

# Legislative Council

Thursday, the 17th November, 1960

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The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH (for The Hon. L. A. Logan) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) It is possible the Government will discuss the matter.

## OPTOMETRISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### Further Report

Further report of Committee adopted.

### Third Reading

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [2.34]: I move—  
That the Bill be now read a third time.

**THE HON. J. G. HISLOP** (Metropolitan [2.35]: Members will recall that when I spoke to the second reading of the measure, I suggested there should be a council of ancillary medical services, and I instanced that several attempts had been made in Great Britain to form a council of this sort, but that owing to various difficulties it had not been formed. It is rather extraordinary that in an airmail copy of the *British Medical Journal* which arrived here only a few days ago, an article, under the heading "Supplementary Professions," appears. I shall read one or two paragraphs from this article so that the House may be in a position to know what has occurred in England. The first paragraph states—

After a long and occasionally contentious course, the proposals to give statutory recognition to that group of devoted workers known as medical auxiliaries have come to a conclusion. The Professions Supplementary to Medicine Act has reached the statute book, its title suitably reflecting the new status of these workers. Much credit is due to the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries, as well as to those members of the Cope committee and committees in the B.M.A. who puzzled for many long hours over the problems, for this culmination to the work of those in the B.M.A. who helped start a "register of technicians" more than a quarter of a century ago.

Further down the article points out that what has occurred in England is identical with what has been suggested here—

The new Act provides a separate board for each of the seven professions concerned, and a council to supervise the boards. Each board will keep a register of members and have power to approve training courses and qualifying examinations. It is also responsible for discipline through two committees, one an investigating body and the other the disciplinary committee. The first of these determines

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

### GUY FAWKES DAY

#### Accidents and Damage by Fireworks

The Hon. G. BENNETTS asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is he aware that much concern is being expressed by people on the goldfields and other parts of the State regarding the serious accidents to children and the damage to properties caused by fireworks?

#### Proposed Abolition

- (2) Did he see the report in the issue of the *Daily News* dated the 15th November, 1960, referring to this matter and the abolition of Guy Fawkes Day?
- (3) In view of the above, will he give consideration to the introduction of legislation during the next session of Parliament for the abolition of this outmoded and highly dangerous practice?

whether a case should come before the second, which has the power to remove an offender's name from the register.

The article then goes on to discuss the question of the right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; so there could also be a right of appeal here.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Who has the right of appeal?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Anyone who has been removed from the register. I intend to hand a copy of this article to the Minister; and I point out that in due course it will be available in the copies of the *British Medical Journal* which will arrive by surface mail.

We now have the opportunity of getting from England a copy of a statute dealing with an organisation of the same character as the one that was suggested here; and that statute could provide a good starting point for us.

I have made these remarks because it was my intention to bring to the notice of the House the fact that success had at last been achieved in England.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

## ROAD CLOSURE BILL

### *Second Reading*

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [2.40]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The copies of this Bill which are now being distributed to members contain full and complete details of road closures which we customarily place before Parliament towards the close of the session. I was happy, last evening, to be in a position to supply the Leader of the Opposition with an advance copy, which is the normal practice in regard to this type of legislation. I regret that I could not give him that advance copy previously, but this measure, together with the Reserves Bill, was sent down from the Legislative Assembly only yesterday afternoon.

There are quite lengthy descriptions in this Bill and accordingly I propose to be extremely brief in my explanation. However, I have full details here of each of the proposals and shall be quite happy to refer to them should any member request me to do so by way of interjection.

I shall deal with each clause of the Bill in rotation commencing with clause 2 concerning the selection of a new site for the showgrounds by the Albany Agricultural Society Incorporated in collaboration with the Municipality of Albany.

Closure of portion of Macdonald Road, Albany: There is a section of road in Albany which, because of its steepness, would constitute a traffic hazard and it would serve a better purpose if it were used as a park and children's playground.

Closure of certain roads at Balcatta: The Balcatta closure provides for the closure of certain portions of existing roads which will be superseded by new roads in a State Housing Commission area.

Closure of a portion of a road widening at Belmont: The Belmont Park Road Board is agreeable to modifying road-widening closures affected by encroachment of State Housing Commission 4-unit flats.

Closure of portion of road No. 739 at Busselton: The closure proposed at Busselton is tantamount to an alteration of the original private subdivision involving a slight amendment of the position of the public road.

Closure of a certain road widening at Cannington: The proposal in respect of Cannington land will rectify a misunderstanding which arose in respect of a small road-widening proposal.

Closure of Cleaver Street, Carnarvon: The closure proposed at Carnarvon will enable the consolidation of a new school site.

Closure of portion of a right-of-way at Claremont: The small closure desired at Claremont has the concurrence of all land-owners concerned and is recommended by the Municipality of Claremont.

Closure of various roads at Embleton, Bayswater: The Embleton closure is brought about by a town planning scheme of the State Housing Commission designed by the Town Planning Department.

Closure of a certain right-of-way at Fremantle: The right-of-way to be closed at Fremantle is no longer required and the action taken will put all City of Fremantle holdings in this vicinity on the same basis.

Closure of portions of Rowe and Dean Streets, Geraldton: The road closure at Geraldton will affect Cuming Smith & Mt. Lyell Farmers Fertilisers; the closure will make way for a new road diversion through the company's land, towards which the company is to contribute £2,500.

Closure of a private right-of-way at Joondanna: The right-of-way to be closed at Joondanna is no longer used and is to be put to better purpose. Though negotiations are proceeding in respect of the disposal of some of the land involved, it is considered that the matter should be approved by Parliament now.

Closure of portions of certain roads at Kalamunda: The Kalamunda proposal is a road closure desired to be made in order that land might be exchanged for reserves for public open space.

Closure of portion of Pericles Crescent and portion of a right-of-way at Margaret River: The Margaret River proposal provides for the closure of portion of a street and of a private right-of-way. This action will enable the consolidation of a school site.

Closure of portion of road No. 3044 at Meckering: The closure at Meckering arises from the modification of a Main Roads Department widening programme brought about by a successful objection made by an adjacent landowner.

Closure of a road widening at Mingenew: The Mingenew closure is possible because of re-alignment of the road to avoid some physical feature.

Closure of a certain right-of-way at Narrogin: The right-of-way affected is to be sold to a private company because the municipality, having erected a substantial cyclone fence on a stone base on a park reserve boundary, considers it not a practical proposition to include the area in the reserve.

Closure of a right-of-way at Nollamara: The Perth Road Board is agreeable to a request by Nollamara owners for the closure of a right-of-way and the vestment of the several sections in the owners of the respective contiguous lots.

Deviation of portion of Arcadia West, Safety Bay: The Rockingham Road Board, at the request of the owners, recommended this road closure, which is brought about by deviation and realignment of a road.

Closure of portion of Jackson Avenue, Scarborough: This closure is necessary to protect a well, used in connection with the North Scarborough school site. Resurvey and alteration of the State Housing Commission subdivision facilitates this.

Closure of portion of Welwyn Avenue, Manning: This South Perth closure had to do with the State Housing Commission's new shopping area, and road widening provided for the old shopping area.

Closure of a right-of-way off Lake Avenue, Subiaco: The Subiaco closure permits truncation considered necessary by the City of Subiaco.

Closure of certain rights-of-way at Victoria Park: In clause 24, both the City of Perth and the Town Planning Board approved this closure of a right-of-way now no longer required at Victoria Park, and under clause 25 the City of Perth recommends the closure of a right-of-way and ultimate sale of portions to adjoining landholders at Victoria Park.

Closure of portion of Victoria Square, Perth: The City of Perth agrees with the closure of portion of the public road to enable the Board of Management of the Royal Perth Hospital to erect a shelter or porch over the Victoria Square entrance. The area affected is 14.4 perches.

Closure of portion of Lonsdale Street, Yokine: This closure affects an irregular-shaped area of road. The portion remaining still retains a width of 1 chain at Yokine.

Closure of portion of road No. 980 (Way) South Perth: The South Perth closure makes provision for the consolidation of a hotel site, the subject of application for a licence. The City of South Perth, the Town Planning Board, the Water Supply Department, and the State Electricity Commission, have all signified no objections.

Full descriptions and plans of these closures are here readily available for perusal by any member concerned. I did say that it was only yesterday I was able to make the plans available, and should it be the desire of any honourable member that the debate should not be proceeded with immediately on this Bill I shall be quite happy to grant him an adjournment. Even if it is agreed that we continue with the second reading debate on the Bill, but that the Committee stage should not be taken straight away, I shall be pleased to co-operate in that respect also.

Last night Mr. Davies mentioned to me about a great deal of land in Fremantle. I made some inquiries about it this morning but was not successful in obtaining the information for him. However, I can assure the honourable member that I will advise him as soon as I receive it.

On motion by The Hon. H. K. Watson, debate adjourned.

## RESERVES BILL

### *Second Reading*

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [2.49]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The copies of this Bill contain full and complete details of alterations to reserves which it is customary to bring to Parliament about this time of the session for parliamentary approval.

Again, I was happy last evening to favour the Leader of the Opposition with an advance copy of this information and accordingly in introducing this measure, I propose to be as brief as possible, but will give members every opportunity to ask any questions.

On the other hand, because of the interest which excisions from reserves usually evoke in Parliamentary representatives, I will have no objection to members requesting an adjournment of this Bill should they so desire. I shall deal with each clause in rotation commencing with clause 2, which seeks approval for the excision of an area somewhat in excess of two acres desired by the Municipality of Bunbury

to be set aside for the purpose of tourist development as an hotel site. This site is in the locality known as Rocky Point in the Back Beach Reserve A.9997.

Reserve 5526 comprises 40 acres set aside in 1898 as a resting place for travellers and stock. An adjoining landholder suffered fencing difficulties because of the high flood level of Carrolup Pool. This disability was overcome by the excision in 1958 of an area estimated at 20 acres and approved by Parliament. Upon a survey being carried out, the area necessary to remove the disability was found to be 25 acres and 12 perches. It is accordingly necessary to seek parliamentary approval for the excision of the balance; namely, 4 acres 3 rods and 3 perches.

