

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, October 12, 1961.

The Council assembled at 2.15 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

The Acting Clerk having announced that, owing to the unavoidable absence of the President, it would be necessary to appoint a Deputy President,

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary) moved that the Hon. Sir Frank Perry be appointed to the position.

The Hon. L. H. Densley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT took the chair and read prayers.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Appraisers Act Amendment,
Adelaide Park Lands Alteration.

QUESTIONS.**SCHOOL LEAVING AGE.**

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Education, a reply to my question of September 19, when I asked whether the Government would consider raising the school leaving age in view of the fact that 8,000 scholars would be leaving school at the end of this year?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I regret that I am not in a position to give an answer at present. The matter has been referred by me to my colleague and I shall communicate the reply to the honourable member as soon as possible.

APPRENTICES.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question. Leave granted.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: In 1958 the Labor Party introduced in another place a Bill that sought to amend the Apprentices Act. I understand the Bill was not proceeded with at the time and that the Premier referred it to the Apprentices Board for consideration. From information I have, I am aware that the Apprentices Board has forwarded to the Minister of Education a report upon its consideration of the Bill and other matters in relation to the Apprentices Board. Can the Minister of Labour and Industry tell me whether the report to which I have referred

will be tabled, and does the Government intend to introduce a Bill this session to amend the Apprentices Act?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: If the honourable member will put his question on the Notice Paper I shall be pleased to get the information for him. I am not in a position to give a reply now. I shall confer with my colleague, the Minister of Education.

SCANDIUM

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS: In a press report in the *Advertiser* of February 17, 1960, mention was made of the extraction process from uranium of the element known as scandium. The report said that the element was obtained from waste uranium residues at the Port Pirie chemical plant, that there was a world scarcity of it, and that high prices were being offered for it. Can the Minister of Mines say whether the extraction process is still in operation and, if so, does it offer any prospect of expansion for relieving the unemployment position arising from the closing down at Radium Hill and at the Port Pirie treatment works?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: A metal called scandium has been produced. It is rather a rare product, and is being sought after and used. I think it has high tensile properties, but at present it is purely used for experimental purposes; in other words, exploration regarding the use of the metal. Quite a good type is available but the market is limited. To get to the meat of the honourable member's question, whether there is an opportunity for employment by keeping the uranium industry in operation, the answer is in the negative, because this is purely a by-product that is being obtained from waste from the production of uranium. It would be impracticable to continue the mine for the purpose of producing scandium.

STURT ROAD.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: I draw the attention of the Minister of Roads to what I think is called Sturt Road, which runs across the main South Road between Tonsley Park and Darlington. I believe that is the only cross road there. That road has, in recent years, carried considerably more traffic and dangerous situations seem to be occurring much more frequently. Will the Minister consider

further safety precautions at that intersection where people demand their right of way on the subsidiary road under the right-hand rule to the danger of fast moving traffic on the main road? Will he consider further protection at the corner either by erecting stop signs or by some other traffic device?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I am aware of the very considerable danger existing at that corner on present traffic counts, particularly at the weekends, and I offer the honourable member the promise that I will refer the matter to the Road Traffic Board as soon as the present Bill becomes law, when the board may take certain action under the clauses of that Bill.

LAND SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill is for the purpose of re-appointing the Land Settlement Committee for a further term. It extends the operation of the Land Settlement Act, which would normally expire in December of the present year, for a further two years.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: What will it do?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The Bill is in similar terms to that which was passed in 1959. The Government is still of the opinion that the provisions of the principal Act should not be allowed to lapse and the effect of clause 3 is to extend the term of office of members of the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement until December 31, 1963. Clause 4 amends section 27a of the principal Act enabling the acquisition of lands in that portion of the western division of the South-East which is south of drains K and L up to December 22, 1963.

Replying to the Hon. Mr. Bardolph, it is considered that, whilst the committee has not been particularly busy in recent months, there are a number of matters that could arise and be dealt with by the committee to relieve the Public Works Committee of some of the burden that it is carrying now. The Public Works Committee has a large number of references before it and possibly some of those references, which pertain to country public works associated with land or rural undertakings, could be undertaken by the Land Settlement

Committee, thus relieving some of the strain on the Public Works Committee. I commend the Bill for the consideration of honourable members.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD secured the adjournment of the debate.

STOCK DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT 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.

Its object is to confer on the Governor power to make regulations requiring persons carrying stock health certificates from the authorities of other States from which stock are introduced into this State to produce their certificates to the owners or managers of runs entered by them with the stock or to any inspector or member of the Police Force.

Section 8 of the Stock Diseases Act provides that the Governor may make regulations, *inter alia*, for requiring certificates of health from the authorities of any other State from which stock are intended to be introduced, the issue of a permit for stock to enter this State, and the production of the permit to the proprietor or manager of any run which the owner of the stock may enter or propose to enter with the stock, or to any inspector or member of the Police Force.

Under this provision the regulations may require production of a permit for stock to enter the State, but the power, unfortunately, does not extend to requiring production of the certificates of health. The defect in the legislation is remedied by clause 3.

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

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 11. Page 1176.)

The Hon. A. J. MELROSE (Midland): I take this opportunity of speaking because I appear to be the oldest backbencher in the Council now. I congratulate our new member, the Hon. Mr. Kneebone, on the excellent maiden speech he made yesterday. We have looked forward with a certain amount of anxiety to seeing what sort of a successor would follow our late beloved friend, the Hon. Mr. Frank

Condon. After hearing the Hon. Mr. Kneebone yesterday I think we are all satisfied that we have had brought into our ranks a knowledgeable member from another trade, adding thereby to the strength of the counsels of this Parliament in which everybody seems to have some special knowledge of some walk of life. The new member is, I believe, the first to represent the printing industry here and undoubtedly he has an extensive firsthand knowledge of that trade. We perceive that he is a moderate man and he will therefore fit easily into the brotherhood of the Council. We thought that he perhaps would assume the character of a new broom and set out to put us right, but we have found one who takes us as we are and who will fit in with us. There is a great deal of pleasure in that knowledge. I know I voice the opinion of all honourable members in saying this, and I hope the Hon. Mr. Kneebone will spend a long life in the Council, both to his and to our pleasure.

