

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

Tuesday, October 2, 1962.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. L. H. Densley) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

**QUESTIONS.****CITY COUNCIL RATES.**

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: I ask leave to make a brief statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: A report appearing in this morning's *Advertiser* states:

The Minister of Local Government (Mr. Jude) has rejected an Adelaide City Council request that the Municipal Tramways Trust pay rates on a 3½-acre property which is being leased in the city for commercial purposes before it is needed as a bus depot.

Will the Minister of Local Government state his reasons for arriving at such a decision as the trust will be receiving rent from those premises, whereas other city property owners receive no exemption from rates in similar circumstances?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: As a matter of policy is involved I ask the honourable member to put his question on notice.

**PEST CONTROL.**

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question.  
Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Recently the Government introduced legislation for the appointment of a board to control oriental fruit moth. This is an urgent matter, but other pests such as red scale and San Jose scale need to be controlled by similar legislation. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture ask the Government to consider introducing Bills, similar to that introduced to control oriental fruit moth, for the purpose of controlling red scale and San Jose scale?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: This matter has been receiving consideration from my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, and I shall be pleased to consult him regarding the question and obtain a reply for the honourable member.

**BUTTER.**

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: Has the Minister of Health a reply to the question I asked on September 4 regarding a report of the Public Health Department?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I have a report from the Director-General of Public Health as follows:

The 1961 annual report of the department contained a table setting out deficiencies found in samples of food and drugs submitted to the Director of Chemistry for analysis. In the case referred to by the honourable member the Metropolitan County Board obtained samples of articles offered for sale as butter and forwarded them through this department for analysis. On examination, these samples were found to be deficient in butter fat because this fat was of vegetable or animal origin other than from milk. The substances, although offered for sale as butter, were in fact margarine. The persons concerned in each case were prosecuted and convicted for a breach of the Food and Drugs regulations.

I think that is the information the honourable member wanted, and it shows there is a difference between butterfat and animal or vegetable fat.

**KANGAROO ISLAND WATER SUPPLY.**

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: My question relates to the very poor situation in which farmers on Kangaroo Island find themselves this season because of the shortage of run-off water with which dams are normally filled and also because of the poor quality and quantity of underground waters. In view of this poor state of affairs, which is through no fault of the Government, is the Minister of Mines representing the Minister of Agriculture satisfied that all possible has been done by the Department of Mines to make sure whether there are any supplies of underground water that could be tapped to give a lead to farmers in that area or whether there has been any attempt to find more supplies of stock water?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: As regards the Minister of Agriculture, I can say from my knowledge of him in Cabinet that no-one is more interested in what happens on Kangaroo Island than he. I know something of his interest in that part of the State. I also know that the seasonal conditions experienced this year have created problems that are not restricted to Kangaroo Island. It also applies to Eyre Peninsula, where we are greatly dependent on underground water supplies. As to the Department of Mines' side of the question, geologists have been over there and plants have been operating and everything that can be done has been and is being done to find other avenues of supply. As a matter of fact not a meagre

amount of money has been provided by the Treasurer, and pipes are being laid from a bore put down by the Department of Mines. In brief, I can say that the two departments are co-operating to do whatever can be done in the shortest time possible to meet the emergency that exists.

#### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Strathmont Primary School (final),

Radio and Electrical Trade Schools, Challa Gardens.

#### APPROPRIATION 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.*

Estimated payments from Consolidated Revenue Account for the year 1962-63 total £96,854,000, while estimated receipts total £96,251,000. The estimated deficit for 1962-63, is, therefore, £603,000.

Before dealing with the appropriations proposed in the Bill I shall comment briefly on last year's experience and on anticipated receipts for this year. The original estimate for 1961-62 was for a nominal surplus of £3,000, whereas the actual result for the year was a surplus of £507,000. Receipts at £93,203,000 were £1,656,000 in excess of the original estimate of £91,547,000, and payments at £92,696,000 were £1,152,000 in excess of the original estimate of £91,544,000. The main explanation of these substantial excesses above estimate is to be found in the method of accounting for a special Commonwealth grant of £970,000. This amount was made available for employment-producing works following the Loan Council meeting held in February last. In accordance with statutory requirements the special grant was taken into Revenue Account in its entirety, so that Parliament might control its disbursement.

