,000, and £40,000 for progress payments on a new bucket dredger to cost in total £400,000. These units are to replace old equipment which has become

both difficult and costly to maintain. It is proposed to provide £98,000 to cover the cost of replacing or adding to plant and equipment as the need arises throughout the year, £50,000 is for the acquisition of land for harbour works and £7,000 for sundry small works.

**WATERWORKS AND SEWERS, £7,900,000.**—Morgan-Whyalla water main—The sum of £30,000 is provided this year for additional pumps to increase the capacity of the main to meet rising demand, for completion of the installation of chlorinating plant at Morgan, and for minor works and services.

**Adelaide Water District**—A total of £336,000 is provided for further work on the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline. Temporary pumping plant is to be installed in the three existing pumping stations to lift more Murray water to the metropolitan area, and a new pumping station is to be constructed near Angas Creek to transfer more water to the Onkaparinga and thus to Mount Bold reservoir. It is proposed to continue work on the construction of seven storage tanks, each of 2,000,000 gallons capacity, on the gravity section of the main, to lay some of the pipework connecting the tanks, and to carry out under contract the driving of a tunnel at Ansteys Hill and the laying of the main through the tunnel. It is proposed to spend £63,000 at the South Para reservoir on cleaning of the discharge channel from the tunnel to the Barossa reservoir intake, on road works and the removal of camp buildings, will complete the project this year, and £1,100,000 is proposed to be spent on construction works at the Myponga reservoir. The excavation for the dam will be completed, the pouring of concrete will be well advanced by the end of 1959-60, and a further 10 miles of the trunk main are to be laid. Provision is made for £250,000 for the Onkaparinga Valley scheme and it is expected that by June next work will have been practically completed; and £200,000 is provided for the Clarendon-Belair-Blackwood scheme. This will enable the department to purchase more pipes and to go ahead with the laying of the main.

It is proposed to spend £200,000 on extensions to the water supply at Elizabeth. The provision of water has kept pace with house construction up to date and it is anticipated that it will continue to do so in 1959-60. It is now necessary not only to provide reticulation mains, but also to build storage tanks and to construct a large trunk main to carry the volume of water which will be required in future. The sum of £349,000 is provided for tanks at Darlington and Seaview Downs, and

for mains between Clapham and Springfield, in King William Street, Adelaide, in Marion Road, and in Grand Junction Road. An amount of £175,000 is provided for pumping stations, waterworks depots, cement lining of pipes, and plant and machinery. To cover small extensions and other jobs as the need arises an amount of £551,000 has been provided.

**Barossa Water District.**—Apart from the completion of work at the South Para reservoir, which I have previously commented upon, it is proposed to spend £51,000 on boosting plants to give an improved supply, the cement lining of mains, and on mains, services and minor works.

**Warren Water District.**—An amount of £1,200,000 is provided for continued work on the enlargement of the trunk main from the Warren reservoir to Paskeville. This scheme will provide a large proportion of water requirements on Yorke Peninsula. Provision has been made for the extension of mains at Angaston, Freeling, Marananga and Nuriootpa; for the commencement of a water supply scheme at Truro; for the cement lining of pipes; for plant and for minor works, mains and services.

**Country Water Districts.**—During 1959-60 work will continue on the Jamestown-Peterborough pipeline and expenditure will be incurred on water supply projects at the following country towns and districts:—Bordertown, Encounter Bay, Karoonda, Kingston (South-East), Loxton, Milang, Moorook, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Naracoorte, Orreroo, Pinnaroo, Renmark, Swan Reach, Warooka and Whyalla. A total of £266,000 is provided to cover these projects and £75,000 is provided for mains, services and minor works.

**Tod River Water District.**—The sum of £55,000 is provided to cover the full cost of laying 4in. and 6in. mains to improve supplies in the hundreds of Boothby, McLachlan, Tarlton, Wudinna and Yandarie. A further £55,000 is provided to continue work on the extension of the Tod River system into the hundreds of Shannon and Mitchell. Other projects planned are preliminary work on a scheme to tap underground water supplies in the Lincoln basin, continuation of a scheme to utilize water at Fountain Springs, the completion of a pumping station at Lock and the installation of a booster station at Port Lincoln.