Under the National Security (General) Regulations, a possession order was issued at the request of the Central Wool Committee in respect of portion of Reserve 6066, comprising the Fremantle Cemetery Reserve. Upon the lapsing of the regulations, Parliament approved the lease of the same land to the Australian Wool Bureau for the period ending the 31st December, 1960. There are substantial buildings on the lease, an extension of which is sought for a further term of five years as from the 1st January, 1961.

There is a reserve at Geraldton No. 22382, set aside for parklands in 1943, but never developed. The Municipality of Geraldton desires to develop the area as a recreation reserve and has immediate proposals for the resiting of the Geraldton Bowling Club there, which is at present on an unsatisfactory site at the rear of the courthouse. The over-all developmental plan includes provision also for tennis courts and croquet lawns, and provision for other sports.

A Katanning area, No. 21820, reserved for a greater sports ground is now desired by the road board for use for an aerial landing ground. Parliament's approval is sought for this and for its lease for a term not exceeding 21 years.

The native reserve, No. 31873, in the Kimberleys crosses the George River to adjourn the Drysdale Mission grazing lease, just west of it. The river itself constitutes the natural physical boundary of this native reserve, and it is considered desirable that the grazing lease be extended to this boundary.

Permissive occupancy is being sought by the Commonwealth of a portion of reserve No. 2851 at Mandurah for a rifle range; and an adjoining portion contains a limestone quarry being used by the Main Roads Department. The board is agreeable to the excisions required for these two purposes.

A site at Merredin considered suitable for a sewerage pumping station comes within reserve No. 14803. The road board has no objection to its excision. The area concerned is a little over 13½ perches.

The surviving trustees of the Woodlands Hallsite desire to relinquish their trust in favour of the Cuballing Road Board. This necessitates vesting the hallsite, and upon revestment, it is proposed to vest the reserve in the board in trust for a hallsite.

The National Parks Board of Western Australia and the Conservator of Forests are in agreement in respect of a proposal to excise 11 acres and 28.3 perches from Yanchep Park Reserve No. 9868.

This site was selected because of the amenities and facilities available in this vicinity which would attract staff and employees who would be required to live in the settlement. It is proposed such new reserve be vested in the Conservator of Forests in trust for the purpose required.

As indicated during my introductory remarks, full descriptions and plans of these proposals are here, readily available for perusal by any member concerned.

The remarks which were made on the Road Closure Bill in respect to any member seeking an adjournment of the debate, apply to this measure.

On motion by The Hon. R. Thompson, debate adjourned.

## COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 15th November.

**THE HON. A. R. JONES** (Midland) [2.55]: I spoke last year on a Bill which was very similar to the one before us. On that occasion I was very inquisitive, and I made inquiries of the Minister as to how much difference would be made to the total water rates payable on properties by adopting a uniform water rating system; I also suggested that, perhaps, he could increase the rates on properties which were then paying 2s. in the pound to 2s. 6d. in the pound, and reduce the rates on properties which were then paying 3s. in the pound to 2s. 6d. in the pound.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That was last year.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: Yes. When the analysis was made, showing the difference in the costs and how much the uniform rating would mean to ratepayers and to the revenue of the department, it was anticipated that £36,000 additional revenue would be raised by an increase of 1s. in the rating of properties which were then paying 2s. in the pound, to a rate of 3s.

If the proposed increase were halved; that is, if the 2s. rate were increased to 2s. 6d. in the pound, there would be a falling off in the anticipated revenue amounting to £8,000. That would have provided an additional £28,000, instead of £36,000 of revenue.

At that time there was a number of taxing measures before Parliament, and I wanted to draw the attention of the

Minister and the Government to the fact that we were looking for uniform water rating. In fact, I was looking for something more, because previously I had suggested a review being made of the whole water supply position, and a scheme being introduced to enable ratepayers to pay for water as they use it. When I had considered all my views on the matter, I reserved my decision on the measure until the second reading was concluded so that I could obtain the information from the Minister. Eventually I voted against the second reading.

Since that time I have had an opportunity of meeting a committee which was investigating the question of water rating and the various matters pertaining to water supplies not only to country centres, but also to city areas. I am now satisfied in my own mind that this move of appointing the committee was well planned. Within a short time we should be able to look forward to a better understanding of water rating, and to a better method of rating being applied in this State—not only in respect of country areas, but also the city. We should encourage the people to use their good sense in the use of water and to be thrifty in its use, so that they will pay only for the water they use.

No doubt many anomalies will arise in implementing the system of "pay-as-you-use" for water. Nevertheless, a commencement has been made on such a scheme, and there is a Bill dealing with this aspect which will, in due course, be dealt with by us.

There is only one town in the province which I represent which will be affected by the increase of 1s. in the water rates—Goomalling. In my province, the rest of the towns, including Geraldton, which come under the scope of the water supply legislation pay 3s. in the pound, and varying rates for excess water.

Wherever I have made inquiries in my province with regard to water rating, I have found the people consider that, at least, there should be a uniform rate. They would, perhaps, much sooner pay rates in excess of what are being paid at present, provided they could obtain a supply of water. That is the fundamental thought in the minds of most people. The general opinion is they would sooner have the water and perhaps pay more for it than they do at the present time.

When we consider the need for taking water into the sparsely populated and dry areas of the State, we can well imagine the cost involved. It is distressing to know that the Commonwealth Government is jibbing, if it has not totally refused, at coming to light with any further moneys. We are hopeful that the Minister for Water Supplies, with the aid of his fellow-Ministers, will continue to urge the Commonwealth Government to make further

arrangements on a pound for pound basis to extend our water supplies to the dry areas. Even though these matters are dealt with by finance from loan moneys and grants, whatever moneys the department gains from increased rates will go towards the maintenance and upkeep of schemes already existing and those schemes that will be introduced in the future. The department will need all the money it can get for this purpose.

To further my argument and to bring about what is desired in my mind, I think it would be fair to agree that all water supplies in country areas should be on a uniform rating. If we agree on that then I think we can approach the authorities in control of the metropolitan area to have a better understanding of the position in the country; and they might agree to accept a higher rate in the city areas in order to allow an increased water supply in country areas.

When we study the difference between the amounts paid by the small householders in any of the country towns—it could be Norseman, Kalgoorlie, Beverley or Goomalling—the additional one shilling per pound in the water rate would not mean, on the average, more than perhaps a pound a year to each householder if he was careful in the use of water.

I think the goldfields members mentioned the fact that no matter what we do we cannot relieve the businessman in respect to his premises. He does not use the water, and there does not appear to be any way that he can be excluded from paying the extra rate unless, under this new system, a sliding scale can be incorporated. Until something is worked out, I am afraid that any rise in the rate is going to hit the businessman pretty hard.

Another important factor is the contrast in the amount being paid. People living in Kalgoorlie, Mullewa, and Geraldton, and centres a long way away, have to face disadvantages greater than those people living closer in. It is interesting to take notice of the fact that people in Northam pay a lower rate than those in many other towns under the goldfields scheme. I think Northam has enjoyed the cheaper rate since the commencement of the scheme in 1902. That situation does not seem to be fair; and if a uniform rating for the whole of the area served by the goldfields water scheme is brought into being Northam would then pay a rate comparable with that of other country areas.

Having made it clear last session that I was not satisfied with the position as it was, and because there has now been a move to bring about a better method of rating within the whole of the water supply scheme of Western Australia, I feel I am justified in supporting the proposal to increase the rate this year.

I was disappointed last session at the fact that we had so many taxing measures, and at the fact that the Minister was not prepared to accept £8,000 less than the £36,000 he was expecting to receive, as a gesture, at least for one or two years, to offset the position. Rather than accept £8,000 less, the Minister was prepared to accept a figure of £36,000. In other words, he received no increase. In view of the fact that wages have gone up, that people are receiving more money, and the department is paying out more money, the department is justified in bringing this rate up to make it uniform throughout the country.

While there has now been a start to introduce a better method of rating, I would appeal to the Minister to do everything possible to assist country people to ensure that they will not be paying a greater rate than people in the city area.

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines—in reply) [3.7]: I am very pleased with the reception the House has given to this Bill. It is true, as Mr. Jones indicated, that when this Bill was introduced into the House last session it met with a good deal of opposition and ultimately was defeated. The arguments that have been advanced—from the point of view of goldfields members, anyway—have been substantially the same this year as they were last year. In addition, the circumstances have not altered. I would like it to be plainly understood that, as Minister for Mines, I am not without a realisation of the situation regarding the goldfields.

With all due respect, the goldfields members have on this occasion, as they did on the last, drawn the long bow; and with respect, Sir, you joined in the long bow drawing at the time from your seat. But the impact on the goldfields is not going to be as great as is anticipated. We must also consider the cost to the department in getting water to Kalgoorlie. We recognise that the new rate will not affect the mining industry as such—which I am sure members from the goldfields will appreciate is an important matter—because, as we know, they are charged a flat rate of 5s. 1d. per thousand gallons; and that situation has remained unaltered since 1932.

I will pose this question to members: In a growing community such as ours, where the comprehensive water supply scheme has taken water to the people throughout the State, is it not reasonable to be able to turn on a tap and run out a thousand gallons of water and pay 3s. for it? I think it is a reasonable proposition.

I am sure the goldfields members, who have known the goldfields much longer than I have, can remember the day when people up there paid infinitely more for water than they do at present. They

would remember days when it was difficult to get; when it had to be carted over very long distances.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Or distilled on the spot.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The price per 1,000 gallons today would be about equal to what a pint or a gallon of water cost in those days. I realise the point of view of members from the goldfields. Kalgoorlie is a long way from Perth, and goldfields members realise the lack of amenities up there; and they have a desire to keep people in the area.