I have pleasure, too, in officially thanking the Hon. Mrs. Cooper for her very kind remarks about the Royal Institution for the Blind and its conduct. We were delighted when she came to our annual meeting. She said during her speech that she had a good look over the institution and over Melrose House, which was established on the death of my father as a home for the aged and unemployable blind. Both institutions are almost always full, and at present there are 83 blind and deaf employed with a few partially sighted people, as well as 16 who receive a pension from the institution itself who have retired because of old age. At Melrose House there are 24 men and women and it is always full.

At the Royal Institution for the Blind the people make coir door mats and coir matting, and these articles are considered to be as good as anything manufactured elsewhere in the world. It is impossible to make anything of higher quality than those two articles which are turned out at the institution. Perhaps sighted people may make cane articles better than those who are blind, but there is certainly nothing better than these coir articles. They are made on a machine and their strength is produced by the number of bangs given in the weaving process. At the institution they are banged into tightness by a heavy beam falling on them four times, whereas in other places they are given three bangs or fewer, and some of the rubbish imported into this country is given only one bang. The Government makes a grant to the institution and should be gratified at the results, because it is getting something

for the grant, and these people are being looked after and employed. Melrose House was visited by Helen Keller a few years ago, and as she walked through the door she said that this was the friendliest house of its kind she had been in anywhere in the world. She had a wonderful sensitivity and could feel the peace and harmony and general atmosphere of the home which is so suitable for the type of people who are there.

I am associated with a number of administrations which occupy my time. As well as the Royal Institution for the Blind, I am interested in the Fauna and Flora Board, and the Zoological Gardens. For some reason which I cannot understand, the Fauna and Flora Board received a reduction of £500 in its grant for this year, while the other two received the same grant as before. The Fauna and Flora Board has responsibilities which are not yet completed, and no doubt will need at least another £10,000 to put things in order. Some time ago I spoke at length on the disgraceful and dilapidated accommodation available to the board, and it was only a year ago that we had a toilet installed. We certainly do not go in for lavish amenities. I mentioned previously that it was necessary to uphold the good name of this State and of the sanctuary itself with fitting accommodation for the board and any important visitors to the Chase, and also proper accommodation for the board's meetings. Furthermore, we have not completed the boundary fence, and recently I received two letters, one from the Land Development Executive asking the board to proceed immediately with the erection of six miles of fence to keep kangaroos off the developed land, and another from the Minister advising that we had more money than we knew what to do with, so there would be a reduction this year of £500 in the grant. The Minister will have to fight that one out with the Land Development Executive because they say we must keep the kangaroos off the land, and we say we have not the money to do it.

There is a great deal of public anxiety about the employment of blind people in outside industry. In England a certain proportion of the total blind population is employed in outside industry, but we cannot do anything like that here. There are several employed at General Motors-Holden's, and at Chrysler Australia Ltd., and they are being kept on and doing good and useful work. The problem is caused by the quality of the management and the atmosphere at the institution, which many people do not want to leave. There they are

in a sheltered industry and they are among their own people, so many of them do not want to move into outside industry. It has been proved everywhere that blinded people occupied in appropriate employment bring to that work more concentration than those with sight, and as a natural consequence there is a greater efficiency within their limits. The public should know that so far as the Royal Institution for the Blind is concerned, there is hardly any inclination for the people there to seek outside employment. That arises I am sure from the degree of *esprit de corps* that exists between the management and the men themselves. I support the Bill.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1): I support the second reading and take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the admirable work done by the departmental officials in compiling the Budget. Honourable members know that unless we have an astute, active and diligent civil service, no Government can carry on the administration of the State. I join with other honourable members in congratulating our new member, the Hon. Mr. Kneebone. I think that his speech yesterday foretells the active part he can play in the trade union movement. He has also indicated that he has a grip on economic affairs which, presumably, has been handed down to him by his late revered father, the former Senator Kneebone. I join with others in congratulating him on his maiden speech. Both the Labor Party and the Liberal and Country League will be facing two elections before long—the Commonwealth elections on December 9 and the State elections I understand some time in March. The old bogey of the Liberal and Country League is again being trotted out. I refer to a commentary which appeared in the *News* yesterday under the caption "Meeting the Red Menace." It included the following:

The Menzies Government believes that the Australian way of life and that of other countries of the free world is menaced by the threat of militant Communist aggression.

It has taken the Menzies Government a long time to wake up to that fact, because since the establishment of the Communist Party in Australia the greatest fighters against the ideology of Communism has been the Australian Labor Party. Its members have fought it in the trade union movement and in the political sphere, and they are ever watchful that the menace of Communism will never again flourish in this fair land of Australia. If honourable members will take their minds back to previous Commonwealth elections they will remember the "Red" bogey that is always trotted out against Labor.

In dealing with the question of the defence of Australia, there often appear statements out of their context which are welded into an article to create an atmosphere to lull people into a sense of false security and attempt to delude them into believing that Labor supports the Communist ideology. This is what appeared in the *News* and was included in the weekly feature written by a spokesman of the Liberal and Country League:

This is the Government's policy and performance. Where does the Labor Party stand? They would withdraw our troops from Malaya where, according to Labor, they are an "aggressive force" . . . There is no doubt that if Labor came to office the defence forces would return to the demoralized, run-down state which existed when the Menzies Government took over.

The Menzies Government came into power in 1949 after there had been two successive Labor Governments. In 1941-42, when Mr. Menzies was Prime Minister and Australia in the throes of war—and I do not mean to be uncharitable when I say that the Government fell to pieces—he abdicated in the face of the enemy. It was left to a Government led by the late Mr. John Curtin, who had to depend on the support of an Independent in the House of Representatives, to assist the nation to carry on the war. I do not wish to reiterate what happened from 1942 to 1949 except to say that Australia enjoyed an era of prosperity for those who were willing to work. During the war our defence forces were fully manned and full equipment was provided for them; and this was in contrast to what happened during the Menzies regime, when men were sent to New Guinea to defend Australia with broomsticks for rifles. I want honourable members to remember these things.

