somewhere. Instead of that, she is always harping on social injustice, so that one might imgine that the clock had been turned back half a century; and I feel very strongly about it. All my endeavours in this Chamber have been to be contructive. If we are to have criticism, let it be constructive criticism.

On motion by Hon. H. Hearn, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.36 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 25th August, 1955.

CONTENTS.

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

STANDING ORDERS.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman presented the report of the Standing Orders Committee.

Ordered: That the report be received and printed, and consideration made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House.

QUESTIONS.

STATE HOTELS.

Rates and Licences.

Mr. PERKINS asked the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

Do any of the State hotels—

(a) pay rates to the local authority;

(b) pay water rates;

(c) have a licence issued under the Licensing Act;

(d) pay the 6 per cent. on liquor purchases, which privately-owned hotels pay to the Licensing Court;

(e) come under the jurisdiction of the Licensing Court?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING replied:

(a) No.

(b) Minimum rate paid to P.W.D. supply at Dwellingup, Bruce Rock and Gwalia.

Water rates will be paid at Wongan Hills when local scheme connected.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) No.

EDUCATION.

Site for Busselton High School.

Mr. BOVELL asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Has a decision been made concerning a site for a high school at Busselton?

(2) If so, what site has been selected?

(3) If not, how many proposed sites are under consideration? What are they and when is finality expected?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes, negotiations are proceeding for the acquisition.

(2) Town lots 125 and 149.

(3) Answered by No. (2).

TRAFFIC OFFICE.

Suggested New Building.

Mr. HEAL asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Is it correct, as stated recently, that a new three-storey building is to be erected next to the Traffic Office in James-st.?

(2) If so, can he inform the House the approximate starting time of such building?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

CARNARVON PERISHABLES.

Tenders for Cartage.

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Have tenders been called for the transport of perishables by road from Carnarvon to Perth?

(2) If not, when will tenders be called?

(3) Is it intended to charge the successful tenderer a tonnage fee on all goods carried by him to and from Carnarvon, as is done at the present time when special permits are issued?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) Conditions of tender have been drafted and are now under consideration. It is expected that tenders will be advertised early next week.

(3) No. Licence fees will be calculated according to the power-load-weight of vehicles, as is done in respect of all annual licences.

BETTING.

Terms and Conditions of Regulation.

Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Will he say what terms and conditions are specified in licences granted under Betting Control Regulation 24?

(2) Will he say in what country towns betting is permitted in licensed premises on midweek country race meetings?

(3) Will he say in what country towns betting is not permitted in licensed premises on midweek country race meetings?

(4) What exceptions to the embargo on midweek betting in country towns exist?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The terms specified in licences granted under Betting Control Regulation 24 are—

(a) Bookmaker's grandstand enclosure licence—Subject to the provisions of the Betting Control Act, 1954, and regulations, this licence entitles the holder to carry on the business of a bookmaker in the grandstand enclosure on any racecourse in Western Australia subject to the conditions endorsed thereon.

(b) Bookmaker's leger licence—Subject to the provisions of the Betting Control Act, 1954, and regulations, this licence entitles the holder to carry on the business of a bookmaker in the leger of any metropolitan racecourse and on any part of any country racecourse in Western Australia subject to the conditions endorsed thereon.

(c) Bookmaker's doubles licence—Subject to the provisions of the Betting Control Act, 1954, and regulations, this licence entitles the holder to carry on the business of a doubles bookmaker only, on any racecourse in Western Australia subject to the conditions endorsed thereon.

(d) Bookmaker's country racecourse licence—Subject to the provisions of the Betting Control Act, 1954, and regulations, this licence entitles the holder to carry on the business of a bookmaker on any country racecourse in Western Australia subject to the conditions endorsed theron.

(e) Bookmaker's (exclusive) premises licence—Subject to the provisions of the Betting Control Act, 1954, and regulations, this licence entitles the holder to carry on the business of a bookmaker in premises situated at (a place to be specified) to the exclusion of any other bookmaker subject to the conditions endorsed thereon.

(f) Bookmaker's (joint) premises licence—Subject to the provisions of the Betting Control Act, 1954, and regulations, this licence entitles the holder to carry on the business of a bookmaker in premises situated at (a place to be specified) wherein other bookmakers may also be licensed to carry on the separate business of bookmaking subject to the conditions endorsed thereon.

(g) Bookmaker's employee's licence—Subject to the provisions of the Betting Control Act, 1954, and regulations, this licence entitles the holder to carry out the duties of a bookmaker's employee at premises situated at (a place to be specified) and occupied by a licensed bookmaker (to be named).

(2), (3), and (4) As the result of experience gained since the introduction of licensed betting premises, the Betting Control Board has decided that, as a trial, betting premises throughout the State shall in future be open on Wednesdays from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. to cater for midweek race meetings.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

Compositors' and Operators' Margins.

Mr. NIMMO asked the Minister for Labour:

(1) Is it a fact that the margins paid or proposed to be paid to Government Printing Office compositors and operators in the several States are as follows:—

	Margins.	
	Minimum.	Maximum.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Tasmania—		
Compositors	4 5 0	5 0 0
Operators	5 7 0	6 2 0
South Australia—		
Compositors	4 15 0	5 15 0
Operators	5 17 6	6 17 6
New South Wales—		
Compositors	4 10 0	6 0 0
Operators	5 12 0	7 2 6
Victoria—		
Compositors	4 14 0	5 14 0
Operators	5 17 0	6 17 0
Western Australia—		
Compositors	3 15 0	4 0 0
Operators	4 17 6	5 7 6

(2) If so, are the rates for Western Australia considered fair, and if so, why?

(3) If above rates are not correct, will he give the correct figures?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) As the recent case before the Arbitration Court was merely for the purpose of applying the Federal Court's formula, this information was irrelevant.

(2) The marginal rates for the Western Australian employees were fixed by the State Court of Arbitration after hearing from representatives of both parties.

(3) Answered by No. (1).

HARVEY DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

Provision for New Nurses' Quarters.

Mr. MANNING asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Is he aware of the urgency of the need for new nurses' quarters at the Harvey District Hospital?

(2) Will provision be made on this year's Estimates to permit this work to be put in hand?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) This is being considered and it is possible that construction will be commenced this financial year.

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ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

Government Grant and Cost of Feeding Carnivora.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT asked the Premier:

(1) What was the amount of the Government grant to the South Perth Zoo for the last financial year?

(2) What was the cost of the horses and other animals required for feeding the carnivorous animals for the last financial year?

(3) What was the number of horses killed for this purpose during the last financial year?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) £17,250.

(2) Nil.

(3) The trustees no longer purchase horses, but during the year paid £1,093 for horse meat.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) Report of Messrs. Hutchinson and Curlewis.

Hon. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

(1) As in reply to my question on the 7th September, 1954, regarding the recommendation of the Hutchinson-Curlewis report on water charges, he stated that further inquiry was proceeding on certain aspects of the report, can he advise the House what was the result of this inquiry, and on what points?

(2) Will any of the recommendations be implemented?

(3) If so, what action will be taken?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The inquiry was into the financial aspects of water rating and charges generally and the effect of zoning as recommended. As a result, a commencement has been made towards uniform valuations with consequential reductions in rating.

(2) and (3) Messrs. Hutchinson and Curlewis preferred to submit information to enable the Government to decide on what adjustments to water charges, if any, should be made rather than make a number of specific recommendations. The Government has found the information to be of considerable value enabling it to shape future policy.

