

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, August 28, 1963.

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

DEATH OF HON. SIR WALTER DUNCAN.

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

That this Council expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. Sir Walter G. Duncan, a former President of the Legislative Council and member for Midland District for 44 years and places on record its appreciation of his public services, and that, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased honourable gentleman, the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

The passing of Sir Walter Duncan has created a pall of sadness over the members who were associated with him during the years he presided over the affairs of this Council. He was first elected to this Chamber on April 6, 1918, and served continuously for 44 years until February 28, 1962—the longest term any member has served the Legislative Council—and was the “father of the House” for some years. Sir Walter was knighted in 1939. He was elected as President of the Council on July 20, 1944, and served in that capacity for nearly 18 years, second only to the record term of the late Sir Lancelot Stirling. He was a member of a distinguished family that has been associated with Commonwealth and South Australian Parliaments for over 100 years. His father, the Hon. Sir John Duncan, served in the South Australian Parliament for 31 years, 18 of which were as a member of the Council, and his uncle and brother served for 10 years in the South Australian Parliament and 16 years in the Commonwealth Parliament respectively. He was a member of the South Australian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for 36 years; for 28½ years he was on the executive committee and for 18 years he was Vice-President. He was an honorary life associate at the time of his death.

His other interests included his being President of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society for 20 years and he also managed pastoral properties in this State. Whatever position he held, he always seemed to bring a breath of life and levity into everything he did and always endeared himself to everybody with whom he associated. He was a considerable influence for harmony in all that he undertook. He served for long periods on various directorates, including the boards of

the A.M.P. Society, Goldsbrough Mort & Co. Ltd., Bagot's Executor & Trustee Co. Ltd., Broken Hill Proprietary Company Ltd., Adelaide Steamship Co. Ltd. and Wallaroo-Mount Lyell Fertilizers Ltd.

He also took a keen interest in sport. He was associated with the Country Carnival Cricket Association for over 25 years in various capacities. He was a regular visitor and guest on the occasion of country cricket carnivals and one would always find Sir Walter's name on the toast list. He not only gave us words of wisdom, but was renowned for his great sense of humour.

I remember the late Sir Walter from the time I first entered Parliament when the Council met in the old Chamber. He was then, of course, much younger, but he was the Leader of the Party and I well remember his able handling of affairs and the great assistance he was to members. He encouraged them to develop their own lines of thought, and as a private member I remember that he never tried to influence me from the normal course of what I considered to be correct and in the interests of my electorate. I thought he had great qualities in assisting members to develop themselves and not trying to guide their thinking. Consequently, I had a great respect for Sir Walter. Another great characteristic of his was that it did not matter how much a member disagreed with his line of thinking, he still remained a friend, who you felt was always ready to meet you and with whom you were always happy to be associated.

He was a great supporter of South Australian interests. I am sure we all felt that as director of several public companies, particularly in association with the late Sir Harold Darling, he was a great influence for good for this State. I feel that we have lost a man who was a friend to us right up to the time of his death. I know that you, Mr. President, had regular visits from him and we saw him at various social functions recently. The last time he was here he seemed to be as bright as ever, and when we passed your room, Mr. President, his voice seemed to have the old ring and there was the same good humour. Unfortunately, it will not be heard again. I am sure I am voicing the feelings of all members when I express to the family not only our great appreciation of his services but also our deepest sympathy.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I support the motion. One would not be human if he did not feel the

passing of Sir Walter. I was privileged to know him as President of this Chamber for quite a number of years. He truly built up a record of which any man could be proud. I do not intend to reiterate all that the Chief Secretary said. My experience in this Chamber was always a happy one whilst Sir Walter was President. He always had a sense of humour that kept things moving along, if not on the line one desired at least on the line he thought they should go along. He was truly a fine, sympathetic gentleman, and in his own quiet but kindly way he always felt for those who might not be enjoying the best of health. I well remember a couple of years ago, when I was not as well as I might have been, how sympathetically he came along and asked how I was progressing. That was typical of what he would do for all men.

One of the grandest memories of Sir Walter that will live in my mind and in the minds of all members was his President's dinner towards the end of each session. He was a remarkable entertainer and the brightest and wittiest after-dinner speaker it has been my pleasure to hear. Sometimes he told the same story twice, but he knew it well and would repeat it word perfect. Generally, however, he had a new story that helped to make life brighter. I do not think I can add any more to what I have said. One could speak at considerable length without adequately expressing one's feelings about Sir Walter. I conclude by coupling my colleagues in particular and I believe all members of the Council with me in expressing to Lady Duncan and her family our heartfelt sympathy at the loss of a husband and father who was so very good to them all.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): Mr. President, I rise with deep regret to support the motion on behalf of the members of my Party. The record of Sir Walter Duncan has been given by the Chief Secretary. It is a wonderful record—a Parliamentary record, a business record and a record of good work. I was particularly fortunate to be his personal colleague for seven years, during which time he offered, and I accepted, much advice. As the Chief Secretary has said, Sir Walter would give advice and, if a man did not take it, he had plenty of ways of telling him that he had not taken it; but he did not insist upon it—he merely offered it.

