

necessary, be recommitted by any member. I hope members will accept my undertaking.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: In order to facilitate the business, I am prepared to accept the Minister's assurance.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I fail to see how it will help the business to postpone the clause. I do not doubt the Minister's assurance, but why proceed in this way? We are opposed to the whole clause.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I realise that the honourable member's party is opposed to the whole clause, but the procedure I have suggested will facilitate our business. If we agree to the clause tonight, I will move that the adoption of the report be taken at the next sitting. I can assure the Committee that tomorrow, when the report of the committee is to be adopted, further discussion on this clause will take place, bearing in mind that it is the desire of the honourable member to reconsider the clause. I have no ulterior motive except to complete the Committee stage at this sitting.

Postponed clause put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—16.

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. G. O. MacKinnon
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. R. C. Mattiske
Hon. J. Cunningham	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. S. T. J. Thompson
Hon. J. G. Hialop	Hon. J. M. Thomson
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. L. A. Logan	Hon. F. D. Willmott
Hon. A. L. Loton	Hon. J. Murray

(Teller.)

Noes—12.

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

(Teller.)

Majority for—4.

Clause thus passed.

New clause 56:

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: I move—

Page 33—Insert the following to stand as clause 56:—

56. (1) The Board shall prepare and submit to the Minister, not later than the thirtieth day of September in each calendar year, a report on the exercise and performance by the Board of its powers, functions and duties under this Act during the twelve months ended on the preceding thirty-first day of July.

(2) The Minister shall lay the report of the Board before each House of Parliament within six sitting days of that House after the receipt of the report by the Minister.

I point out to the Committee that I have moved for this new clause to be inserted in view of the provision appearing in clause 6 at the top of page 6 of the Bill.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: For the information of the Committee, the amendment is quite acceptable as far as I am concerned.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: On a point of information, could the mover of the motion or the Minister advise me whether the board would have to submit a report to cover the period from, say, October or January to the 30th June following, because a period of 12 months would not have elapsed?

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: I consulted the Minister for Police on this point and he conferred with the Attorney-General, and they were responsible for the drafting of this new clause. Evidently, they had prior information as to when the legislation would be proclaimed, and they prescribed these dates to coincide with the date of the proclamation.

New clause put and passed.

Schedule put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendments.

ACTS AMENDMENT (SUPERANNUATION AND PENSIONS) BILL

First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

*House adjourned at 12.25 a.m.
(Wednesday).*

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 8th November, 1960

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BILLS (5)—ASSENT

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Country High School Hostels Authority Bill.
2. Health Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).
3. Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act Amendment Bill.
4. Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act Amendment Bill.
5. Stamp Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SWIMMING CLASSES

Instruction in Life-saving

1. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Education:

Will pupils in the life-saving groups at the Education Department's swimming classes this summer be taught the mouth-to-mouth resuscitation method and expired air techniques?

Mr. WATTS replied:

It is proposed to introduce this method as far as possible in the Education Department swimming classes this summer.

WAROONA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Applications for Water

2. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Water Supplies:
 - (1) Have applications been received for the full rated area of the Waroona Irrigation District for the 1960-61 season?
 - (2) If not, what is the acreage of rated land for which no application for water has been received?
 - (3) What is the total acreage in the Waroona district for which applications have been made for accommodation water for the 1960-61 season?
 - (4) Is it intended to supply the full acreage applied for?
 - (5) If not, was the indication that some rated land would not be watered taken into consideration when the quantity available for sale as accommodation water was determined?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) 2,101 acres.
- (3) 422 acres.
- (4) No.
- (5) Yes.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

WHARF APRONS*Washing with Salt Water*

3. Mr. CURRAN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is he aware that the Fremantle Harbour Trust, during the course of the last dry summer season, washed the wharf aprons with fresh water with a three-inch hose, whilst ratepayers were suffering the severest restrictions, and a large number of prosecutions were the order of the day?
- (2) Is he aware that the Fremantle Harbour Trust is still carrying out this practice?
- (3) Will he take action to ensure that this practice ceases forthwith and that salt water is used for this purpose in future?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No. For technical reasons salt water has been found quite unsuitable. The trust will continue to exercise the utmost economy in the use of fresh water for washing down the quays.

of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status, is it the intention of the Government to grant full citizenship rights to all Australian aborigines without their having to apply for such rights?

(2) If so, when will such a condition be implemented?

(3) If not, why not?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) to (3) Natives are British subjects and citizens of Australia. The State has granted them certain privileges not granted to non-natives and has restricted them in other directions. This Government's policy is to improve their housing conditions and education so that they will rise to the level where they can appreciate what our civilisation offers. When this is achieved the restrictions can be lifted without any sham.

In the meantime, those who wish to have the restrictions removed may apply for citizenship rights certificates.

WILLAGEE PARK RENTAL HOMES*Absence of Grease-Trap System*

4. Mr. CURRAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the number of State rental homes in the Willagee Park area that have grease-trap systems?
- (2) Will he give urgent consideration to the replacement of this unhygienic and antiquated system with the installation of dry wells?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Approximately 500.
- (2) These installations were in accordance with the requirements of the health authorities, and the policy now is that whenever it is found that the system is inadequate, an additional dry well is installed and the grease trap removed.

NATIVES*Granting of Citizenship Rights*

5. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) As Australia is a subscriber to the principle of United Nations, and supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein without distinction

WOOL PRODUCTION*Commonwealth Survey*

6. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Did he have a conference with the members of the Commonwealth survey committee which recently completed its Western Australian examination of wool production?
- (2) If so, with what result?
- (3) What were the names of those engaged on the survey?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) The recent sheep industry survey was carried out by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics covering the financial periods 1958-59 and 1959-60. It was a continuation of the survey commenced in 1954 which subsequently covered the periods from 1952-53 to 1957-58. Mr. D. D. Shaw, officer in charge of the bureau's wool section, visited Perth early in July and discussed broad details with departmental officers.

The field collections were commenced in late August and carried out by bureau staff under the immediate supervision of Mr. Kevin McGuire, senior research officer of the bureau.

DAIRYING INDUSTRY*Tabling of Commonwealth Survey Report*

7. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has he yet received a copy of the dairying industry survey which has been in the hands of the Minister for Primary Industry for well over a month?
- (2) If so, will he lay it on the Table of the House?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

FORESHORE ROAD, ALBANY*Finance for Development*

8. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has finance been approved for foreshore road development, Albany Harbour, this financial year?
- (2) If so, where will the foreshore road link up with Hanrahan Road, and when will work on the foreshore road commence?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

MOTOR TRUCKS*Minimising Noise*

9. Mr. ANDREW asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware that—
 - (a) many complaints have been made, particularly from people living on highways, regarding the excessive noise made by heavy trucks on our roads; and
 - (b) the all-metal trucks (some with trailers) are the worst offenders?
- (2) Will his department take the necessary steps to minimise this nuisance as far as possible?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (2) Operators have been interviewed and requested to minimise body noise. These heavy, high-powered vehicles, because of their all-metal body, are unavoidably somewhat noisy even when new, and especially when empty, on the rougher type of roadway. Vehicles observed to be noisy through defective exhausts or body disrepair are receiving necessary attention by police patrols.

SCHOOL-BUILDING CONSTRUCTION*Contracts Let and Details of Fulfilment*

10. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) How many contracts have been let for the building or extension of schools since the 30th June, 1959?
- (2) Of these contracts, how many have—
 - (a) been completed before the time specified in the contract;
 - (b) been completed by time specified;
 - (c) been granted an extension;
 - (d) been subject to penalty provisions of the contract;
 - (e) taken longer than the contract time and not been subject to penalty provisions?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) 125.
- (2) (a) 8;
- (b) 3;
- (c) During the course of the contract—2;
- (d) 1;
- (e) (i) Completed contracts—59.
- (ii) Contracts not completed. No decision yet re penalty—16.

FISHING VESSELS*Qualifications of Crews*

11. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) What steps are taken to ensure that all fishing boats, freezer boats, and mother ships carry crews which have the qualifications required by the Harbour and Light Department?
- (2) Is it considered that the large number of boats which were wrecked this year on the Western Australian coast was due to the crew members not having the required qualifications?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) All fishing boats, freezer boats, and mother ships are surveyed annually by the surveyors, Harbour and Light Department.

At this survey, the qualifications of the masters and engineers are checked to see whether the necessary certificates are held.

During the year checks are made by authorised departmental inspectors; and where vessels are found not properly manned, masters and owners are forced to tie them up until approved crews are obtained. In some cases there are prosecutions.

- (2) No.

KELLERBERRIN RAILWAY STATION*Tenders for Construction*

12. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Railways:

When is it proposed to call tenders for the construction of the new railway station at Kellerberrin?

Mr. COURT replied:

It is expected that tenders will be called in mid-December.