(b) Proposed Scheme, Denmark.

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Will he lay on the Table of the House all papers relating to a proposed water supply for the town of Denmark?

The MINISTER replied:

Yes.

BITUMEN.

Local and Imported.

Hon. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is local bitumen being used at present?

(2) What is the price—

(a) local;

(b) imported?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes, by bitumen emulsion manufacturers.

(2) (a) The department has not yet negotiated a price with the distributors of raw bitumen.

(b) The department is not purchasing imported bitumen.

RAILWAYS.

Water Haulage Cost.

Mr. NALDER asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) What was the cost of water haulage for the Railway Department for the financial years 1953-1954 and 1954-55?

(2) What was the cost of the water?

(3) What amount of the above cost was apportioned to the Great Southern and spur lines?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The estimated cost is as follows:

1953-1954—£115,000.

1954-55—£200,000.

(2) and (3) These costs are not recorded separately and the information is not therefore readily available. The factors which complicate the position are whether the water is obtained from railway or other supplies and whether it is hauled by special trains or by water tanks attached to scheduled trains.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL.

Government Contributions and Child Safety Patrols.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) What sums of money were contributed by the Commonwealth Government to the Safety Council of Western Australia for the years 1953, 1954 and 1955.

(2) What amount, if any, did the State Government contribute during each of the said years?

(3) Have child safety patrols to be conducted by schools been approved of as being valuable by the Australian Road Traffic Committee, and by the Road Safety Council of Australia?

(4) Has the Road Safety Council of this State requested the Education Department to institute such a system in Western Australia?

(5) Has the department refused to do this? If so, for what reason?

(6) Is it a fact that a system of road crossings outside schools, regulated by senior pupils to safeguard the crossing of younger children is approved of by the Education Department in other States, and is in operation?

(7) Has the system been proved to be a success in safeguarding the crossing of roads outside schools by younger children, and also in educating them in road sense?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) 1953, £9,900; 1954, £9,900; 1955, £4,950 (to date, further £4,950 to come).

(2) Nil.

(3) At the 12th annual congress of the Australian Road Safety Council held in Hobart in November, 1954, a sub-committee submitted a report which was adopted by the congress and the members of the sub-committee were commended for their work. The important feature of this report in relation to the question asked is that item 6 states:

> "members of the sub-committee are convinced of the necessity for child safety patrols in Australia."

It would appear that the Australian Road Safety Council does approve of child safety patrols.

This system has also been recommended by the Australian Road Traffic Code Committee.

(4) No.

(5) No.

(6) Child safety patrols are in operation in New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, a few in Victoria and a few in South Australia.

(7) The sub-committee set up by the Australian Road Safety Council to investigate this matter reached the conclusion that the system had been proved to be a success in safeguarding the crossing of roads outside schools by younger children and also in educating them in road sense.

TRAFFIC.

Term of Motor Drivers' Licences.

Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Police:

(1) With reference to the "Daily News" report of the 23rd August, 1955, under the heading "Inquiry on Five Year Licences," which indicates that Acting Police Commissioner O'Brien will be making an examination of the Queensland drivers' licences system early in September, will Mr. O'Brien be reporting back to him the result of his examination immediately, or will the report await Mr. O'Brien's return from annual leave in late September?

(2) Is there any prospect of the Government's introducing legislation during this session to implement a revised driver's licence arrangement?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The report will be submitted as soon as possible after the conclusion of the conference.

(2) The whole position regarding motor drivers' licences is currently under review by the Traffic Branch, but no variation in legislation is yet contemplated.

HOUSING.

(a) Subiaco Flats, Rental Conditions.

Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) (a) Are there any conditions attached to the Commonwealth Government's acceptance of the Subiaco flats project, within the Commonwealth - State housing agreement?

(b) If so, what are those conditions?

(2) (a) In fixing rents of Subiaco flats, is the State Government able to keep within the formula covered by the Commonwealth-State housing agreement without assistance from State funds?

(b) If not, what is the extent of the assistance from State funds?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) (a) Yes.

(b) State to bear cost of rental rebates, if any.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) Answered by paragraph (a).

(b) Commission Homes Standard.

Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) (a) Has there been any variation in the standard of homes built by the State Housing Commission during the last two and a half years, as to—

(i) size;

(ii) type of construction?

(b) If so, what was the nature of such variations?

(2) (a) Has the State Government an agreement with the Commonwealth Government as to the standard and type of accommodation that will be erected under the Commonwealth-State housing agreement?

(b) If so, what are the general descriptions of such standards and types of accommodation?

(3) (a) Has any project put forward by this State been objected to or disallowed by the Commonwealth on the grounds of being below its requirements?

(b) If so, which projects, and why objected to and/or disallowed?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) No.

(b) Reduction in floor area of some types to comply with maximum under Commonwealth-State housing agreement standards.

(2) (a) Yes. Clause 4 (1) and (2) of the schedule under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Act, 1945, makes this necessary.

(b) The standards define maximum total floor areas for 1, 2, 3, and 4-bedroom houses.

A reasonable standard of equipment required for cooking, sanitation, electrical installation and cupboards is defined and considered by the Commonwealth as a desired maximum.

(3) (a) and (b) No, but there have been differences of opinion which were subsequently resolved.

PARLIAMENT.

Sittings on the 6th to 8th September.

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY (without notice) asked the Premier:

Will Parliament be sitting on the 6th, 7th and 8th September?

The PREMIER replied:

The Government will give consideration to this matter at a meeting of Cabinet to be held next Monday and I will advise the House of the decision when it meets next Tuesday.

BILL—LEGAL PRACTITIONERS' ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (Hon. E. Nulsen—Eyre) [2.34] in moving the second reading said: This is a very small, simple and uncontentious Bill. I thought I would change my usual phraseology and say it was a small measure, instead of calling it a little Bill. I think it is a good commencement for the business of the session to begin with an uncontentious measure, in the hope that we may be able to continue in that spirit.

The Bill has been brought down at the instigation of the Barristers' Board and deals with membership of that body. The principal Act provides that certain people shall be members of the board, namely, the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, "every one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law residing and practising in the colony and not being a judge of

any court in the said colony, and five practitioners of at least three years' standing and practice in the colony."

One retired judge has indicated his desire to resume membership of the Barristers' Board and it is thought that, in future years, there will probably be others in the same category who will wish to do likewise. The board, of course, would welcome such people as members: their experience would be invaluable. However, as mentioned earlier, retired judges are precluded from membership by virtue of the fact that, in order to be a member of the board, such a person would have to be in active practice. I do not think there can be any objection to this Bill.

I believe the measure would be helpful to the Barristers' Board in that it would enable that body to have the experience of retired judges who have served their country so well. We have been very proud of our judiciary in this State, almost without exception. There may have been exceptions, of course, and I had experience of one, personally; but apart from that I think members of our judiciary have all done a very fine job. I commend the measure to the House. I move.—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. V. R. Abbott, debate adjourned.

BILL—MAIN ROADS ACT AMENDMENT.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. J. T. Tonkin—Melville) [2.38] in moving the second reading said: The work of the Main Roads Department continues to expand very considerably and, in pursuance of the policy of recruiting professional staff, the department this year interviewed some unsuccessful applicants for jobs in the Public Works Department and Metropolitan Water Supply Department, with the idea of taking on those selected under cadetships somewhat similar to those in operation in other branches of the Public Service.

Four suitable candidates were selected and it was then discovered that there was no power in the Main Roads Act to enable the Commissioner of Main Roads to enter into a contract with the cadets under which the department would have certain obligations and the cadets would also have obligations.