His ready wit was something that every member who was ever associated with him will remember forever. He was a most entertaining after-dinner speaker, always in demand.

I should think that Sir Walter Duncan epitomized the best of the old world and the best of the new. Whilst he had very many of the gracious characteristics of bygone days, he kept himself abreast of changing times to the end of his days. I think it is a great tragedy that we have no written record of his outstanding fund of stories and experiences that would have made excellent reading and been extremely good for younger members of Parliament and younger people coming on. I always felt it was a tragedy that nothing was done about collecting those stories in written form.

He successfully combined his great knowledge of the land (and it was a great knowledge) with his knowledge of Parliament, Parliamentary procedure and business. He combined all those things and advised and helped people with the same good sense that we grew to expect from him—particularly advice to his colleagues and members of this place.

As Mr. Shard has said, Sir Walter, when he gave his wonderful President's dinner every year to the members of this Chamber, always insisted on no fuss, no bother and no speeches. That was preserved even to the last, when Sir Walter wished that there should be no fuss and no bother; he just wanted to be buried quietly. That characterized him to the end of his days. I should like to associate my Party with the motion to express to Lady Duncan, her son and daughter our most heartfelt sympathy in their and our very sad loss.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL (Central No. 2): Mr. President, I ask the privilege of rising to support the motion because I was associated with the Hon. Sir Walter Duncan not only in this Chamber but also on two boards of directors. He was a very good friend to me. I believe him to have been one of the outstanding men of our generation, a man of great integrity and perception as well as of wisdom. He had that rare combination of original wit and of being a very fine raconteur as well.

Outstanding in my memories of him will be his common sense and kindness, which I can illustrate by happenings in this Chamber. His interpretation of the Standing Orders was always one of common sense rather than of rigidity. When he made a common-sense interpretation instead of sticking to the letter of the Standing Orders—making that interpretation, of course, in the interests of the smooth working of the Council—he was accustomed to smile and challenge anyone to try to upset his ruling with a motion. Of course, it was

a very rare occasion when anyone made that attempt and, if he did, on that rare occasion he invariably failed.

As regards Sir Walter's kindness, not only personally but in public, I remember when I was first a member of the Council I walked between an honourable member who was speaking and the President. He did not call me to order at that stage but took me aside, after the Council had risen and pointed out to me the error of my ways—something, of course, that any human being would appreciate. He was a man of outstanding qualities and I wish to join in the expressions of sympathy to his family.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS (Midland): Mr. President, it is somewhat unusual for a fairly new backbencher to rise on such an occasion as this, but I wish to pay my tribute to Sir Walter. I knew him practically all my life. My late parents were quite active in political affairs, and I can remember at an early age being smuggled into an annual conference held across the road—presumably because my parents had nowhere else to place me for the time being—when Sir Walter was Chairman of his Party. I can remember from then on the great esteem that my parents held for Sir Walter Duncan. I was brought up to admire our deceased colleague. As I grew up and began to form opinions of my own, I had no reason to change my opinion of him; rather, I had it strengthened.

I knew Sir Walter from outside, as it were, because when he retired I came into this place, and I count it, Mr. President, a very great honour that I should have been chosen to fill the vacancy that occurred when Sir Walter retired. I also count it a great privilege to have received kindly and helpful advice from him, both personally and by letter, during my early months in this Chamber. I wish to record my sincere tribute to his life and work and to convey my condolences to his family. I support the motion.

The PRESIDENT: I deem it a great privilege indeed to have known Sir Walter Duncan and to have been associated with him for some 20 years. On the day I first sat in this Chamber Sir Walter was elected President and I have had the privilege of seeing him in action for 18 sessions during which he was President of the Legislative Council. I readily endorse all that honourable members have said with regard to Sir Walter. He was indeed a great friend and a man whose spirit never tired. Even though he had been very sick at times, he was always able to muster

up that wonderful spirit that carried him along throughout life. He was a great South Australian and I join with other honourable members in expressing my sympathy to his family. I ask honourable members to stand and carry the motion in silence.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[*Sitting suspended from 2.37 to 3.12 p.m.*]

QUESTIONS.

ADELAIDE RAILWAY STATION.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: Has the attention of the Minister of Railways been directed to the decadent state of the main entrance hall of the Adelaide railway station, particularly the ceiling? If not, will the Minister with his professed knowledge of architecture make an early inspection with a view to taking immediate action to have the architectural beauty of this hall restored to its pristine splendour befitting such a central railway terminal?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: The honourable member apparently requires a detailed report and I ask him to place the question on notice.

FARM PURCHASES.