LAND AND METROPOLITAN REGION TAXES*Basis of Calculation*

13. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:

Will he reconcile his reply of the 26th October—that land tax and metropolitan region improvement tax for the present financial year were calculated and levied upon land valuations which were uniform with regard to year of valuation—with his reply of the 3rd November—that valuations made in Subiaco in 1959-60, Floreat Park in 1957-58, Nedlands 1955-56, and Melville 1956-57 were used for calculating land tax and metropolitan region improvement tax for the current financial year?

Mr. BRAND replied:

It was indicated in the reply to the question on the 26th October, that both the land tax and the metropolitan region improvement tax were levied for the present financial year upon land valuations which were uniform with regard to the year of valuation. In other words, both land tax and metropolitan region improvement tax were levied on the same land values.

MT. HELENA HIGH SCHOOL*Cost of Transport for Pupils*

14. Mr. OWEN asked the Minister for Education:

What is the cost, or estimated cost, per annum to the Education Department for transporting children to the Mt. Helena High School—

- (a) from Mahogany Creek, Mundaring, and Sawyers Valley, as at present;
- (b) from Boya, Darlington, and Glen Forrest as envisaged under the new boundaries applying to that high school;
- (c) from all those six centres when the high school is upgraded to a full five-year category?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (a) The actual cost is £1,485 per annum. This service caters for children from Mundaring Weir as well as Mahogany Creek, Mundaring, and Sawyers Valley.
- (b) The service proposed caters for Greenmount, Koongamia, and Helena Valley children as well as those from Boya, Darlington, and Glen Forrest. The estimated cost will be £2,000 per annum.
- (c) An accurate estimate of such costs cannot be given. Transport arrangements would depend on circumstances prevailing.

MEAT INDUSTRY WORKERS*Protective Clothing*

15. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Are workers engaged in the meat industry in this State supplied with protective clothing when meat is being killed for home consumption?
- (2) If so, what are the names of such firms, and where are they situated?
- (3) Are workers engaged in the meat industry supplied with protective clothing when meat is killed for export?
- (4) If so, what are the names of the firms?
- (5) Is protective clothing supplied to protect the edible meat and edible offal, or for the protection of the employees?
- (6) If protective clothing is supplied to employees engaged in the meat industry, is there a strict supervision by the managements as to cleanliness of protective clothing, and do firms supply facilities for laundering such clothing?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes, at the Midland Junction Abattoir and the West Australian Meat Export Works. At other local killing establishments the position varies.
- (3) and (4) The workers at the Midland Junction Abattoir do both local consumption and export killing under the same award and are therefore given protective clothing as provided under that award. At other export works protective clothing is supplied as and when considered necessary.
- (5) Of the protective clothing which is supplied, some is provided for the personal protection of the employee, and some is provided for the hygienic protection of edible meat and edible offal, according to the type of work performed.

- (6) Yes; there is always supervision regarding cleanliness, not only of protective clothing, but of the whole operation of slaughtering. Some establishments do supply facilities for laundering clothes.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

TOTALISATOR LEGISLATION BRIBERY CLAIM

Police Commissioner's Statement re Taking Action

1. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Police:

In today's issue of *The West Australian* is the following article:—

No Action On Bribe Claim

The police do not propose to take action on an allegation that a bribe was offered to Mr. Ray O'Connor, Liberal M.L.A. for North Perth, to defeat the Government's off-course totalisator legislation.

Police Commissioner O'Brien said yesterday there had been no complaint made and therefore no action could be taken.

Mr. O'Connor alleged last Friday that money had been offered to him on behalf of an S.P. bookmaker to vote against the legislation. He said that as far as he was concerned the incident was closed.

Is that report authoritative in regard to the expression of an opinion in the matter by the Commissioner of Police?

- Mr. PERKINS replied:

I cannot answer that question, because I have not discussed the report with the Commissioner of Police. I presume that whatever statement he made to the reporter who discussed the matter with him, was carefully considered by him.

Consultation Between Minister and Commissioner of Police

2. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Police:

In view of the very great public gravity involved in this situation, I am surprised that the Minister has made no contact with the Commissioner of Police. Therefore, would he confer with the commissioner at the earliest practicable moment and subsequently report to the House?

- Mr. PERKINS replied:

I think I would need a lot more material to go on before I could take the action the Leader of the Opposition suggests.

3. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Police:

Are we to understand that the Minister does not propose to discuss this matter with the Commissioner of Police?

- Mr. PERKINS replied:

I do not propose to give an answer at this stage.

Disclosure of Alleged Briber's Name

4. Mr. HAWKE asked the Attorney-General:

As any attempt at bribery is a matter of very serious concern, and as an attempt to bribe a member of Parliament to vote in a certain direction in connection with legislation is far more serious, would he investigate the question as to whether the process of law, and therefore the process of justice, is not being obstructed by the refusal of the member for North Perth to make available the name of the person who is supposed to have offered him a bribe in this matter? I am not asking at this stage that the Attorney-General should ask the member for North Perth to make the name available publicly, but that he should at least make it available confidentially to the Attorney-General. However, the question is: Will the Attorney-General investigate the query as to whether the process and course of justice are not being obstructed by the refusal to make this name available?

- Mr. WATTS replied:

I have already had some discussion on this question with an officer of the Crown Law Department, but I am unable to express any opinion at this stage.

5. Mr. HAWKE asked the Attorney-General:

Will he have further consultations and make further investigations as he thinks appropriate in the matter, and report to the House at the earliest possible date?

- Mr. WATTS replied:

I thought that the answer to the first question implied that I would have further discussions, because I said that I would not express an opinion "at this stage." As to the rest of the honourable member's question, that would depend on what is said to me.

Ministers' Foreknowledge of Allegation

6. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

Did the Premier or any of his Ministers have any discussion with the member for North Perth

before the member for North Perth made his statement available to the newspaper reporter?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No; not that I am aware of.

Report by the Speaker

7. Mr. HAWKE asked the Speaker:

- (1) Have you, Mr. Speaker, yet had an opportunity of investigating the position in this matter from the point of view of Parliament and the alleged attempt made to violate the integrity of Parliament?
- (2) If so, have you any report to make to the House?
- (3) If not, will you have the matter considered comprehensively as soon as possible and report back to the House?

The SPEAKER replied:

- (1) to (3) The matter was drawn to my attention when I arrived at the House at midday today. I have had a somewhat cursory look into the position, but at present my investigations rather indicate that there does not appear to be any channel I could explore. I have no machinery available to me for making investigations; and as far as I am concerned at the moment there is an unconfirmed newspaper report which makes certain allegations and involves the member for North Perth. However, I will have a further look at the matter.

WHARF APRONS

Washing with Salt Water

8. Mr. CURRAN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

In view of his very brief answer to question No. (3) on the notice paper—he did not go into any details as to why salt water was unsuitable—will he give an explanation as to why salt water is not suitable for this purpose?

Mr. WILD replied:

A report was furnished to me by the General Manager of the Fremantle Harbour Trust, and it contains technical reasons and data as to why salt water is not suitable. I have not the report with me, but I will bring it to the House tomorrow for the information of the honourable member.

9. Mr. CURRAN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that on the wharf there exists a drainage system which diverts the water away from all electric cables laid under the wharf?

- (2) I submit in explanation of my question that, during the winter months, incessant rain descends on the wharf, and a drainage system is made available so that the water is immediately taken away. Would the Minister raise this question with the responsible authorities to find out the reason why they are evading this issue?—because it is a very sore point with the residents of Fremantle.

Mr. WILD replied:

I find it rather difficult to determine which is question and which is statement. It would be best if the honourable member were to put his question on the notice paper, and I shall see that he gets a satisfactory answer tomorrow.

NORTH-WEST CONSULTANT

Mr. Baron Hay's Appointment

10. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Did the Minister see a report in *The West Australian* that Mr. Baron Hay was to be the north-west adviser?
- (2) If so, would he be kind enough to elaborate a little on the report and say what type of adviser Mr. Baron Hay is to be—whether he is to be an agricultural adviser, or whether he will deal with administration matters, mining matters, and matters generally affecting the north-west, as well as agricultural matters?

Mr. COURT replied:

I saw the statement in the paper; in fact I supplied information to the Press from which, no doubt, the statement was written. But I thought it was made very clear in the statement—from what I recall of it—that Mr. Baron Hay had been retained as a consultant. He will have no executive responsibility whatever. He will be purely a consultant to undertake certain investigations. It was felt that because of his great knowledge of the State he would, whilst he was still available, be a very suitable person in this particular capacity.

Mr. Bickerton: A consultant for what?