Believe me, I am anxious to see people remain in that area in the interests of the State's gold production. When we come to look at other parts of the country, and see what is being paid for water at Northam—1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons—we wonder why the people at Northam should pay—

The Hon. H. C. Strickland. You could charge 2s.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes; and the Government of which the honourable member was a Minister did, as I indicated when introducing the Bill, increase the charges without coming to Parliament. That Government did it administratively; but we are coming to Parliament with a Bill. We are laying the whole thing before members, pointing out the difficulties, to try to get them to reach the same point of view as Mr. Jones has reached, and about which he spoke this afternoon. This is a step towards uniformity.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Then the people at Northam can expect a 100 per cent. increase in their rates?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Of course they must expect a 100 per cent. increase; because some power, at some point, has kept the figure down, while at the same time other towns have had their rates increased to the 3s. mark.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It is 2s. under the Act.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: And some are paying 3s. under the Act. I cannot see where there is any justification for differentiation. Perhaps I could produce the file which would show all the facts and figures, but the fact remains that the people at Northam have been kept at a low rate while other towns have had their rates increased. This Bill is an attempt to try to get to the point where there will be some semblance of fairness as between one town and another.

Last year when I had charge of the same Bill as this one I gave what I thought at the time was a great amount of detail to answer many of the questions that were raised by members. I am not going to bore the House this afternoon by going over the same information, but that situation still prevails. I could use the same answer

as I used last year—that the charge will not be fantastically more than it is at present. From examples I gave last year, and ones I could give this year, it can be seen that that is so. However, there are a few details I would like to mention in respect to various queries that were raised by members during the course of the debate.

Mr. Bennetts was particularly concerned about the pensioners in the Kalgoorlie and Boulder areas with respect to claiming exemptions for water rates. He said that they did not like to claim exemption. At present there are 146 pensioners in Kalgoorlie claiming exemption out of approximately 600 or 700 pensioners registered in the district. In addition it must be remembered that not all of those pensioners are ratepayers.

Both Mr. Heenan and Mr. Bennetts raised questions concerning the Grants Commission, and at this stage I think the Grants Commission has not objected to the increase in revenue. On a number of occasions it has pointed out to the Government the heavy losses on country water supplies; and the State has indicated that action is being taken to reduce those losses. Undoubtedly the Government's contemplated action influenced the commission in making its final decision. However, I would like to point out that this is not intended to be a taxing measure; it is not intended to be a Bill which will raise some £36,000 to be used to reduce a deficit in some other department. Naturally the result will be an increase in revenue; but the purpose is to try to bring some uniformity into the water rate position and, to some extent, to level out those towns that are not being charged as much for water as other towns.

Mr. MacKinnon raised a point about the south-west and said that wherever there is difficulty with the storage of water in the State the water rates are high. All country areas, whether there is a difficulty in supplying them or not, are charged a maximum rate of 3s. in the pound, except the areas which are now under discussion. It is true that business premises will in some way be affected. Mr. Teahan mentioned eight small businesses which have never used excess water over the last 30 to 40 years. That is perfectly logical.

But I would like to mention, as I did by way of interjection when I replied to a question by Mr. Bennetts, the number of people in the Kalgoorlie area who actually use excess water. I did not know whether he was aware of the position or not, but I checked up on the point. I thought the figure was 80 per cent., but actually it is 83 per cent.; in other words 83 per cent. of the people in Kalgoorlie district use excess water. With the higher charges people will be able to use a greater amount of water before paying excess; and, consequently, they will use less excess water. They will

get a greater allowance by virtue of the increased charge; and, consequently, their excess water charges will be reduced.

I do not propose to go over the examples I gave last year, but I would like the Kalgoorlie members to appreciate that the present rate for water at Kalgoorlie has remained unchanged for a long time; and while if this Bill is passed, the rate will be 3s. in the pound for the Kalgoorlie district, consideration must be given to concessions that are made to the mining industry and to the heavy over-all cost of getting water to Kalgoorlie. Therefore I do not think it is beyond reason to ask the House to agree to the Bill.

**Question put and a division taken with the following result:—**

**Ayes—15.**

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. R. C. Mattiske
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. J. Cunningham	Hon. S. T. Thompson
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. J. M. Thompson
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. F. D. Willmott
Hon. L. A. Logan	Hon. J. Murray
Hon. G. C. MacKinnon	(Teller.)

**Noes—12.**

Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. G. E. Jeffery
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. C. H. Strickland
Hon. J. J. Garrigan	Hon. J. D. Teahan
Hon. W. E. Hall	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. F. J. S. Wise
Hon. R. F. Hutchinson	Hon. R. Thompson

(Teller.)

**Majority for—3.**

**Question thus passed.**

**Bill read a second time.**

*In Committee*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

*Third Reading*

On motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), Bill read a third time, and passed.

## EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 16th November.

**THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North)** [3.26]: Bills of this kind, which develop from ideas between employer and employee, which initially are very wide apart and which, by consultation and collaboration, ultimately merge into something realistic and practical, are very interesting and always very important measures.

As the Minister said in his introductory speech last evening, this measure is one which is the result of considerable consultation following a number of difficulties and frustrations which have been experienced through the years. On behalf of the Teachers' Union, which is a body of 4,000 teachers, approximately, the representatives were the president and two vice-presidents; people originally elected by the

full body of teachers in the service. They were selected to be the negotiators, on behalf of the union, with the Minister and the Director of Education in connection with problems which, during the years, had developed to the point of being very vexed problems.

The president and the vice-president were given full authority by the executive to act on behalf of the teachers, through the executive, in the matter of negotiation.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: And great responsibility.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: They had a very great responsibility. I use that form of introduction to my comments deliberately, to illustrate that although there are minority views at this moment there are people who are averse to some of the principles accepted by their representatives, for after all those negotiating for the union represented the vast majority view, and acted with the authority of the union. The negotiators have expressed themselves as being fully satisfied with the results that have emerged.

I think it may be said that this Bill contains, in the main, four principles. It has several minor clauses which alter out-moded definitions and titles; but, in the main, the four things with which it deals are those affecting the parents and citizens' associations; and those matters which come within part VI of the parent Act.

There is, too, a clause which deals with additional assistance for schools outside of State or Government schools. There is another part which deals with regulations; and the main provision in the Bill—that one which occupies most of its clauses—deals with the alteration of the whole of the provisions within the Education Act for the various boards and tribunals, which are dealt with in section 37, and from section 37 onwards. These are now moulded into one. In addition, there are two complementary Bills introduced by the Minister which are necessary should this Bill pass—which I think it will—so that the merging of the interests in regard to questions to be considered by a tribunal can be dealt with in future under the one heading.

I think it is obvious for us to accept the situation that with changing times and with a lot more matters to be resolved as years pass, it is understandable that five different boards—detached boards, too—dealing with particular aspects of teacher problems must have brought frustrations to both sides in the disputes. There must have been many difficulties in regard to appeals alone. It must have been difficult to get the matters heard; and particularly as one of the tribunals is presided over by a judge of the Supreme Court who is not readily accessible and who is not easily available. So it has been the

experience and the rule that accumulations—not by the dozen but by the hundred—of appeals against promotions and all other appeals that come within the ambit of section 37 of the parent Act have brought about the frustration to which I have referred.

It is now the intention to repeal section 37 as it stands and mould into it the same sort of authorities with additional powers; do away with the bodies extraneous to the Education Department; and set up what might be called a tribunal controlling problems within education. This tribunal is to be chaired by a man who must have had seven years' experience as a practising solicitor; and there will be a nominee of the Minister and a nominee of the Teachers' Union. I think this might safely be termed a permanent tribunal which, if not initially expert in teachers' affairs, will become so; and what is very much more important at the moment, it will always be available to deal with their problems.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: That is a most important feature.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: So in the creation of one tribunal and in the dissolving of many boards there will be, I think, a happier atmosphere in the relationship between the union, the director, and the Minister.

As you know, Mr. President, it was my privilege for some years to be Minister for Education; and I was the Minister when the present President of the Teachers' Union first became president. I think the year was 1939, and at that time there were many aggravations because of salaries, the question of transfers, the rights of teachers, housing, and many other things which have since been resolved. But with the resolving of many of those things, additional problems have come about.

I think the idea which this Bill presents—particularly as the measure has been closely scrutinised by both parties, one representing the Minister and the other representing the teachers—is a happy augury for a successful future.

It will be noticed that from clause 24 onwards provision is made for the selection of the personnel; and it is made certain that we are dealing with a tribunal which will be experienced in all matters of evidence. Provision is made to meet the new circumstances; and the expressed jurisdiction given will, I think, make the position clearer than it is at present. In the past there has been no line of demarcation as to what one tribunal should consider and what another would consider; and this has brought in its train a lot of vexed problems.

All sorts of provisions are contained in the Bill so that this tribunal will be able to hear many kinds of appeals—not only appeals against penalties and promotions, but determinations of Ministers and



assessments of teachers. The last-mentioned is very difficult and is something which an inspector should not have to determine. He should not be charged with the responsibility of saying that a man's IQ is 83 or 83½. It would take almost the deity to determine that one. I notice that these things will be a part of the responsibility of this new tribunal—a tribunal well versed in the taking and hearing of evidence and the examination of it. This tribunal will also be well acquainted with the problems of the teaching service.

I wish to draw attention to one clause which has given me very great concern. I refer to the clause which gives power to make regulations. If members read clause 20 they will see that if it is interpreted liberally it could mean that a teacher could be subject to disciplinary action for everything in his private life. The clause amends section 28 of the principal Act which is the regulation-making section; and this clause deals with the regulation-making power. Portion of the clause reads as follows:—

Prescribing grounds, including such moral grounds, whether connected with the employment and functions of teachers or not, as the Minister thinks fit, which for the purposes of this Act amount to misconduct and for which a teacher may be dismissed from the Education Department.

You may recall, Mr. President, I rudely interjected when the Minister was speaking last night when he mentioned this question had been raised and gone into by the parties, and that the Minister for Education would discuss with the Teachers' Union any regulations proposed to be made under the authority contained in this clause.

The question I asked was whether that had been stated in writing, and the Minister read the letter which had passed between him and the union. In it was expressed in very definite terms the fact that consultations would take place in the framing of all regulations. When we give some thought to the reasoning behind that wording, I think we will agree that there is a necessity for something along those lines, even if worded differently.