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 Premier made a statement concerning a scheme to enable persons with suitable qualifications, but lacking capital, to purchase farms for more intensive cultivation. Can the Minister representing the Premier say whether, when the Premier made that statement, he visualized the inclusion of irrigation properties, particularly fruitgrowing?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The necessary legislation to give effect to what the Premier announced is not yet finalized. It had not been finalized when Cabinet met on Monday, and until it is I prefer not to make any suggestions other than to say that I do not anticipate any particular restriction on any type of primary producing holdings. Honourable members will have the full facts placed before them in due course.

TRANSPORT CONTROL BOARD.

The Hon. L. R. HART: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: As the Transport Control Board appears to have outlived its

usefulness, and the tendency is to close a number of railway lines that serve no great purpose today, and as this Government believes in free enterprise and free trading, will the Minister representing the Premier ascertain whether the Government will consider abolishing the Transport Control Board altogether?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The honourable member's question contains much conjecture and it will certainly need the consideration of Cabinet. I suggest that he put his question on notice.

AVAILABILITY OF BILLS FOR MEMBERS.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: I direct my question to the Chief Secretary. As the session progresses during the coming weeks, will the Government consider giving members an advance copy of the Bills to be presented to Parliament in another place so that members may have time to carry out necessary research and so avoid depending on reading the Ministers' second reading speeches and thus requiring adjournments of debates until the next day of sitting?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The honourable member knows the procedure of Parliament quite well. Bills are public property and when they are presented in another place are as readily available to the honourable member as to members there. I know the amount of work the honourable member puts into studying Bills and I believe he would be one of the first to get a copy of a Bill if he so desired. As regards what happens in this place, I do not know whether the honourable member is suggesting that sometimes the second readings are given before the Bill is available. Of course, that is entirely in the hands of the Council if any member should object and concerns the requirements of the Standing Orders. As far as I am concerned, that is only done so that honourable members can have the opportunity of seeing an explanation of the Bill and have a few extra days to do their homework before the debate ensues. Usually adjournments of debates carry over weekends to the following Tuesday. I believe the practice has been to give honourable members the maximum amount of time to study Bills and make some intelligent comments upon them.

AMUSEMENTS DUTY (FURTHER SUSPENSION) BILL.

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

METROPOLITAN TAXI-CAB ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

Second reading.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE (Minister of Roads): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its main objects are two in number—first, to make provisions in relation to taxi-cabs similar to those which apply to motor vehicles since day to day registration was introduced. As honourable members know, the Motor Vehicles Act now provides for six-monthly or twelve-monthly registrations dating from the day of registration and not the first day of the month of registration. Calculations for refunds of unexpired portions of registration are now therefore based on the actual number of unexpired days. Clause 5 accordingly takes out the existing provisions of section 37a of the Metropolitan Taxi-Cab Act relating to this matter and substitutes provisions which will enable the Registrar to pay refunds in respect of taxi-cabs on substantially the same basis as in the case of other motor vehicles.

The second amendment is made by clause 6 which will bring Noarlunga into the list of constituent councils in the schedule to the Act. Under the regulations an applicant for a taxi-cab licence must have a usual place of residence within the area of a constituent council. At least one operator has recently erected a house within the area of Noarlunga and in view of the subdivisions of land along the South Road it is possible that other operators may do likewise.

The amendments made by clauses 3, 4 and 5 (a) and (c) are in the nature of Statute law revision amendments—they substitute in the principal Act references to the appropriate sections of the new Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Acts for the present references which are to the old Road Traffic Act.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

THEVENARD TO KEVIN RAILWAY BILL.

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

Second reading.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE (Minister of Railways): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is introduced following on a recent report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. Clause 3 authorizes

the construction of a railway from a point near Ceduna to Kevin on the West Coast. Clause 4 contains the usual financial provision in connection with the new railway. Clause 5 authorizes the Commissioner to discontinue the existing railway between Wandana and Kowulka.

I should explain to members that at present there is a line running from Port Lincoln to Penong passing through Wandana and Kowulka. A further line exists between Wandana and Thevenard, passing through Ceduna. A branch or spur line runs off the main Port Lincoln—Penong railway from Kowulka to Kevin. To go by rail from Thevenard or Ceduna to Kevin, which is only 38 miles away, it is necessary to proceed to Wandana, joining the main line and proceeding thence on that line to Kowulka and by the branch line from Kowulka to Kevin, a total distance of 64 miles. The proposals envisaged in the Bill will mean that the shorter route can be taken by way of a direct line, while access from Port Lincoln to Kowulka and Penong will be by way of Wandana, Ceduna, Kevin, Kowulka and Penong. The map exhibited on the board in the Council will make the position clear to members. A perusal of this map will show the result of the works authorized by the Bill.