Mr. COURT: I stress he will have no executive capacity. He will be appointed purely to investigate certain projects that are current, and to investigate certain projects that are in prospect, and to advise on the projects and matters he investigates.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Foreknowledge of Details by Private Members

11. Mr. HEAL asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it not the general practice for a Minister or the Government not to reveal the effect of a Bill to a private member before the Bill is introduced to either House of Parliament?
- (2) Did the Minister inform the member for Subiaco of the contents of a Bill which it is alleged will be introduced into this House; or was it one of his departmental officers?

Mr. WILD replied:

I take full responsibility for personally advising by letter the member for Subiaco of the probable type of legislation that would be introduced in this House.

Mr. Hawke: Why did the Minister not go to the meeting?

ABSENCE OF GOVERNOR

Delegation of Powers

12. Mr. J. HEGNEY asked the Premier:

- (1) Can he inform the House whether the Governor, who is outside the State—I notice he is on Cocos Island—left behind him powers by which the Lieutenant-Governor can execute all the powers that the Governor can?
- (2) If not, does he not think it would have been right for the Governor to do so?

Mr. BRAND replied:

It is a difficult question for me to answer off the cuff, as it would be for most members here. I assume that the powers of the Lieutenant-Governor are such that when the Governor is out of the State he has a commission to act for the Governor.

Mr. J. Hegney: That is not so.

Mr. BRAND: I could not say. If the honourable member was so anxious to get the information, he might have chosen a more likely place than here to get it.

13. Mr. J. HEGNEY asked the Premier:

On the same question, I had experience with the Crown Law Department some months ago. A man had received a pardon for a certain offence, and documents were awaiting signature at the Governor's residence. On that occasion His Excellency was in the Eastern States on holidays, and there was no power by which the

Lieutenant-Governor could sign the documents. As a result, this person had to wait at least a week before the Governor returned.

I see that at the moment the Governor is outside the State, and there may be similar documents awaiting signature because of decisions made, possibly, by Executive Council or by the Crown Law Department; but the Governor may have left behind him no power for the Lieutenant-Governor to sign such documents.

The SPEAKER: What is the question?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I understand that a commission was published in last week's *Government Gazette*.

Mr. J. Hegney: I am not asking you that. You ought to know; you are the Premier.

Mr. BRAND: Had the honourable member been so keenly interested in this matter, he could have given me the opportunity of getting the actual information, because it would have been no trouble whatsoever to obtain it from the Premier's Department.

WATER RATES

Tabling of "Pay-as-you-use" Committee's Report

14. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

At last Thursday's sitting, I asked the Minister for Works whether he would make available the report of the committee which was set up for the purpose of going into the new system for water rating. The Minister undertook to confer with the Premier and advise me in due course. Is the Minister now in a position to advise whether it is his intention to make the report available?

Mr. WILD replied:

I have conferred with the Premier. We have, as yet, not finished with the detail of the report, but I have no doubt I will be able to make it available to the House before the end of the session.

15. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

In view of the fact that a Bill, presumably based upon that report, appears on the notice paper and is due to come up for its second reading, will the Minister, if he intends to make the report available, make it available in time to be used in connection with the second reading debate on the Bill?

Mr. WILD replied:

In reply to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I would say the Bill is not framed on the committee's report. The Bill covers, as the honourable member will hear later today—it is my intention to introduce the Bill today—a variety of things appertaining to water supplies. I can only report that when Cabinet has given full and final consideration to this document, it will be presented to the House.

16. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Whether or not the proposed legislation is based on the report, surely the Minister will appreciate that the report would have a distinct bearing upon any new proposals. In view of that, such report would be of considerable assistance to members in their deliberations with regard to the new proposals. Will the Minister do his best to make the report available so that it can be considered in conjunction with the new legislation?

Mr. WILD replied:

I doubt whether the report will be available before this Bill is finalised. But if it can be made available, it will be. However, as I have said, I rather doubt it, because it does contain certain recommendations in regard to rates which are not applicable to the amending Bill. They will be determined in March or February next year, when, as the honourable member knows, the department determines the rates for the forthcoming year. There is nothing in that regard that is applicable to the present piece of legislation.

17. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

As he was able to advise the member for Subiaco in advance of the other members of this Parliament of the contents of the proposed Bill, what reasons could there possibly be for withholding from members the contents of the report?

Mr. WILD replied:

On the question of withholding information from members of Parliament, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has had enough experience as a Minister to know that when Cabinet receives a report it considers it very carefully and releases it for publication when Cabinet thinks it should be released. In this instance Cabinet is not yet ready to release

that report. If it can be released this session it will be; and, if it cannot, that is all there is to it.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

Second Reading of Amending Bill

18. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Labour:

In view of the public importance of the forthcoming Bill to amend the Workers' Compensation Act, which Bill has been on the notice paper for some time, can he give the House any indication when the second reading of the measure will take place?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

The drafting of the Bill is almost completed. There are certain notes that I am still preparing, but I hope to be able to introduce the Bill tomorrow.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Foreknowledge of Details by Private Members

19. Mr. ANDREW asked the Premier:

With reference to the question asked earlier in the sitting by the member for West Perth of the Minister for Works, is he acquainted with and does he approve of the fact that the Minister for Works gave prior information to a private member about a Bill to be introduced to this House?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I was aware of the information which the Minister for Works passed on; and, as all members know, there are many topics which become the subject of a Bill which are disclosed to the public before the actual legislation is introduced. The main principles of our intention were disclosed to the private member, and I was aware of that.

20. Mr. ANDREW asked the Premier:

In view of the fact that a private member has obtained information from a Minister regarding a Bill to be introduced, are we to take that as a precedent for the future?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No.

21. Mr. ANDREW asked the Premier:

Would he explain why such information was given to one private member and not to others?

Mr. BRAND replied:

If the circumstances are such that we can disclose information of that kind we generally make it

public to the Press or to members, from time to time. All members have received letters from Premiers of various Governments indicating their intention to do certain things which, finally, are the subject of legislation.

WATER RATES

Private Members' Foreknowledge of Committee's Report

22. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

Has any member of Parliament, outside the Cabinet, been granted the privilege of viewing the report about which I asked questions a few moments ago, which I directed to the Minister for Works?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Not that I am aware.

ABSENCE OF GOVERNOR

Delegation of Powers

23. Mr. WATTS: The member for Middle Swan may be interested to know that the power of the Governor to appoint a deputy, either as Governor or as Lieutenant-Governor—

The SPEAKER: Is this a personal explanation or an answer to a question?

Mr. WATTS: It is an answer to a question, and the answer can be found on page 251 of the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly*. If the honourable member so desires he can see it there.

Mr. Hawke: Mr. Speaker, on a point of information, is the Attorney-General entitled to answer a question which has not been put to him?

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1960-1961

In Committee of Supply

Resumed from the 3rd November, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair.

Votes—Department of Industrial Development, £207,495; North-West, £2,459, 665; Harbour and Light and Jetties, £422,560 (partly considered):

SIR ROSS McLARTY (Murray) [5.51]: When these votes were under discussion the other evening I rose to say a few words; but, instead, I moved that progress be reported, which motion was agreed to. Principally, I want to refer to the North-West Vote. I notice in today's issue of *The West Australian* that there is an interesting supplement dealing with industrial development in this State. If we

could put party politics aside for the time being, it would be generally agreed that the Minister for Industrial Development is performing a very practical job in trying to establish secondary industries in this State.

Mr. Heal: You'll get on!

Sir ROSS McLARTY: As I know, from my previous experience as a Minister, his task is not an easy one. The Eastern States, with a much larger population and many large cities, have advantages which Western Australia does not enjoy. Those people who are looking to Australia as a place in which to invest their money and establish industries are naturally concerned with the home market; and when they establish industries in States such as Victoria and New South Wales they have the advantage of large centres of population to assist them in marketing their products.

However, the recent visit of British industrialists to this State should bring about some good. Their visit was not very lengthy, but they seemed to move around quite a deal; and, having extremely active minds, they were interested in all they saw. I have no doubt that when they return to Great Britain they will be able to speak of Western Australia with some practical experience, and the results may prove beneficial to us.

The Government should try to exert pressure in the proper quarter to have a fully-integrated iron and steel industry established in Western Australia. When we encouraged Broken Hill Pty Ltd. to establish a steel rolling mill in this State we hoped it would be a forerunner to an iron and steel industry. At present, steel is in short supply in Australia. Only yesterday several farmers spoke to me about the shortage of fencing wire in this State. That is a serious matter for the farming community. If we are to encourage farming and land development in Western Australia it is most essential that fencing material be made available to the settlers.

The rolling mill supplies a good deal of our needs at present, particularly steel posts and a few other steel products. At the same time, until we can get a fully-integrated iron and steel industry established in this State I believe that our secondary industries will lag behind in comparison with those in other States of Australia.

We all know, of course, that it takes a tremendous amount of money to set up a fully-integrated iron and steel industry. Further, we hope to find some means by which we can coke our coal. I recall that, during my term of office as Premier, not only were the Government experts abroad trying to see what could be done in the way of coking Collie coal, but also Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. had its experts and technical men abroad to see what they could do in this respect.