It is audacity for the Liberal and Country League today to attempt to belittle and deride the activities of Labor when it formed the greatest force in the workshops and in 1949 it was voted out on the question of petrol tickets. Australia was then enjoying an era of prosperity never equalled. It is not so long ago that Australia sold wheat to Red China, and this was under the Menzies Government. We gave China extended credit terms and today we find the Governing Director of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia is visiting Red China for the purpose of granting extended credits to this Communist-controlled country; and to cap the lot he is now on his way to Moscow. This is reported in the press, and therefore how can the Liberals lay a claim against Labor for collaborating with the Communists? These things are patently

clear and are published in the press. Under the auspices of the Menzies Government these things are happening before the eyes of the Australian people.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill: You are trying to justify your activities.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: No. I am exposing those with which the Menzies Government is associated. There is no doubt as to our activities. I now come to another question that is trotted out at election time. It relates to one of the planks of the Australian Labor Party and is linked up with the adverse and malicious propaganda that is disseminated from time to time against Labor. It relates to the fact that we are charged with socialization of industry, production, distribution and exchange and that this is akin to the Communist policy. Let me disabuse the minds of members and those who believe or nurture that idea. About four or five weeks ago Pope John issued a social encyclical. This provides a significant signpost in the state in which humanity finds itself today. Not only is Labor everywhere deeply impressed by the sentiments expressed by His Holiness, but the whole of the free democratic world is impressed by it. The encyclical rejected the belief held in some quarters that "socialization, growing in extent and depth, necessarily reduces man to automation." In view of what is happening behind the Iron Curtain and the countries where the Communists have taken over, everyone will welcome the conclusion of Pope John that "socialization ought to be realized in such a way as to draw from it the advantages contained therein and to remove or restrain the negative aspects." He stressed that "private enterprise must contribute to effect economic and social balance among different zones of the same country." That shows that the policy of the Labor Party has the solid foundation of Christian principles, and that it cannot be coupled in any way with the ideology of the Communists.

The Hon. C. R. Story: What does His Holiness say about unity tickets?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: The honourable member seems to know all about it; perhaps he is an undercover man. I want now to refer to the Auditor-General's report. The accountancy work done by the various departments reflects great credit on those responsible for it, but I draw attention to the fact that some departments have not spent all the money voted for them for the year ended June 30, 1961. That means that the surplus claimed

by the Government is only a surplus of unexpended money, about £500,000. There may be valid reasons for the non-expenditure of the money. Perhaps equipment and other incidentals were not available for various projects. In view of the Commonwealth squeeze initiated last November one would think that our Government would have spent all the money voted to it in order to provide a buffer for meeting our increasing unemployment position.

Yesterday the Hon. Mr. Kneebone gave us some illuminating figures regarding lost man-hour losses through strikes, and manpower hour losses and purchasing power losses resulting from the Commonwealth credit squeeze. We hear much at meetings, from the television, over the radio and read in the press that Australia is gradually emerging from a temporary recession. I have some interesting figures regarding employment up to the end of August. The Commonwealth Statistics Bureau reported that civilian employment fell by 2,300 in August and that the total civilian employment at the end of that month was down to 3,007,600, so there had been a fall of 79,000 since the introduction of the credit squeeze in November. These statistics cover all salary and wage earners in civilian employment, apart from those engaged in rural districts and females in domestic private service. During August private employment fell by 2,700 to 2,198,000. This does not give a true picture of the total number of unemployed people. The information refers only to the people who are registered as unemployed and are receiving benefits. The statement that the Government is finding work for unemployed people is not borne out by the information that comes from the Statistical Bureau. It is said that because of the good conditions existing in Australia there is a ready flow of overseas money into this country. A number of overseas interests have invested money in Australia, and some have invested it in South Australia. To give an overall picture of the position, I quote the following from the *Advertiser* of October 10:

Overseas private capital coming into Australia would fall by about £125,000,000 in 1961-62, Mr. Phillip Shrapnel, an economist, said today. But Australia's total holdings of international reserves would rise because of a temporary sharp fall in Australian demand for imported goods, he said. Mr. Shrapnel, chief economist of W. D. Scott and Co. Pty. Ltd., management consultant, was predicting business conditions for 1962 to a meeting of Melbourne businessmen at the South Melbourne Town Hall. He said the Government was relying heavily on the improvement of international reserves to provide an early stimulus

to business, but the Government would be disappointed. It would be about mid-March, 1962, before the public had clear evidence that unemployment figures were decreasing. If international reserves rose it would mainly be due to the effects of the current recession.

Mr. Shrapnel forecast that:

Imports would fall to about £900,000,000 in 1961-62, compared with the normal import demand of about £1,050,000,000.

Wool exports "optimistically" would earn £390,000,000 assuming a slight rise in the wool clip and an average price of 55d. lb. greasy.

Other likely export earnings would be: Wheat, £115,000,000; meats, about £75,000,000; other food, £142,000,000.

Total exports could rise from £930,000,000 to about £990,000,000.

That foretells that the economic advisers of the Commonwealth Government are attempting to lift Australia out of the slough of despond by relying on overseas markets. We all agree that the greatest market for our production, whether primary or secondary, is within our own country. That market is not being properly availed of, because the purchasing power of the community is being reduced by the spectre of unemployment. Incidentally, the lack of confidence has been brought about by the failure of the Menzies Government to keep Australia in a sound economic position. I mention those two points for the purpose of making it clear what the people can expect if they return the Menzies Government on December 9. The Labor Party has a definite policy, not one in the interests of vested interests but in the interests of the whole of the Australian nation and of every sphere of industry, whether it be coal mining, rural or secondary. You, Mr. Deputy President, know well that in secondary industry the employees do apply themselves to the job, so much so in this State that we are looked upon as the best and most selected State for the establishment of overseas industries.

I read, and I believe other members also read, of the export of coal to Japan. Unfortunately I have heard statements in this Council maligning coal miners because they have gone on strike for certain minor things, but let me quote figures from New South Wales, which is considered by some honourable members to be the home of strikes. I am glad to say all members do not believe that. Coal today has a strong rival in petroleum products. On every occasion possible the oil companies seek to supersede the burning of coal in industry and for transport purposes. Coal has to put up a fight in order to maintain some

position in the firmament of fuel and automotive power as against petroleum products.

The output of black coal in New South Wales rose by 10 per cent in the year ended June 30, 1961. The Joint Coal Board reported that just over 18,000,000 tons of coal was produced in 1960-61, or about 1,670,000 tons more than the previous year. The domestic fuel market has remained highly competitive but overseas sales, particularly to Japan, are encouraging. The Joint Coal Board's chairman (Mr. S. F. Cochran) said that exports of coal during the last year almost doubled, rising by 865,400 tons to 1,846,000 tons. The construction of expensive modern coal loading facilities in Newcastle has now become an urgent problem, particularly because Japan is building large bulk ore carriers to ship coal from Australia.