After all, a schoolteacher anywhere, and particularly one who, with his wife, may live in a small country town, is a very important person, not only as far as the adult life of the town is concerned but also the child life. He must, like Caesar's wife, be above reproach, and every action of the teacher in a small community is very quickly noted by the children. Anything improper in his actions or in his tolerance, or anything wrong which he condones, is quickly noticed by children. And the same, indeed, is the situation of teachers in bigger schools. The child mind is affected and influenced enormously by the character of the teacher concerned.

After raising the question by interjection yesterday, I conferred with the Minister for Education today and also with the President of the Teachers' Union; and instances were brought to my notice; but in fairness to the people who have paid the penalty for certain happenings in their lives, I will not mention names. Several people, if they could have been disciplined, would have been better off, as would have been the department. I have satisfied myself that although the wording appears to be brutal, latitude must be given to enter into the private life and conduct of those concerned.

Since all parties are satisfied that this is necessary, and I am assured that it is, and since there is agreement between the parties that any regulation made under that provision will be made after a consultation between the parties, I think that my initial fears were not completely well founded.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: That does not bind future Ministers.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: No; but I think that an organisation of high repute which has for 25 years, to my knowledge, been fair in the representations it has made for its people and has not been unreasonable in protesting against anything wrong, may be relied upon to do the right thing and adopt a reasonable view in this matter. I think that one can rest assured that there are no politics in the matter. Ministers would be averse to introducing any element of politics, irrespective of whichever Government was in power.

I believe that the matter has been approached properly. It appears very harsh, but I think it may be safely left in the present position, as I have endeavoured to explain. In general, the provisions for the one tribunal—the most important provision in the Bill—are excellent, and they will be adequate to meet all the needs with which five separate boards now endeavour unsuccessfully to cope. The tribunal will develop into being something of an expert in teachers' affairs and problems, and I think the move is a very commendable one. I support the Bill.

*Sitting suspended from 3.46 to 4.4 p.m.*

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (West) [4.4]: I have listened to the well-reasoned speech by Mr. Wise, and I want to make some comments; but what I say will not be quite in agreement with what the honourable member said in regard to clause 20 (d). Whilst I agree from reading the *Teachers' Journal*, which is sent to all members of Parliament, that the teachers and the Minister have for a considerable time been discussing at length matters of great importance to them, I point out that the phrase "moral grounds" is quite disturbing to a number of teachers who, like

members of other organisations, perhaps, do not attend their union meetings or read their journal.

I heard what Mr. Wise had to say on this subject; and possibly the situation at the moment is quite good. Dr. Hislop interjected that in the future a Minister could be appointed, but that we could not bind him to anything decided on now. To me that has some weight.

I shall relate a simple incident that happened in the department about two years ago: A teacher appealed against the appointment of another one to a certain position; and the one who appealed had every right to do so. But he was told he was not eligible to appeal because he was 3s. 6d. behind with his union dues. Not only was he told that, but he was written to in connection with the matter; and I have the letter in my possession, although I have not it here at the moment.

This phrase "moral grounds" could affect a teacher in connection with a matter which was mentioned last night. A man might be convicted of drunken driving and be fined £40, or he might lose his license. The Minister would see the report in connection with the matter given to him by the director, and he could dismiss that man from the department. I do not say that will happen, but it could happen.

On behalf of those teachers who probably do not attend their union meetings and who, perhaps, do not read their journal, I want to say that the department should give very careful thought to this matter.

Despite the fact that Mr. Wise said everybody will be happy in regard to appeals, I can assure him that a number of schoolteachers are not happy about the matter. Having made this protest on their behalf, I support the Bill.

**THE HON. A. R. JONES** (Midland) [4.7]: Clause 18 deals with parents and citizens' associations and what they may do; and proposed new section 26(1) provides—

An association shall expend or invest all amounts received by it that are in excess of expenditure for the benefit of the children who are attending the Government school or the group of Government schools in relation to which the association is formed.

I would like the Minister to tell us why the word "shall" is there. I believe the associations to which this provision refers are bodies which do, and always have done, an excellent job; and I feel they would expend any moneys they have in the best interests of the children attending the school or group of schools.

Perhaps the word "may" would be better than the word "shall." Of course the clause does not say when the money shall be invested or expended.

**THE HON. L. A. LOGAN** (Midland—Minister for Local Government—in reply) [4.9]: I thank Mr. Wise for his contribution; it was a well-reasoned speech.

The amendment mentioned by Mr. Jones has been included to ensure that the money received by a parents and citizens' association is used for the purpose for which it was raised: for the benefit of the children attending a school or group of schools concerned.

Mr. MacKinnon also mentioned the same matter and told us that some parents and citizens' associations had agreed to make contributions over a period of years to the medical fund. When we look at that matter, we find the money was raised by the parents and citizens and their friends for the purposes of the association; that is, for the benefit of the school and the children. I think it is drawing the long bow to suggest that we should use money collected for the purposes I have just mentioned—to pay into such a fund as the medical fund, good and all as the scheme is. I do not think it is right that that should happen.

If we left this question open, the parents and citizens' associations might want to make donations to the Red Cross Society. It would be a different matter if the donations were to be made to the Junior Red Cross because the money could be utilised in the school or group of schools in connection with Junior Red Cross activities. A parents and citizens' association might want to make contributions to the Braille Society or some other similar society.

Knowing the nature of some of the people who are members of the parents and citizens' associations, and knowing they are desirous of helping anybody who is in distress, what I have suggested could easily happen; and I believe that is the reason for this provision. If we take out the word "shall" and substitute the word "may" the associations could do those things that they should not do.

The provision in the Bill will ensure that the money that has not been expended by an association will be invested, and that the amount received back from the investment will be used for its original purpose. So, instead of money lying idle in a bank and being of no advantage to anybody, it may be invested and used for the purpose for which it was raised. I hope that is a satisfactory reply; it is all I can say on the matter at the moment.

**Question put and passed.**

**Bill read a second time.**

*In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. A. R. Jones) in the Chair; The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

**Clauses 1 to 17 put and passed.**

**Clause 18—Section 26 repealed and re-enacted:**

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: In some of the smaller country towns, the parents and citizens' associations conduct Christmas parties for all the children in the district, including pre-school children and others who do not attend Government schools. In other towns there is, perhaps, a youth hall in the school grounds; and these associations spend money for the welfare of the youth generally of the district. Again, there is another instance of where some parents and citizens' associations, at the time of the medical school appeal, contracted to make annual donations of, say, £20 a year for five years. My understanding of all those acts is that they would be *ultra vires* this measure. I would therefore ask the Minister if he would give his ministerial view of the position.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Apparently the honourable member was absent from the Chamber at the time Mr. Jones raised the very same question and I gave the answer. The Act will not be proclaimed until the date set. The spending of money on youth centres will be quite in order because the children attending the school, as well as the other children in the community, will obtain some benefit. If the honourable member cares to look up the answer I made to Mr. Jones he will find further details of the explanation I gave.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 19 to 23 put and passed.**

**Clause 24—Section 37 repealed and re-enacted:**

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am sorry I did not reply to the question asked by Mr. Wise yesterday about how many appeals are still outstanding. As far as I can ascertain, there are 35 still outstanding, some of which have been outstanding for quite some time. However, the magistrate will start on them this month and clean them up as quickly as he can.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 25 to 26 put and passed.**

**Title put and passed.**

*Report*

**Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.**

*Third Reading*

On motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), Bill read a third time, and passed.

## **GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (PROMOTIONS APPEAL BOARD) ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 16th November.

**THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North)** [4.22]: This Bill is complementary to the one that has just been passed. It seeks to amend the principal Act only in those particulars where they apply to appeals under the Education Act which affect teachers in the Education Department. The only deletions which are to be made from the parent Act are those which affect the Education Department. I support the Bill.

**Question put and passed.**

**Bill read a second time.**

*In Committee*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

*Third Reading*

On motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), Bill read a third time, and passed.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE APPEAL BOARD ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 16th November.

**THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North)** [4.25]: This Bill is in the same category as the previous measure except that it seeks to take away from the Government Employees (Promotions Appeal Board) Act the provisions which apply to the Education Department, the Director of Education, and the Teachers' Union. Those provisions apply to appeals against promotions which are at present heard under the Public Service Appeal Board Act. Once the amendments to the Education Act are passed, the provisions within the Public Service Appeal Board Act that are affected become unnecessary. I therefore support the Bill.

**Question put and passed.**

**Bill read a second time.**

*In Committee*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

*Third Reading*

On motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), Bill read a third time, and passed.

## **MILK ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 16th November.

**THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan)** [4.30]: It would be unusual for me to agree to a Bill dealing with milk, without making any comment; particularly as there were times when I took a very active

part in the introduction of the present legislation and in bringing about the conditions which now exist in the industry.

I well remember the occasion when I had to struggle in this House to induce members to agree to a scheme of milk pasteurisation for the metropolitan area. Some 31 amendments were moved, and 30 of them were to remove the term "the Minister" from the Bill. The remaining amendment sought to introduce the pasteurisation scheme. When the Bill was dealt with by a conference of managers of both Houses the only amendment that remained was that authorising pasteurisation.

On the following morning when I was walking down the street an eminent member of the community in this State said that he had had a high regard for my ability in Parliament, but he could not understand any member of Parliament agreeing to give way to 30 amendments and to the retention of only one. However, the amendment which was included, has done a tremendous service for the people of the metropolitan area. It will stand until such time as a better method for controlling the purity of milk is found.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: When was that?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: About 1946. I had a long and arduous battle to get the amendment through. Parliament is to be congratulated for its part in bringing about the high quality of milk which is now supplied to the public. Going back to the days referred to by Mr. Bennetts, many dairies in the metropolitan area were sadly lacking. Since those days the conditions have changed immensely.