Members may recall from the discussion on the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) in April last that £645,000 of the special grant was appropriated to Loan Account for capital works. The remaining £325,000 was allocated within Revenue Account principally for maintenance and comparable works of the Engineering and

Water Supply Department, and for public works under the control of the Director of Public Buildings. Thus, the final figures for both receipts and payments on Revenue Account for 1961-62 were increased above the estimate accordingly.

Another major factor was the improvement above the estimate in the net result of Railways Department operations. Receipts bettered the estimate by £243,000, due to heavy carriage of grain and improved traffic in Broken Hill ores late in the financial year. At the same time, by effecting further economies in operation and continuing to increase efficiency, expenditure was held to a figure £245,000 below the original estimate. The net improvement of £488,000 against the estimate for the overall result of the Railways Department was by far the most significant factor leading to the surplus of £507,000 on Consolidated Revenue Account.

State taxation as a whole yielded £79,000 more than was estimated. Land tax receipts, following a new assessment of land values, amounted to £388,000 more than was anticipated. This increase was offset, however, by falls below the estimate of £123,000 for stamp duties, £118,000 for succession duties, and £37,000 for receipts of the Betting Control Board, attributable to the slower than expected recovery of business activity and levels of values.

Harbors Board revenues fell £90,000 below the estimate, due largely to the effect of the general decline in imports and the marked fall in receipts from inward wharfage and handling charges for coal.

Following on the continued trend for the community to take advantage of health insurance, an increasing proportion of patients in Government hospitals was placed in a position to meet reasonable hospital fees. It is largely for this reason that receipts of the Hospitals Department exceeded the estimate by £130,000.

Among payments, Engineering and Water Supply Department exceeded the estimate by £472,000. Of this, the excess for operation and maintenance was £213,000, and the excess for power for pumping water through the Mannum-Adelaide and Morgan-Whyalla mains was £259,000. The excess expenditure for operation and maintenance was, in part, provided out of the special Commonwealth grant referred to previously.

A new salaries award for teachers operated from February 12 last. The actual cost in 1961-62 was £260,000, and this was the most

important reason for excess expenditure of £457,000 by the Education Department last year.

For Agriculture Department there were savings due to the absence of fresh outbreaks of fruit fly, and, for Harbors Board, savings against the estimate arose through a temporary transfer of dredging operations from maintenance to new capital works.

Within the estimated total of £96,251,000 for receipts for 1962-63 the main items of interest are as follows:

State taxation receipts are estimated at £13,042,000, an increase of £467,000 over last year. The largest variation in this group is in the estimate for motor vehicle taxation which, at £4,775,000, is £226,000 greater than actual receipts for 1961-62. This will have no net effect on the Budget as the proceeds of motor taxation, less the costs of Motor Vehicles and Highways Departments, are transferred to the Highways Fund for road purposes exclusively.

For stamp duties the estimate of £2,373,000 is £161,000 greater than actual receipts for 1961-62, but still £74,000 below the receipts of the peak year 1960-61. It is still difficult to gauge prospective expansion of the economy and therefore it is not possible to estimate with certainty the likely return from stamp duty revenue, which depends not only on the volume of business but also the level of values at which that business is conducted. As the impact of unemployment during 1961-62 was relatively lighter in South Australia than in other States, due in considerable measure to the Government's efforts, the failure of some revenues, particularly stamp duties, to reach the Budget estimates was disappointing. However, in the second half of the year stamp duty receipts showed an improvement compared with the first half of the year. In view of this improvement and other indications of an upward movement in the economy, stamp duty receipts are estimated to amount to £161,000 more than last year.

Succession duties have been subject to the same depressing effects as stamp duties, but to a lesser extent. As economic activity rises, levels of values will move upwards with a consequent improvement in revenues. Succession duties receipts are estimated to increase by £58,000 above actual receipts for 1961-62. The estimate of £2,350,000 for this year is £52,000 less than the record 1960-61 figure. No changes are contemplated in either assessments or rates for taxation on land, betting and

liquor. Receipts from public works and services are estimated at £45,590,000, an increase of £643,000 over last year's actual receipts. This increase is expected to come from the operation of public undertakings £363,000, plus other departmental fees and recoveries £405,000, less the decrease in recoveries of interest and sinking fund £125,000.