**Beetaloo, Bundaleer, and Baroota Water District.**—It is proposed to spend £309,000 on continued work on the Yorke Peninsula scheme. It



is anticipated that this year will see the project practically finished. Supplies to all towns will be available within a few months and the reticulation of country lands is planned to be completed within 12 months. An amount of £94,000 is set aside for work on mains at Port Pirie, and in the hundreds of Blyth, Everard, Narridy, Tickera, and Wiltunga.

**Adelaide Sewers.**—A total of £400,000 is provided for further work on the extensions to the Glenelg treatment works. It is anticipated that by the end of this financial year more than 90% of the work will have been carried out. An amount of £125,000 is set aside for the sewerage of new areas including Taperoo, Osborne, Seaton Park, and new Housing Trust areas. Provision is also made for extensions and improvements at the Port Adelaide treatment works, for the reconstruction of sewers, new mains, house connections, plant, and miscellaneous extensions.

**Salisbury Sewers.**—A provision of £122,000 has been made for further work on the sewerage of Elizabeth and Salisbury.

**Country Sewers.**—A sum of £439,000 is set aside for the sewerage of Naracoorte and Port Lincoln, for the initial work at Mount Gambier and Myponga on treatment works, and for other preliminary investigations.

**RIVER MURRAY WEIRS, DAMS, LOCKS, ETC., £250,000.**—This provision is to meet South Australia's share of the cost of work carried out by the River Murray Commission.

**GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND LAND, £6,750,000.**—The four main headings under which I shall comment on this year's proposals and the amounts set aside under each heading are:—Hospital Buildings, £2,050,000; School Buildings, £3,750,000; Police and Courthouse Buildings, £450,000; Other Government Buildings, £500,000.

**HOSPITAL BUILDINGS.**—Actual expenditure during 1958-59 was £2,140,000, of which £687,000 was for Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and £1,453,000 for other hospitals; and during the year a number of important works were completed. At the Royal Adelaide Hospital extensions to the McEwin Building were completed at a final cost of £61,000. These extensions provided two additional operating theatres and recovery wards of twelve beds.

At Northfield Mental Hospital four new blocks providing accommodation for 280 patients were completed at a final cost of £695,000. The senile men's block to accommo-

date 80 cost £224,000, the senile women's block to accommodate 80—£229,000, the block for 60 boys—£123,000, and the block for 60 girls—£119,000. The new boilerhouse and steam generating plant at Northfield Mental Hospital was also completed at a final cost of £164,000.

At Port Pirie Hospital the new theatre and men's block was completed at a final cost of £241,000. It is now partly equipped but is not yet occupied. The building consists of three floors, containing two operating theatres, x-ray facilities, sterilizing and staff rooms, and accommodation for 70 patients. The proposals for 1959-60 on which this year's provision of £2,050,000 will be expended are as follows:—

**Royal Adelaide Hospital.**—An amount of £240,000 is required for continued work on additions to the dental hospital, on which £89,000 had been spent to the end of June last. This work, which is estimated to cost £499,000, 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. The planned completion date is the end of 1960. Then £270,000 is provided for work on the radiotherapy building, £250,000 being for the continuation of work on the first stage and £20,000 for preliminary work associated with the second stage. The first stage, which is estimated to cost £694,000, will provide a sub-basement, basement, ground floor, and foundations suitable for a multi-storey building.

The second stage, which is estimated to cost £1,477,000, will provide an additional five floors. This building is a major step in the rebuilding plan for the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Also, £66,000 is provided for further work on the cobalt treatment rooms, the total estimated cost of which is £93,000. This single-storey building, which is adjacent to the radiotherapy building, will provide facilities for ray treatment for cancer, and for research. A sum of £42,000 is required for further work on a new chest clinic at Ruthven Mansions, Pulteney Street. This project provides for alterations to the ground floor of the existing building and the erection of a single-storey building at the rear. The estimated total cost is £82,000.

Then, £20,000 is provided for the commencement of alterations and extensions to the ground and first floors of Bice Building, the total estimated cost being £80,000; £29,000 is required for the air conditioning of the McEwin Building, and £48,000 is provided for smaller works, including additional accommo-

dation in the outpatients' department, kitchen and workshop improvements, and a garbage disposal unit.