The Hon. G. O'H. Giles: Leigh Creek coal has not gone up.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: If the honourable member reads the Auditor-General's report he will find that Leigh Creek coal is not for sale and there is just sufficient of it for our own purposes. The price compares favourably with imported coal from New South Wales, but we are not discussing the question of importing coal into this State because Divine Providence has endowed us with Leigh Creek coal. I am pleased that the honourable member should mention that fact because the Australian Workers' Union played a most prominent part in the development of Leigh Creek coal. I believe a commendation was extended to the union by the Treasurer in the early days of the establishment of the Leigh Creek coalfield. The Labor Party is just as desirous of the development and expansion of this State as is my honourable friend.

I wish now to compliment the Hon. Mrs. Cooper on her contribution to this debate. I was interested in her reference to the Good Shepherd Convent and her remarks on how it deals with delinquent people sent there. I was interested because in the early stages of the war—and I hope I may be forgiven for attempting to pat myself on the back—I, together with others, was responsible for getting that convent granted a permit to build. I compliment the Chief Secretary because it was through his good offices, as Minister of Health and as the Minister controlling the Welfare Department, that we were successful in securing a building permit to build the first structure erected on that property. From then on the work has developed and the convent is playing a very important

part in doing a noble work in connection with the charges placed in its care. It and other institutions of a similar nature, such as those dealing with spastic children and others less endowed with faculties such as we have, perform a noble work and the Government assists them. I finish by paying a compliment to those people for the work they are performing.

The Hon. A. C. HOOKINGS (Southern): I rise to say a few words in support of this Bill and I wish to extend my congratulations to previous speakers for the high standard they have maintained in this debate. I, too, congratulate the Hon. Mr. Kneebone on the excellent speech he made yesterday and on the manner in which he delivered it. He indicated that he would become a very valuable member of this Chamber. I listened with much interest to him and I look forward to hearing him on future occasions. At this stage of the debate I know that members do not want to be wearied, but there are many points in the Estimates for the coming financial year on which one could speak.

I wish to refer to one or two points that come to my mind. One of the first with which I wish to deal is the amount of money to be spent on water supplies. I remind honourable members that much has been said both here and in another place by the Treasurer in connection with the importance of water to South Australia. Having given this matter much thought and having been privileged to see many other parts of the world I, more than ever, realize today in this dry season we are experiencing the importance of water to the State and the great importance of the River Murray. Water is being conveyed over vast distances in this State, thus helping agriculture, industry and the people generally. Great plans are being made, which we hope will come to fruition, in relation to damming the River Murray near Renmark. Recently I read articles written by eminent men in the United States of America which indicated that not only are they worried about water supplies in different States, but that they are worried about the pollution of some great rivers in that country. That is something that we must always keep in mind: not only the amount of water but the quality of the water that we have. In some of the countries north of Australia we find that great agricultural production is maintained year after year, and this is mostly due to the readily available water coming down from mountainous areas through wonder-

ful rivers to the sea. It is gratifying to know that much is being done in this State, not only in the current financial year but by planning for the years to come when our population will depend on the water supplies that we are able to maintain. The amount proposed to be spent this year in the field of agriculture is £1,766,569. The amounts expended over the last 10 years have been: 1949-50, £619,268; 1950-51, £629,250; 1951-52, £772,715; 1952-53, £924,125; 1953-54, £976,346; 1954-55, £1,041,440; 1955-56, £1,255,329; 1956-57, £1,232,647; 1957-58, £1,387,169; 1958-59, £1,579,737; 1959-60, £1,518,076; 1960-61, £1,502,404, and for 1961-62 the proposed expenditure amounts to £1,766,569. This shows that the amount spent on agriculture in this State in the last 10 years has been trebled, but looking more closely into the figures it will be found that the Department of Agriculture has been allotted this year only £847,000. The other amounts will no doubt be used in expenditure for buildings and other activities under the heading of agriculture, but not directly in line with a part of agriculture with which the members from the country are concerned, and that is, the dealings of the department directly with the farmer.

I quote a statement made by the Treasurer in another place when introducing the Budget. He said:

The work of the Department of Agriculture is in two separate parts. The first is to advise producers on the great range of problems, both short and long term, which arise day by day in the course of rural production, distribution and marketing. The second is to protect primary producers and the State generally in a number of ways—by preventing the entry of new pests and diseases, by controlling or eradicating those pests and diseases which, despite the best endeavours, have already gained entry, by establishing and enforcing standards of quality for agricultural products, and by checking on the quality and value of the host of fertilizers, spray chemicals, stock medicines, dips and the like which are marketed as aids to agricultural production.

The department devotes most of its resources to the first of these tasks—giving the advice sought by producers. Many men on the land find they cannot attend to all the jobs which running a property entails and still have time to keep up with new ways of improving production. In some cases fresh problems such as soil erosion or a new weed or disease may arise. A farmer may wish to take on a different type of cropping or livestock, or put in an irrigation scheme. In all these cases the Department of Agriculture has trained men, who know the area in which they work, to advise the producer and help him solve his

problems. Through the help of these advisory services, individual producers achieve higher crop yields, better lambing percentages, bigger wool clips, lower disease losses, and improved quality of production. From these individual achievements stem huge benefits to the economy of the whole State.

Those words are very true, and the advisory services and the benefits to farmers derived from the department are very real and important to the man on the land, and to the economy of this State. A few weeks ago I mentioned in this House the loss to the department of valuable personnel, and since speaking I understand that another advisory officer will leave the department on October 26. The time has arrived when we must take a serious view of this problem. A statement was made recently in another place regarding the loss of personnel from the Library Department, and in some ways this is a parallel, because these losses may be due to a decision of the Public Service Board regarding salaries paid to these people.

I have known many of the advisory officers in the department for many years. As honourable members may remember, I was a member of the Advisory Board of Agriculture and can remember the agitation for some time for a new advisory officer to be appointed to the upper part of the South-East. After some months the department granted permission for an extra officer to be appointed to that area, an area which has probably developed more rapidly than any other part of South Australia in recent years. Since the officer was established in that area he has been well received and has done an excellent job, but the resignation I spoke about was received from this officer. Those in charge of agriculture and of the affairs of this State should consider closely this problem because there was a time when the agricultural methods and production of South Australia were held up as an example and were second to none as compared with other States. Living near the border I was exceedingly proud of the department and of the farmers and agriculture production on our side of the border as compared with that on the eastern side, but if something is not done shortly to prevent the loss of these men, then our agricultural advisory service will be reduced to a level which will not give the maximum advantage to the producers of this State.