Mr. May: Too much talk and not enough action!

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I cannot agree that there has not been any action. I think there has been a genuine attempt to try to solve this problem, but up to date no progress has been made.

Mr. May: As I say, too much talk!

Sir ROSS McLARTY: In replying to the member for Collie I would say that we have to keep on talking about these things, even though one may have to be an expert to find out all there is to be found out about a matter such as this. There has to be talk, and a great deal of thought as well. If it will achieve anything I hope that the talk will continue, and that research will continue, too. I also hope the Government will be able to persuade somebody to take steps to start a fully-integrated iron and steel industry in Western Australia.

Mr. May: You know as well as I do that they can coke Collie coal.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I know that reports have been received to the effect that it has been coked; but whether it would be economic in regard to establishing a fully-integrated iron and steel industry I do not know; and neither does the member for Collie. If that information is to hand I would be glad to hear about it.

Mr. May: All the foundries in Perth have used it.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: If that is so, perhaps the Minister for Industrial Development can supply us with some information about it.

Mr. May: I hope he will.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: Perhaps the honourable gentleman will ask him a few questions on the subject to ascertain what information he has received.

Mr. Hawke: How these south-westerners love each other!

Sir ROSS McLARTY: Like many other members, I have been interested in the establishment of a sponge iron industry in this State, about which there has been a great deal of talk. If anything can come from the deal that has been mentioned, the south-west will certainly get a boost. I hope the Government is assisting and encouraging—

Mr. May: It has not done much up to date.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: —those who are making investigations in regard to its establishment. We have also been informed—through the Press, and by other means—that bauxite deposits in this State could be developed into a great industry. I have heard it said that £20,000,000 could be spent on such development. No doubt the same sum could be expended to develop a sponge iron industry.

If any of these industries could be given a start it would certainly give the State a great boost. We are always seeking markets for our primary products. As the home market is usually the best, the most efficient way to create a home market is to expand our secondary industries; and it is to be hoped, of course, that that will be done on a decentralised basis.

As I said earlier, I actually rose to my feet to speak on the North-West Vote. I am glad to see there has been an increase made in this vote. Just prior to the commencement of this session I visited the north-west for a period of six or seven weeks and travelled over great areas.

Mr. Hawke: On horseback?

Sir ROSS McLARTY: No.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I had a good look at the back country.

Mr. May: You got well sunburnt whilst you were up there.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I have heard it said by members representing the north-west that some people travel up there by boat, look at the country through a port-hole, and then come back to Perth as authorities on the Kimberleys and the north. I do not profess or claim to be an authority. But I have been in that huge area a few times; and I have been interested in it all my life. Some of my ancestors went to the Kimberleys in the very earliest days of this State—long before I was born; and I suppose long before any other member of this Chamber was born.

Mr. Hawke: What about the member for Avon Valley?

Sir ROSS McLARTY: It may have been later than he was born; I was forgetting him. When I went through that huge area, I was struck by the need for good roads. The member for Kimberley has had something to say about this on several occasions during this session, and he has stressed the need for road development in that area. We know it is quite true that more money than ever is being spent in the north-west and the Kimberleys; but when one considers the huge areas of the Kimberleys and the north-west, one can readily understand why more and more money will be required for development in those areas.

Whatever may happen in that area—and I speak particularly of the Kimberleys—for a long while to come the chief industry will be beef-raising. That would apply even if oil, or some other precious mineral, were found. If the beef raising industry were taken out there would be very little left in that huge area.

It may be said that I know very little about the West Kimberley district. But I do know something about that area. Of

the East Kimberley I have a very limited knowledge indeed. I should say, however, that to a large extent the conditions which exist in the West Kimberleys would also affect the East Kimberleys, particularly from an economic point of view, and also from a seasonal point of view.

To revert again to beef production. In these days it is necessary that quality should be the watchword. If we are to have quality we must transport our stock under good conditions. There is keen competition on the world market. There is competition from the Argentine, and from other countries; and many people are telling us that the outlook for beef on the world market, and on the home market, is very bright. But these conditions can quickly change; and efforts are being made in such countries as the Argentine, Russia, the United States, and others, to step up beef production, not only to feed their own people, but also to create an export market for their produce.

Mr. Nalder: I would hazard a guess that beef production will be the highlight of agricultural industry in Western Australia for a long time to come.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I think the Minister is quite right; but whatever the future of the beef industry might be, quality should be the watchword. There has without doubt been a great improvement in the quality of our beef in these parts over recent years. In confining my remarks to the West Kimberleys in particular, I would say that we will not get that first-quality beef unless we can transport our stock under good conditions. The days of the drover are just about over. It is extremely difficult to find a drover in the Kimberleys today; and, as a result, the cattle are being transported by road train.

It is not hard to realise that cattle in a road train, transported over rough roads, receive a pretty severe jolting and bruising; with the result that the beef is graded down from perhaps first quality to third quality, and this causes heavy losses to the beef producers. Even today we are still sending cattle from the Kimberleys by ship.

Only a short while ago I was reading in an ancient *Hansard* a speech made many years ago by my father. He visited the Kimberleys and had a look there for himself. He saw thousands of cattle shipped from the Kimberleys, and closely inspected them. In his speech he said he thought it was a most primitive method of dealing with cattle, and deplored their having to be shipped down to the southern markets, or anywhere else.

I emphasise the fact that it is not possible to get first-class beef when the cattle have to be trucked over rough roads; then put into ships, unloaded, again put into yards, and from the yards again put into

cattle trucks, and sent to the various killing works. When one stops to consider this sequence one realises the rough time the cattle get. I certainly would not like to be a bullock.

Mr. Bovell: What about a bull?

Sir ROSS McLARTY: These are matters which must be faced up to. If we are to succeed in encouraging the cattle industry in the Kimberleys, the matter of transport, and marketing generally, should be the keen concern of those responsible.

Mr. Bickerton: It is a pity the Minister for the North-West is not present to hear you; I agree with you entirely.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I am sorry the Minister is not here, but he told me he had been called out. Perhaps he will do me the honour of spending a little time reading what I have had to say.

Mr. Brand: I am sure he will.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: While I was speaking a moment ago, somebody said something about bulls. I am not sure what was meant, or intended; but all I can say with regard to bulls is that good bulls are necessary in that country; because, without good bulls, the quality of the stock will not be good.

In moving over that huge area, I was struck by the different pastures I saw. Some of the grasses I saw were of no use to the country whatever, but yet they were taking possession of large areas. We know that in certain parts of the State noxious weeds have taken possession. This has come about largely because we have been negligent, and have let them get away until they have become a real problem to deal with. Down in the large area represented by the member for Eyre, and about which he is so enthusiastic, I would say that one of the most important things to which they should give their attention is the prevention of the spread of noxious weeds.

I had not seen some of these grasses before. I went into one grass—which no doubt the member for Kimberley would have avoided—called gallon's curse. I found I was covered with prickles, and I had rather an uncomfortable time. This is a curse that gets into the sheep's wool; and I wonder what the Department of Agriculture might be doing about this matter. The weed seems to follow the rivers and creeks, and it certainly is a curse. I think it could have a serious effect on the wool industry.

Mr. Rhatigan: The buffel grass, particularly in the Broome area, has completely done away with gallon's curse.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I am very interested to hear that. I also saw another grass there; and on asking whether it was of any value, I was informed it was quite useless. I was told its name was "hunt the squatter"; and I think it would hunt anybody. It has taken possession of a great

deal of the country. This weed actually does take over, and renders the country useless. It will be a pity if something cannot be done to control it.

There is another weed called rattlepod, which causes horse diseases—or walkabout I think it is generally called. I do not know whether this is the only shrub which causes that disease; but it is very sad to see horses in the Kimberleys that are affected by it. It has been prevalent for many years. Attempts have been made to breed horses in the West Kimberley district, but very heavy losses have been sustained. I know that on the river frontages, where rattlepod is prevalent, it causes heavy losses among horses.

This horse disease is not new; it has been known for many years. Our scientists have been working on it; and until the problem is overcome, certain stations in the Kimberleys will have extreme difficulty in maintaining their horse strength.

The member for Kimberley mentioned something about buffel grass. I saw this buffel grass growing right through the townsite of Broome, where it had taken over. Attempts were being made to grow it on the commonage where the cattle are depastured waiting to be slaughtered in the Broome meatworks. I saw this grass on a number of stations. There is no doubt it will serve a great purpose in that area. It is a chance grass; and by that I mean it entered the district by some chance, and has proved a great asset indeed.

In the areas further south, also, we have chance grasses. One of these is subterranean clover; and this made a tremendous difference to the carrying capacity of the south-west and other parts of the State. If the buffel grass spreads throughout the Kimberleys, and is given a chance to establish itself, it will no doubt revolutionise the carrying capacity of that country. Birdwood grass would also be a great factor in helping to increase pasture development in that area.