The Wandana-Penong railway was opened to traffic early in 1924 and during the following six or seven years the principal freight consisted of farm requirements inwards and grain and salt outwards. After 1930 the inwards movement dropped and the salt traffic ceased between 1930 and 1943; although there was a slight recovery, that traffic ceased altogether after 1953. In recent years grain freight has fallen off largely as the result of bulk handling. However, mining of gypsum at Lake Macdonnell commenced in 1947 and the five-mile Kowulka-Kevin branch line was built under agreement with the Gypsum Company and opened to traffic in April 1950. The quantity of gypsum traffic has increased and recent events have improved the prospects of obtaining overseas markets for gypsum. Arrangements have now been made to carry about 6,000 tons a week during 1963.

As I have said, the present route from Thevenard to Kevin is circuitous. The line is in poor condition and to cope with the increasing gypsum traffic an intensive relaying programme would be required. This would involve a cost of over £800,000 over a period of 10 years. On the other hand, construction of the new direct line from Kevin to

Thevenard would cost only an additional £43,000. The direct line would provide a quicker and better service with substantial savings to the Railways Department in view of the shorter distance and better grade, offering the possibility of reduced charges if the export trade in gypsum is developed. I do not think that it is necessary for me to do more than refer to the desirability of encouraging the export trade in gypsum, as in many other commodities. The Public Works Committee, having investigated the matter fully, reported in favour of the proposal and the present Bill is designed to give effect to its recommendation.

I thank honourable members for allowing me to give the second reading explanation today and I commend the Bill for their consideration.

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

BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 27. Page 648.)

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I support the Bill. Each year we have a similar Bill to consider, and it appears that in another place this year members gave it considerable attention. I believe that will happen here. The Hon. Mr. Shard said, after making some of his remarks, that he had taken members for a long journey around the State. If some of my Scottish ancestors were here they would have been extremely pleased that I had been able to have such a long ride for nothing. The honourable member was generous in where he touched down, and I agree with much of what he said, because I thought he appreciated the way in which the State was being run by the Government.

The 1963-64 financial year, in connection with Loan moneys, will be an important one for the general economics of the State. During this last year the Government has gone through a trying time, but has acquitted itself well. With the assistance of an additional grant of £5,000,000 we have been able to maintain employment at a high level. The Bill deals with matters of some magnitude. Of the total allocation of £272,000,000 from the Commonwealth to the States this year, South Australia has a borrowing power of £37,292,000. This represents an overall increase of £2,072,000 on the 1962-63 figure.

An amount of £9,400,000 will be available for housing, together with £250,000 as the result of repayments on loans. This means that £9,650,000 will be available for housing, and it will be of great assistance in solving our housing problem. In a country like South Australia, where there is much development, there will always be a housing problem. If we did not have one we would be going backwards, and no member desires that. The split-up of the £9,650,000 available for housing is interesting. The Housing Trust will get £4,600,000, the State Bank £4,625,000, and the building societies £425,000. That will give the State Bank slightly more than the Housing Trust, but the trust has its own money coming back from rents and repayments, so actually it will have a larger amount than the £4,600,000 to spend. The position appears to be that we have about £47,000,000, or £3,250,000 above the amount for last year, taking everything, including repayments, into account.

I am pleased to see under the Loans to Producers Act an amount of £50,000. That is only a token sum in the amount of money handled under this Act on behalf of primary producers in this State. In fact, last year under that Act considerably more was spent than the amount raised from semi-governmental borrowings. Honourable members will remember that we amended the Act last session to enable the State Bank to take advantage of semi-governmental borrowing. As a result, an amount of £200,000 was made available last year for this fund, coming mainly from over-subscriptions to Government borrowing in other directions. This is a proper way to fund this Act. The public has confidence in the State and, therefore, if we can get money into these funds rather than take it out of our direct Loan allocation, it is a prudent policy. At present, under the Loans to Producers Act, we have £1,700,000 out in loans on fruit, canning, grape production and items of that nature. We have out another fairly large amount of well over £1,000,000 in fishing, dairying and ventures of that type. Also, the State Bank is carrying for the industries I have mentioned overdrafts totalling between £3,000,000 and £4,000,000, which gives some indication of the immense amount of money tied up in this form of primary production—not only from the production side, not only from the spending on cool stores, packing houses and things of that nature, but also in stock, which has to be held, in the case of wine, for many years, and in the case of the canning industry for a considerable time.

Several industries receiving fairly large amounts for assistance are not going as well as they could. It is fortunate for this State that we have the Loans to Producers Act in operation. It stems from a very old Act, the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, which our forebears in their wisdom placed on the Statute Book in the 1860's.

I recently had occasion to have discussions with some New South Wales growers who were endeavouring to set up a co-operative cannery in that State. They were inquiring about the way in which our Act worked. I was amazed to discover that a huge State like New South Wales, with a large amount of its annual income coming from primary production, had no similar Act. The Premier of that State has declined a request that he assist in the formation of a co-operative cannery in the Murrumbidgee irrigation area. I do not know whether the people involved under the provisions of this Act really appreciate how fortunate they are that we have this Act, and that it is at all times funded and generously administered both by the Government making money available to it and by the State Bank channelling certain moneys to it for its proper operation.