I have much pleasure in supporting the other measures in connection with the budgeting of this State, and feel proud to be a member of the Government, which is doing all it pos-

sibly can to run this State efficiently and economically in times which are not only difficult for South Australia but for many countries of the world. I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CITY OF ENFIELD LOAN) ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 1. Page 1112.)

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN (Central No. 1): This Bill amends legislation that was enacted in 1953 to authorize the City of Enfield to borrow £250,000 to carry out drainage work and for purposes incidental thereto. This Act provided for the sale of debentures, the repayment of money borrowed, the establishment of a sinking fund and the repayment of loan moneys. It now appears that the amount of £250,000 is not anywhere near sufficient for the drainage work envisaged, and it has been found that a further £250,000 is needed. I believe that arrangements have been made with the Savings Bank for a further loan of that amount. This is subject to a guarantee by the Government, which is prepared to give such a guarantee. The long title of the Act has been amended to provide for increasing the amount involved from £250,000 to £500,000.

The Enfield City Council is very anxious to carry out drainage work in the Croydon Park, Ferryden Park, Woodville Gardens, Mansfield Park and Wingfield areas. There is particularly an urgent need for drainage work in the Mansfield Park area. Near the Mansfield Park school and the emergency homes there has been an open drain for a number of years and it is something that should have been eliminated a long time ago. It is sometimes used as a rubbish dump and in the winter the flood waters are banked back. The drain runs alongside the boundary of the Mansfield Park infant school. The raising of an additional £250,000 will enable this drain to be improved. As there has already been an inquiry into the raising of this money by a Select Committee, I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading.

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

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 11. Page 1177.)

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES (Southern): I support the Bill, which provides for the establishment and maintenance of an Artificial Breeding Board. I am particularly pleased to be given the opportunity to take part in the debate at this stage and I must thank my friend, the Hon. Mr. Shard, for enabling me to do so. I believe that in my first speech in this Chamber a little over two years ago I mentioned the possibility of such legislation and suggested various alternatives to enable the dairy farmers of this State to take full advantage of artificial breeding.

The object of the Bill is to set up a board to achieve this purpose. It is another example of the application of science to farming, an application that has already left its mark upon other countries and has aided in the greater efficiency of dairying. It represents a very great step forward, and I believe it is worth pointing out that although South Australia is not so heavily engaged in dairying as in the production of wheat and wool, it is as well to have a look at the various methods adopted and the experience of other countries in this matter of artificial breeding. Much can be learned, and in my small experience in this field there have been many mistakes made.

It may be as well to point out that as a dairyman I was absent from Australia some years ago on an agricultural scholarship. It was natural that much of my time should be spent in looking into the various sides of the dairying industry, particularly semen storage before use, and the problems and methods of proving a bull for productive purposes. It is interesting to know that the various countries adopt many ways of achieving this proof. In Australia different factors operate, so we must look at the methods of proving bulls in artificial insemination in a slightly different way. I looked at genetical problems and the possibilities of in-breeding, if eventually artificial breeding became widely practised. It will be apparent to members that if only a certain number of bulls are used the problem of in-breeding can become a serious one.

However, it is not my intention to go into any of these details today, but, for the sake of the record, I will refer to the process of collecting semen. All members know

that in setting up an instrumentality dealing with artificial breeding one of the prime requisites is a semen collecting centre. This is a farm ideally situated centrally, where the bulls are housed and maintained under scrupulously clean conditions and encouraged to deliver semen, which is immediately taken into a laboratory where chemists ascertain sterility as regards freedom from disease. They use a microscope to ascertain the quality of the semen. The sample is diluted, and this dilution represents one of the fundamental features of artificial breeding because it is possible to take enough c.c.'s from a bull (bearing in mind a dose rate for a cow is 1 c.c.) to have 300,000 capsules (or services per cow) from one bull in one year. That is a conservative estimate. I have seen in the United States of America work done on bull exhaustion, which would make these figures look small indeed. My figures for the dilution rate is one in 40, which is the normal rate for countries like Australia. All members will see that it is possible to find bulls of great potency and great ability to throw worthwhile production. If such bulls are found and kept in such a centre the improvement in the progeny of the bull can be of great benefit indeed to the industry. This leads me to the matter of the storage of the semen. Generally speaking, there are two ways of doing it. First of all there is chilled semen, which has a short life. This was the early method adopted in most countries and it is still adopted in some places because it is cheaper in application than the deep-frozen method. Chilled semen must be used within about eight days, but it is a semen that goes out immediately and is used on a short-term basis.

In the deep-frozen method there is a different technique. It is used a great deal to prove bulls in connection with artificial insemination. If we consider five bulls used in artificial insemination, their progeny may be on acid or limestone country, rough farms, or irrigated farms. By means of a random sample of the progeny, taking in all these environmental factors, the bull can be well proven. The progeny of one bull may be better than the progeny of another in a certain area. The best way to prove the best bull is to equalize the environmental factor. By this method, as the whole theory of artificial breeding progresses, one bull can be taken out and allocated as the top breeding animal. If at the end of the time one of

the bulls is found to be outstanding (or proven for production) that is the time when the semen from this singular sire is put aside in deep-freeze conditions. These conditions provide a more permanent source of semen for the dairying industry. Chilled, it provides a short-lived, seasonal supply. There also is the possibility of putting aside the means to get progeny from the bull over many years. I understand that already 25 years have elapsed in certain countries in Europe since semen was put aside, and it is still being proved that it can be successfully applied to a cow. This alters the possibility of breeding programmes to a real extent. It obviously makes for greater utilization of the progeny of the top sire, when he can be found. I think it is well to regard artificial insemination as something that is hinged on the ability to prove sires that work within the scheme.