It was felt that Parliament, when given the opportunity, would approve of the course of recruiting young men in this way, and therefore the approval of Parliament has been anticipated because we took on these cadets on the basis that they were to receive a payment of £4 10s. a week while continuing with their studies at the university, and during the vacation they were to be paid the scale rates of the Main Roads Department.

The purpose of the Bill is to give the Commissioner of Main Roads authority to enter into contracts with cadets who are recruited to the professional staff and to validate what has already been done with the four applicants who were selected this year. Members will appreciate how necessary it is, especially for an expanding department, to ensure that young men are recruited from time to time in order to keep up the professional strength of the department. The best time to get these prospective employees is just at the stage when they have passed their leaving certificate examination and are contemplating proceeding with their university studies.

The Public Service Commissioner has regulations which enable him to have a form of indenture which binds cadets in the engineering branch of the Public Works Department or the Metropolitan Water Supply Department to carry out certain provisions with regard to their employment and also enables the Minister, for his part, to carry out certain obligations. No such power exists under the Main Roads Act and it is intended to give to the Commissioner of Main Roads, so far as employees of his department are concerned, the power possessed by the Public Service Commissioner to enter into contracts with cadets.

Those are the only two points in the Bill; to validate what has been done with regard to the four cadets taken on early this year and who have been receiving payment; and to give the Commissioner of Main Roads the power to continue to recruit cadets in this way and to enter into indentures with them, similar to the system adopted by the Public Service Commissioner when cadets are recruited for branches of the Public Service. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. D. Brand, debate adjourned.

BILL—UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA ACT AMENDMENT.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading.

THE PREMIER (Hon. A. G. R. Hawke—Northam) [2.45] in moving the second reading said: When the University of Western Australia Act was first passed in 1911, the statutory annual Government

grant to the university was £13,500. That remained the statutory figure until 1944, when the sum was raised by an amendment to the Act to £40,000. This Bill proposes to increase the figure of £40,000 to one of £250,000. Although the statutory annual grant from the Government, since 1944, has been only £40,000, the Government has, particularly in more recent years, paid ever so much more than that to the university.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: Can you remember what was paid to the university last year?

The PREMIER: The total figure last year was £360,000; £40,000 under the statute and £320,000 through the medium of the Miscellaneous Treasury Vote. It was not thought that we should increase the sum which it is compulsory to provide to the university to that which was paid last year. It is felt that the Government should have a reasonable amount of discretion as to what might be paid over and above the sum to be provided under the statute; in other words, it is not thought advisable to put into a statute the total figure which it is thought the Government might have to pay from year to year.

I think all Governments have had a reasonable amount of faith and confidence in the University Senate so far as the expenditure of Government funds made available each year to the university. Nevertheless, as money paid to the University Senate by the Government is taxpayers' money, there is a responsibility remaining with the Government of the day to ensure that the payment made to the university is justified and that it is wisely spent.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: As the establishment of a medical school will considerably increase university costs, should not the base figure be increased to provide for it?

The PREMIER: We are increasing the base statutory figure by this Bill from £40,000 to £250,000.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: But it does not meet present-day commitments, does it?

The PREMIER: No; but in reply to the interjection of the Leader of the Opposition, I would remind him that the Government has already committed itself to meet the full maintenance costs of operating the medical school. At this stage, therefore, it is not clear that the University Senate as such would have to provide any additional funds, or any funds at all in regard to the school. If, when the school is in operation, circumstances show that the University Senate has to meet additional expenditure from its revenue account, Parliament could, at that time, be given a further opportunity of considering whether the statutory amount provided for in the Act should be increased.

It is thought that the increase proposed in this Bill is reasonable. It is certainly substantial and it gives the University Senate an absolute claim for £250,000 of Government revenue—or it will if the Bill is passed—and I think Parliament could leave it to whatever Government happens to be in office from year to year to see that the university receives by further Government grant a sum above the £250,000 which would enable the University Senate reasonably to meet total requirements. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. F. Watts, debate adjourned.

BILL—METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES (Hon. J. T. Tonkin—Melville) [2.51] in moving the second reading said: This is not a small Bill, but one of major importance, which introduces a number of factors that could have considerable influence on the development of the metropolitan area. It is a very appropriate time to be dealing with the question of drainage when there is so much water about. To those persons who normally do not give much consideration to the need for drainage, it will serve to emphasise that such work is essential if people are to be enabled to live under reasonably dry conditions.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: There is a lot of water outside the metropolitan area, too.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: I agree, but as the Leader of the Opposition will appreciate, this measure is dealing with the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act and the way to proceed is to deal with one thing at a time. It was in 1946 that the extremely abnormal wet conditions caused serious consideration to be given to this drainage question. At that time, as now,—and perhaps to a greater extent than now—there was considerable flooding which resulted in high ground water levels on the fringe of residential development.

Mr. J. Hegney: That occurred in 1945 and 1946.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: That is so, and those wet seasons brought about some concentrated thought on this drainage question, just as now we would be more inclined to consider such a question than we would in the middle of

summer. As conditions stand at present, and as they stood in 1945 and 1946, both the Metropolitan Water Supply Department and the Public Works Department are concerned with drainage. The Public Works Department is concerned with land drainage and the Metropolitan Water Supply Department with storm water drainage.

Because of existing legislation which gives to departments jurisdiction over similar matters, it has to be understood that there would be a degree of overlapping and one of the purposes of this Bill is to eliminate, if possible, that overlapping by giving one department control of both jobs; land drainage and storm water drainage. Initial action was not taken without some prompting, and was as a result of a number of requests that were received by the department from members of Parliament, local authorities and progress associations. After a conference between the two departments I have mentioned and the obtaining of legal advice, the then Director of Works recommended that the Metropolitan Water Supply Department be made responsible for land drainage as well as storm water drainage in the metropolitan area.

Hon. D. Brand: Was that Mr. Dumas?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: Yes. A commencement was made to complete contour surveys between the hills and the ocean as far north as Wanneroo and as far south as Riverton so that the question of the drainage of the whole metropolitan area could be viewed comprehensively. Most of those contour surveys have now been completed, but considerable detailed work must be carried out as the scheme progresses.

In 1952 a report was submitted giving an outline scheme of a preliminary nature only of estimates for the drainage of the area between Welshpool and the hills and the Swan and Canning Rivers. This report also drew attention to the need for considering the financial and legal situation brought about by the two drainage authorities operating within the one area and due also to the fact that, with the spread of residential development, the distinction between storm water and land drainage was quickly disappearing so that it became difficult to determine, in some instances, which was one and which was the other.

Little progress had been made towards resolving these difficulties until the formation of a committee in 1952 by the then Minister for Works, the present member for Greenough. The inquiry into the position by the committee that he set up has really led to the preparation of this Bill which is now before the House for consideration. But, in the meantime, investigation of a preliminary drainage proposal between Bassendean and Bayswater has been proceeding. In addition, detailed plans are nearing completion for the Bassendean and Kenwick areas.

The full design of all the districts affected took years of work and the staff available has been limited because of the urgent water supply projects which the Government has decided must receive far higher priority because, however urgent we may regard the drainage question as being, when compared with the need for water supplies the Government believes the water supply requirements should receive higher priority. As the funds available to the department have been limited and have all been required — as much as could be made available — for water supply projects, drainage could not be undertaken to any extent.