The largest increase in receipts of public undertakings is expected to be for the Engineering and Water Supply Department. New extensions and connections and increases in direct sales of water are expected to result in increased receipts of £399,000, taking the total receipts of the department to £7,249,000. Railway receipts are estimated to total £14,068,000 exclusive of special Treasury transfer towards working expenses and debt charges. This estimate is £13,000 less than actual receipts from freight and passenger traffic last year. The freight to be carried will depend largely upon the outcome of the present season. On present indications it appears that the carriage of wheat and barley will decline appreciably, mainly because the amount of the previous season's grain held in country storages at June 30, 1962, was much less than the amount in storage awaiting transport twelve months earlier. This reduction is expected to be offset to a considerable extent by increased carriage of general merchandise and by increased receipts from interstate passenger traffic.

Harbors Board receipts are expected to rise by £80,000 this year to total £2,660,000. Increased handling of gypsum and grain through bulk handling installations and additional oil imports at Port Adelaide are expected, but some further reduction in coal handling at Osborne is probable. The decrease of £125,000 in recoveries of interest and sinking fund will bring the total of such recoveries to £9,023,000. The decrease arises because debt services of the uranium production project formerly met from the State Budget, then charged to the project and recovered to the Budget, are no longer included. The normal annual increase in recoveries from semi-governmental bodies and from advances schemes administered by the State Bank largely offset the effect of the cessation of uranium production recoveries.

Within the category of "Other departmental fees and recoveries" the major movement is in Education Department receipts. The anticipated increase of £160,000 to a total of £1,882,000 for such receipts is due primarily to the increased moneys to be claimed from the

Commonwealth Government for university purposes. The total of State and Commonwealth grants together is appropriated as a payment while the moneys to be recovered from the Commonwealth are included in estimated receipts. Hospital receipts are expected to rise by £112,000 following treatment of increased numbers of patients and wider application of the Commonwealth Hospital Benefits and Pharmaceutical Benefits Schemes. The amount to be received from the Commonwealth as taxation reimbursement is expected to be £34,800,000, an increase of £1,575,000 above the 1961-62 figure. A special grant of £1,312,000 towards employment-producing works will be received, an increase of £342,000 above a similar grant received last year.

Estimated payments in 1962-63 on purposes for which appropriation is contained in existing legislation are £26,208,000, of which the main items are:

	£
Interest and sinking fund in respect of the public debt of the State . . . . .	20,820,000
Transfer to the highways fund of the net proceeds of motor taxation . . . . .	3,605,000
Contributions by the Government to the South Australian Superannuation Fund . . . . .	1,268,000

The difference between total estimated expenditure for the year and payments already authorized by special Acts is £70,646,000, which is the amount to be appropriated by this Bill. Details of the requirement for each department to carry out its normal functions for the year are shown in clause 3. I shall now give a brief outline of the major appropriations sought to continue and expand these activities during 1962-63.

Police Department, £3,052,000.—This is an increase of £200,000 over the actual amount spent during 1961-62. The increased provision is required mainly for salaries and wages, for which an additional £123,000 is provided. This provision will enable the force to be further strengthened. Over the last 10 years there has been a sharp rise all over the world in the number of crimes committed and this State has been no exception. The South Australian population increased between 1951 and 1961 by 30 per cent but during the same period crimes against property alone, such as theft, burglary and vandalism, practically trebled. This trend, the general development of the State, the expansion of residential areas, and increasing traffic volume, have

necessitated additions to both the manpower and equipment of the Police Force. Between June 30, 1951, and June 30 last, the active strength of the force increased from 943 to 1,479 members. Increased provisions are also proposed for the running expenses of the force, and for purchase of motor vehicles, radio units, scientific and other equipment.

Sheriff and Gaols and Prisons Department, £559,000.—This provision exceeds actual payments made last year by £30,000. Of this increase £14,000 is provided for the salaries and wages of additional prison staff and additional probation officers. Provision has also been made for the purchase of various items of new and replacement equipment, for materials for trade shops, and for payments to prisoners.