It can be said to the contrary that the subsidy bull scheme that applies in this State is a means of trying to get the same result, but entirely from the background of pedigree. There is importance to the industry in having proof on one side and trying to get farmers to buy quality bulls on background, on the other. The subsidy bull scheme in this State can be said to be closely allied to the ideas put forward by Dr. Hagedoorn, a great Dutch geneticist. He said that by proper selection top production results must be obtained. Today Dr. Hagedoorn's opinions do not stand particularly high in the world of geneticists. By selecting on high production standards from cattle in Denmark he has succeeded in ruining the constitution of a very fine breed—the Danish Reds, which in some cases has needed an introduction of another breed to regain constitution. It proves, as nearly all new ideas do, that experience can be gained, and South Australia must be considered fortunate because there are many ways in which we can profit from the mistakes of other countries.

As an example of how artificial breeding can fit into the future pattern of primary production, I point out that while I was overseas a Swedish geneticist succeeded in separating X and Y sperm members in the female ova. Being bi-sexual, the sex of any mammal is decided by the particular sperm contact that makes a union with the female ova. This geneticist achieved separation by taking advantage of the small differences in the specific gravity of the different sperms. Up to the time I left Europe some years ago he had, in fact, had 169 bull calves dropped in succession by using artificial

insemination through having achieved separation. To show how all this can fit in with a futuristic pattern, 40 per cent of the beef consumed in Great Britain is cross-bred beef from dairy herds obtained by means of artificial insemination, which has been used with beef semen on the tail end of dairy herds. In other words, 40 per cent of the top bred animals in the herd are reserved for dairying purposes, and they will be put in calf by dairying bulls. The remaining 60 per cent, the best financial return for the farmer, has proved to be by beef semen on top of those end cattle. This means a great deal of cross-bred beef of high quality is bred in Britain today from dairy herds.

When the geneticist at Cambridge, Dr. Hammond, heard of this practice of splitting X and Y sperms he expressed great interest and said it could well mean 90 per cent of the dairy cows being available for cross-bred beef production with the top 10 per cent being allocated purely to female dairying replacement. The bottom 90 per cent would be available for cross-bred beef production. These 90 per cent would be nominated male, because males fatten better and quicker. That is not an end to suggestions for the future because Dr. Hammond wants pure bred beef from that bottom 90 per cent of the dairy herd. This may sound a rather wild assertion but he is working and has worked for many years, as some honourable members will know, on the transference of pre-fertilized ova. In other words, the female ova is already fertilized and can be 100 per cent beef before it is inserted in just as simple a process as inseminating a cow. The cow will be inseminated with pre-fertilized ova for beef. In other words, the bottom 90 per cent of the dairy herd can, Dr. Hammond hopes, be used to produce pure bred beef and not cross-bred beef as is the case today. I quote that example to point out that artificial breeding can tie in with all sorts of agricultural practices and it is capable of being tied in with the most progressive futuristic ideas I can imagine in the agricultural world today. It is also worthy of note that the Bill gives a wide interpretation of the word "stock". According to the Bill it means "cattle, horses, sheep, swine, goats and all other animals which the Governor from time to time by proclamation declares to be stock for the purposes of this Act". It has already come to my notice that in New South Wales bees are being artificially inseminated. I do not know whether this is a

reflection on the drones, but it does show again that the breadth of this Bill is such that it could include a vast variety of animals.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill: Is a bee an animal?

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: That is a nice point. It is an insect and I suppose would not come within the scope of this Bill. I apologize to any honourable member whom I may have unintentionally misled when speaking of bees. If what I say is true no doubt we shall have before us another Bill dealing with artificial breeding of insects in due course.

I regret to say that what I have already said is a preamble before getting into the provisions of the Bill. It is fair to point out at this stage that an advisory committee was established about six months ago for a variety of reasons. Perhaps one of the main reasons was that there was a great demand in the industry for this particular facility and because various private firms were expressing a desire to get into this field. There were people who, I think quite rightly, thought that there were serious disadvantages in allowing private enterprise to enter this field. Firstly, all honourable members will realize that the cattle population in this State is not spread evenly over the whole area. I refer particularly to dairy cattle. It is grouped in two centres around the South-East, in three areas in the Adelaide hills and in local areas such as Clare, Jamestown and Gawler River. The last three areas do not carry nearly as many cattle as the first five I mentioned.

It is considered that if private firms were allowed to enter this field they would have an eye to the profit margin and furthermore it might well be claimed that they would pick out the densest cattle areas and not provide the facility for dairy farmers midway between dense pockets. It was for this reason, I think, that the advisory committee was appointed. The committee consisted of Mr. Marshall Irving as chairman, myself, Mr. I. R. Elliot (President of the South Australian Dairymen's Association), Mr. T. E. Downer (Friesian breeder), Mr. J. S. Adams (Friesian breeder), Mr. S. L. Niederer (veterinary surgeon), Mr. W. S. Smith (Chief Inspector of Stock), Mr. A. G. Itzerott (Chief Dairy Adviser), and Mr. W. K. Rose, an Englishman with great experience (as a veterinary surgeon) in the field of insemination was co-opted. Many meetings were held and the committee finally presented a firm and

unanimous conclusion to the Minister of Agriculture. The terms of reference of the committee were to recommend to the Minister steps that should be taken by the Government in the development of artificial insemination of cattle in South Australia. Mr. D. S. Wishart, probably the best Australian authority on the development of artificial breeding, spent some time answering questions and giving further advice to the committee, and we were fortunate to have his advice, which in many cases was identical with our thoughts on the subject.

The case for artificial breeding in South Australia is perhaps rather an unusual one. Proven sires can be found throughout the world that will lift production under any circumstances, but peculiarly enough there is not one country in the world where the national herd can be shown statistically to have risen in production by the use of artificial breeding. That sounds rather a broad and dangerous statement, though in every country in the world where artificial breeding has been used there has been an increase in production, but from the point of view of the statistician the factor responsible for the increase is probably not a genetical one of increased production. In other words, other environmental factors must be considered. In Great Britain an increase in production has occurred, but the major factor there is the greater use of imported American high protein feeds.

In every country there is the attitude of the dairy farmer who believes the calf got by artificial insemination is worth far more and is more valuable to him than perhaps the same heifer got by an old scrub bull a year before. This means he takes a greater pride and care in the growth of the animal, and this attitude is reflected throughout. This can easily be checked by studying identical twins, and it is in this way by different methods of rearing that the other factors have been isolated. This is all part of the background, but as I see it this House is to be asked to support a Bill for setting up this facility, and I think it fair to point that out to honourable members. The big problem in any breeding programme, and particularly in an artificial insemination one, where the influence of a sire is so much greater, is to find a method of getting the best type of breeding sire and thoroughly proving it.