The last report of the Milk Board makes interesting reading, not so much as to the content, but as to what the report lacks. Silence prevails in the report on a number of subjects. Let me first of all refer to some of the comments which are in the report. On reading the report one would come to the conclusion that it is the desire of the Milk Board to maintain the dairying industry as one in which a large number of small producers are engaged—producers operating on a low gallonage. I wonder whether it is a wise policy to pursue the quota system.

With the advent of new machinery there comes a time in every industry when the amalgamation of the small producers becomes essential. I wonder whether it is a wise policy for the board to allow new milk producers to enter the industry, on a quota of 50 gallons or less. When I visited the Eastern States I saw rotolactors which handled 600 cows with ease. One wonders when such machinery will be introduced in this State. The amalgamation of small dairying properties in this State can be brought about by one dairy taking over the contiguous properties. The enlarged dairy would then be able to operate more efficiently.

The production of milk by small dairies might be all right under existing conditions in this State, but with the growth of the population this method must be altered. Small dairying properties will have to be amalgamated in the future. With the introduction of new and improved machinery for milking, the industry would be able to operate more economically.

A small paragraph in the report of the Milk Board refers to bottled milk. It states that the sale of bulk milk is declining steadily and represents a very small proportion of the milk trade, which now consists largely of supplying milk in bottles from the treatment plants.

The omissions in the report to which I referred include the supply of milk in cartons. Recently a suggestion was made that milk supplied to the metropolitan area should be distributed in cartons. A difference arose between the treatment plants and the Milk Board as to the cost to be charged for milk supplied in cartons. As a result of that difference the public have been deprived of the opportunity to obtain cartoned milk.

Many people are prepared to pay more for cartoned milk. I doubt whether, when the Milk Board considered the question of milk being supplied in bottles, as against supplied in cartons, it took into account the cost of handling the bottles. Some people have a high regard for hygiene in their homes, and they clean empty milk bottles with hot water. That must mean some small cost to the householder. There is also the time factor to be considered when milk bottles have to be placed in front of the house every night. All this work would disappear if cartoned milk were available; the empty cartons could be discarded in the rubbish bin. There would then be no waste of time or effort in putting out the empty bottles at night. There is not only a saving of cost, but also a saving of time to the householder, in using cartoned milk.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Milk bottles can be used five or six times.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: In almost every street in the city one comes across broken milk bottles. They are discarded on the sidewalks and vacant allotments, and they create a danger to people using the streets. At every street corner we can see stacks of milk bottles which are collected in bulk. All this will be done away with by the introduction of cartoned milk; furthermore, many people will be able to enjoy a longer rest in the morning if they are not disturbed by the rattling of milk bottles between the hours of 5 and 6 o'clock. It is wrong for the Milk Board to ban the supply of milk in cartons in the metropolitan area. The board should answer for its action.

A further point in the report regarding the distribution of milk is of interest. The report states that for many years the board has enforced the policy of prohibiting the sale of bulk milk by shopkeepers in the metropolitan area for consumption off their premises; and, unless the milk is consumed in the shop, milk bar or tearooms, it has to be sold in bottles. Does that mean that bulk milk is being supplied to milk bars, shops, and tearooms? If that is the case, I ask the Milk Board to consider supplying milk bars with bottled milk, because in the rush of trade I am quite certain that hygiene does not prevail in the handling of the bulk milk.

On a number of occasions in this House I have drawn attention to the conditions on the Kalgoorlie express. There is an open can of bulk milk at the entrance to the dining car. I have seen members of the catering staff filling milk jugs from the can, by putting their forearms and hands down the opening. If bottled milk in one-third pints can be supplied to distant centres, it should be possible to supply milk in bottles of the same size to the dining car on the Kalgoorlie express.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It would save time if cartoned milk were used.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If cartoned milk were available the matter would be simplified. There is no reason why bulk milk should be used on the *Westland* express, or on any other train. A very small amount of refrigeration space is required to store the amount of milk which is consumed in one meal.

I would appreciate some remarks from the Milk Board as to why it persists in opposing the supply of milk in cartons, when milk in that form is desired by the public; and why in some instances when the milk could be supplied in bottles or in cartons it insists on the supply of bulk milk.

A considerable portion of the report of the Milk Board is devoted to the question of purchasing milk on a quality basis. Up to a short time ago it was the general viewpoint that that was the inevitable method. I believe I heard you, Mr. President, when you were on the floor of the House, say that was the inevitable answer. I also heard other members say the same thing.

Apparently in latter months, the trend has gone the other way. The board states in its report that if milk is to be purchased on a quality basis, the quality should be determined on the fats and solids-not-fat content, and the bacterial condition of the milk. I can understand the board basing the quality on the fats and solids-not-fat content, but I cannot understand why there is a reference to the bacterial condition. If milk is to be bought on a quality basis plus on the bacterial

condition, as well as the other two conditions, the position will become difficult. But why is not that a condition of purchase now?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Milk has to be sweet and fresh.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The Milk Board is quite emphatic in this matter. It does not realise there are people in the community who do not hold the same views as the board—people also well versed in milk production. I think I can say that highly placed officers in the Department of Agriculture itself are convinced that we should buy on a quality basis. I believe the ex-director made a definite public statement in that regard before he left office. Yet we are told here, just as emphatically as we were refused pasteurisation when the Government introduced this Bill in 1946, that we cannot have this improvement in the purchasing of milk on a quality basis.

On page 17 of the report the board makes the statement that the fat content does not always follow in relation to the solids-not-fat, and *vice versa*. It gives three examples, but those examples are so close together from a point of view which would add to the purchasing price of the milk that they are rather against their own argument. I will not read out the figures, because they appear in the report.

In June, 1960, there appeared in the *Journal of Agriculture*, a portion of an address that was given by Dr. Snook. It is interesting to note that only a portion of this address was printed in the journal, and the part that would interest those who are widely concerned about the purchase of milk on a quality basis was not included. The address is based on a paper read at the annual conference of the Australian Institute of Dairy Factory Managers and Secretaries held on the 19th March, 1959. The matter is now public property. I quote as follows:—

But the difficulties associated with low levels of solids-not-fat in milk will not be eliminated simply by telling the producer to make changes in breeding and feeding techniques. The dairy industry must acknowledge the fact that the so-called solids-not-fat problem is a direct result of man-made policy. So long as milk is bought according to volume rather than quality, so will the problem persist. The current practice among distributors is to tell the dairy farmer that it is his responsibility to market nothing else than milk which is above standard. As a result magnificent Friesian cows in the prime of life are being sent to the butcher, despite the recognised fact that these cows are most efficient converters of grass into valuable human food. The only fault is that these cows mix a little too much water with the nutrients they produce. Under the current system

farmers may be penalised for producing sub-standard milk during a critical week in the year, despite the fact that good quality milk is assured for eleven months out of twelve.

I do not intend to read the whole of the paper; but further on it says—

In considering payment for quality I suggest that this be done according to the total solids present in milk. Total solids give us a most convenient measure of milk quality. There is no need to distinguish between the butterfat fraction and the solids-not-fat. For all practical purposes it can be accepted that the ratio of these ingredients remains reasonably constant. Incidentally, sooner rather than later, pure bred herd recording will be based on the production of total solids rather than on the production of butterfat. Milk as such is now the important product of the dairy industry, not butterfat.

The collection and testing of samples will not present any difficulties. Large volumes of process milk are already being purchased on a quality basis and it has been found that the production of most herds is so consistent that occasional tests are adequate. Even today milk for human consumption is subject to periodic tests and the additional work required would not be great.

It is a simple matter to estimate total solids with accuracy. Much simpler than to determine butterfat. It requires nothing more than the weighing, drying out, and reweighing of a standard volume in milk. The drying is done on a water bath (15 minutes) and in an electric oven (2 hours). In all analytical work unrelenting attention to detail is essential but in this particular estimation everything is exceedingly simple and straight-forward. All that is required is a water bath, a desiccator, a good balance and a drying oven. The whole job can be done on a water bath if necessary. The method has one big practical advantage—milk can be sampled in the field while still fresh and dried on a simple water bath in a numbered petri dish. Boxes of these covered petri dishes can then be sent to a central laboratory for the final drying and weighing.

The paper goes on to give methods of payment with which I will not weary my listeners. If a man of Dr. Snook's standing is prepared to make a statement of that sort, there must surely be reason for us to ask that if this is refused there should be some adequate or some reasoned reply, instead of the remarks that are contained in the report, which make me feel that the board has simply got the idea that this cannot be done and therefore waves it away.

There has been a good deal of discussion concerning the question of total solids-not-fats, and I note in the Bill, as presented to us, that the board is to be given the right to formulate a scheme to assist those who are in difficulties with the production of total solids-not-fat; and it can, by regulation, prescribe the details. I could wish that the details could have been given to us more explicitly.

This is an amazing problem; because those who purchase milk for the processing factories say they have no difficulty in insisting on their suppliers producing milk of a standard. But they say it is extremely disconcerting, if they refuse an individual, to find that he has his milk taken by some other trader. They insist that a standard be set. If it is possible by insistence, to raise the standard, there must be some method of doing it. There is no question that the type of animal which is used for dairy purposes plays a very large part; and it is suggested by the board that dairymen are bringing into their herds a better type of animal.

However, there are those who believe that one can never get from a cow what the cow does not receive. The cow cannot make calcium; the cow cannot make protein; these must be provided. I wonder, when the Milk Board is setting about the question of raising a standard, whether it has any idea of approaching this problem in a scientific manner.

Work has been done on sheep which could well be applied to cattle. I am ignorant whether this work, which I will outline, has been done on cattle, or whether it provides any real answer to the problem. Let us, first of all, look at the constituents contained in a pint of human milk. They are as follows:—

Water—512.2 grms.  
Protein—19.3 grms.  
Fat—22.2 grms.  
Carbohydrate—25.7 grms.  
Calcium—700 mgms.  
Iron—18 mgms.  
Thiamine—233 mgms.  
Riboflavin—.99 mgms.  
Niacin—.6 mgms.  
Vitamin C—5.8 mgms.  
Lactose—7.0 mgm.  
Carotene—432 international units.  
Vitamin A—653 international units.