Hospitals Department, £6,845,000.—An increase of £568,000, or 9 per cent, over last year's actual expenditure is proposed. Of this increase £278,000 is for mental institutions, £130,000 for the Royal Adelaide Hospital, £60,000 for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and £36,000 for the Mount Gambier Hospital. Annual expenditure of the Hospitals Department 10 years ago for the operation and maintenance of Government hospitals was only £2,700,000. The increase to the present level of annual expenditure has followed from additions to hospital accommodation and improvements to services which have been effected during the last decade. The provision of capital works has necessitated increased provisions for expenditure for staffing, operation and maintenance.

It is appropriate to refer briefly to the extent of the expansion in hospital facilities during the last 10 years. At Royal Adelaide Hospital the Eleanor Harrald Nurses' Home accommodating 300 nurses, the new radiotherapy building with orthotron and two cobalt therapy units, and additions to the McEwin Building and Bice Building have all been completed. At the dental hospital a new wing of five floors has recently been opened and work is still in progress on another wing of four floors. With the occupation of the new east wing, providing 487 beds, the first step in the Government's plan for rebuilding the Royal Adelaide Hospital has been completed. The plan envisages Royal Adelaide Hospital as a series of separate major structures, each designed to house a particular area of hospital activity and linked by covered ways at all necessary levels. Initial work on the next step of the rebuilding programme will be commenced this year.

Some of the most gratifying of the considerable medical achievements in the last 10

years have derived from the establishment of a special cardiac surgical team. This team has available to it some of the very latest equipment in the world, including heart lung by-pass and associated investigational and monitoring equipment, and the team has achieved spectacular successes. During 1954-55 portion of the nurses' home at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was opened as a 55-bed maternity hospital. The maternity block was occupied in May, 1957, whilst the first beds in the general section were occupied in February, 1959. This year the hospital will reach full capacity, when the total available beds will be:

	Beds.
General . . . . .	378
Maternity . . . . .	122
Children's annexe (formerly Mareeba Children's Hospital) . . . . .	30
Total . . . . .	530

In 1961 the new 200-bed hospital at Mount Gambier, complete with nurses' home and service buildings, was opened. A new air-conditioned theatre and hospital block for 70 patients at Port Pirie was occupied in 1959-60. Additions have been made to the hospital at Port Augusta and plans are being prepared for a new 80 to 90-bed hospital there with associated service buildings. Work will commence shortly at Port Lincoln on the construction of a new 50-bed hospital block with extensions to the nurses' quarters and new service buildings. Plans are also in hand for extensions to Barmera Hospital.

Expenditure at mental institutions last year was £1,269,000. This year it is proposed to spend £1,547,000, an increase of £278,000, or almost 22 per cent. The major part of this increase will be required to employ additional medical and domestic staff to bring the patient-staff ratio to a figure strongly recommended by the Director of Mental Health. With officers of the Public Buildings Department the Director is examining the requirements for new buildings and services in the mental institutions, and as soon as firm proposals can be determined the Government will make every effort to allocate sufficient Loan moneys to enable work to go ahead.

Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, £933,000.—This provision is required for the upkeep of the schools, homes, training centres and other institutions under the control of the department, for the payment of relief to widows, deserted wives or pensioners with children, and for assistance to families in serious need through continued

sickness or unemployment. Commitments for salaries and wages of staff will amount to £484,000 for 1962-63, while the cost of provisions, equipment, clothing, fuel and other expenses of the department is estimated at £449,000.

Department of Public Health, £332,000.—Two branches of the department for which additional expenditure is proposed this year are the poliomyelitis branch and the public health branch. A total of £37,000 is provided to continue the poliomyelitis immunization programme. No shortage of Salk vaccine is anticipated this year and it has been decided to make a fourth injection available to the public. Provision of £60,000 for the public health branch allows for the appointment of additional scientific and inspectorial staff. These officers will enable inspections under the Health Act and Food and Drugs Act to protect the health of the community and to keep pace with rising population. Funds have also been provided for continuing the work of the school health branch. About 65,000 school-children will be medically examined this year, and this service is playing a valuable part in the early detection of defects, particularly of vision and hearing. An amount of £112,000 has been included for the operation of the tuberculosis branch which will this year continue the State X-ray health survey.

Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous, £3,193,000.—The sum of £2,648,000 is proposed for medical and health services, an increase over last year's expenditure of £317,000. There are four main categories under which this provision may be considered. Grants to hospitals, institutions, etc., total £1,963,000. Provision has been made for maintenance, new buildings, alterations, additions and equipment required by larger organizations such as the Adelaide Children's Hospital, the Home for Incurables, the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association, and the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital. An amount of £100,000 is provided towards major additions to the Lyell McEwin Hospital at Elizabeth estimated to cost approximately £173,000 and to provide 46 additional beds. Grants for a number of country and community hospitals are also included in this section.

Subsidies to institutions, etc., are estimated at £174,000. The main provisions under this heading are subsidies to Kalyra Sanatorium, the District and Bush Nursing Society, and

**Minda Home.** Conditional subsidies to hospitals, where the amount paid by the Government is conditional upon the hospitals themselves raising a certain part of their operating requirements from fees and other revenues, will this year require £180,000. Provision is made for payments to be made to 49 country hospitals. Special subsidies to hospitals for additions, alterations and equipment, are expected to amount to £269,000. Subsidies are proposed for 41 hospitals, the larger proposals being for major additions to the Millicent (Thyne Memorial) Hospital, estimated to cost approximately £205,000 and to provide 50 beds; to the Naracorte Hospital, estimated to cost £150,000 and to provide 34 beds to replace older accommodation; and to Jamestown, Murray Bridge, and Renmark hospitals. Also included in the provision of £2,648,000 for medical and health services is £58,000 for ambulance services in both metropolitan and country areas.

Other important items provided for under Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous are grants to the Royal Institution for the Blind £49,000, and the Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb £10,000. Transport concessions to pensioners are expected to increase by £24,000 this year to £133,000 following the introduction, from July 1 last, of a concession fare scheme for pensioners on approved private bus services operating in metropolitan and near metropolitan areas. The sum of £86,000 has been provided for transport concessions to incapacitated soldiers for 1962-63.

**Publicity and Tourist Bureau and Immigration, £255,000.**—In addition to provision for the maintenance and improvement of national pleasure resorts, and for advertising the tourist attractions of this State, proposed expenditures include £17,000 for subsidies to municipal authorities for the development of tourist resorts, £28,000 for subsidies towards the construction of swimming pools, and £5,000 for subsidies towards the provision and development of recreation areas.

**Treasurer—Miscellaneous, £6,114,000.**—Variations in items that appear on both the revenue and expenditure sides of the Budget are the main movements in the appropriation sought under this heading, which is £620,000 less than actual expenditure in 1961-62. The contribution to the Commonwealth of principal and interest in respect of moneys borrowed under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, is estimated at £1,549,000, which is

£212,000 in excess of last year's payment, but this will be fully recouped to the Budget by the Housing Trust.

The transfer to the Railways Department is to be reduced by £200,000 to £3,900,000 this year following a similar reduction last year. This transfer is designed to reduce the prospective deficit in the railways account to a figure which could possibly be eliminated by further achievements in reducing expenditure or attracting revenue.

Last year £645,000 of the special Commonwealth grant for promotion of employment was transferred to Loan Account to finance capital works. In view of this year's prospective revenue deficit of £603,000 it would be futile to contemplate a repetition of last year's procedure as that would correspondingly increase the revenue deficit. On this account appropriation sought is reduced by £645,000 compared with actual payments in 1961-62.

**Lands Department, £883,000.**—This amount is required to meet expenses associated with land development and settlement, surveying, mapping and recording and the collection of revenue due to the Crown under leases, etc. It includes provision for the State to meet part of its share of the cost of war service land settlement.

**Minister of Lands—Miscellaneous, £197,000.**—This provision includes £100,000 for salaries and grants for the Botanic Garden, £30,000 for grants to the National Park Commissioners, and £23,000 for grants to the Royal Zoological Society of S.A. Inc.