The Hon. R. R. Wilson: What has been the increase in production in countries where artificial insemination has been used?

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: I do not have these figures at the moment, but will obtain them if the honourable member is interested. With regard to establishing this service, I refer first of all to the reduction in infertility. That sounds like a double negative, but there is a reason for putting it that way rather than saying the increase in fertility. A reduction in infertility is achieved by various means, but the most important difference between the use of a bull and the use of artificial insemination is that with the latter there is complete control of such diseases as may be closely allied to contact diseases, such as venereal diseases (for example, vibriofetus and many others), which limit fertility. Some time ago I spoke on amendments to the Stock Diseases Act and pointed out that although semen can be used to correct diseases in cattle, in fact, without the closest supervision, it is the best carrier of disease. In other words, it is important that if we set up the facility in South Australia it must be under proper inspection and proper veterinary supervision from the time the semen is produced until the field officer uses it. The reduction in infertility is one of the reasons for the introduction of this service in South Australia, because infertility in the dairying areas limits production. Recently I visited the Minister of Agriculture with the wife of a dairy farmer. They have a small dairy herd that would produce a profit margin of about one-fifth of the basic wage. She was milking about 18 to 20 cattle, and there was infertility trouble in the herd. The cattle could not get in calf and naturally the return for the next 12 months would be almost negligible. These people had a young family. This problem of reducing infertility is a real one that should be kept in mind when considering artificial breeding in this State.

The second point is the increase in production potential. There is no doubt the potential of increased production on general grounds is very real, but I would say that the opinion of genetical authorities throughout the world today in terms of the relative importance of environmental influence on the one hand, as against the influence of genetical influences on the other, is 80 per cent in favour of environmental and 20 per cent in favour of hereditary reasons. Attitudes change quickly, because not so many years ago when I was at Roseworthy College we were told that 50 per cent of the difference in production between one animal and another was due to feed, and 50 per cent to breeding. The attitude today is different, because it is considered now that it

is 80 per cent environmental and 20 per cent hereditary. This point is worth considering, because by this Bill we are influencing only that 20 per cent and not the 80 per cent which is influenced by environmental factors such as milking machines, the ability to properly rear a calf, and what season the cow comes into milk.

The third reason is better husbandry practices, which depend on the attitude engendered by having something worth looking after and looking after it more efficiently. I would mention another thing which would apply particularly when veal prices were high, as they are today, and were last year. It was obviously of great economic importance for dairymen to make use of the scheme and inseminate with beef semen. This allows more flexibility and a better return to the individual farmer. I envisage that the board in its wisdom will not only supply semen from what I imagine to be the two major dairy breeds, but also semen from beef bulls so that dairy farmers can get in on the calf market and also on cross-bred cows. I have already mentioned that there are dense pockets of dairy cattle in this State. Where there is a population of dairy cows of more than 10,000 within a 15-mile radius, this is considered a very efficient area in which to set up a country centre to distribute semen to dairy farmers. These areas at present are Murray Bridge with 13,000, Mount Gambier with 25,000, Meadows with 18,000, Myponga with 13,000 and Woodside with 11,000. In these areas the cow population is sufficiently high for the establishment of an economic scheme. I ask permission to incorporate in *Hansard* without my reading it a table showing the estimated demand within two years, and within five to ten years.

Leave granted.

Area.	Cow	Estimated	Estimated
	population within 15 miles radius.	demand within 2 years.	demand within 5-10 years.
Murray Bridge	13,000	5,200	7,800
Mount Gambier	25,000	10,000	15,000
Meadows	18,000	7,200	10,800
Myponga	13,000	5,200	7,800
Woodside	11,000	4,400	6,600
	80,000	32,000	48,000

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: The other reason why it was essential that South Australia should move to set up its own semen collecting centre, the building of which, I believe, has actually been started at Northfield, was that even under the three small pilot schemes that

have been operating the supply of semen from the other States had become very erratic. There is no better way to ensure the success of this scheme than to have facilities set up to enable regular supplies of semen to be available to dairy farmers who desire to use it. That factor no doubt was in the mind of the Minister when he suggested the appointment of a committee, which took certain evidence and was quick to point out that this was essential to the future success of the scheme in South Australia—that we should collect semen from our own bulls, at our own semen producing centre.

This matter is of some interest to the Council. The estimated income of the board is £80,000 within two years of the commencement of operations and within five years it is expected that, on present values, it should be about £120,000. The object of setting up the board is to enable it to operate as a non-profit making concern. It is not expected that it should cost the Government money after the first five years. I ask leave to have inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it a table showing the capital expenditure and annual expenses involved in establishing and conducting the service.

Leave granted.

	Capital expenditure.		Annual expenses.	
	Initial.	Spread over 5 years.	At 2 years.	At 5 years.
	£	£	£	£
Semen production centre	36,000	20,000	25,000	36,000
Distribution centres (5) (at £700 each) ..	3,500	—	43,000	73,000

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: I apologize for speaking a little longer than I sometimes do, but nevertheless I feel that this is my chance to talk on something of which I consider I have a little knowledge. I hope that the Council will consider this Bill with much interest. I believe that its principle will be supported by honourable members and that the establishment of this board will result in a big contribution towards the success of the dairying industry, which is one of the more important primary industries in this State.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

ROAD TRAFFIC BILL.

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 10. Page 1120.)

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN (Central No. 1): This is an important Bill that contains 33 clauses. A fortnight ago the Minister of Local Government sought leave to have Standing Orders suspended to enable him to give the second reading of a Bill dealing with local government. I objected to this being granted because members did not have a copy of the Bill on their files, and I make no apology for my objection. We now have on our files a Bill which is tantamount to three bites at a cherry. Perhaps its introduction could have been

delayed until later, when all the wishes of councils could have been met. Even before there has been any debate on this Bill a number of amendments have been foreshadowed, which supports the theory that the Bill could perhaps have been introduced later.