The canning industry, as honourable members who are members of a committee that has had to deal on occasions with canneries in the metropolitan area know, has experienced in the last two years a rather difficult time. When I was President of the South Australian Fruitgrowers Association from 1952 to 1956 nine canneries were operating in this State: now there are three, the rest having fallen by the wayside. It has been a most difficult period, brought about mainly by our inability to break into the export markets, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, to compete with well-established canneries in the Eastern States, which put away large reserves during the war years.

We in the Upper Murray area of South Australia, anyhow, are most fortunate to have the Riverland Co-operative functioning there. That cannery has a splendid record for the products it is putting out. It has an excellent selling organization in the United Kingdom, in collaboration with a sister co-operative organization in Victoria. It is now breaking into the South Australian fruit market with a new brand of its own. The growers have not yet been faced with having to leave their fruit on the trees, which is a great compliment to the Government of this State. I realize that the Government will lose

some money over its operations in the canning industry in trying to help growers to get their produce put into a can. However, I do not think that that has been all loss because the general wellbeing of the industry has been catered for during that period.

This year the co-operative cannery at Berri will be requiring further funds under the provisions of the Loans to Producers Act. That will enable us to take practically every pear grown in the Upper Murray district this year. I believe from my own knowledge that that fruit will all be sold. A growers' plan is now before the Commonwealth Government to assist the industry in going into new markets like West Germany, Japan and Hong Kong, where at present America and South Africa are selling at just a little below our price. The industry will go into those markets with an export subsidy, with a small bounty that will be paid for by the Australian consumer, allowing it to compete with those other countries. I believe it is only a matter of our brands becoming established in those markets before they will be able to carry their own weight. In these markets we are at the moment at a slight disadvantage, in that there are reciprocal trade arrangements. In the United Kingdom over a long period we have had the benefit of Commonwealth trade preferences, and all we need is about the same amount of leeway in our new markets as we have in the United Kingdom. This plan is before the Commonwealth Government for consideration. I have watched the canning industry and worried about it but if the Commonwealth Government adopts the plan that is before it at present—and I think it will—I believe the corner will have been turned and that the Adelaide Hills growers will benefit, provided they can be given an outlet for their produce under a well-managed and organized concern.

An amount of £670,000 is allocated for roads and bridges. The Hon. Mr. Shard mentioned yesterday the work on the bridge at Blanchetown and I agree with him that it is proceeding to plan if not ahead of plan, and that it will not be long before it is completed. This is wonderful news for the State; it will make the highway from Adelaide at least to Kingston a free road and everybody who is in business not only in the areas to be served by the bridge but in the whole State will benefit as a result of its completion. I was not being facetious yesterday when I interjected and said that I hoped we would have an official opening of the bridge. I am sure the Minister will see

to this, for it will be an important day in the history of the State. I hope the Minister will see his way clear either to open the bridge himself or to ask some other distinguished person to do so. I come now to the matter of another bridge over the river.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Very good.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I have had something to do with the site for a second bridge.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: Over the same river?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Yes. We have nearly finished one bridge and we must have something to keep the pot boiling. At a meeting at Morgan some time ago a new bridge was discussed and a committee comprising members of local government and chambers of commerce was set up to decide the site. After several meetings that committee has come forward with a recommendation that I think will be in the Minister's hands before long. The majority of those who attended the meetings have favoured Kingston as the site for the next bridge.

We realize that it may be a year or two before the bridge is completed and the sooner the ferry approaches are built up at Berri and Kingston the better it will be because it will be fatal not to have ferries in operation when the Blanchetown bridge is completed and open for traffic. There will probably be much more traffic using the bridge because of its novelty value and because it will provide a shorter route than the road north of the river.

Work on the drainage of the Chaffey irrigation area and the Renmark Irrigation Trust area was recommended by the Public Works Standing Committee. The work was put in hand and I believe it has been reasonably successful. I say "reasonably successful", but unfortunately it was not possible to drain this area internally as had been hoped. A year lost in this way can be critical when the salinity is not reduced to a minimum. The wet winter has made it almost impossible to work the machinery but the installation of this drainage scheme has been expedited by the contractors and I believe it will pay great dividends in the near future when an internal drainage scheme can be installed to leach the salt from the soil thus ensuring full productivity of that land.

I am pleased to see that £132,000 has been provided for the completion of the electrification and reconstruction of the pumping station

at Waikerie. When the Public Works Committee members inquired into this matter they were anything but impressed by the old and derelict plant that had been the lifeblood of the people of Waikerie. The committee recommended this work and placed its report before Parliament; the Government acted upon it with speed and has provided this amount for the completion of the project.