**Engineering and Water Supply Department, £4,521,000.**—This provision compares with £4,641,000 actual payments in 1961-62. If from these figures the provisions for power for pumping and for South Australia's contribution towards the maintenance of River Murray works were excluded, it would be seen that the provision for normal departmental maintenance and operation is £3,751,000 in 1962-63 compared with actual payments of £3,727,000 in 1961-62, that is, an increase of £24,000. It should be remembered, however, that the department was allocated £150,000 of the special Commonwealth grant for employment-producing works last year in addition to its normal provision. The provision for ordinary operating and maintenance requirements and for usual expansion is therefore £24,000 more than the combined normal and special provisions last year.

Because the seasonal outlook can change radically at short notice the likely cost of

power to pump water through the Mannum-Adelaide main, through the Morgan-Whyalla main, and from bores, cannot be estimated accurately. In 1959-60, because of a particularly dry season, it reached the very high figure of £922,000; in 1960-61 following a good season the cost fell to £275,000; but last year it rose again to £834,000. The present holding of reservoirs is well below the desirable level for this time of the year and the maintenance of adequate water supplies is likely to require considerable pumping from the River Murray during 1962-63. The Bill includes provision for the expenditure of £646,000 for power for pumping through the two major pipelines and from bores in the Adelaide water district, but actual cost will depend upon the outcome of the season.

Aborigines Department, £536,000.—Expenditure for the welfare of Aborigines has risen steadily to the present level from total annual payments of £64,000 12 years ago. The proposed payments are to provide better accommodation for Aborigines, grants in aid and other assistance to church missions for the improvement of living conditions and physical welfare and supplementary ration scales and medical supervision. Provision has also been made for the development of reserves where the physical condition of tribal people may be improved, elementary standards of hygiene sponsored and some approach made towards better living standards. The department is working in this way with a long term aim of enabling all Aboriginal people to move closer to our way of life.

Public Works, £1,654,000.—This provision is mainly to meet the cost of repairs and maintenance of Government buildings, furnishings, and the cost of replacement furniture. The appropriation sought exceeds last year's actual payments by £22,000. As expenditure last year included £145,000 of the special Commonwealth grant for employment-producing works this year's provision is £167,000 greater than the normal 1961-62 allocation. The main provisions are £675,000 for education buildings, £531,000 for hospital buildings, £95,000 for police and courthouse buildings, and £318,000 for other Government buildings.

Education Department, £14,665,000.—Expenditure on education has increased in recent years more rapidly than expenditure on any other major service. This year's provision is an increase of £1,469,000, or 11 per cent above actual payments last year. This follows increases of 14½ per cent in 1961-62 and almost

12 per cent in 1960-61. Honourable members will gain some idea of the problem to be faced by comparing the increase required for this department alone, £1,469,000, with the anticipated increase of £1,575,000 in the State's major revenue item, the tax reimbursement grant.

Salaries and wages are expected to increase by £1,214,000 to an amount of £11,764,000. A new award for teachers operated from February 12 last. The actual cost in 1961-62 was £260,000, but the total cost for a full year is approximately £680,000, so that an additional £420,000 is required in 1962-63. The department has been very successful in its campaign to attract young people to undertake training in the teachers colleges for a permanent career in the teaching profession. The number under training is now 2,435 compared with 885 five years ago. The Government has found and is finding the funds necessary to effect continuing improvements in the extent and standard of school accommodation, the ratio of teachers to pupils, and the standard of instruction.

The Libraries Department, £271,000.—This provision includes the salaries and wages of library staff, a transfer of £66,000 to the Libraries Board to be spent at its discretion on books and services and £38,000 towards the establishment and operation of libraries by local government authorities.

Minister of Education—Miscellaneous, £3,730,000.—The appropriation sought is £304,000 greater than the actual amount spent last year. Grants to the University of Adelaide, additional to the £44,000 to be paid under the authority of special legislation, are estimated at £2,920,000, which is an increase of £263,000 over last year's payments. Grants to the South Australian Institute of Technology are estimated at £480,000, £60,000 greater than in 1961-62.