**Northfield wards.**—For the Northfield wards of the Royal Adelaide Hospital £23,000 is provided to complete work on two new nurses' homes, the estimated total cost of which is £108,000. These buildings, each of two storeys, will accommodate 82 nurses. Also, £10,000 is required for alterations and additions, including work on a mortuary, an oil store and a pharmacy.

**Queen Elizabeth Hospital.**—The sum of £150,000 is provided for the final payments in respect of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which will provide a complete health service in the western districts and will be an additional teaching hospital for medical students and nurses in conjunction with the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The general hospital provides 372 beds, outpatients' department, casualty section and teaching and research facilities, including professorial departments of surgery and medicine. The main block consists of nine floors, the ground floor accommodating general administration, outpatients, casualty and X-ray, the first floor operating theatres, physiotherapy and central sterile supplies; and the second floor, pathology and lecture rooms. The other floors are devoted to nursing units with provision being made for some intermediate and private rooms.

The maternity hospital provides 114 beds and has professorial departments of obstetrics and gynaecology. The building is of seven storeys and contains general administration, staff rooms and clinic on the ground floor. It is equipped with operating theatres, birth rooms, lecture rooms, nurseries and nursing units. The nurses' home accommodates 430 nurses and is an eight-storey structure, planned to provide living units for groups of eight and 10 persons with their own bedrooms, bathrooms and sitting rooms. On the ground floor of this building are two suites for the matron and assistant matron, a chapel, and general recreation rooms and lounge. The resident medical officers' quarters accommodate 78 doctors and students. The building is of six storeys and is planned on similar lines to the nurses' home, with smaller living units for two persons for the senior staff on the first floor and groups of eight above. Recreation facilities and lounges are provided on the ground floor.

**Parkside Mental Hospital.**—A sum of £64,000 is required to complete work on the

new boiler-house and steam reticulation system, which is estimated to cost £79,000 and planned to be completed early in 1960. Also, £47,000 is provided for the completion of work on sanitary annexes, which are three-storey blocks attached to existing wards and provide bathrooms, showers, toilets, store rooms and goods lifts. The estimated total cost of the three blocks included in this work is £97,000. An amount of £68,000 is provided for alterations and additions to wards, airing courts, and the administration building.

**Mount Gambier Hospital.**—A sum of £244,000 is required for the continuation of work on the new general hospital. Of the total estimated cost of £1,334,000, £974,000 had been spent to the end of 1958-59. This project provides for a six-storey building to accommodate 217 patients. It is expected to be completed in the latter half of 1960. Then £51,000 is required for further work on the erection of a boilerhouse and the installation of plant. The total estimated cost is £91,000. Also, £41,000 is provided for further work on a pathological laboratory, the total estimated cost of which is £61,000. The two-storey building adjacent to the new general hospital will contain four laboratories and have the facilities to carry out pathological work for other hospitals in the South-East.

**Port Augusta Hospital.**—A sum of £30,000 is provided for the continuation of a £38,000 project to add a new maternity block at the Port Augusta Hospital, and £21,000 is required for alterations and additions to the kitchen, dining room, storage rooms, sterilizing facilities, and workshops.

**Port Lincoln Hospital.**—An amount of £5,000 is provided for the initial work on the construction of a new two-storey block to provide accommodation for 71 patients in medical, surgical, and children's wards, and the erection of a home to accommodate 37 nurses. The total estimated cost of the scheme is £303,000.

**Port Pirie Hospital.**—A sum of £220,000 is set aside for further work on a project for a new kitchen, laundry, boilerhouse, workshop, sewerage system, and equipment. The estimated total cost is £400,000 and the anticipated completion date December, 1960.

**General.**—Finally, £305,000 is provided for minor alterations and additions at various hospitals as the need arises from day to day, £50,000 for furniture and equipment and £6,000 for preliminary work on various projects.