Mr. Nalder: If controlled grazing is carried out I think the spread of buffel grass will automatically follow.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I think the Minister is right. I noticed the spread of buffel grass, particularly in the vicinity of tanks and bores which were fenced off, and around houses and buildings. I think it would be very wise if stations had experimental plots. The owners should fence off small areas near the stockyards and bores to try to give this grass an opportunity to spread. Greater efforts should be made in those areas to encourage the spread of grasses such as buffel and birdwood, and perhaps other grasses, in order that the carrying capacity of the country can be considerably increased.

Another grass which I am told is of value is kapok—yet another chance grass. I saw that type of grass growing over a wide

area. I am told it has a beneficial value not much below that of lucerne; and there is no doubt that it is a good sheep fodder. Cattlemen tell me the cattle eat it, too, when they get used to it.

It is a prolific grower and it should be encouraged. Perhaps when the Minister for Agriculture is introducing his estimates he could tell us something about this grass, and give us the opinion of his officers, and what their views are in regard to the growing and spreading of it. In this huge area, more attention should be paid both by the Department of Agriculture and the station-owners in the matter of doing more and still more to grow these grasses which we know have been so successfully grown there.

Mr. Rhatigan: No truer words have ever been said; and I hope the Minister will endeavour to convince the absentee owners of the necessity for carrying out your suggestion.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I now wish to say a word or two about a few other matters as a result of my visit to the area. The need to continue with vermin eradication is still very necessary. I was going to pay a tribute to the officers of the Department of Agriculture for the work they are doing in the Kimberleys. But the member who represents that district will have a much greater practical knowledge than I have. However, there is a Mr. Fitzgerald in the West Kimberley district. He is very keen, and he is most co-operative with station-owners. He is doing a really good job.

I notice that in the estimates an amount has been made available for work at the Abydos, Woodstock, Kimberley, and Gascoyne Research Stations. That is money well spent. Just what is happening at Abydos and Woodstock I do not know. When I was in office I tried to make as much money available as I possibly could to assist in the research work in those areas represented by the member for Pilbara. I was keen that we should try to do something to grow more grasses, shrubs, or whatever they might be called; and to do something to deal with the vermin menace.

As I said a minute or two ago, this fight against vermin must be continued. I have heard it said that pastoralists have been to blame for the eating out of the river frontages, for overstocking, and for not making provision for sufficient backwaters. To be perfectly candid, I think there has been some justification for that criticism; but the problem has now been largely overcome. Even so, if there had not been any sheep or cattle in the Kimberleys, there would still be hundreds of thousands of kangaroos to deal with. They naturally like sweet food, and they would keep along the river frontages.

Mr. Bovell: Donkeys are a great menace.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: As the Minister for Lands says, donkeys are a great menace. I saw quite a large number of donkeys as

I moved about. However, they are being shot. In the areas which I visited I saw hundreds, to put it mildly. I read recently that in the Halls Creek district, something like 11,000 donkeys were shot. This was in the report of the chief of the Agriculture Protection Board. He said that the shooting of these donkeys made no appreciable difference.

Mr. Nulsen: Is donkey meat edible?

Sir ROSS McLARTY: No. Perhaps the number was 7,000. I had better not try to draw the long bow. However, he said the shooting of this number did not make any appreciable difference. According to a report I had from the Kimberleys a few days ago, 500 donkeys were shot in a trap. In the early days donkeys were useful animals. They carted wool to ports and fulfilled a useful role. However, they were let go and no-one worried about them, with the result that they bred in their many thousands. They eat as much good pasture as bullocks and sheep do, and they are now a menace.

So is the kangaroo. I am told there are not as many kangaroos as there used to be, and that poisoning and shooting has got rid of many thousands of them. I do not know what the position is in the East Kimberleys. I do not know whether there are as many there as in the west, but efforts are being made to get rid of them. If they are not eradicated, they will be like the rabbits were in this area—they will take possession. The best of the fodder will go, and the carrying capacity of the country will be greatly reduced. So the Agriculture Protection Board has really an important problem to face in regard to vermin eradication in the Kimberley areas.

Mr. Rhatigan: The dingo is a very great menace.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: When I was in the Kimberleys recently, I met a dingo trapper about 200 miles from Derby. He was at work, and I thought that whatever he gets—

Mr. Rhatigan: If you met one trapper you met 50 per cent. of them. There are only two employed.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: They are well worth the money they receive for doing this work. I was impressed with the water wall spray which I saw at Derby, and which sprays mainly for tick fever—and, I believe, for buffalo fly as well. I think that has been a wonderful innovation. We know that when cattle are coming from certain areas in the Kimberleys to be shipped some come from clean country and go through tick country; and there are very heavy losses indeed. I have known as many as 100 bullocks to be thrown overboard after a ship has been out of port for about 24 hours. Members can visualise what sort of loss that is, particularly having regard to the price of cattle today.

This water wall spray seems to be doing a very good and very practical job. It gives immunity for about a week, and that period allows the cattle to reach the market here. Amongst the thousands of cattle that have been shipped this season, the losses from tick fever have been very small indeed, and certainly the smallest there have ever been.

I want to give credit to the previous Minister for the North-West (Mr. Strickland) for his assistance in this regard. He was keen to get these sprays in operation; and the present Minister for the North-West has also been of very great assistance. They have certainly done something through their combined efforts—

Mr. Bickerton: I did not think you would leave the member for Kimberley out of that.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: —to encourage the cattle grower in that district. Yes; the member for Kimberley has been co-operative and helpful, and I think his efforts are fully appreciated also.

Mr. Brand: He is always very nice to everybody.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I do not want to detain the Committee any further, except to finish on the note on which I started. I want to say this to the Minister: that the first need of the Kimberleys, in my opinion—and in the opinion of a great number of people living there—is better roads. I think they come before anything. We talk about a deep-water port, and about this, that, and the other; but the first essential, by far, is good roads.

Mr. Nulsen: Good black roads.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: It does not matter whether it is the Commonwealth Government or the State Government that is spending the money, because money spent on road development is a vast investment that should be made in that great area.

When introducing his estimates the other night, the Minister said something to the effect that two departments would be needed for the north. I think that suggestion has something to commend it. The north-west and the Kimberleys are two huge areas. In a speech he made recently, the member for Eyre was talking about the need for more states. So far as area is concerned, both the Kimberleys and the north-west would qualify as states.

Mr. Wild: I wonder whether the honourable member realises that this year 19 per cent. of the total allocation of main roads funds is being spent in the north-west on roads.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I am indeed pleased to hear the Minister say that more and still more money is being spent on north-west roads.

Mr. Wild: It is £1,600,000.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I would say that more and more is required.

Mr. Fletcher: The Kimberleys are north of the north-west.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: If those two great areas could have two separate departments it would be all to the good. I think the members representing the north-west and the Kimberleys would agree with me in that respect. Many of their problems are similar, but quite a number are not; and those are facts which should be taken into consideration. I hope the Minister will give further consideration to the reference he made to the need for two separate authorities to deal with those huge areas, and that he will put his thought into practice.

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [5.44]: I listened with a great deal of interest to the member for Murray and to the honourable members who preceded him. When the member for Murray sang the praises of the north-west and elaborated on the necessity for something to be done for the north-west, I was a bit concerned that it was not until he was prompted by the Minister for Lands that he remembered to mention the scourge of donkeys in that area.

Sir Ross McLarty: I noted that.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Apparently there is something in the north-west which is very good for the well-being of donkeys; and when the member for Murray summed up at the end of his speech and said that one of the things vitally necessary for the north-west was roads, I thought he was going to say the eradication of donkeys. In the south-west we are not plagued with donkeys of the four-legged variety; and it is about that district I wish to speak this evening.

It has been said—and it should be said as often as possible—that the forests of the south-west corner of Western Australia have a tremendous potential for development in the sphere of wood use. In addition to providing material to meet the long-term requirements of an expanding population the State can offer vast supplies of wood suitable for processing. Wood pulp and paper resources are more than adequate to supply for all time the needs of the largest wood-using plant in Australia.

I notice that the Minister has now returned. I did think, when the member for Murray began his speech, that he and I would have to waste our sweetness on the desert air.

Mr. Court: The member for Murray knew why I was absent.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I wish to draw the Minister's attention to the fact that there is capacity in the south-west region of the State—especially the forest region—to sustain wood pulp and paper-making mills. It has been estimated that the marri or redgum alone would be very useful in the making of paper pulp, paper board, and

paper. It has been estimated that there is enough there to provide at least 400 tons a day for the next 100 or 200 years. A quantity of 400 tons of wood waste per day is available from the mills—namely, marri or red gum, 200 tons; karri log and young regrowth trees, 100 tons; and waste from the mills—that comes out of the chutes and is burned—100 tons. That is an overall total of 400 tons available per day for processing into paper pulp.