I support the second reading because the Bill contains many benefits. Clause 3 makes special provision for the Salisbury District Council, and it deals solely with Salisbury and Elizabeth. This matter was not included in the first Local Government Act Amendment Bill introduced in this place this session. I understand that the Salisbury District Council applied to have its area given the status of a municipality, but at the time, because of the provisions of the Act and because rural lands would have been included, the application could not be granted. For some time there has been a dispute in the Elizabeth and Salisbury districts regarding the matter of severance. An official inquiry was held into the matter and one of the witnesses was Mr. Cartledge, Chairman of the Housing Trust. I understand that during the inquiry assurances were given to the Salisbury District Council that its area would be declared a municipality. When the report of the inquiry was presented to the Government, acting on the assurances it had received, the council approached the Government on the matter. I understand that the negotiations took place only between the council and Mr. Cartledge.

Undoubtedly some discussion took place on the matter in Cabinet, but my information is

that negotiations did not take place between the Minister or his officers and the council. Now we have a clause in the Bill that gives the Salisbury District Council area city status. I believe that there is dissatisfaction in the district because of the inclusion of the clause. Enormous growth has taken place in the area, particularly at Elizabeth, and we must support the clause. Salisbury and Elizabeth should have a higher status than that of a council. However, the whole matter should have been ironed out to the satisfaction of the Minister, the council and the people concerned before a provision was included in legislation for our consideration. Last night's *News* showed that protest meetings are still being held in the district against the Government's actions in continuing the negotiations.

The Act says that an area must have more than 20,000 inhabitants before a petition can be presented for the election of aldermen and councillors. Clause 4 says that the Governor may make a proclamation to the effect that aldermen can be elected in a municipality without a petition being submitted to him. I support that amendment. Clauses 5 and 6 relate to the voting powers of companies. Under them the amounts of assessments have been doubled in relation to multiple voting. The present values in the Act have applied for many years, but during that time assessments have at least doubled. Again, this is an amendment that can be supported. We have been discussing the Land Tax Act Amendment Bill and we all know that values have increased in recent years.

When I first read clause 7 I thought I would have some serious comments to make about it as I thought it would be one of the most controversial provisions included in legislation for some time. The proviso says that if the annual revenue of a council from general rates amounts to £100,000 or more the council shall appoint an engineer as a full-time officer. I assume that the association of engineers was responsible for this amendment, but it will have far-reaching effects if adopted. At present fully qualified engineers are in great demand, but not many are available for appointment. I believe that the Salisbury District Council appointed three engineers before it finally obtained what it regarded as a satisfactory appointee. There have been instances where the salary of a qualified engineer has been higher than that of the town clerk. A council must offer a salary in accordance with the rate revenue it obtains. In some areas there is no need for a full-time engineer.

Those areas are completely built up and there is not enough work in the district to warrant a full-time qualified engineer. The practice amongst those councils is to employ a consultant engineer to do any necessary work. If this clause remained in the Bill it would compel councils to employ fully qualified engineers once their revenue reached £100,000. We also have qualified engineers from other countries who have found that they are not considered to be qualified in this country. However, the work they have done for councils has been highly satisfactory and equal to that of any qualified engineer that could have been employed. Under the provision the councils would have had to dispense with the services of those persons and appoint a qualified engineer if one were available at the salary that he would demand. I do not know how effect could have been given to that provision.

I am pleased that the Minister has seen fit to place an amendment on the file which will remedy that position. I support the Minister's proposed amendment to omit the words "full time officer", which represented a compulsion on the council, and to insert the words "full time or part-time officer or in a consultative capacity". The Minister also proposes to insert "the Minister may, if it appears to him expedient so to do, exempt, any council from any of the requirements of the immediately preceding proviso to this paragraph". That will help councils because they can make representation to the Minister. The amendment is one that will overcome all the difficulties that may have confronted councils.

Clause 15 deals with the powers of the council to declare a rate without notifying the ratepayers. At present it is necessary for an assessment to be made by council and to have it adopted before a rate is declared. The ratepayers must be notified before a rate is declared. Under the amendment it will be possible for the ratepayers to be notified of the rate at the same time as the account is posted and this will reduce postage. That is a good amendment from an administrative point of view. It will permit a council to declare a rate at the same time as it makes an assessment and it will permit the rate notices to be forwarded in the same envelope with a resultant considerable saving to municipalities. All local government bodies will benefit under that amendment.

Clause 18 deals with assessments and provides that in future the assessments shall include a statement showing whether the method

adopted is the unimproved value or the rental value. The ratepayer will, therefore, know the method of assessment and the amount of the assessment. Clauses 19 and 20 contain an important amendment. They deal with super-annuation funds provided by councils. It is thought that councils are rather restricted in this regard. Some councils have spent revenue in contributing to sick, accident or pension funds established for the benefit of widows, children and other dependents. This amendment will authorize councils to spend revenue in contributing to such funds in respect of people in the service of the council. Clause 22 deals with vehicles plying for hire and it will give district councils the same right as municipalities to allot places in public streets where vehicles may ply for hire. That is a good amendment.

A further matter dealt with in the Bill refers to leasing of grounds by councils. The Act contains a restriction to park lands, recreation grounds or ovals. The amending legislation will enable councils to lease directly to sporting bodies or clubs. Under the amendment a council will have power to lease to a club direct instead of to an individual.

Another amendment, which is a good one, gives a council power to control traffic on foreshores or in the near vicinity. There are many beaches where the public can drive on to the beach itself, particularly Port Noarlunga, Moana and Sellick's Beach and near Semaphore. The councils have not had power under by-laws to control the speed of vehicles along the foreshores effectively, and a serious accident

may happen because there have been many instances of vehicles travelling at excessive speeds close to the water's edge on public holidays and week-ends. Children in particular, and even adults, are sometimes endangered by this practice. This amendment gives the councils power to regulate traffic on and near the foreshore.

Clause 31 deals with the power of councils regarding the cleaning of footpaths. It will enable a council to declare a time during which the footpath must be cleaned. It is a council's responsibility to clean water tables and gutters, and sometimes after these have been cleaned, business people sweep the dirt and refuse into the gutters and it remains there for the rest of the day. The sweeping of gutters is sometimes done while many people are doing shopping and this causes inconvenience to those walking along the footpath. It would be possible to walk along King William Street at practically any time of the day and find an employee sweeping the footpath in front of a shop. This amendment will give power to a council to define and determine the hours during which footpaths can be cleaned and swept.

All the clauses contained in the Bill are of advantage to councils and an improvement on the present legislation, and I support the second reading.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.41 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, October 17, at 2.15 p.m.