**SCHOOL BUILDINGS.**—During 1958-59, buildings were completed at five primary schools, two area schools and nine high schools. This year £1,170,000 will be required for the following 20 new primary and infant schools which were either under construction at the end of June or will be commenced during 1959-60, at Broadmeadows, Christies Beach, Clapham, Elizabeth East, Elizabeth Grove, Elizabeth Park, Elizabeth Vale, Evanston, Fulham, Fulham Gardens, Kirton Point, Klemzig, Lockleys North, McLaren Vale, Mitchell Park, Mount Gambier North, Murray Bridge South, Netley, Seacliff, and Warradale. A sum of £190,000 is provided for major additions at fourteen primary and infant schools. This proposed expenditure is for further work at Burnside, Challa Gardens, Hectorville, and Willsden, and for the beginning of construction at Croydon Park, Darlington, Dover Gardens, Magill, Marryatville, Millicent, Mount Gambier East, Oaklands, Strathalbyn, and Whyalla West. Also, £2,000 is required for the initial work on a new area school at Coomandook, and £477,000 is proposed for seven new technical high schools to permit work to be continued at Gilles Plains Boys', and to enable construction to commence at Angle Park Boys', Elizabeth Boys', LeFevre Boys', Elizabeth Girls' (two schools), and Gilles Plains Girls'.

Then, £144,000 proposed for major additions at seven technical high schools is designed to cover further work at Norwood Boys' and Croydon Girls', and to permit work to commence at Croydon Boys', Mitchell Park Boys', Port Adelaide Girls', Vermont Girls', and Whyalla, while £684,000 proposed for twelve new high schools is to enable work to further progress at Salisbury, and Unley Boys', to cover final payments for Seacombe Gardens, and to commence work at Blackwood, Elizabeth, Gilles Plains, Millicent, Norwood, Penola, Plympton, Taperoo, and Willunga.

Also, £3,000 is required for initial work on major additions at Campbelltown, Henley, and Seacombe Gardens High Schools, and £209,000 is required to complete craftwork and domestic arts centres at Willsden Primary, Cummins Area, Orroroo, Snowtown, and Tumby Bay Higher Primary, Croydon Boys' Technical High, Urrbrae Agricultural, Booleroo Centre, Bordertown, and Naracoorte High Schools; and to begin construction of centres at Keith and Oakbank Area, Croydon Girls' and Nailsworth Boys' Technical High, and Campbelltown High Schools.

A sum of £33,000 is required for teachers' college buildings, including initial work on additions to be erected at Kintore Avenue, estimated to cost £815,000. This project provides for a 13-storey building to contain 26 lecture rooms, with a total capacity of 1,400 students. Then £200,000 is provided for the erection of prefabricated classrooms, shelter sheds and wood sheds, £50,000 for a grant to the School of Mines for completion of the Playford Building extensions and associated works, £200,000 for the purchase of land for school purposes, £200,000 for the purchase or erection of new residences for teachers, and £158,000 for investigations and miscellaneous works.

**POLICE AND COURTHOUSE BUILDINGS.**—The amounts proposed to be spent in 1959-60 are as follows:—£24,000 for the completion of a police station at Port MacDonnell, the commencement of work on police stations at Gawler, Hallett, Henley Beach, Kadina, and Minlaton, and divisional headquarters at Port Pirie; £35,000 for the completion of single men's quarters at Mount Gambier, the commencement of work on new cells and offices at Port Augusta, and on a new building at Thebarton Barracks for the motor transport division; £13,000 for work on new courthouses at Naracoorte and Port Pirie; £95,000 to complete the five-storey additions at the Supreme Court which are estimated to cost £235,000; £88,000 for new buildings which will provide accommodation for both police stations and courthouses at Angaston, in the Christies Beach-Hallett's Cove area, at Barmera, Elizabeth, Kapunda, and Kingscote, and £14,000 for additions at Renmark. Provision has also been made to cover minor alterations and additions to police and courthouse buildings and new residences.

**OTHER GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.**—The sum of £14,000 is provided this year to complete a new security block at Magill Reformatory. The block is expected to be finished in the near future at an estimated cost of £84,000. It is to provide secure accommodation for youths who are thought to be potential absconders; £30,000 is provided for the purchase or erection of three cottage homes for the Children's Welfare Department. It is proposed to use these homes to accommodate selected children under the care of a foster mother, and to create an atmosphere which is more akin to that of a normal home and less that of an institution; £180,000 is provided for further

work at a new prison establishment at Cadell. The scheme provides for a cell block, a pig-gery, a dairy, implement sheds, stores, dormitory, laundry, administration block and staff houses. Citrus stone fruits, and vines will be grown under irrigation, and dairying and pig raising will be carried on. It is proposed to spend £78,000 on new residences for the Department of Agriculture, the Children's Welfare Department at Magill Reformatory, and the Sheriff's and Gaols and Prisons Department at Adelaide Gaol, Gladstone Gaol, and at Yatala Labour Prison. Provision has also been made for various items of plant and equipment and for minor alterations and additions.