In addition, there is an unlimited supply of water, very necessary for the processing of paper pulp. Incidentally, I was indeed surprised and disappointed when the Minister recently announced in this House that Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd. were going to establish a mill in the metropolitan area. The metropolitan area has now reached about the limit of its capacity to supply water for industrial and personal use. We have had severe water shortages in the past two or three years; and yet we still insist upon establishing industries in the metropolitan area which make greater demands on our water supplies.

In the south-west, near Pemberton, there is a stream which has been estimated to have a daily flow of 8.39 million gallons. It has a salinity content of only 10 grains to the gallon, which would be of great value for the processing of paper pulp, which requires water with a very low salinity content. There is also a good system of roads.

In addition to the stream I have mentioned, there is a brook near Pemberton called Lefroy Brook which, if dammed to a height of 50 feet, would have a holding capacity of 1,200 million gallons. That would be ample for the needs of any paper pulp mill. Major mills are destroying large portions of our timber. Of the tree which is felled in the bush, not 50 per cent. is taken to the mill. When we consider that only 30 to 35 per cent. of the tree is recovered in the mill we will see that most of our valuable timbers are wasted at the present time.

I hope the Minister will keep that fact in mind when discussing with interested persons the possibility of establishing a paper pulp mill. Research has shown—and experiments have been conducted to show—that this timber is ideal for the purpose of processing paper pulp. I therefore hope that in his capacity as Minister for Industrial Development the Minister will keep these facts before him at all times.

There is another aspect of the use of timber which has not been exploited to the extent that it could be. I refer to the use of our smaller timbers for decorative or ornamentation purposes. At the time of the timber fiesta in Manjimup there was a beautiful exhibition of decorative timber in the local hall. I feel that instead of our showing these decorative timbers in local exhibitions, where people are accustomed

to seeing them and knowing their value, the co-operation of the Department of Tourism should be sought with a view to exhibiting them in the entrance halls to the department's offices in the Eastern States.

I know, from personal contact with people from the Eastern States, that some of them have no idea of the value of our timbers. Some people who are engaged in the building industry in the Eastern States have no idea of the value of our jarrah as a decorative timber, or as a timber used extensively for flooring. I have spoken to such people, who did not know that we produced a timber of such value or such durability in this State.

The Minister for Industrial Development, the Tourist Authority, and the Timber Development Association should get together with a view to doing more than is being accomplished now. I know that a good job is already being done, but not enough to boost our timber industry. Despite the fact that most of the firms engaged in the timber industry have shown substantial profits in the last financial year, there is still much to be desired in connection with the sale of these products overseas and in the Eastern States.

Another aspect to which I would like to draw the Minister's attention concerns the potentiality of a fruit-canning industry being established in the south-west portion of the State. I once heard the late Sir James Mitchell, at the opening of the first swimming pool in Pemberton, describe the climate of the south-west as being similar to that of California. We well know that California is one of the best stone-fruit growing districts in the world. In fact, much of supply of our canned peaches comes from California.

If it was possible to develop this industry in California, with its equable climate, then it is equally possible to establish such an industry in the south-west portion of Western Australia. At present, the area is comparatively free from fruit fly, and it could be kept free from this pest once the industry was established. There is a move afoot at the present time to co-ordinate efforts to this end and to inquire into the possibility of aiding the growers by means of a grant, as distinct from the establishment of a factory; that is, as an advance to the growers to enable them to establish orchards.

I know that a meeting is to be called in Bridgetown shortly to discuss such a possibility, and in all probability representation will be made to the Minister for aid in this direction. I hope he will lend a sympathetic ear to any such approach.

I hope that the Minister—in his triple capacity as Minister for the North-West, Minister for Industrial Development, and Minister for Railways—will not forget we have a south-west corner of the State—an area which has more potentialities, and

will probably become the biggest sustainer of population in this State. With all due respect to our north-west, if we are to sustain a population there we will have to be able to increase our capacity to earn, and that will be done only by expanding industries in the south-west corner of the State.

Sponge iron and integrated steel industries have been mentioned—ironically, by the member for Murray, who was largely responsible for giving away our iron ore rights to B.H.P.

Mr. Bovell: What rubbish!

The CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Mr. ROWBERRY: If we had that bargaining power at the present time in connection with our iron ore deposits—if we could say to people who wanted our iron ore, "Come here and exploit our iron ore; otherwise you do not get a penny out of us"—it would be an easy way of building up our population. After all, it is population that we want. As the member for Murray mentioned, our home markets are most important. In the establishment of industries we must have a home market able to absorb as a minimum the cost of production.

An attempt to establish industries in this State just for the sake of export will, I think, largely fail because of that. In my opinion we will never induce people to come here and establish industries unless they can see there is the possibility of selling that part of the commodity which will cover the cost of production. Therefore I say it is a great pity, in connection with iron ore and sponge iron, that we gave away this great opportunity, and sold our birthright. Countries which sustain large populations, and which have made progress, have done so because of the secondary industries which have been built up from coal, iron, and steel.

Mr. Court: Do you know that a Labor Government wanted to give that same iron ore to Japan at 6d. a ton, not to be processed in Australia?

Mr. Andrew: But it didn't do so.

Mr. Court: It tried hard to, and fought the Commonwealth.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am saying that had we had control of this iron ore at the present time we would have had one of the greatest bargaining powers that any State could possibly have. To my knowledge it was the McLarty-Watts Government that gave the iron ore away at 6d. per ton.

However, it is too late to worry about that now. I want to get on the soft side of the Minister for Industrial Development and I do not want to be involved in any controversy. I hope he will pay some due regard to what I have said, and that he will take some notice of the needs of other areas of the State.

MR. ANDREW (Victoria Park) [6.0]: I listened with great interest to what the member for Murray had to say, and there is no doubt that agriculture has played and is playing a very important part in the development of Western Australia. I do not want to detract from the remarks he made, but I do say that it is necessary, if a State or country wishes to become strong and powerful, for it to develop its industrial side as well. No country in the world which relies only on agriculture is a strong country; it is only when it has developed the industrial side of its economy that it has become strong. I do not think anyone can dispute that contention. However, I realise that agriculture has played, is playing, and will continue to play a great part in the development of Western Australia.

Mr. Nulsen: It has played the greatest part.

Mr. ANDREW: It has; and I am not disputing that. But I reiterate that we must have industrial development. There has always been a need for Western Australia to develop its secondary industries; but because of the smallness of our population it has been a hard job to attract industries to this State. The Minister for Industrial Development has spoken on this matter previously; and I, too, have spoken on the same subject. Because of a lack of the necessary finance it is practically impossible for Western Australia to develop rapidly. Also, because of the smallness of the population, we cannot get people to start industries in Western Australia. These industrialists prefer to set up their industries in the Eastern States where the population is so much larger.

If I were a businessman, and looking at the matter purely and simply from the businessman's angle, and I wanted to start a business, I would go where the biggest market was available—that is, where the population was greatest. I remember the Leader of the Opposition, when Premier, making a statement in this Chamber about the difficulty of attracting industries to Western Australia. The difficulties he spoke about were more or less the same as I have mentioned. He said it was necessary, if the Government wished to encourage industries here, for it to buy those industries. This was necessary because of the difficulties and disadvantages I just mentioned.

When the Chifley Government was in office in the Federal Parliament, Mr. Chifley made the statement that he had started a number of projects—we know all about them—and he had many others which had reached the drawing-board stage, as the saying goes, which would assist in the development of Australia. Some of those projects were designed to develop Western Australia.

As a matter of fact, that Government did start certain industries here, such as the whaling industry; but there is one

project which could have been started and which would have been of great benefit to this State: I refer to the uniform railway gauge from Kalgoorlie to Perth. That would have meant considerable employment for Western Australians and would have attracted industries to this State.

However, the present Commonwealth Government does not seem to be worrying about Western Australia. It should be a Government concerned with the whole of Australia, but it appears it is concerned only with the Eastern States. Apparently that is because the greatest number of members in the Federal House come from the Eastern States and, consequently, the Commonwealth Government gets its greatest support from those States.

In last Wednesday's issue of *The West Australian* there is an article which supports the contention I have just made. It is headed "East Criticised on W.A. Steel". The first paragraph of the article is very important. It reads—

LONDON, Tues.—It is no use the Eastern Australian States burying their heads in their industry and humming "I'm all right, Jack" while the whole of Australia's western flank is under-populated and exposed, a *Financial Times* writer says today.

For this reason, he says, Australia as a whole ought to be brooding over the sort of proposition a handful of Australians had been discussing—the establishment of an integrated steel works on the west coast.

The initial, undeniable, economic disadvantages of this would be met by a small increase in steel prices throughout Australia.