The report of the Road Traffic Board which is currently before Parliament deals particularly with the Main North Road. Over a number of years we have been discussing speed zones on the Main North Road and I am pleased that zoning has been introduced in the form of regulations and that the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation has considered the matter and has inspected and traversed the area concerned, accompanied by Mr. Pak Poy, the Executive Officer of the board. We have a good and adequate road through this area which I do not think anybody can deny. However, there is a great need for adequate lighting as there is no doubt in my mind that when one travels on this road, as I do at night, the lighting is an absolute menace. When travelling into Elizabeth at night about a mile from the civic centre a blaze of lights is encountered similar to those in the old Luna Parks we used to have. These lights are so strong that they look like light-houses. On several occasions, I have noticed old vehicles broken down, painted black and without any illumination, and left at the side of the road, and it would be the easiest thing in the world to run into them, especially in wet weather. I believe this practice has been the cause of two fatal accidents on this section of the road.

The Hon. N. L. Jude: They occurred during daylight hours, I believe.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I do not know. If there have been only two accidents we are extremely lucky, because it is a very bad section of road. I understand that the Salisbury council does not have the money to provide adequate lighting in the area, the Housing Trust does not think it is its responsibility, and the Commissioner of Highways has not the necessary authority to do it and has never done it before. I do not know whose responsibility it is, but as a responsible parliamentarian I would certainly vote for any amendment to the Act which was introduced to provide better lighting on that road because, in my opinion, it is very dangerous. I doubt very much whether traffic lights would be effective on that road if some form of better lighting is

not provided because I would be surprised if one could differentiate between traffic lights and the blaze of lights behind them. I believe this view would be shared by the Minister if he drove down the road and saw the position for himself. I am very sincere in what I say and the question has been raised by other members too. I believe the area must be illuminated from, perhaps, Womma Road to the northern end of Elizabeth. Another section near Pooraka needs lighting where a large motel has been built because its bright lights throw shadows on the road.

The Hon. N. L. Jude: Does the honourable member suggest that road funds should be used for this purpose because we would have to light all roads according to the Highways Act?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I do not know how the Minister intends to approach this matter. Something should be done even if he has to introduce a special Bill to deal with this particular road. Perhaps he could find a way to have the Government, the Housing Trust and Salisbury council all contribute towards the cost.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: We do not care how it is done so long as it is done.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: That is right. I believe there is a vital need for a ring route to eliminate altogether travelling through Elizabeth. It seems tragic to me that such a good road should be cluttered up with houses. This will happen from Gepps Cross to Gawler. Wherever good roads are established ribbon development is started at the edge of the road. Consequently, the unfortunate motorist, who pays his taxes, when endeavouring to drive around the country is restricted to 35 miles an hour because people want to walk from point A to point B. We need a ring route from the Old Spot Hotel around the bottom of the foothills and coming back 2½ to 3 miles on the other side of Smithfield, completely cut off from housing.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: Wouldn't people build along that road, too?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: No, they would have service roads, and would only cut into the ring route at specified points. It would be the same as a freeway. I notice that in the new subdivision on the Adelaide side of Pooraka a number of lots have been cut up to place houses as thickly as possible along the highway, which was established from Government funds; and if I am any judge motorists will soon be restricted to 35 miles an hour in that area, although the board has

just recommended it as an open road. If the area on the other side of the road is built up and no service road is provided the same problem will arise.

The Hon. N. L. Jude: Wouldn't it be better to fence off the service roads?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I think we should look at that, but my point is that we must have open roads to facilitate the movement of traffic about the country and they must not be cluttered up in built-up areas and the main volume of traffic restricted to 35 miles an hour. The only solution I can see is to have ring routes or freeways. Traffic from houses on each side of the road would only be admitted to it at certain specified points. I believe that is the only solution to the problem in Elizabeth because, as the board's report shows, the position will become much worse as 17,000 people will be crossing the road in a short time. This is most interesting. The report showed that of the 12,000 vehicles which traverse the road daily, 8,000 of those actually cross the road and do not enter the main line of traffic. This is rather amusing when one considers what one would think of as the main road and realizes that the "main" volume of traffic is not as large as the other. That must not happen if this road is to be the main arterial route to the northern areas of the State.

The only solution is to proceed with what the Minister mentioned earlier: a ring route or freeway from the Old Spot Hotel right around the area concerned. The accident rate on this road has been heaviest in the Elizabeth area. On page 3 of the speed zoning report that road has been classified into sections. Section (d)—(Hogarth Road to Woodforde Road, Elizabeth)—has quite a high incidence of accidents. In the daytime 12.2 accidents occurred and at night 27.4.

The Hon. N. L. Jude: Are those figures a percentage?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: They are an average worked out over a period from January 1, 1961, to July 1, 1962, and the actual figures of some of the other areas are quite high also, but that is the worst area in regard to the percentage of accidents at night compared with those during the day.