However, in view of the difficulty of providing additional funds for drainage it cannot be said that the lack of skilled technical staff has really slowed down the development of drainage projects because, even if all the work had been accomplished to date, funds would not have been available to allow the work to proceed.

I do not think there can be any doubt, if funds were available, that there is a very definite need for drainage work to be undertaken. One has seen in recent days pictures in the newspapers showing houses in various parts of the metropolitan area, and indeed in the country districts, completely surrounded by water to a depth of 18 inches or two feet, indicating that very substantial drainage works are necessary in order to keep those properties in reasonable condition. If the Bill is passed, the resultant legislation will enable the Metropolitan Water Supply Department to deal progressively under its own Act with this job of drainage as funds become available.

The other amendments provided for in the Bill are, firstly, that there shall be an extension of the period during which proceedings may be taken against persons responsible for carrying out illegal plumbing. At present, the legislation provides that action must be taken within six months. In practice however, it unfortunately works out that it usually takes much longer than that to discover that this illegal work has been done, by which time it is too late to do anythnig about it.

The cases to which I refer are where persons without a permit carry out work for unfortunate people — work costing a considerable amount of money — and it is not until the work that has been done fails and the department is called in to examine it, that it is discovered that the work was performed by somebody who did not know his job, and had no authority to do it. But then it is too late to take any remedial action, and the poor unfortunate householder, or property owner, can get no redress and is obliged to foot the bill to have the job done properly.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: I should not have thought that would be correct.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: It means that a person cannot call upon the illegal plumber to come back to put the job right.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: I think he can.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: He cannot because the department would not let the person do it.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: He has an action for damages.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: That is an entirely different matter.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: He has a civil claim but not a criminal claim.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: Members will appreciate that I am dealing with the aspect of the department being able to protect people by punishing those who do this plumbing work illegally. We find so many cases where a property owner declines to take any civil action and the person responsible for the shoddy work goes completely unpunished, because the time has elapsed before the department can take any action. What we propose to do is to extend the time for action from six months to 12 months, so that if it comes to the knowledge of the department within that time that this illegal plumbing work has been done, then the way will be open for some action to be taken against the person responsible.

I would put this point to members: If they believe that an opportunity should be there for the department to take action against persons carrying out illegal plumbing—if they believe that the opportunity should be provided—and they are satisfied that six months is an insufficient time in which to enable action to be taken, then they can have very little objection to extending the time to 12 months.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: The plumbing regulations prevent you from changing your own washer.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: I am surprised at the hon. member using that argument.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: It is not an argument.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: What is it?

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: It is a statement.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: It is a statement by way of argument. I am surprised at the hon. member using that argument, because the same objection can be had to almost every Bill we bring in if anybody would like to go to extremes. The hon. member cannot quote a single case over the last 50 years, under various Governments where the department has launched a prosecution against somebody for changing a washer. I am not altering the Act in that respect; I am only suggesting that the time for lodging a prosecution for illegal plumbing should be extended from six to 12 months, because it has been proved in practice that most of the men who carry out this illegal work can get away with it in six months. It is discovered some time afterwards. Obviously even the poorest work would hang together for a few months, and it is only when the work has been in use for a longer period than six months that the fault develops. Then somebody is called in to remedy it when the illegal work is discovered. But if it is after six months, it is too late to do anything about it.

Mr. Hearman: Is it an offence to employ an illegal plumber?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: No.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: Does not a man do it at his own risk?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: What risk does he take if his work is going to be covered for six months? I am trying to increase the risk to the illegal plumber by allowing a longer time in which a prosecution can be launched. I want to bring about the following situation: I do not want to have illegal plumbers saying "If I can do this work and it hangs together for six months, I will be in the clear." I want these illegal plumbers to be worried for 12 months at least.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: Does not the department inspect the work?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: The department inspects the work it knows about, but if an illegal plumber does a job without a permit, how can the department inspect it, or get anybody else to inspect it? It is only when the department is told about plumbing work that has broken down that it finds it has been done by an illegal plumber; and then it is too late to do anything.

Mr. J. Hegney: What about the plumbers who charge exorbitant rates and those who are exploiting the people? Is there provision for action to be taken against them?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: I suggest that we would do better to discuss these details at the Committee stage. All I propose to do is to give a general outline of the Bill in order that we may have an expression of opinion as to whether the Bill should be proceeded with and considered in detail.

A further amendment affects the payment of certain rates with regard to drainage, and it is a very necessary machinery provision. Actually if we are going to carry out drainage work, we must have power to rate for the purpose of recovering the cost. There is also an important proposal in connection with the appointment of valuers. It is a very knotty question at

the present time because inflationary trends have sent up values in various parts of the metropolitan area, with the result that rates of various kinds—municipal rates and water rates, or the accounts for the rates—show a considerable increase. I have been advised that there is no authority now which will permit valuers to go on to properties to carry out valuations and to seek information from the persons concerned. However, we do adopt this course today, but if any person objected we could not proceed. Under this Bill it is proposed to get the legislative authority to carry on the work of valuations for rating purposes.

Hon. D. Brand: That all refers to departmental rating, water and so on?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: That is so. I am advised that at present if anybody objected to our valuers going on to his property, or if he refused to answer questions put to him, we could not do anything about the matter. Under the Bill the required authority is sought to enable our valuers to carry out the necessary work in order to arrive at proper valuations for rating purposes. In the Fremantle and Perth City Council districts it is not necessary for our valuers to go on to properties at all, because we adopt the annual valuations made by those local authorities. Under the Act we are obliged to adopt the current annual values. That, of course, creates difficulties.

The Perth City Council reviews its valuations every year. That being the case, the water rates of properties in that district have been going up every year, whereas the rates applying to other districts where valuations are made periodically are below current values and are some years behind the valuations made on properties by the Perth City Council. If we get the authority to carry out our own valuations, it is probable that we may be able to do the lot, including the Fremantle and Perth City Council districts, and thus get some uniformity.

Mr. Court: Would it be practicable for the department to achieve that uniformity in actual operation?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: We would come pretty close to it for this reason: Once all the areas are covered by the departmental valuers, and an opportunity is given to property owners to appeal against the valuations made, then anomalies will be removed and we will get pretty close to uniformity in valuations. At present we value in all the metropolitan districts except those under the Fremantle and Perth City Councils. That was not the case a few years ago. At that time we adopted the values of the local authorities, and, taking the Claremont municipality as an example, the rating had not been dealt with for 20 years. We could not allow that position to continue, so we sent our own valuers in and valued the properties in that municipality, as we did in a number of other areas.

We brought them fairly reasonably up to date, but I am bound to admit that it was not completely satisfactory because it is impossible for the departmental valuers to cover all the districts in one year. Some districts were covered three years before, and some two years. This year the valuers are due to go into districts which were valued three years ago and it will take 12 months to do that. So with the present staff of the department we will always have the spectacle of some districts being two years behind current values. We are looking for a method—once all the properties have been valued—to revalue them in the light of existing conditions, all at the one time, after they have been inspected. If we can accomplish that, we will be able to achieve a fair amount of uniformity in valuations. That will be a pretty big step towards uniformity.

Mr. Yates: The rating by the local authorities even affect the rates for fire brigades purposes.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: Not the departmental values, but those of the local authorities. The hon. member has referred to a bad example because the local authority which keeps its valuations up to date imposes a heavy burden on its ratepayers. A local authority which does not keep the valuations up to date and which has not revalued properties for some years, is reducing the rates which the property owners have to pay for fire brigade purposes. The Local Government Bill contains provisions to deal with that aspect of rating, but I have to anticipate what is going to happen in order to put the matter right so far as water rating in concerned.