The second part is headed "Sniffy" and reads—

"Industry in the East, born and nurtured under tariffs deliberately erected to ensure its survival, should not be too sniffy about such suggestions," the article continues.

"For, as we ourselves have discovered, where steel is, there is the secondary industry which Australia's West—and therefore Australia as a whole—needs so much."

The writer reviews what he says is Western Australia's outstanding problem—the need to establish secondary industry on a scale large enough to enable it to support a population more commensurate with its size.

I think what is stated in that article is true, and I only hope that those in authority in the Eastern States will take notice of such criticism, because we have to develop Western Australia; and, after all, we are only a small population to be charged with that development.

Governments—and I am not criticising any one particular Government—have encouraged, or endeavoured to encourage, British and foreign capital to invest money

in establishing industry in Western Australia. A good deal of that foreign capital has come from America. While on the boat coming home from my recent trip overseas, I cut an item out of the news sheet which was put on the notice board every day. It was most revealing. This is what the item had to say—

Melbourne, 5th August.—United States Consul General in Melbourne, Mr. Frank Hopkins, told an American club luncheon today he had been impressed by the extent of U.S. business in Australia. He said that U.S. investments in Australia were bigger than in any European country except Britain.

It is revealing to know that American investment in Australia is greater than in any of the European countries except Britain, when it is realised that the major European countries have four or five times the population of Australia, and they are highly-developed countries.

By getting too much foreign or American capital into Australia we could be making a problem for ourselves for the future; and that is what I want to issue a word of warning about, because other countries have been faced with this problem. When almost any of the South American countries want to do something their Governments find that American big business owns practically the whole of their country, and practically all of the industry in the country; and, in many instances, most of the good land.

Mr. Fletcher: And in North America too—Canada in particular.

Mr. ANDREW: I was coming to that. A few weeks ago Professor Copland appeared on a TV forum and made several statements in answer to questions. He was asked about encouraging American capital to invest in Australia; and, during the first part of the talk, he said he was in favour of it. Yet in the latter stages, just before the session closed, he made an absolute contradiction of his first statement by saying that Canada was now facing a big problem in respect of American capital invested in Canada. It is a problem with which they are finding it hard to deal; and anybody who studies economics and international finance could easily find the answer.

When business firms make profits in a country they have to get those profits back to the country in which those firms originated; and they cannot send money from one country to another. The only thing they can do is transfer amounts from one country to another, but not the actual money. The Federal Government has borrowed a large number of dollars from America—quite a few hundred million of them; I quoted the figure some months ago—and that is one way for the American companies in Australia to get their profits back to America. However, it is building

up a problem for us for the future, because the only way we can pay a debt to a country is by exporting goods to that country and building up a fund there.

General Motors Holdens Ltd. is one of the big firms in Australia. I think the capital sent from America to Australia originally was £3,500,000. Yet the dividends taken from Australia each year far exceed that figure; so we are paying a very big price for General Motors' investment in Australia. I do not say that General Motors has not done something for Australia by establishing a motor industry here. Its technicians gave us the know-how, and organised the industry in which others are now engaged. But when we have to pay about 180 per cent. or 200 per cent. interest a year for that capital, the investment of a few more companies like General Motors could mean the ruin of Australia, because we could never pay our debts to America in the form of dividends. The other places I mentioned, such as the South American countries and Canada, have that problem at the moment.

If, for instance, Canada wants to pay dividends to the United States she has to export goods that are sold on the American market in order to build up a fund so that the American investors can draw their dividends. Therefore I believe that we can very much overdo the attracting of foreign capital into Australia. I have no personal animosity towards the American people; I have met plenty of them and I find them to be a very fine type. But in the legislative halls of Australia we have to do whatever we can in the best interests of the people of Australia.

Before concluding, I would like to say to the Minister, and to the Government, that when the Hawke Government was in office it did its best to get the people of Western Australia to buy local goods because there is such an unbalance between Western Australia and the Eastern States. I do not know what the latest figures are, but the last I saw showed that we were buying £90,000,000 worth of goods from the Eastern States, and we were exporting to those States only £30,000,000 worth of goods, an unbalance of £60,000,000, which is a huge sum of money.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. ANDREW: I was referring to the market which could be developed in Western Australia if we could induce the people here to buy goods made in this State, as they should be. When the previous Government was in office it carried out an advertising campaign to bring to the notice of the people in this State the advantages of buying goods manufactured here.

We often hear people referring to the openings which are available for their children when they leave school and require employment. It has been pointed

out that we could create employment for such people if only Western Australians would do the right thing and buy goods manufactured in this State.

Since the present Government took office, the advertising in this direction which was so prevalent during the term of office of the previous Government died down, and today there is hardly any advertisement about the need to buy goods produced in Western Australia. I hope the present Government will become aware of the great need to continue the programme of advertising undertaken by the previous Government, because there is a £60,000,000 market offering in this State. By the sale of goods produced in this State, employment in industry will become available to many people.

I have not gone into this matter in great detail, because I wanted to be brief. I endeavoured to put forward my point of view so that the present Government and the Minister in charge of the department can consider it. Every one of us should try to put to the fore the interests of Western Australia.

The points which I put forward were: Firstly, it is difficult to induce people to start industries in Western Australia because of our small population. Secondly—and this is very important—the Federal Government has not been doing the right thing by the State of Western Australia. It could do a great deal more than it has done, by spending some of the money in Western Australia which it is spending in the other States. Thirdly, I gave a warning as to the problems which might ensue in this State if there is too much foreign capital—I refer mostly to U.S.A. capital—invested in Australia with a view to making huge profits. Fourthly, we should endeavour to induce the people to support Western Australian goods, and thereby create a market for industry in this State.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [7.35]: I want to make a few comments on the theme touched on by the member for Victoria Park; that is, industrial development. The Government has been making a drive for industrial development in this State. It has received favourable Press publicity, as distinct from the lack of publicity given to the previous Government. For obvious reasons, the previous Government did not have the Press behind its move to attract industry.

I hope that in its attempt to encourage new industries to become established in this State the present Government will not overstep the mark, because there are pertinent features of which we have to be careful. Some people consider it desirable to induce heavy industries to become established in this State. The problem is whether such industries are established on a long-term view or on a quick-return basis.

I attended the W.A. Export Week Forum held at the Cottesloe Civic Centre on the 10th October. The Minister for Industrial Development opened the forum. Although I was very pleased to hear the speeches and the opinions of those who addressed the gathering, I had some reservations. I listened to the addresses of Mr. Holmes, the Australian Trade Commissioner designate, Cairo; of Dr. Henry Schapper—who is the Reader in Agricultural Economics at the University of Western Australia—relating to the primary industry export potential; of Mr. McKinley, a director of Gadsden Pty. Ltd., and the president of the Chamber of Manufactures, relating to the secondary industry potential.

Perhaps the only discordant note in this forum was the lack of representation of the workers. Those invited to the forum should have included more representatives from the workers who, after all, produce the goods for export. It is true the rural community were fairly well represented, but the industrial workers were not. It seems that the organisers of the forum fell down on that score.

I would refer to one other person who spoke at the forum. He is the chief manager of the Bank of New South Wales in this State (Mr. D. M. Arnold). He spoke on commerce and industry in export partnership. I was rather amazed to hear him early in his lecture lay emphasis on the conditions which are enjoyed by trade unionists in Australia. He was most upset that the 40-hour week had been introduced in industry. It rather appalled me to hear him refer to the part played by the New South Wales Government as a criminal act.

I well remember the time when the 40-hour week was implemented. Among other things, Mr. Justice Drake-Brockman of the Federal Arbitration Court said that in his opinion industry was in a position to carry a 40-hour week. One could not by any stretch of the imagination say that the learned judge was Labor-inclined, because for many years he had been closely associated in politics with the members of the parties representing the Government in this State. That would indicate the learned judge gave a considered opinion on that occasion.

It is appalling to hear a person who, under the guise of aiding industrial development in this State, condemns the working conditions of the people of this State, and brands the action of the New South Wales Government as criminal. It is interesting to note that in the transcript of his address, that particular section to which I am now referring did not appear. I am all the more amazed that he thought fit to make a statement such as that.

If the Government is to encourage industries to this State, particularly secondary industries, it should remember

that as a Government it does not have the job of producing the goods. Therefore it is incumbent on it to sponsor the interests and to improve the working conditions of those engaged in producing the goods which are required for export.

It has been said on a number of occasions in this House that an improvement by a small fraction in the standard of living of the nations which are close to our shores—the people in Indonesia and the Asian continent—would mean an abundant need for goods produced in this State for export. As the standard of living of those peoples improves, so should the working conditions of those engaged in industry in this State. The conditions of the latter should not be left to stagnate.