This is a total of 379 calories in one pint of human milk. I have not been able to obtain the constituents in a similar quantity of cow's milk, but it runs in the same order of substances, but varies in the quantities present. I want to make it quite clear that conditions can exist in the life of the cow which make it impossible for the animal to contribute to its milk the required amount of total solids-not-fat.

A very interesting article by Professor Ian McDonald appeared in *The Australian Journal of Science* in December, 1959.

Professor McDonald is from the C.S.I.R.O. Sheep Biology Laboratory at Prospect, New South Wales. He gives the interesting story that in the early stages of pregnancy of the ewe there is no very great call upon the ewe, but that it increases as the pregnancy continues. He points out that the foetus, for its energy, requires glucose, which it extracts from the maternal blood and which turns into blood sugar; and by that means prevents the return of the sugar from the maternal blood supply. The ewe has only a limited amount of glucose, and it is interesting to realise where this glucose comes from. The article says—

Studies on ruminant digestion have shown that the bulk of a sheep's energy is derived, not from glucose, but from the volatile fatty acids produced by microbial fermentation in the rumen. The precursors of glucose are propionic acid and some of the amino-acids from digested proteins.

As one goes on one finds, of course, that the foetus can draw this protein from the animal if the animal is not receiving enough, and so the ewe can lose weight whilst the foetus grows. But if both the sheep and the foetus draw amounts in large quantities, the whole process can end in pregnancy toxæmia for both of them. The difficulty is that the ewe cannot make up large quantities of the protein by bulk food because with the growing foetus there is not sufficient room for the animal to store the amount she would like to digest. So the difficulty of the pregnancy goes on if there is a deficiency in the protein supply.

It is also found that in these cases where there has been this protein deficiency there is a delay in lactation after the birth of the lamb; and lactation is necessary for the lamb within a matter of a few hours after the birth.

I wonder whether we pay enough attention to cows in the same regard, and whether we realise that the difficulties which the animal has in producing total solids-not-fat are possibly due to a disability which has occurred in feeding during the pregnancy stage of the animal? These are very great possibilities as to the cause of this continued inability of the animal to produce the requirements that we wish of total solids-not-fat. It may be that this work has been done extensively in cattle, and there may be an answer to it; but what will happen in one animal is quite likely to happen in another.

I would be happy to feel that instead of using some of the methods which have become outdated in trying to correct the problem, the board in instituting this plan of action for the dairy farmers would make use of science and approach the C.S.I.R.O.;

because that organisation has done a very great amount of work in animal husbandry.

It has been proved, of course, and we all know it quite well, that the appetite of the cow is increased tremendously in relation to the cobalt which the animal gets; the absence of cobalt will lessen the animal's appetite. To me all these things seem to play a very great part in this matter, and I therefore sincerely trust that up-to-date methods will be used and that the scheme will be based on scientific processes.

My final criticism of the Bill is that we have not yet reached the stage of agreeing that the depots can remove the excess amount of butterfat above that required by law. There is no reason why in this community people should have milk containing an excessive amount of butterfat; 3.2 per cent. or possibly 3.0 per cent. might be an adequate amount of fat in milk. I have said before in this House, and I say again, I am certain that if a higher butterfat content of milk was sought by the dairymen by an alteration to their herds, or by breeding, we could withdraw from the milk sufficient to establish a new product which we might call coffee cream; this is used extensively in many other parts of the world.

I feel that the report of the Milk Board indicates a tendency to stand still, and I would have appreciated some real move towards adding new features to the industry in the ways I have described. I trust that the board in the future will look to those principles to see whether or not they can be put into effect in the industry; because I believe that no industry can stand still. Every industry must move with the times and it must incorporate new ideas. Only in this way can an industry survive.

**THE HON. F. J. S. WISE** (North) [4.54]: I am sure the House is grateful to Dr. Hislop for his remarks in connection with this Bill and his featuring of very vital aspects, especially from the health angle, of the milk trade. I can clearly recall the initial attempts to make the Milk Act of this State permanent. I can remember, following the worst of the depression years, when the Milk Act was first introduced by Mr. P. D. Ferguson. It was an annual measure providing no stability for the industry and very little opportunity for those engaged in it to look forward to anything worth while, except from day to day or week to week. It was a very difficult situation.

At the time the price of butterfat had so sagged that there was a surplus of milk—milk was being poured away. There was fierce competition in the suburbs between milkmen who were vending milk under the most primitive conditions. It was felt then that something had to be done. I think

most of the grey hairs I have now resulted from attempts to administer the various Milk Acts from the early 1930's to 1945. It was not until 1946 that we succeeded in having the Act made a permanent measure. Indeed, I think I was the disgruntled person who was Minister at the time; and it was the insistence and the vigilance of Dr. Hislop—which he has not outgrown—in 1945 that prevented the Act being made permanent in that year. It was introduced far too late for it to be reasonably considered. Dr. Hislop will recall that that was the situation.

I simply relate these events because I know of the seriousness of the situation obtaining at the time when the Milk Board was created. Deputations took place weekly, and no section of the community was satisfied—neither the producer, the retailer, nor the consumer—and the price was 6½d. a gallon. That is not so very long ago; and I differ from the doctor on this point when I say that some boards do not deserve much credit, but I think the Milk Board is one that deserves full marks. The story of that board is the story of great achievement in spite of serious obstacles.

It was befriended by no-one in its early days, particularly when, for example, it endeavoured to have better quality milk supplied to the consumers. I can recall the primitive pasteurisation processes which were used—in laundry coppers and open air coolers. They were used, and it was suggested that the milk was pasteurised. I can recall the milks carrying bottles in their horse-drawn vehicles, sitting on the side of the road, in the gutter, filling the bottles from a can, and then raking around in their pockets to get the caps which were mixed up with tobacco and cigarettes. They would stick them on with their thumbs while they were sitting by the side of the road. They were caught in the act—men with four fingers in the bottles, immersing the bottles in the can and pulling them out when they became full, putting caps on them and then selling the milk as bottled pasteurised milk to the consumers. That was not long ago.

The Hon. G. E. Jeffery: It went past somebody's eyes.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: One of them had a gun.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Yes. In those days the rubbish dumps of this city were used as grazing areas for the milkman's herds. The present chairman of the Milk Board, who was then the secretary, and I had a bad time of it. At meetings at Osborne Park, the milkmen threatened to burn our effigies on the Esplanade because of our insistence and endeavours to get a better milk supply for the city. Some members here will remember that. They were difficult days.

The proof was that one herd which grazed on the rubbish dumps at the Maylands Peninsular, and another one which grazed on the sandhills on the other side of Herdsman's Lake when tested, proved to have 40 per cent. T.B. reactors; and the milk from those herds was being consumed in its raw state in this city. Is it any wonder that Dr. Edmonds, the then Medical Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, was able to say in that well-known report of his, that in respect to ten children who had died in that hospital from tuberculosis in one year, he was positive the cause was bovine tuberculosis resulting from untreated milk.

If this board and the Act have done nothing else than prevent such deaths, they have been well worth while, especially when we know that the deaths of some children were traced to bovine tuberculosis. I look upon this Bill as one of great importance to the consumers of this State; and it is an endeavour by the board to make further progress in ensuring that good quality milk is sold to the consumers. However, I think the board should respect the views of Dr. Hislop and pay full attention to the leads he has given.

It should pursue its investigations along the lines he suggested, and use its funds for that purpose. Then we would get to a very happy stage—although we are in a very happy stage at the moment in comparison with many other cities in regard to our milk supplies.

As regards the producers, I do not think it can be denied—and I think our producer friends in this House will readily agree with me—that milk control and the activities of the board in this State have brought the whole milk producers from a state of poverty to one of affluence.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: There is no doubt about that.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: They have a security today which 20 years ago they never dreamt possible. Legislation was introduced and licenses were issued, and side by side with those licenses went one of the most important steps ever taken in this business—the issuance of contracts. The board—and I think very wisely—permitted trading of those contracts on a quota basis, which enabled us to get rid of the undesirable position in the suburban area. This meant that milk was produced in better pastured areas; and that had a great deal to do with the improvement in the quality of the milk.

Therefore this much criticised board, through the years, or in more recent years, has been having a placid time, especially as compared with its earlier days. But something occurred recently which disturbed the position. Some members will recall the Roberts case which went to the High Court. Dr. Hislop mentioned the incident of the man with the shotgun; he was going to shoot the milk inspector—

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: And me.



The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Yes. All those things happened in the past; and the present satisfactory position has been brought about by the vigilance of the Milk Board, the hard work of very many people, and the policy of all Governments to continue with the set-up.

Once the foundation was laid in a permanent way in the 1946 Act, it gave an opportunity not only for T.B. control but for herd improvement of a kind never dreamed of. Problems associated with breed and with feed are, after all, passing phases which ultimately will be overcome. Tests over the last 40 years with the Holstein, or Friesian as it is known—which is a breed of great lacteal production; of great capacity—showed that the butterfat content got down to 2.2 per cent.; and yet, on the same pasture at the same time, the Jersey was producing a butterfat content of 4.8 per cent.

Unfortunately we have in many dairying sections producing wholemilk in this State a poor strain of A.I.S. breed as well; a strain that is low in butterfat content and low in solids-not-fat. The measures adopted in regard to quality of butterfat content and solids-not-fat have been very useful in pointing out that the food values of milk must be lifted, and attention must be paid firstly to quality from that angle; because after all when a person gets a gallonage quota for wholemilk, he is not tied only to the production of that gallonage quota; he has to sell wholemilk as the balance can be converted to cream for the butter factory.

So if a person is insisting on having high yielding cows, in so far as quantity is concerned, and the milk is under-standard by present methods of determination let him either improve the strain within his herd, and improve the pasture and the feed throughout the year; or let him get out of the wholemilk business. That is my feeling as one who had the responsibility of administering this Act for a long time. We would then not have any of the worries, in a bulk sense, of 50 dairymen supplying one bulk depot, and not having a good high average above the figure which is mentioned in the report of fats and solids-not-fat content.