Other grants included in this section are:

	£
Kindergarten Union of South Australia . . . . .	185,000
Institutes Association of South Australia . . . . .	24,000
National Fitness Council of South Australia . . . . .	16,000
South Australian Oral School . . . . .	6,500
Townsend House School for deaf and blind children . . . . .	23,500

Department of Agriculture, £843,000.—This year's provision exceeds last year's payments by £97,000. Provision has been made for the setting up of additional road blocks considered necessary because of the outbreak of fruit fly

at Merbein in Victoria, and also because of the expected overland traffic to and from Perth for the Commonwealth Games. Provision has also been included for improvements and general working expenses at the various research and experimental centres operated by the department, for the purchase of livestock and equipment required at these centres, for the continuance of information and advisory services, and for the control of diseases and pests, including fruit fly. One project, that of artificial breeding of dairy cattle, which the department introduced successfully into this State, has now been handed over to the control of a separately constituted authority, the Artificial Breeding Board.

Minister of Agriculture, Miscellaneous, £482,000.—This provision is £65,000 greater than actual payments made in 1961-62. Of this increase, £35,000 is provided as an advance to the Artificial Breeding Board, to which I have just referred; £15,000 is set aside for grants to local government authorities to assist in maintaining and operating fire fighting organizations; and the provision for subsidies to volunteer fire fighting organizations for the purchase of equipment is increased by £10,000 to £20,000.

Estimated expenditure on demonstrations and research conducted by the Bushfire Research Committee with the aim of introducing bushfire prevention and control measures is estimated this year at £30,000, which is an increase of £9,000 over the amount spent last year.

The proposed grant to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute is £350,000. This grant forms part of the State's contribution to the Adelaide University and is determined at the same time and under the same conditions as the main grant to the university to which I have already referred.

Department of Lands (Irrigation and Drainage), £479,000.—The proposals for the normal operation and maintenance of irrigation and drainage works are £14,000 in excess of actual payments in 1961-62.

Mines Department, £760,000.—This is £117,000, or 18 per cent, greater than actual expenditure last year. The oil search programme in South Australia is being expanded rapidly, and during the current year very large expenditures will be undertaken by both the Government and private operators. Two Government seismic parties are currently in the field. One of these parties commenced in the lower South-East and has worked its way north to near Renmark. The second party is continuing work in the Great Artesian

Basin. Through the work of these parties the Government has been able to direct the attention of licensees to the more promising areas, thereby greatly expediting the oil search programme. These seismic projects are estimated to cost £250,000 during the present financial year. The Government is very conscious of the tremendous importance of oil and gas exploration, and is taking all possible steps to ensure that the programme is carried out vigorously by all concerned.

At the same time the search for mineral deposits is being pursued. Trial parcels of ore have been extracted from the Braemar deposit near Yunta, and further geophysical work has been carried out on the Warramboe iron deposit. Geological work and drilling by the Mines Department at Ediacara, near Leigh Creek, have indicated widespread low-grade lead mineralization and some encouraging copper mineralization. Old copper deposits at Kapunda and Burra are being re-examined, and in the non-metallic field special emphasis is being placed on the search for potash, bromine and rock phosphate. A review of the opal industry is also in progress. This year's provision will enable the department to continue and expand the work of exploring, testing and recording the mineral resources of the State.

Harbors Board, £1,550,000.—Proposals for 1962-63 exceed last year's actual payments by £79,000. The appropriation will cover requirements for wharf maintenance, dredging of channels and general working expenses of ports, including increased operation of bulk handling installations.

Railways Department, £14,430,000.—This is a decrease of £60,000 compared with actual payments for 1961-62. To a very small extent the lower requirement is due to an expected slight decline in traffic, but primarily it arises from efficient administration and operation. Not all of the progress in the matter of improved efficiency has been brought about by modernization of motive power and rolling stock, or by the increased effort that has been put into the maintenance of tracks and structures. To a considerable extent it can also be attributed to wise management and careful control of finances.

The improved efficiency over recent years has meant that any rises in working expenses have been proportionally lower than have been the rises in costs of labour and material. As an example, the fuel Bill has decreased from nearly £2,500,000 in 1951-52 to less than



£1,000,000 in 1961-62, despite an increase in both the tonnage and ton mileage of freight and livestock hauled.