The sum of £12,000,000 has been allocated for expenditure on waterworks and sewers. The Minister intends to bring down amendments to legislation to enable district councils to operate in the same way as municipalities and to proceed with their own sewerage schemes.

In country areas there has always been trouble in deciding where the Government will next install such a scheme. We have not been able to get the priority list for the work, but I realize that it can quickly alter from time to time. Stress has been placed on the need for the metropolitan area and the near metropolitan area to have a pure water supply. In some of the catchment areas, particularly in the Torrens and Onkaparinga Valleys, a dangerous situation occurred and it was necessary to proceed quickly with sewerage work in those areas. In these days most people drink much Murray River water and I think they would be horrified if they saw the quantity of effluent that is discharged into the river from towns along its banks.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill: Don't upset us!

The Hon. C. R. STORY: My purpose is to upset somebody about this matter. The position arises because the septic tank systems in the areas concerned are not efficient and there is not the right type of soil to dispose of the effluent properly. The soakage is poor because of the high water table. The Barmera District Council has decided, because it cannot get anywhere with a Government scheme, to install its own scheme by using septic tanks as purifiers and pumping the effluent into oxidation tanks or dams. In doing this there will be an initial cost that will be repaid over 20 years, and an annual maintenance cost, but the council will not be loaded with a rating for ever. It seems that from everybody's point of view this is a good way to get country sewerage schemes. If a Government scheme were installed at Barmera tomorrow the present rate would be doubled. I am pleased that the Minister has agreed to amend the Act to enable this work to proceed.

I could not be happier than I am about the proposed expenditure of £87,000 on the Pata water scheme. Some years ago I said that about 97 per cent of the people in South Australia could turn on a Government tap and get water. It seems that I represent the other 3 per cent who cannot do that. It is not an exaggeration. Most of the areas concerned are within a few miles of the Murray River, but because they are small and cannot find the necessary rating they have been passed over. The Pata scheme has been approved and I am sure the area will bound ahead as the result of getting piped water.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill: I have a property within three miles of the G.P.O. and cannot get water.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: The honourable member need only dig a well six feet deep to get beautiful water. I suggest that he change his representatives in the Legislative Council. There seems to be something wrong when a man with land so near Adelaide cannot get water, and it is an indictment on his Parliamentary representation. I imagine there is a good reason why he cannot get water. Maybe his land is above the altitude approved by the Town Planner for the installation of services. I am sure his property will become a good investment in time, following on the advent of atomic power.

I am concerned about another matter not mentioned in the Bill. The Sedan-Cambrai water scheme deserves attention, but up to the present it has not been able to show the necessary return. The State subsidizes some water schemes, and if we were to deal with one or two of the poorer schemes when we have surplus funds it would be satisfactory. I hope the Government will do something for the areas that now have not got piped water. Country people do much in the development of the State and help to provide the overseas credits that keep us in business, and they deserve the amenities enjoyed by city people.

I commend the Housing Trust for its rental-purchase scheme. More than 3,000 applicants are awaiting selection for these houses. The figure must be reduced. The demand for them shows the popularity of the scheme. No doubt many of the applicants are now living in rental houses. The trust has done much building work during the year, but not as much as previously, for the reason set out in the report. It has built a number of houses at Christies Beach and Whyalla. Frequently people come to see me about getting one of these rental-purchase houses. It is the policy of my Party to support house ownership, but in some areas it does not suit people to own their houses. I think that in some country areas rental houses should be provided because people may be transferred from the city to them for a period and not want to purchase houses. It may be that newly married couples want to occupy rental houses because they do not know how long they are likely to remain in the district. Country areas are not getting as many people as they could, because of the lack of rental houses. We must do something about getting more of them in the country. We have a long list of applicants for rental-purchase houses, but having to wait six to nine months for them is too long. People cannot wait six to nine months—they

go away. While we believe in and are pleased with the present scheme for the purchase of houses, I make a special plea that it is still necessary to have rental houses, which were, after all, the original purpose of the Housing Trust. We cannot just chop off these rental houses like that.

I notice a sum of £500,000 for the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, which I understand is proceeding quite well. Because of the recent heavy rains, although it has been necessary for some time for something to be done, it is now even more necessary that something be done in the Salisbury area fairly soon. The reports over the last few days in particular, and over the last couple of months generally, have indicated that the Salisbury council is collecting water from a great watershed all around it and there is no means of disposal. Something along the lines of the south-western suburbs drainage scheme is essential for the Salisbury area. The Salisbury District Council could not carry the whole capital expenditure that would be involved but with Government assistance and assistance perhaps from neighbouring councils something could be done. It may be that the Commonwealth Government will be prepared to come into this, because it has a huge area of paved land at the Weapons Research Establishment that is its responsibility. If it were approached at the highest level and the Public Works Standing Committee were given the job of investigating this drainage problem, a scheme might come to fruition in the foreseeable future. It is urgent. Many people have suffered severe losses. As one who knows what a flood is like, I have great sympathy for them.