**EXPENSES AND DISCOUNTS OF FLOATING CONVERSION AND PUBLIC LOANS, £500,000.**—This amount is provided to meet the cost of loan flotations.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST, £600,000.**—During 1958-59 the trust completed 3,142 houses, and at the end of June 2,448 were under construction. During 1959-60 the trust plans to spend £10,302,000 on the building of houses and associated works. Of this figure £5,500,000 will be available from the trust's internal funds, £3,592,000 will be made available under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, the trust is to raise £550,000 from lending institutions and the public, and £60,000 remains of a special grant received from the Commonwealth. The funds from the above sources total £9,702,000, so that £600,000 of State Loan funds is required this year.

An amount of £8,913,000 will be required for progress work on 5,851 housing units comprising 2,448 which were under construction at June 30, and 3,403 to be commenced this year.

During 1959-60 the trust will complete construction of approximately 3,150 of the 5,851 units, so that 2,701 are expected to be still under construction at the end of the year. The sum of £600,000 is proposed to be spent on the purchase of land for future building, £372,000 on roads, drainage schemes, and development works, £200,000 on the town centre at Elizabeth, and £217,000 on erection of shops and factories, head office accommodation, etc.

**ELECTRICITY TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, £2,500,000.**—The trust proposes to spend £9,000,000 on capital works this year and to finance this programme it will have £3,550,000 of internal funds and expects to raise

£2,950,000 from lending institutions and the public. Therefore, to be able to carry out the programme, it will require the balance of £2,500,000 to be provided from State Loan funds.

Proposed expenditure for major power stations is £4,040,000, which is expected to comprise £50,000 at Osborne, £100,000 for Port Augusta "A" Station, £3,785,000 for Port Augusta "B" Station, and £105,000 for general works at Port Augusta. Of the £3,785,000 proposed for Port Augusta "B," the major part will be in respect of generating equipment. Progress payments on boilers Nos. 1 to 5, turbo-alternators Nos. 1 to 3, and associated equipment, will amount to £2,240,000. It is planned to commission the first 60,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator about March, 1960, and to complete the station in 1963.

Proposed regional expenditure of £205,000 covers distribution works in Port Lincoln and surrounding districts, lines to Cockaleechie and Lake Wangary, final payments for the Mount Gambier power station, supply extensions to Tantanoola, Glencoe and Kalangadoo, and work on mains at Millicent. Within the £3,909,000 proposed to be spent by the Distribution and Supply Division the major works are the two Port Augusta-Magill transmission lines and the terminal substation at Magill. An amount of £1,650,000 is to be spent on extensions to mains and it is anticipated that during 1959-60 at least 11,000 new services will be connected to the trust's system.

**LEIGH CREEK COALFIELD, £125,000.**—Proposals for expenditure in 1959-60 will require total funds of £500,000, of which it is anticipated £375,000 will be available from internal sources, leaving a net requirement of State Loan funds of £125,000. Major expenditures envisaged are for progress payments on a new electricity supply to the field from Port Augusta, and large excavating machinery.

**MINES DEPARTMENT—BUILDINGS, PLANT, ETC., £175,000.**—Expenditures proposed this year are principally for drilling plant and scientific instruments to be used by geological and geophysical parties in the field. Funds are also provided for the replacement of workshop plant and motor vehicles.

**URANIUM PRODUCTION—CAPITAL, £75,000.**—This amount will be required for replacement of sections of the Umberumberka pipeline, for investigation and equipment for the retreatment of flotation tailings, for plant equipment and services at Radium Hill and for plant and

equipment at Port Pirie. For 1959-60 proceeds are expected to be approximately £2,500,000. After meeting working expenses it is expected that there will be a surplus of £850,000 to be credited against the outstanding capital cost.

**MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS TRUST—LOAN TO.**—The sum of £55,000 is proposed to be advanced to the trust in 1959-60 for the purchase of plant and equipment.