The Railways Department administration has been successful in achieving economies by paying close attention to the methods of carriage of various goods, and by entering into special contracts and arrangements to encourage freighting in full truck loads. Every effort will continue to be made to effect all reasonable economies, and the administration is to be commended on its proposals to contain expenditures within a total of £14,430,000.

Highways and Local Government Department, £617,000.—This year's provision is £47,000 in excess of expenditure in 1961-62, but has no net impact upon the Budget, for costs associated with the department are deducted from motor vehicles taxation receipts in determining the amount to be transferred to the Highways Fund in accordance with the Highways Act. Of the increase in appropriation sought, £40,000 is required for the salaries and wages of existing staff, and proposed new appointments of engineers, surveyors, draftsmen and technical officers.

Clause 2 of the Bill provides for the further issue of £50,646,000, being the difference between the amount authorized by the three Supply Acts, £20,000,000, and the total of the appropriation required in this Bill.

Clause 3 sets out the amount to be appropriated and the details of the appropriation to the various departments and functions. This clause also provides that increases of salaries or wages that become payable pursuant to any return made by a properly constituted authority may be paid, and that the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount necessary to pay the increases. It further provides that if the cost of electricity for pumping water through the Mannum-Adelaide main and from bores in the Adelaide water district, and through the Morgan-Whyalla water main, should be greater than the provision included in the Bill, the Governor may authorize the additional expenditure, and the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount of such additional expenditure.

Clause 4 authorizes the Treasurer to pay moneys from time to time authorized by warrants issued by the Governor, and provides that the receipts obtained from the payees shall be the discharge to the Treasurer for the moneys paid.

Clause 5 authorizes the use of Loan funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to make the payments authorized by this Bill.

Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to the first day of July, 1962, or at a rate in excess of the rate in force under any return made by the Public Service Board or any regulation of the South Australian Railways Commissioner.

Clause 7 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly appropriated. I commend the Bill to members.

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

#### POLICE OFFENCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Police Offences Act, 1953-1961. Read a first time.

#### SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Supreme Court Act, 1935-1960. Read a first time.

#### BULK HANDLING OF GRAIN ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 25. Page 1052.)

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN (Northern): I support this Bill, the purpose of which is to guarantee finance to South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited and, as a result of the operations of this company since its inception some years ago, we are confident that the provision of this finance will be a very sound investment. The Bill has my support because it will help to initiate the bulk handling of barley by guaranteeing the financial support which will enable the company to install bulk handling facilities at terminal ports. This is only the first move, for in time we shall see the complete bulk handling of this grain. There have been several problems associated with the bulk handling of barley, but the company has proved itself capable of overcoming any difficulties in the storage of this cereal. Handling barley in bags is a problem which must be overcome because we have built up important overseas

markets and there are many industries dependent on barley production in this country. The whole future of the industry could hinge on more efficient handling of the grain.

Most farmers have acquired equipment designed to handle grain in bulk since the introduction of bulk handling of wheat, and if a choice of grain is necessary the decision is usually in favour of wheat because it is easier to handle at harvest time. The work is much more pleasant when the grain is handled in bulk; and the handling cost is lower, too. Since the introduction of bulk handling of wheat the company has done a magnificent job in planning and providing bulk handling facilities. Not only has the individual grower been helped but the industry as a whole has benefited through the segregating of various types of grain into hard and semi-hard; the protection of grain against weevil and other pests by sufficient aeration of the silo cells; the installation of electronic temperature measuring devices; and the pre-spraying of grain with malathion, which is a cheap and efficient insecticide. All the advantages gained by the wheat

industry could also be gained by the barley industry with the introduction of full bulk handling.

Oats is another crop that could be handled most efficiently by bulk handling methods. The Agriculture Department and the growers' organizations could help to make the oat-growing industry more efficient by advising growers to concentrate on, say, two varieties which are acceptable, not only to the local market, but to overseas buyers. There is a strong overseas demand for the right types of oats and such varieties do exist. This Bill, which will assist the bulk handling of barley and thereby help our barley industry, could also lead to the bulk handling of all our cereals in the near future.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.25 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, October 3, at 2.15 p.m.