Hon. D. Brand: What is the estimated rate?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: The storm water rate now is 4d. in the £. Until we are in a position to know what the exact capital cost of the work will be and so arrive at a figure which will give the necessary contribution for sinking fund and interest charges, it will not be possible to arrive at a rate.

Hon. D. Brand: Do you know what is the rating in Melbourne under similar circumstances?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: No.

Hon. D. Brand: What is the estimate of the cost envisaged under the comprehensive scheme?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: The detailed surveys have not advanced sufficiently for the whole of the area to enable one to even hazard a guess of what the cost will be for the whole

job. After all, what good would an estimate be? This work will only be undertaken from time to time as funds become available, and the rating will be under the same principle as applies to water supply. A sufficient rate will have to be imposed to cover interest and sinking fund on the capital involved in the project.

Hon. D. Brand: Ratepayers are very interested in what rates they will have to pay as an additional assessment.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: It is a bit premature thinking about the rate before we have the authority to go ahead and do the job. There is not much likelihood of extensive drainage work being undertaken for some years because the bulk of loan moneys available to the Government will be required for water supplies, schools, hospitals and the like. So I cannot hold out very much hope at all for extensive drainage projects. It is thought desirable to amend the legislation in readiness for the job and to allow survey work to proceed. Quite a lot of money has been spent on it to date so that everything will be ready to move as soon as funds become available. It may be that small sections of the work could be undertaken in the reasonably near future, provided the legislative authority exists to have the work done.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: Is there any provision in the Bill to prevent the building of houses on land that will not be drained for a number of years?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: Not in this Bill. That would be a matter for the town planning authority and the Minister controlling the subdivision of land, who could refuse subdivisions —I believe this has been the policy— where he was aware that there was a high water table and little likelihood of any drainage work being undertaken for some time. I know that this is so because, in the last few months, I accompanied the Minister for Town Planning to a part of the metropolitan area which has a very high water table and in respect of which there had been a request for subdivision. The object was to discuss on the spot the desirability or otherwise of agreeing to a subdivision of the area in question. I was in a position to say what our plans were for the draining of the area, and to indicate that there was not much likelihood of our being able to proceed with the work for some time as no funds were available.

Hon. D. Brand: Local authorities could give assistance by directing people.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: That is true.

Mr. J. Hegney: They do.

Mr. Yates: Do not you think that a drainage scheme should be put into operation in new areas before subdivisions are finally made?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: That is not my province. As to whether or not a subdivision ought to be agreed to without provision for drainage having been made is a matter for another Minister, and I am not called upon to pass an opinion on the point in connection with this Bill. All I am suggesting is that, as drainage is very necessary, authority ought to be given to streamline the procedure, cut out the duplication and overlapping that exists, and make drainage the responsibility of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department and not the Public Works Department, and let us have the power necessary to proceed when funds become available.

Mr. Yates: Yes, that should be done.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: As to the time when land should be subdivided, I have my personal opinion. The only other matter contained in the Bill is that which deals with conferring power to rate separately occupants of the one property. The Municipal Corporations Act provides—

> When more persons than one are in separate occupation of a building erected on any portion of rateable land, each of them shall be deemed to be in occupation of a part of such land and the annual value of such part shall be taken to bear the same proportion to the annual value of the whole of the land as the annual rental value of the part of the building occupied by him bears to the annual rental value of the whole of the building.

In some instances it is essential that persons in separate occupation should be rated separately. We have been advised that we have no legal power to rate in that way. It has been done for years, but the legal authorities have pointed out that we have no power under the Act to rate in that way, and so the House is being asked to empower the department to continue what it has done for some time; that is, the right to assess separate parts of the one property where they are in separate occupation.

Hon. D. Brand: Is there any power envisaged in this Bill to impose a rate in any one part of the comprehensive area?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: The hon. member has in mind a differential rate.

Hon. D. Brand: Yes.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: We are not seeking such power under this Bill, but it may be possible under the Local Government Bill. We believe in uniform valuations and uniform rating in the metropolitan area.

The amendments I have outlined comprise the bulk of the Bill before the House. I repeat that this legislation has not been

developed within the last few months or weeks, but that it has gradually taken shape since 1946 following inquiry and consideration by departmental officers and committees. I have no doubt that had the member for Greenough continued in office as Minister for Water Supplies, this proposal in due course would have come before him as a result of the inquiries made, and he would have been introducing this Bill and asking the House to accept it in order to eliminate the duplication that at present exists, and pass over to the one department complete authority to deal with the question of drainage, whether storm-water drainage or land drainage.

I do not think that the principles in the main are contentious. There may be some difference of opinion regarding details, but in general principle, there does not seem to be much to argue about. However, we shall be able to determine that when the Committee stage is reached. I commend the measure to the House and move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. D. Brand, debate adjourned.

BILL—POLICE ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR POLICE (Hon. H. H. Styants—Kalgoorlie) [3.28] in moving the second reading said: The amendments to the Police Act as proposed by this Bill are to Section 65, which deals with idle and disorderly persons, and Section 85, which deals with the issue of warrants to enter and search in a common gaming house.

Dealing first with Section 65, the intention of the amendment is to provide a police measure to deal principally with criminals coming from other States. Police in the Eastern States and other parts of the world have found consorting laws to be one of their most effective means of combating crime, and the absence of such a provision in our laws creates a vacuum which has a tendency to draw criminals from other States to Western Australia. In this State criminals can congregate around hotels and places of amusement without police interruption, but cannot do the same in other States owing to the provision of a law such as this amendment provides for; and there is no doubt that this fact has undoubtedly made Western Australia attractive to them and is the main reason for increased numbers of this type of person coming to this State.

During 1929 there was an influx of criminals to Western Australia, and one of the principal means of coping with it was the "idle and disorderly" provisions of the Police Act. Evidence of consorting with criminals, prostitutes or vagrants was freely admitted by the courts and often formed the major part of the case. The views of the courts have changed on the admissibility of such evidence and the charge is now only of use regarding the dead beat type of criminal. The flash, well-dressed type with money in his pockets—probably obtained by crime—cannot now be convicted as idle and disorderly. At best he can only be charged with being a person of evil fame, but conviction on this charge means that he may be placed on a bond to be of good behaviour, and he would only go to gaol if unable to find a bondsman; which is not difficult for this type.

Even the evil-fame charge has been whittled down by a number of restrictions raised by appeal courts, to such a degree that it is now almost impossible for detectives to obtain the evidence necessary to convict; and the charge has been abandoned as a workable weapon in the war against crime. The Acting Commissioner of Police considers it most desirable that this addition be made to the Police Act, thereby making similar provision for dealing with this problem as already operates in other States.

The amendment to Section 85 is brought forward following a suggestion made in another place during the last session of Parliament. Members may recollect that the Chief Secretary was asked to find out from the Minister for Police whether, under this section of the Act, it was considered necessary that a justice, when signing a warrant, should attach to it the seal as well as his signature. I undertook to have the matter looked into, and the Crown Law authorities are of the opinion that the attachment of the seal, under the provisions of Section 85, is not essential. Therefore it is proposed to delete Section 85 from the Police Act.