I wonder whether the Minister knows whether the Milk Board still keeps the newspaper cuttings—which to my knowledge it kept—dealing with all matters pertaining to this subject over 15 years. If it does I would make the suggestion that all those things that are relevant in this State to the Milk Board, to wholemilk production, to cattle diseases, to T.B. tests, and the things the board has done, should be kept meticulously. If those cuttings were tabled in this House prior to the introduction of a Milk Bill of any embracing nature, members would readily see just how successful has been the improvement and the work that has been done by this board.

I think this is worth a thought, because those cuttings were there in compact form for many years. This Bill, in giving the board additional powers under clause 3, when dealing with quality; and to determine in the interests of the consumer what should be demanded, is really saying to the producers, "You are a privileged people; you are a protected people; you are getting a very good deal from the rest of the community, and now we expect you to deliver something commensurate with the treatment you are receiving." That is what the Minister is trying to say in this Bill, and I think he deserves every support in that objective.

On the points raised by Dr. Hislop in connection with the determinants standards, there is much to think about. There is the type of depot which because of circumstances or because it is in an irrigable area has a constantly high quality, and it gets a higher standard; but the difficulty of breaking down milk in a plant of that kind could be that we are paying the producer of wholemilk at the wholemilk rate and skimming the cream perhaps for separated milk, as an adulterant or as something to break down the solids-not-fat content. In this regard I can see a difficulty, in an administrative sense, which would be hard to overcome; particularly where there is a treatment plant dealing only with wholemilk.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The milk then is immediately a manufactured product; it is no longer a natural product.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is a very important point, because the objective of the board always has been to have delivered to the community the natural product, unadulterated; it has always desired a minimum standard no matter how high the solids-not-fat content may go. There is much to commend thinking along those lines.

But as the pressure of production forces us into wider circles from the city, other problems arise. At the moment I think we are down as far as Capel, whereas previously the extreme limit was Brunswick Junction. Once the component in the cost in regard to transport gets too high, a lot of the things mentioned by Dr. Hislop must be looked at vigorously.

I do not wish to waste the time of the House on this subject. I think the Bill is to be commended. Its objectives are right; and I think there is great responsibility on the producer not to endeavour to cash in on a privileged and protected industry, or to overload his area with a type of stock not essentially suited to the wholemilk industry and then complain because the board says his milk is under-standard. That is not the right attitude for him to adopt.

I hope the Bill will give the right stimulus to people producing wholemilk to improve their circumstances and to improve their breed types, because there is no doubt—it is almost axiomatic—that half the breeding goes down the throat. But if we are to concentrate on single breeds such as Friesians we will always have this trouble. I support the Bill. I hope it gets a speedy passage, and that it has the effect the Government desires.

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South-West) [5.25]: Mr. Wise has answered all the points I wished to raise, but I would like to refer to one or two matters mentioned by Dr. Hislop when he criticised some aspects of this Bill. As one who has had so much to do with the framing of the Milk Act, Dr. Hislop has every right to be critical. He implied, however, that there had not been a great deal of thought given to the basis of quality purchase; that at one time many members here thought that was the answer.

I think he is probably right, and that there has been a change in thought. I believe the change in thought has been very closely studied; and the situation was touched on by Mr. Wise who pointed out that if we are going to purchase milk on quality, the automatic corollary is that we must sell on standardisation, because we cannot possibly expect the treatment plant—and let us take an exaggerated situation as an illustration—to make a bonus payment for over 4 per cent. butterfat, and up to 9 per cent. solids-not-fat and then, having bought at a bonus price, sell that milk straightout to the public still at that quality. There would have to be a fluctuating price according to the quality; or we would have the standardisation back to 3.2 per cent. butterfat and 8.5 per cent. solids-not-fat to sell at a standard price.

As I said by interjection, we would then have a product which in effect would be a manufactured product, because to some extent it would have to be filled; whether it were filled by water, or by additions of skimmed milk, or otherwise. This House had very definite views on what is known as filled milk; we did not want anything like that, and we made that very clear last session. That is one difficulty of producing on a quality basis; there are many more. There is also the difficulty of where the test is going to be taken, and the touchiness of the farmers once the milk leaves their properties. Dr. Hislop referred to Dr. Snook's report which dealt in part with testing. A report I have here reads—

The test for butter-fat is easy. It can be done and is done by the Government Herd Recorders in the field with boiling water, acid, and a simple Babcock spinner. Properly done, it is accurate. The test for SNF, to be accurate, has to be done in a

laboratory. It is an evaporation test and expensive equipment and trained staff are needed.

The process was explained in some detail by Dr. Hislop. A further reference to the test says that there is difficulty even by laboratory tests to obtain a solids-not-fat standard. The report continues—

One method gives a slightly higher indication than the other in that it includes in the solids certain salts which the other method does not remove from the fluid.

So there are difficulties in these tests. The matter is not as easy as one would imagine.

Dr. Hislop also mentioned that the tests for milk tend to be fairly even. Strangely enough the tests for milk are far from even. I would ask members to imagine a line running across a page representing a minimum standard of 3.2 per cent. butterfat and 8.5 per cent. solids-not-fat. The graph of the milk standard day by day would run almost like a saw's edge right through. A good farm would be one which was predominantly above the line and dipping below it occasionally. The difficult farms would be those predominantly below the line and going above it occasionally.

I have here the figures of tests done on a weekly basis; the daily sample being bulked and then tested at the end of the week. Even in the one day there are fluctuations. There can be 3.6 per cent. butterfat and 8.78 per cent. solids-not-fat in the morning, and at night those figures could be 4.2 per cent. and 8.3 per cent., respectively. There is a drop in solids-not-fat, which is the nutritive quality of the milk, and an increase in the butterfat over the figure that was obtained in the morning. That happens in the one day.

On a week to week test the figure went from 8.28 per cent. down to 8.30 per cent. up to 8.56 per cent. down to 8.53 per cent., and down to 8.22 per cent. That was in the difficult season of the year. It then went down to 8.29 per cent. and jumped up to 8.60 per cent. and then went down again to 8.39 per cent. If this were done on a weekly basis, the graph would look like a saw. It would jump all over the place like a saw's teeth. At this stage, the difficulties in producing quality are generally regarded as being insurmountable. However, I feel the day will come when that will not be so.

Dr. Hislop mentioned feeding difficulties; and I would like to refer to that matter, too. This piece of paper which I have in front of me represents a series of tests that have been carried out for a farmer on a composite weekly basis. Samples were taken daily and were tested at the end of the week, after which the figures were supplied to the farmer. With those figures, and a record of the feed available, a farmer could obtain a wealth

of information by the correlation of the two. A situation should be arrived at where a farmer could get a regular test result.

I suggest it might be possible to do it every second week. If that were done a farmer would have a continuing log of his actual results. On the experimental side the C.S.I.R.O., as mentioned by Dr. Hislop, could conduct analytical tests on the actual nutritive value of the food eaten and could take pasture samples for analysis. The value of mown hay and supplements could be worked out accurately. That is impossible for the ordinary farmer to do. It is not possible to have a weekly test; but it is possible by an analysis of the end product—that is, the milk—to gauge the nutritive value of the food eaten.

Therefore, if these tests could be carried out every second week in co-operation with, say, the treatment plants, the farmer could tell to some degree whether the supplement, food or pasture eaten was having the desired effect—which is to produce good milk. Initially, one must accept the fact that the cow is a reasonably well-bred animal and is an efficient convertor of food to milk. That would call for testing and culling.

In speaking about what I have said, a lot of people would introduce conflicting points; but one has to make allowances for a hot day, a cold night, and whether the cows have been stirred up by a dog. Such things affect cows. However, allowing for them, a fortnightly continuing test would be a step forward; and it would be a natural corollary to the point raised by Dr. Hislop that extensive use would be made of the research services of the C.S.I.R.O. I am of the opinion that information of that nature would be of great value.

I took the liberty a short while ago of presenting a submission on these lines to the Minister for Agriculture, and he is having the matter investigated. As Dr. Hislop has placed on record certain criticisms with regard to purchase by quality and said that he could not understand the change of attitude, I thought it only reasonable that some of the reasons for the changed attitude should also be placed on record. I am prepared to admit that in the early days when I took an interest in milk, I thought purchase by quality was logical; but the more one goes into the matter the more difficult it becomes in application. The problems associated with it are real.

I commend the Bill to the House. I know a great deal of consideration and thought has gone into it. From the consumers' point of view it is very good; and from the producers' point of view it is just, fair, and reasonable. It is a very good Bill and a move in the right direction.

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines—in reply) [5.37]: The reception given to this Bill by members is indeed pleasing. To some extent we have had the benefit of being given a history of the legislation, not only from the time the board became a permanency, but prior to that time. I think many of us can remember chaotic conditions in the milk industry in the days when there was squabbling and bickering of all descriptions going on over the insecurity both of the producer of milk and the people who consumed it.

Today it is pleasing to be able to deal with a Bill surrounding an industry which Mr. Wise said is pleasing to itself and pleasing to the public. I have read the report of the Milk Board from one end to the other, and I think it is very nice to receive a report of that nature. It is a good report. As Dr. Hislop said, it may not be perfect in all its details; but has any member here ever seen a report that is? I think it would be of interest to look at this report and compare it with one that was submitted, perhaps, 20 years ago. By comparison, this one would indeed be very pleasing.

The report deals with all phases of the industry, which include some of the points raised by Dr. Hislop when he spoke on the Bill. The honourable member said he doubted whether it was wise for the board to continue to issue new licenses providing for minimum quantities of supply; and he wondered whether or not it would be wiser for the absorption of some of the smaller men to take place as has been done in the Eastern States.

It is interesting to note that the report says the average quantity of milk sold by producers daily in Western Australia is 77 gallons. That is the highest average in Australia. Probably, in the course of time, when Western Australia has the same population in proportion to its size as the other States of Australia, we will bring ourselves closer to the point when there will be an opportunity to combine contiguous holdings.