**METROPOLITAN AND EXPORT ABATTOIRS BOARD, £120,000.**—An amount of £70,000 is proposed to be spent on the construction of a new beef chilling room, a cutting up room and boning facilities to handle meat for the export trade. The balance of the amount provided is to cover refrigeration equipment, additions and improvements.

**PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT, £35,000.**—This amount is required for the replacement of three obsolete printing presses and other plant and for the purchase of additional equipment.

**PRODUCE DEPARTMENT, £50,000.**—Provision has been made for a new boning room at Port Lincoln to handle meat for the export trade to the United States, for extensions to the bacon factory, and for the purchase of plant and equipment.

**FISHING HAVENS, £70,000.**—Expenditure of £20,000 is required this year to complete the slipway at Porter Bay, Port Lincoln: £40,000 is to be spent on further work on the reconstruction of the Moonta Bay jetty: and £10,000 is set aside for smaller works.

**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT—SCHOOL BUSES, £40,000.**—This is the expected cost of buses purchased for the conveyance of school children in country areas.

I now turn to the clauses of the Bill. Clause 3 defines the Loan Fund. Clause 4 provides for borrowing by the Treasurer of £25,400,000. Clause 5 provides for the expenditure of £29,000,000 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 makes provision for temporary finance if the moneys in the Loan Fund are insufficient for the purposes of this Bill. Clause 8 authorizes the borrowing of £10,000,000 for the purpose of carrying on loan works at the commencement of next financial year and until the Public Purposes Loan Bill for 1960 is considered by the House. Clause 9 deals with the duration of certain clauses to the Bill.

Clause 10 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 11 provides for this Bill to operate as from July 1, 1959. I commend the Bill for the consideration of honourable members.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 25. Page 552.)

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS (Northern)—Over the long period I have been privileged to occupy a seat in this Council I do not recall one session when this House did not have an amendment to the Local Government Act before it for consideration. That is only to be expected when we have regard to the wide extent of the Act. On each occasion we have amendments that are, in the words of the Minister when he presents the Bill, of varying degrees of importance. In assessing the value of such amendments we should remember that they are suggested, in the main, by people charged with the administration of the Act, and they are put forward as a result of the experience gained in such administration. Whilst some of the amendments may appear to be of a minor nature they have been brought under notice with a view to the more efficient discharge of the functions of local government. It has been said that Democracy demands that Government be kept close to the people and I cannot conceive of a more effective way of achieving that objective than through local government. Councils consist of representative people having a common interest and discharging responsibilities laid down by Act of Parliament. The Local Government Act is the most voluminous measure on our Statute Book, for it covers some 400 pages and has between 800 and 900 sections. Local government does not stop with the administration of the Local Government Act. It has many other responsibilities in administering other Acts of Parliament, and some that readily come to mind, without exhausting the full list, are the Health, Building, Weights and Measures, Bushfires, Infectious Diseases, Vermin, Sand Drift, Parks and Gardens, and Recreation Reserves Acts. In addition Part XXXIX gives by-law making powers in respect of some 50 other matters, so we might

well say that local government, having regard to the fact that it has control over nursing homes and cemeteries, really affects people from the cradle to the grave.

Speaking of by-laws, it may be of interest to members to know that for a long time South Australia was in a unique position in the matter of consideration of by-laws and regulations. Members are now fully aware of our method of dealing with by-laws, but there was a time when they were simply laid on the table and it was left to the initiative of members to make themselves acquainted with them and take the appropriate steps if they wished to have them disallowed. However, with the establishment of the Subordinate Legislation Committee the practice has been greatly improved, by reason of the fact that that committee is charged with the responsibility of considering the pros and cons of all by-laws and regulations that are tabled and making its report to Parliament, which, of course, relieves honourable members of the almost impossible task of dealing with them in the way hitherto provided. Following on a paper read at an area conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association some four years ago I was somewhat surprised to learn that South Australia was practically the only State that had approached the matter in this way, and the representatives of other States were very interested in this innovation.