Bearing in mind the reverence attached by members of the Opposition to anything which emanates from the Legislative Council, I am not anticipating objection to this particular amendment. The requirement in this section that warrants should be under the hand and seal of the justice is probably due to the fact that the section was copied in 1892 from old legislation. In England it has always been a requirement that the warrants of justices shall be under the hands and seals of the justices. In 1902, when our Justices Act was passed, the requirement as to seals for warrants of justices was dropped; and the various forms of warrants under that Act make provision only for the signature of justices.

I would like members to take particular notice of the fact that as far back as 1902 the Justices Act was altered to make it unnecessary for the attachment of the seal as well as the signature to warrants which were signed by justices of the peace. There was, however, nothing in that Act to provide that the warrants of justices under other Acts need be under hand only. In modern times

the use of seals, in addition to signatures as a means of identification, is obsolete. The only justification for requiring a seal in addition to signature in modern times is to ensure that the document signed is executed with due solemnity and with proper appreciation of its importance and effect.

No one, I think, would say that a police warrant for the right of entry to a common gaming house was a particularly important document. Thus a contract made without consideration is not binding unless made under seal, and certain documents of State, for example, proclamations, are required to be under seal so as to direct attention to their importance. These considerations, however, do not appear to apply to the warrants of justices under Section 85 of the Police Act. They are warrants to enter and search and are made only after complaint on oath that there is reason to suspect that the premises in question are kept or used as a common gaming house. Warrants under this section appear to have no more importance than warrants of justices under the Justices Act.

Officers of the Crown Law Department agree that there is no real point in retaining the present provision of Section 85 of the Police Act, which requires that the warrants of justices under that section shall be under seal as well as under hand. I emphasise that there is no intention to alter the law in regard to the right of entry to search a common gaming house. The only point is that it does appear anomalous that under the Justices Act, the signature of the justice is sufficient, without the attachment of his seal, whilst under Section 85 of the Police Act it is necessary to have not only the signature of the justice but also the seal. The present provision is considered by the Crown Law authorities to be somewhat redundant, and therefore the amendment is brought forward for the concurrence of the House. I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Owen, debate adjourned.

BILL—SPEAR-GUNS CONTROL.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR POLICE (Hon. H. H. Styants—Kalgoorlie) [3.28] in moving the second reading said: The Bill is to provide for an Act to control the use of spear-guns and spear-fishing. Consideration was given to making provision for such control under the Firearms and Guns Act, but as a spear-gun is not a firearm it is not desired that it should be so defined, or be subject to any form of licensing or registration.

The need for the introduction of this legislation to control the use of spear-guns has been brought about by the rapid increase in the numbers being used and the many and varied types, some of which are not considered to have adequate safety devices. I was somewhat surprised when I met a deputation from, or the representatives of, the Spear Fishermen's Association and the distributors of the type of spear-gun which is usually used in this State, to be told that there are well over 10,000 of these spear-guns in Western Australia.

From the models brought to me, it would appear that, as far as the safety devices are concerned, the factory-manufactured gun, unless it is tampered with to interfere with the trigger-pressure, is reasonably safe, but there are hundreds of home-made contraptions, under the guise of spear-guns, some of which would be particularly dangerous. There is no doubt they would be lethal if discharged so as to enter the body of a person or animal at short range.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: They would be much more dangerous than an air-gun.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: Yes. I would definitely say that if discharged within 10 or 15 feet of a human being, they would prove fatal if the spear hit a vital spot. There have been many complaints from people at beach resorts which are mainly used for bathing purposes, of the indiscriminate handling of spear-guns both on the beaches and in the water. I have personally witnessed on the North Cottesloe beach a boy of 14 or 16 years of age who had one of these weapons with the spear affixed to it and who was wading in among the other children in order to get to deeper water and a reef where he anticipated finding some game.

Hon. L. Thorn: That is one of the grave dangers.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: Yes. On another occasion I saw a youth of 16 or 17 years emerge from the water with the spear still affixed in the gun and lay it down on the beach in that condition, so that had a child run past and kicked the trigger, or even the rubber band, the spear might have been discharged. In that event it could easily have done serious injury to some other child.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you not think 14 is a bit young for a youth to have one of these spear-guns?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I am informed that the vast majority of those who own spear-guns would be between 14 and 18 years of age. Conferences have been held with members of the Underwater Spear Fishermen's Association of Western Australia, who have indicated their approval of the intention to control the use of spear-guns. I believe that the

representatives of that association whom I met are just as keen as anybody else in the State to control the use of spear-guns, because they realise that if not handled carefully these can be very dangerous weapons. Although injuries have been caused to other people by users of these spear-guns outside this State, such has not yet been the case here, but it is considered that with the increasing popularity of the sport of spear-fishing, action is necessary to give effective control to it in the interests of the many other people using beach resorts.

Dealing with the several clauses of the Bill, Clause 1 is, of course, the one dealing with the short Title. Clause 2 provides for the postponement of the coming into operation of the Act. This is to enable persons who already have spear-guns to have them adjusted in accordance with the requirements as defined in Clause 4 of the Bill.

Clause 3 gives interpretations of various terms in the Bill. Clause 4 sets out what constitutes offences and their respective punishments and enables the court to determine how a spear-gun in respect of which an offence has been committed, may be dealt with. In the table of offences, items d (ii) and 1 (i), (ii) and (iii) also indicate the safety provisions which are necessary. Clause 5 relates to the declaration of prohibited areas and is complementary to item (a) of the table of offences set out in Clause 4. Clause 6 is designed to save a person who is charged with the necessity of proving that a particular place is within a prohibited area. It will be noted that it does not relieve the prosecution from the need to prove any act as an offence.

Clause 7 enumerates the powers of inspectors. These powers are, of course, exercisable by members of the Police Force irrespective of the Act, but as the expression "inspector" also includes inspectors under the Fisheries Act, it is necessary to extend the powers to them. I would point out that we believe this is necessary because of the widespread use of spear-guns over hundreds of miles of our coast and it would be quite unreasonable to expect the limited number of policemen that we have in this State to be able adequately to police this legislation, but as we have many inspectors under the Fisheries Act — and honorary inspectors also — if these people are agreeable it is proposed to make them inspectors for the purposes of this measure.

Clause 8 confers a general regulation-making power. It is probable that very few regulations will be required but the terms of this clause will allow for the framing of any regulations that experience may prove necessary for the operation and purposes of this measure.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.9 p.m.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: Prior to the suspension I was endeavouring to explain the provisions of the Spear-guns Control Bill. I want to make it quite clear to members that it is not intended that spear-guns shall be licensed in the same way as firearms. The only purpose of this measure is to control their use and to confine the safety provisions to the construction of the spear-gun in the interests of the general public.

As Minister for Police, and from my small circle of acquaintances, I have had many complaints about the careless, and one may say reckless, manner in which these lethal weapons are handled by their owners and possessors. As a result of frequent requests that something should be done, this Bill is brought before the House. It may not cover all the phases necessary, and I would like to make it clear to members on either side of the House that if they can suggest any additional provision that would make for the greater safety of the general public, or even for the safety of the owners and the operators of these guns, I would be quite prepared to give it consideration.

Mr. Court: Before the break I was about to ask whether there was any provision to prosecute people who were under the influence of liquor and who may have these guns in their possession.

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: No, there is no provision made for that, and I would suggest to the hon. member that there would be some difficulty in framing a clause to provide for it, without leaving the provision open to serious objection. The very fact of a man being under the influence and having in his possession one of these spear-guns would not constitute an offence or a great danger if he was in possession of the gun in accordance with the regulations and was not using it for any purpose prohibited under the Bill.