To my mind, the board's policy of endeavouring to maintain a situation where the average is 77 gallons creates this effect: It shares the responsibilities and the merits of milk production among the farming community of Western Australia. I know there are some big producers in the State who produce over 200 gallons daily. Nevertheless, I think it can be repeated that we have the highest average production in Australia. I am told that the board is not opposed to the point raised by Dr. Hislop with regard to the supplying of milk in cartons.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: Let us have some.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am telling the House that I believe the board is not opposed to that proposition. But the point is, of course, that bottles are a locally-manufactured product. The Tetra pack, of which we have heard so much in the past, is an imported product from Sweden and, therefore, must cost more than bottles. In the interests of keeping the price down to the consumer, the board is of the opinion that if milk is sold in a pack it must be sold at the same price as milk sold in a bottle. The Milk Board is a price-fixing authority in that respect.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: Do you not think there would be enough private enterprise here to support its own factory if this method of packaging milk were brought in?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not in a position to answer that interjection; but I am told that milk can be provided in cartons at a price consistent with that of a bottle. Personally, I think one must go a long way to find anything more hygienic and clean than a bottle, which is easily washed and easily refilled.

It is interesting to look at the results in regard to tuberculosis, as set out in this report. The report says that for the year 1947, when the percentage of reactors was 23 per cent., the compensation paid was £48,740. However, the percentage of reactors at the present time is 0.45 per cent. and the compensation payment is down to £3,275. Those figures speak for themselves.

Perhaps I can be forgiven for mentioning that my father and two brothers devoted their lives in Great Britain to the task of research into tuberculosis in dairy cows. They both gave their entire lives to it in the days when this was a tremendous problem in the world, and I like to feel sometimes that relatives of my family had something to do with improving the situation.

Dr. Hislop also raised the question of why milk is still being sent to shops and milk bars in bulk. I am told that that is a matter of convenience, because some milk bars use large quantities of milk, and it would be an expensive item if it were supplied in bottles. It is the responsibility of the people using the milk in bulk to make sure that the conditions are hygienic and that the health regulations are complied with.

That also applies to the experience which Dr. Hislop related in connection with the handling of bulk milk on the trans-train. What Dr. Hislop told us is a very undesirable state of affairs and should be dealt with severely. There is considerable merit in buying milk on a quality basis, and the Bill is an improvement in that direction; but, as Mr. MacKinnon said, it is still a very difficult problem.

In connection with the board's right to formulate an improved scheme, I am told by the Minister for Agriculture that Dr.

Hislop can rest assured that such a scheme will not only be approached on scientific lines, but will also be based on all the knowledge at the board's disposal.

Dr. Hislop remains consistent in his thoughts about milk. While he was talking, I called for the 1946 *Hansard* and studied the speech he made in that year. I notice that he did not receive many interjections, because his speech was a very interesting one, as was the case this afternoon. We are grateful for the contribution he has made to the debate. I will make certain that his remarks and those of other members will be submitted to the Milk Board so that the chairman may have a good opportunity to study them more closely to ascertain what merit there is in the suggestions.

In conclusion, I would like to say that reference has been made to Mr. Stannard, the chairman of the board. It must be of intense satisfaction to him, as Mr. Wise stated this afternoon, to be able to submit a report such as that of the Milk Board for 1960. He has been interested in this industry since its inception, and he must be very pleased to know that he has a group of producers who are quite successful. Incidentally it is the board's opinion that a man on a 50-gallon quota has quite a reasonably high standard of living. It is to the chairman's credit that he is able to report on an industry that is peaceful in its application and prosperous in its undertakings. I am grateful to members for the support they have given to this measure.

**Question put and passed.**

**Bill read a second time.**

*In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. E. M. Davies) in the Chair; the Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines) in charge of the Bill.

**Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.**

**Clause 3—Section 26 amended:**

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I do not want it to be thought that I am unmindful of the tremendous success which has been achieved by Mr. Stannard and the board. I have probably always been rather a perfectionist in my attitude towards this subject, and I simply felt that one could criticise the report on the basis that there are things which still have to be done, and which I have no doubt will eventually be achieved when the board considers it wise to act. I merely wanted to be helpful, rather than destructive, in connection with the board which has done a wonderful work.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If I conveyed the impression to Dr. Hislop that I did not think he had a right to criticise this or any other report, I am sorry. We have a perfect right to criticise anything in this Chamber. However, that is not

why I rose to speak. Mr. Wise said he wondered whether the board had kept newspaper cuttings over the years. I am assured by the chairman that he has kept them all, and occasionally studies them because he likes to have a full knowledge of what has occurred over the years in connection with the board.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 4—Section 30 amended:**

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I have noticed that sometimes the retail deliverers of milk come a considerable distance. I do not know whether it is the situation at the moment, but a month or two ago milk was delivered to my home in Bellevue Terrace, West Perth, from a dairy at Waterman's Bay. I feel that this sort of situation would mean that the cost of delivery of the milk would be increased.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I cannot and will not endeavour to explain why a bottle branded by a Waterman's Bay dairy should finish up at Dr. Hislop's home; but the report states that licenses are issued to individuals for particular districts, and it is an offence for a retailer to deliver milk in a district for which he does not have an appropriate license. That is the only information I can give the honourable member. How that bottle finished up on his doorstep I cannot explain. Maybe it was as a result of a party!

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 5 to 8 put and passed.**

**Title put and passed.**

*Report*

**Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.**

*Third Reading*

On motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), Bill read a third time, and passed.

## **BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 3rd November.

**THE HON. F. D. WILLMOTT** (South-West) [5.59]: This small Bill, introduced by Mr. Jones, seeks to amend the principal Act in two ways; firstly in connection with horses; and, secondly, in connection with cattle. It seeks to reduce from 18 months to nine months the age at which horses must be compulsorily branded. I am definitely not in favour of that proposal, for several reasons.

In the first place, if the compulsory age is reduced to nine months, the horse-breeders will have to muster twice a year in order to comply with the conditions of the legislation. I point out that in the matter of horses the provisions of the Brands Act apply to the whole State—there is no specified area as there is with

regard to cattle. So stations in the north-west that have horses on them will have to muster twice a year in order to comply with the legislation. Apart from that, there is another marked reason in favour of the present provision; namely, the people who included the 18-month period in the Act in the first place knew what they were doing.

I do not know whether Mr. Jones has had much to do with the gelding of colts; but if a farmer wants to geld his colts at the same time as he brands them, and the period for branding is to be reduced to nine months, he will have to geld them at some time between seven and nine months; and in many cases it is not possible to geld colts between seven and nine months of age; and, again, the station-owner would have to muster his horses a second time after having already mustered them to comply with the nine-month age requirement. So, in regard to horses, I am definitely against the Bill. In regard to cattle, this measure seeks to reduce the compulsory age for branding from 12 months to three months.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The expression "earmark" is used.

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: Yes; a man can brand or earmark his cattle. In the first place, earmarking is a very poor means of identification of beasts because an earmark is far too easily defaced or altered. Take for instance bucket-fed calves or poddies. Anyone who has had experience of bucket-fed calves will know that as soon as they have been fed from the bucket they want to suck something; and they usually grab another calf's ear, so that calves, earmarked when they are on the bucket, have their earmarks badly distorted.

A farmer who has earmarked his calf as I have described, will have complied with the Act and does not need to otherwise brand them. But an earmark is very easily defaced or removed. The correct use for earmarks is when two or three cattle-owners are mustering cattle which have been running together on unfenced runs. The earmark is then used to sort out the cattle. Earmarks might look all right on paper, but they do not mean a thing in the identification of cattle. I think it would be far better for earmarking to be optional and branding compulsory.

In *The West Australian* of the 8th November there was a report stating that the C.I.B. at Bunbury was very worried about cattle duffing in the south-west. An article also appeared in the last issue of *The Farmers' Weekly* dealing with the same subject. This article stated that cattle are being sold now, unbranded, in the saleyards; and that is quite correct. Any number of such cattle are being sold. There are far too many cattle running about unbranded because people are not complying with the 12-month age limit provided

for by the Act. If we attempt to reduce the age to three months we will merely add people to the ranks of those who do not now comply with the Act. The answer to the problem is not to reduce the age at which cattle may be branded, but to enforce more rigidly the present provisions of the Act.

When Mr. Jones introduced the Bill he quoted the case of a woman who was injured, but could not get any compensation. I take it that the woman was injured in an accident in which a beast was involved. Mr. Jones did not say whether the beast was under the age of 12 months, but in all probability it was not. The identification of a beast is not the only thing when we are dealing with an accident that has happened on a road, because the owner of the beast can plead many excuses. For instance, a limb blown over one of his fences completely lets him out. So, in order to ensure that an accident victim shall receive compensation, we need a good deal more than the mere identification of the beast.

The people who are careless with their cattle are not complying with the Act now. The beast that was concerned in the accident mentioned by Mr. Jones was probably well over the age of 12 months and should have been branded, but was not.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Do you think there is enough scrutiny at the saleyards?

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: No; there is definitely not enough. I said just a moment ago that plenty of cattle are being sold in saleyards that are not branded—cattle well over the age of 12 months, which is the compulsory age now. I feel that the answer to this problem is to enforce the Act as it is. When we have succeeded in doing that, it will be soon enough to talk about lowering the compulsory age.

There are other difficulties I can see in regard to this matter. In the province I represent, many owners of cattle—particularly those in the lower south-west—take their cattle on to the coast during certain months of the year; and the cattle run, unfenced, together. They might for five or six months remain on the coast where there are no facilities for mustering or branding. So members can bet their lives the owners of the cattle will not attempt to deal with the beasts until they get them back on to the farms. These owners will be additional to those who are already not complying with the Act. So we will be adding to our difficulties, not subtracting from them, if at this stage we lower the age.

In conclusion, I feel that Parliament would be foolish to pass laws which will be difficult to enforce; and that is what we will be doing if we reduce the age to three months. I repeat that the law is not being enforced in regard to the

Brands Act. When we have succeeded in policing the Act as it stands, we might be able to give consideration to lowering the compulsory age. I think we would be foolish to do so before.

On motion by The Hon. J. M. Thomson, debate adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 6.8 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 17th November, 1960

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.