I will now discuss briefly the various provisions of the Bill more or less *seriatim*. The first is to increase the allowance of the chairman. This is more or less consequential and I have no objection to it. Clause 3 deals with the appointment of a deputy mayor or deputy chairman. I cannot conceive why a district council should appoint a permanent acting chairman. I have formed that opinion, not hastily, but by reason of my experience of the administration of the Local Government Act. In terms of the Act the election of officers has to be carried out at the first meeting of a newly elected council. The chairman is then appointed, but there is also provision that, in the absence of the appointed chairman through any cause, an acting chairman may be appointed to preside over a particular meeting. Another point is that at the first meeting it is customary to fix a day and an hour for monthly meetings, and therefore any chairman who is appointed should make his personal arrangements fit in with the days of meeting. I agree with Sir Arthur Rymill that if a person undertakes the duties of the chairmanship of a district council he should be prepared to make

his own arrangements fit in with the responsibilities of that office. From experience I should say that the calls upon a chairman in the intervals between meetings are few. There are occasions when unforeseen circumstances arise, but I feel sure that they can be met by the present provision. I have no definite opinion regarding the appointment of a deputy mayor and therefore I am prepared to listen to any arguments that may be brought forward in that regard by those better informed on that aspect.

I cannot see any necessity for the alteration of the hours of polling. Whatever hours we may fix there will always be that last rush of people who have left voting until the last minute. It seems to me that the existing provisions are satisfactory and fit in with the general run of the requirements of country people. Elections are usually held on Saturday. I fully agree with the reasons advanced for increasing the minimum rate. The present rate of 5s. in many cases is soon absorbed in correspondence and so forth with people who do not make the effort to pay their district council rates when due. Such people should be made to pay for any dilatoriness on their part. I see no great objection to the provision for contributions to life saving clubs. In metropolitan council areas adjacent to the sea-side or rivers people can enjoy the facilities provided for swimming. I feel sure that the people of districts so situated would have no objections to the council making contributions towards any organization that had as its aim the protection of young life particularly.

Another provision deals with money derived from the sale of timber. If the money accumulated from this source exceeds £300 the Minister may direct that the excess be spent for other purposes. It seems to me, however, that when a council found that the sum was getting towards £300 it would soon see that it got rid of some in a way that it desired. The question of contributions for roadmaking seems to me to involve some legal questions so I prefer to leave that to those more qualified to express an opinion. However, I believe this amendment clears up a matter that is now somewhat obscure in relation to roads that have been partially made and subsequently ratepayers being called upon to contribute towards the construction of footpaths and kerbing. Clause 15 increases the penalty for damaging public property. This is one matter on which I feel very strongly. Anyone who travels through country districts must wonder just what is the mentality of people who deliberately destroy

road signs which are put there for the protection and guidance of the travelling public, including the guidance of even those responsible for the destruction. I am therefore quite happy to see the proposed increase in penalty; indeed, I think it ought to be even heavier. It is very difficult to detect these offences. I have travelled thousands of miles in the course of a year in country districts and I have never had the good fortune to come upon persons in the act of shooting up road signs. On one occasion in particular I was particularly annoyed, when travelling through one of our outback areas where I was dependent upon road signs to a great extent to direct me to my destination, to find out that I was taken about 60 miles out of my way because some stupid idiot had seen fit to turn a road sign around in the opposite direction. Members can imagine my feelings and why I am so emphatic about having a penalty fixed that will fit the crime. I am only too happy to support this amendment.

The new provision for postal voting is quite a good idea and it is long overdue. As I see it, when a ratepayer is absent from the district he may now have his signature witnessed by any authorized person, whereas formerly he was required to have it witnessed by a ratepayer of the district for which he desired to vote, and that very often proved to be diffi-

cult. I take it that a witness may be a police officer, postmaster or some other reliable person. That will simplify the position considerably. A circular letter that came under my notice yesterday signed by Mr. A. Bertram Cox (secretary of the Municipal and Local Government Associations) contains matters worthy of examination, but I regret that they were not brought under our notice earlier so that they could have been more fully considered. I understand that this letter is the result of resolutions carried by meetings of councils throughout the State and therefore they have the weight behind them of the people of the respective districts. I do not feel disposed in the short time available to digest them and to commit myself on them. If by any chance there should be another Bill on the same subject, we may have the opportunity to consider these things. I do not know whether they have been brought to the notice of the Minister of Local Government.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—They have.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS—I support the second reading.

The Hon. A. C. HOOKINGS secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.15 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, September 1, at 2.15 p.m.