I have in mind the case of a man who may have been on a visit to Rottnest Island. Let us say he lived in the hon. member's electorate, and, having brought back a bag of fish, he got off the steamer at Fremantle and was discussing with a few of his friends the catch he had made and the ones that got away. Although he may have had one too many, his spear-gun may have been in a perfectly safe condition as required by the regulations. Accordingly, very serious objections could be raised to a provision included in the Bill, setting out that it was an offence to be in the possession of one of these spear-guns while under the influence of liquor.

In the table in the Bill mention is made of what will constitute offences, and if a man were doing any of these acts that are included as offences, then, whether he was under the influence of liquor or not, he would leave himself open to a charge. I think it would be difficult to frame a

suitable amendment which would provide that the mere fact of being under the influence of liquor while in possession of a spear-gun constituted an offence. If such an individual had his spear-gun folded and the guard over the barb as provided in the Bill, it would be difficult to say that he had committed an offence.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: When do you expect this to be put into operation?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I would say that after it has gone through the necessary parliamentary procedures, it would not take very long before the Act would be proclaimed and brought into operation.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It would be brought into operation before the summer?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE: I would like to see it in operation before then, because it is obvious that the real danger from these spear-guns is on the crowded beaches during the summer-time. If this Bill goes through with the expedition I hope it will, it should be put into operation before the surfing or bathing season commences this summer. While I say the Bill cannot cover all the phases that are necessary, I think that as a result of giving these provisions a trial, the danger from spear-guns will be greatly minimised. The measure will prevent the use of these guns on what could be regarded as swimming-beaches. These areas will be proclaimed as areas in which spear-guns cannot be used. The legislation will also prevent them from being used close to line-fishermen, and will also control their safe construction.

Earlier in my remarks I mentioned that from what I have seen of the models brought to me, unless someone starts tinkering with the safety-device, these factory-manufactured guns are reasonably safe. But it is quite easy to file the trigger to a certain pressure, just as many riflemen will interfere with the trigger pressure of their rifles, and instead of the regulation 7-lb. pressure on the trigger, some will file them down to 3-lb. in order to make certain that they do not deviate from the target in the course of pressing the trigger to fire the gun. That could be done with these spear-guns.

While I think the factory-made weapons are reasonably safe unless somebody starts tinkering with the safety-device, on the other hand, I saw some horrible home-made contraptions which would definitely constitute a menace not only to the public or to any person who happened to be in the vicinity of the man using the gun, but to the user himself.

This Bill, when it becomes an Act, will give the inspector the right to inspect these weapons and prohibit their use if necessary. It will enable him to tell the owner that it does not conform to the required standard; and advise him of what is needed. The owner will also be told that he should not be seen using it again while it is in that condition.

There is an important provision made in relation to spear-guns which have a ferocious barb on the end of them, and this is one of the matters that have been reported to me. I was told that these guns with the ferocious barb were carried through the street without any protection; and they were also carried in public transport. The Bill provides that there must be an approved and effective guard placed over the barb whenever it is carried in public or in public transport.

I commend the Bill to the House as an experimental measure, and I again repeat that if anyone thinks there should be an additional safeguard placed in it, I shall be very pleased to give the matter consideration, provided it does not do away with the general purpose of the measure. I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Yates, debate adjourned.

BILL—MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (Hon. E. Nulsen—Eyre) [4.19] in moving the second reading said: This is a Bill to help the medical practitioner at a time when he may have to leave the State for a little while in order to engage in special study and research work, and has to remain out of the State for more than six months. The Bill seeks to amend the provisions of the principal Act dealing with the registration of medical practitioners and provides, in appropriate cases, for the re-registration of medical practitioners who have been absent from the State and who have returned to Western Australia. It also provides for the re-registration of those who have not practised in the State for a period.

Mr. Bovell: Is this a similar Bill to the measure dealing with dentists?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: No. The principal Act precludes a person from practising medicine unless he is a medical practitioner registered under the Act. Provision exists in the Act for the medical board to erase the names of registered persons under certain circumstances, i.e. erasure on the ground of fraudulently obtaining registration; of death; that the registered person has been convicted anywhere of a crime or misdemeanour; that the registered person has been adjudged by the board to have been guilty of infamous or improper conduct, or of drunkenness, or of addiction to drugs; that a person to whom notice has been sent, inquiring whether there has been a change of address or residence, has not replied to the notice within six months.

This Bill has particular reference to the last ground. There are cases where a medical practitioner might leave the State for various reasons, including research in some branch of his profession or to practise elsewhere, and subsequently returns. During his absence his name may have been erased from the register on the ground that a notice had been sent to him and had not been replied to within six months. An amendment is required to enable such a person to re-register if he returns to the State and wishes to renew his registration. He must make application in the manner prescribed, pay the requisite fee and satisfy the board that, since the erasure of his registration he has not been convicted of any crime or misdemeanour elsewhere, or has not been adjudged guilty of infamous conduct elsewhere.

Another amendment is connected with the payment of the annual fee. A medical practitioner who wishes to practise in the State must, in addition to the other requirements, pay in advance an annual fee. The Bill seeks to provide that a person whose name appears in the register, but who has not been practising in the State under the authority of the principal Act during a period of at least two years and who, for that reason has not paid the fee prescribed, shall not practise unless he obtains an authorisation to do so, from the board. A penalty is provided for non-compliance with the requirement. In order to obtain an authorisation from the board, a medical practitioner must satisfy the board in the manner previously explained and pay the requisite fee. There is not much more in the Bill; it merely seeks to facilitate matters for medical practitioners and will be of help to them generally. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Bovell: Has the Bill been introduced at the request of the medical profession, and is it in favour of the provision?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: Yes.

On motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson, debate adjourned.

BILL—ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (Hon. E. Nulsen—Eyre) [4.24] in moving the second reading said: This is another very small Bill which will prove to be helpful to the people of this State. The principal Act makes provision for the incorporation of religious and other bodies. A person seeking to obtain incorporation of an association must lodge a memorial and other documents with the Registrar of Companies and comply with other requirements.

Within 14 days after the filing of the memorial a notice of intention to apply for incorporation of an association must be advertised in a newspaper which is published in Perth, circulates throughout the State and is approved by the Registrar of Companies. A newspaper which does not fulfil the requirement that it is published in Perth and circulates throughout the State is automatically disqualified.

Even if a newspaper does fulfil these two requirements, it does not necessarily follow that the Registrar of Companies will approve of it because it may not be a satisfactory medium for advertising the notice. "The West Australian," "Daily News," and "Sunday Times" are newspapers which have been approved by the registrar. In application the requirement that the notice must be inserted in a newspaper published in Perth and circulating throughout the State is not altogether satisfactory.

It must be realised that many people living in places distant from the metropolitan area never see any of the publications mentioned. Many country and Goldfields towns have their own local newspapers. In order to make the requirement in the Act more effective, it would be better to have the notice published in the local newspaper where it is more likely to be seen by those interested. Apart from being more effective and convenient, this would bring about a saving in expense to the association seeking incorporation.

The expansion in Western Australia lends force to the proposal that the Act be amended along the lines indicated. The memorial to which I have referred must set out, among other things, the district where the association is situated or established and the postal address. For the purpose of the amendment it is proposed to provide that the notice must be published in such newspaper as circulates in the district mentioned in the memorial as that in which the association is situated or established. The approval of the registrar will still be necessary. This Bill seeks to give people the opportunity of publishing a notice in a paper circulating in their own district.