The Hon. N. L. Jude: The Government already has this matter in hand: it is awaiting approved plans for submission to the Public Works Committee.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: It has been in hand for five to six years.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: Do not forget it is your own Government!

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I have been in the negotiations on it.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: The Government is not much influenced by it.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I can still talk about it. Something must be done soon. I know it takes a while to investigate these things but we have to get it tied up because every new house there only further aggravates the problem of the Salisbury area because it means a little more water running off a roof instead of soaking into the ground. The longer we

leave it, the bigger the problem will be. I hope I raise this point constructively.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: You have not been up to Alice Springs yet.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: No. To sum up, I cannot put it better than in the words of the Treasurer at the end of his statement:

The overall programme should make a significant contribution to the maintenance of employment and to the provision of essential Government works necessary to promote further development of the State.

I do not think anybody could wish for more than that. I commend the Government for the way in which it has allocated these Loan funds for the year. My only regret is that the few things about which I have been a little critical are not included in the programme this year. However, I am sure they will be next year.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES secured the adjournment of the debate.

**ELDER SMITH & CO. LIMITED
PROVIDENT FUNDS BILL.**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 27. Page 648.)

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL (Central No. 2): I understand that lawyers when drawing up legal documents try to foresee every contingency that may occur; but, of course, they are only mortals after all and cannot see everything that may happen in the future, particularly in the more distant future and particularly in the light of developments, the concept of which does not exist at the time they draw the documents. I think that is what has happened in this case. Consequently, Elder Smiths require this legislation to ensure to their employees transferring to the new company their participation in their provident funds and to protect their rights.

This fund was created in 1913, a very early time for such a fund to be inaugurated. The company is to be complimented on being one of the pioneers in this State of this system, which has become an everyday practice in more recent times. But, owing to a defect in the draftsmanship of the deed of this provident and superannuation fund, it has become necessary for Parliament to intervene, because it seems that legislation is the only practical way of dealing with the matter; in fact, it is possible that it is the only way of rectifying the technical difficulties. There is no need for me to go into any detail in this matter at this stage. The detail was dealt with admirably, I thought, by the Attorney-General in

his speech on the second reading. A Select Committee will have to be appointed to investigate the Bill. That committee will, no doubt, ransack every nook and cranny of it and report to this Council. Thus, at this stage detail is superfluous.

My support for this measure is perhaps best illustrated by my saying that I expressed my willingness a little time ago to introduce this Bill, if it became necessary, as a private member's Bill. However, as the Attorney-General explained in his speech, the Government felt it could properly introduce it. I entirely agree with that and think it is a good thing that the Government should do so. It is a very proper Bill in every respect and I am sure it will have the ultimate support of Parliament. In the meantime I signify my intention to vote for the second reading.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hons. C. D. Rowe (Attorney-General), G. O'H. Giles, G. J. Gilfillan, K. E. J. Bardolph and S. C. Bevan; the Committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, and to report on Tuesday, September 17, 1963.

BUSINESS NAMES BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 27. Page 649.)

Clause 25—"Authority of Registrar to destroy documents"—which the Hon. C. D. Rowe had moved to amend by inserting "or the record was kept" after "registered" second occurring.

The CHAIRMAN: Yesterday one honourable member queried the verbiage of the amendment.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General): I think the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill had an amendment to this clause—the deletion of the word "twelve" and the insertion of the word "fifteen" in lieu thereof. In its present form clause 25 empowers the Registrar to dispose of only statements and notices lodged with him in respect of business names where the registration has not been in force for 12 years. The purpose of the amendment is to extend that power to other records kept by him in files relating to such names where the retention of those records would be unnecessary. There was some doubt whether the verbiage of the clause with the amendment was correct, but I have looked at it and satisfied myself that the verbiage would be correct.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill: Shouldn't those words also be included after the word "registered" first occurring?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: We dealt with that inclusion yesterday. I am indebted to the honourable member for bringing it to my notice.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clauses (26 to 35) and schedule passed.

Clause 12—"Notification of changes in particulars relating to registered business names, cessation of business, etc."—reconsidered.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I move:

In subclause (5) to strike out paragraphs (a) and (b) and insert the following new paragraphs:

(a) a business name is deemed to be registered under this Act and the person deemed to be the resident agent for the purposes of this Act of the person or persons in relation to whom the name is deemed to be registered

ceases to be authorized to accept service on behalf of such person or persons of any notices or of any process; or

(b) a business name is registered under this Act and the person appointed the resident agent for the purposes of this Act of the person or persons in relation to whom the name is registered ceases to be the resident agent of such person or persons,

This amendment relates only to the setting out of the subclauses and does not alter in any way the effect of the Bill. It ensures that the clause will be much clearer from the point of view of interpretation.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Title passed.

Bill reported with amendments. Committee's report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.30 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday, August 29, at 2.15 p.m.