As the Act now stands, notice of incorporation must be published in a Perth paper which circulates throughout the State. In Kalgoorlie, on the Goldfields, and in a great portion of the State, the "Kalgoorlie Miner" has a very wide circulation, but if clubs or associations desire to be incorporated, they must publish a notice in one of the Perth papers. This Bill, if passed, will enable them to advertise in the "Kalgoorlie Miner" which circulates in their own district. But not every country newspaper will be approved, and if the registrar considers that a paper has an insufficient circulation, he can order the notice to be published in an approved newspaper.

The Bill is a move in the right direction because at present decentralisation is advocated by many people and it will help in that direction. Most of these activities of the State are centred in Perth, but if we are to encourage the people in the country we should give them some means to compete, as it were, with their rival newspapers in the metropolitan area. I commend the Bill to the House and hope it will receive due consideration. I am sure that the people in the country will appreciate this provision. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Court, debate adjourned.

BILL—ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (Hon. E. Nulsen—Eyre) [4.32] in moving the second reading said: This is a measure that will be helpful to members to get their rolls printed three months earlier than would otherwise be possible.

Hon. A. F. Watts: I thought that might be the object.

The Premier: You also hoped it might be.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: The Act of 1947 provides amongst other things for a redivision of electoral districts and electoral provinces by commissioners appointed for the purpose whenever so directed by the Governor by proclamation. One of the conditions for the issue of such a proclamation is a report by the Chief Electoral Officer to the appropriate Minister that the state of the rolls made up for any triennial election discloses that the enrolments in not less than five electoral districts fall short of or exceed by 20 per cent. the quota as ascertained for such districts.

Members are well aware of what happens after the issue of the proclamation, but I shall briefly outline the procedure. After the issue of the proclamation, three electoral commissioners are appointed by the Governor. It is their duty to make inquiries and recommendations in respect of the Assembly districts, to publish any proposed alteration of an electoral district in the "Government Gazette" and in a newspaper circulating in such district, to consider any objections in writing, which must be lodged within two months from the date of such publication, to adjust the boundaries of the electoral provinces and, lastly, to present their final report and recommendations to the Governor. After the receipt of the final recommendations, the Governor shall publish them in the "Gazette" at such time as he thinks fit. Upon the expiration of three months from that publication, the recommendations are as effective as if enacted by Parliament.

The Chief Electoral Officer has pointed out that the postponement for three months from publication of the effect of the recommendations could render impossible the printing of the rolls in time for the holding of an election in certain circumstances. After considering the matter, we decided to introduce a Bill to overcome that possibility; hence the measure now before the House. It seems to me that the measure will not affect the legality of the redivision as far as the electors are concerned. If any person is dissatisfied, he can still disagree to the recommendations of the commission, while members would still have time to give consideration to their electorates and ascertain public opinion in regard to any alterations to the recommendations. Really this would not have much effect because even if the matter were brought to Parliament, it could be disallowed.

I do not know why the period of three months was adopted. The only reason for it, I should say, is to give members an opportunity to peruse the recommendations and decide whether they are satisfied.

Hon. A. F. Watts: At the end of Clause 2 appear the words "anything in the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, 1899, to the contrary notwithstanding." How do you explain those words?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: I am not in a position to reply to the hon. member, but I shall have the point investigated and give him the reason. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. F. Watts, debate adjourned.

BILL—JURY ACT AMENDMENT (No. 1).

Message.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (Hon. E. Nulsen—Eyre) [4.38] in moving the second reading said: This measure is very similar to the one I introduced last year, and I have brought it along to see whether members of this House have changed their minds. I hope that they have and that they will allow women to serve on juries under the conditions they desire, namely, that their names will be put on the roll and may, on application, be erased from the roll.

By the introduction of this measure, we propose to give women the right to serve on juries if they so desire. Women have as much right as men to serve on juries. Other States provide for women jurors,

namely, Queensland and New South Wales and also the Dominion of New Zealand. In New Zealand, women between the ages of 25 and 60 who notify the sheriff in writing that they desire to serve are qualified and liable to serve in the same manner as men. There is no property qualification for women.

In Queensland, a female person between the ages of 21 and 60 notifies the principal electoral officer in writing. In that State a woman is required to be a householder and to be enrolled on the electoral roll. There is no property qualification. In New South Wales, a woman to serve on a jury is required to be enrolled as an elector. No property qualification is required; she must notify the Chief Constable of the police district in which she resides. In England, every British subject, male or female, between 21 and 60 years of age is qualified and liable to serve if his or her name is included in the jurors' book.

This Bill provides that, subject to certain qualifications, any woman between 21 and 60 is qualified and liable to serve as a common juror in all civil and criminal proceedings within a radius of 36 miles from her residence. She must be of good fame and character, must be enrolled as an elector and entitled to vote for a member of the Legislative Assembly and must reside in a proclaimed area. Provision is made for a woman to be relieved of such duties, by written notice to the sheriff. Where a woman has cancelled her liability to serve as a juror, she may, after the expiration of two years from the cancellation, render herself liable to serve if she writes to the sheriff at the Supreme Court.

That provision was included in case a woman, having had her name taken off the roll, later found she had more time and desired to be re-enrolled. The lapse of two years would prevent any woman just picking out the cases in which she might be interested and making herself available for jury service at that time. Another amendment extends the number of jurors that may be summoned from 40 to 50, and this will compensate for applications which may be made by women to be disqualified from service on various grounds.

The section in the principal Act which allows the summoning officer to omit from a panel any name in the jurors' book and excuse from attendance any person who has been summoned as a juror is being repealed and a new section is being enacted in its place. It provides that, on satisfactory evidence, the names of persons may be omitted from the jurors' book, and any person summoned as a juror may be excused from a criminal trial by the summoning officer. A female juror shall be excused from attending as a juror at a criminal trial if, before being sworn as a juror at the trial, she applies to be exempted because of the nature of the evidence to be given at the trial—

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Why would that be?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: Probably there would be women who would not wish to listen to some cases. We are trying to keep our women as refined as possible and do not wish to debase them if that can be avoided. I know there are women—especially young women—who would not like to be members of a jury trying a case of sodomy, for instance. The reasons for which she may be excused continue—because of the issues to be tried, or because she is for medical reasons unfit to attend. In court buildings it will be necessary to make alterations to accommodate mixed juries. Provision has therefore been made for the sections to apply only to such areas as shall be proclaimed by the Governor from time to time. Some districts may never have women on juries.

Another amendment concerns the session held for the fixing of the jury list for a district. The justices of the peace in such districts shall hear all objections to the list. It is not always possible for justices in remote parts of the State to get together on a set day, and so the Bill provides that at least two justices shall suffice at such a time. The principal Act makes no provision for a magistrate to adjourn a special session, the hearing of which is rigidly fixed. Circumstances may arise which necessitate the postponement of such a session. Magistrates are therefore given the authority to adjourn, on reasonable cause, the holding of a special session for any period up to 14 days from the date appointed.

As this measure is similar to that which I introduced last session, members are familiar with what it seeks to do and I think women are entitled to the privilege of serving on juries. If the Bill is passed, women may, after a year or so, wish to become jurors on the same basis as men, and in that event the legislation can in due course be amended. I feel that the provisions of this measure will be satisfactory, particularly as a woman has the right to have her name removed from the list.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: She will not have to write in to get her name put on the list?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: No, it will be there already, but she can write in and ask to have it removed. I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. V. R. Abbott, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.47 p.m.