By improving the conditions of the workers here we will be able to encourage them to increase their efficiency and capture the market offering. We should not criticise the workers for what they are receiving. In future if there is to be another Export Week Forum, the presentation of the line of thought expressed by Mr. Arnold should be left out.

After having listened to the various lecturers who have given much consideration to this subject, it would appear to me that our main export must still be of agricultural products if we are to achieve any decent equity at all. The figures that were given clearly indicate that we get very little equity from the manufactured article; although, on the other hand, a considerable number of people are employed in the manufacture of articles.

Over the past 10 years, although agricultural production has increased by about 100 per cent., there has been only about a 1 per cent. increase in the labour force required. This shows that the new tendency in farming and agriculture generally is for goods to be produced much more economically so far as labour is concerned than was previously the case. It becomes abundantly clear that our export drive must continue along rural lines for the purpose of financing other ventures that we may desire to attract to this State. In this way the surplus labour force will be absorbed. Particularly is this so if migration is to be maintained at its present level.

For this reason the quick development of the potential farming areas in this State is necessary and should receive far more attention and some of the money that it is proposed shall be made available to A.P.M., and that sort of industry. If the money to be advanced to A.P.M., which is a fully-developed firm, were to be advanced to rural industries, far more would be achieved economically than will be the case under the A.P.M. proposition. However, that is a matter of economics and industry versus rural pursuits; and before any determination can be made along those lines,

the figures should be thoroughly examined. But I do suggest that some form of compromise should be arranged rather than that all the money should be concentrated on wild goose chases after big industries.

Our markets are somewhat of a problem, but I do not think that it is a problem which cannot be overcome. With the ever-increasing activities of the United Nations, within the next 10 years we will probably find that the world's surplus food will be channelled into some sort of pool which can be distributed by the United Nations and can be supplied to those countries that are in need of food. This would be far more advantageous than that our agricultural advancement should be retarded because of the lack of markets.

The present Government is carrying on what the previous Government started. However, I hope that we will not have any more people here like Sir Halford Reddish, because his type of industry is not desirable. Inquiries I have made since I last discussed that gentleman in this Chamber indicate that he has in England done exactly the same as he set out to do in Australia. He is progressively gobbling up the other cement works to such an extent that the cement is distributed in other companies' bags in order that the name of some particular firm might be maintained. However, we know that, as is the case in this State, the cement is all made at the one kiln and this has completely eliminated the competitive spirit in the production of cement.

I do not know a great deal about the north-west; but there is one matter I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister, and that is the situation in the State Shipping Service in the north. This is something which requires the very keen scrutiny of the Government, particularly when such a loss is involved. I was with one Minister, and another was in close proximity at the time, on the *Koolama's* May trip north. Because the *San Miguel*—a ship with a rather doubtful labour force—was in Derby when the *Koolama* arrived, the latter had to anchor out in the bay.

From inquiries I have made I ascertained that £800 was required to keep the *Koolama* in operating order while at sea. Therefore it would have cost around £1,000 or £1,200 extra for that boat to be delayed while the *San Miguel* loaded some cattle and proceeded on its way.

All north-west ports should be notified of the proposed schedule of State ships; and, provided they can reasonably maintain their schedule, they should be given the priority that they deserve. It seems unreasonable that the cargo that was exported by that ship should have been subsidised by the people of Australia; because, after all, the Commonwealth does assist the State Shipping Service with a considerable amount. Therefore, the people of

Australia were forced to subsidise that particular shipment of cattle to the tune of £1,000 or £1,200 because of the delay occasioned.

Of course, we know there is limited jetty space in the north; but a ship like the *San Miguel* should have been made to wait until a berth was available, and the *Koolama* should have been given first preference. I understand that on that occasion the *San Miguel* had stayed out for some time because the cattle it was to transport had not arrived at Derby. But it should still have taken its place behind the *Koolama* instead of taking the berth before it.

I am sure that the Minister will be interested to study this aspect because of the financial problem. It appears to be an extremely bad waste of taxpayers' money for that kind of condition to prevail. I suggest, from information I have obtained, that that situation occurs far too often in the north, and that it should be completely stopped. After all, the cheaper-grade ships should be made to bear the expense rather than the State ships. That is all I have to say on this particular vote.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [7.55]: I will speak only briefly on this vote. There were some aspects which I overlooked when talking about the paper pulp industry, and this will give me an opportunity to refer to them. There is far too much emphasis placed on wooing financial giants from within Australia and from overseas, especially when this financial assistance could be given to local small and established industries. I know that this is an occasion when the appropriate Ministers are congratulated, but I do feel that there is room for some further criticism on the subject of the proposed paper pulp industry.

The Minister has pointed out the potential which exists in relation to this particular market; and I quote from *The West Australian* of the 30th September as follows:—

£2m. Potential In Mill, Says Court

The proposed Spearwood mill to be built by Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd. would produce paper and paper board worth up to £2,000,000 a year, Industrial Development Minister Court said in the Legislative Assembly yesterday.

These products, when converted to finished articles such as cartons and bags, could be valued at more than £10,000,000.

For that reason, I believe there is still room for criticism of the Minister and the Government for making such a large amount of public money available to a company which has such a huge potential. I submit that the Government could well make available portion of that sum to smaller and established industries instead

of to A.P.M., which has such a huge potential itself, and strong financial resources of its own.

It has already been indicated by members of the Opposition that this particular company intended to come here all along and had, in fact, obtained land for that purpose. Despite that fact, the present Government intends to make two-thirds of the value of that land available to that industry.

The Minister pointed out the prospect that existed, in that the company could double its expansion in 15 years' time. I am pleased that, as a result of this industry establishing itself here, there is a likelihood of a further plant being built in the O'Connor area—Anson I believe is the name. I hope that when it does so, no financial assistance will be granted. There is also another plant which will be established to use the product of this company. My own locality is involved, and that of the member for South Fremantle, and employment opportunities will be afforded the people of that area. That does not, however, detract from the fact that the Government is bending over backwards to make finance available to A.P.M. The company's turnover is estimated to be worth up to £2,000,000 a year, and yet the Government is prepared to assist it financially to the tune of £300,000 per annum; and that seems rather ridiculous.

Unfortunately the Minister has referred to our criticism as sniping. Anything I have to say in relation to this issue is not said in the form of sniping. We do not want to frighten industry away from here: we want to see it come here so that we may have the employment opportunities that will flow from it. But I still do not think it is necessary for the Government to bend over backwards, as it has done, on this issue. I can understand the concern of the Minister for Industrial Development in regard to the establishment of industry, but I do not like his reference to our alleged sniping on this side of the Chamber.

I believe I am justified in questioning the A.P.M. deal. We frequently hear a lot about the freedom of private enterprise, and I do know that it does exist to some extent because small local industries have battled themselves into existence. They have shown initiative in enlarging themselves. Unfortunately, many of them, because of some industrial giant coming in and effecting a take-over, have been pushed out of business.

Big business often does not desire any interference in its affairs, but wants to retain its right to continue on the basis of private enterprise. Yet here is something which is inconsistent with that principle, because this company is not opposed to borrowing the taxpayers' money; although, admittedly, as the Minister has said, this money is to be lent at 5 per

cent. But I cannot see the necessity to lend public money to such a huge enterprise.

This money is to be repayable, I believe, at the end of the century. It could, over that period, be used to better public advantage. I have noticed that if a Labor Government uses public money to create a paying industry, unfortunately the industry, when it becomes a paying concern, is sold to private enterprise.

In relation again to A.P.M., I believe the company has enough plant and assets to borrow the necessary money to establish the industry here. In any case, I suggest it is probable that it is a subsidiary of the private banks, and that the private banks could lend it the necessary finance to establish the industry in Western Australia.

Mr. May: You know where they are getting the money from?

Mr. FLETCHER: Yes.

Mr. May: They are going to strangle the Collie industry to get that money!

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Mr. FLETCHER: The Minister said that the Government loan to A.P.M. would not affect schools, hospitals, and other services, and utilities beneficial to the public. I suggest that £300,000 per annum would be a big help to our schools, hospitals, etc.

A small householder wanting a loan must have assets, or an equity in something against which to borrow. I suggest that this company has plenty of assets, and that it was not necessary for the Government to be so lavish in the assistance it has granted.

We want industries, but we want them on reasonable terms. I think the terms granted to this company are unreasonable; and I hope that what has been done here does not foreshadow what is to come in relation to the establishment of other large industries of this type. I suggest to the Minister that he be not so lavish in the future in assisting industries that can well afford to help themselves. They will come here in good time because the markets are here, as the Minister has pointed out; and if the markets do not exist in this State, then they exist to the north of us.

Someone has suggested from this side of the Chamber that the existing loans will be fed to the company through the medium of water rates, freight rates, land tax, and other taxes that have been imposed during the Government's term of office. It is not usual, during the debate on the Estimates, to criticise such a matter as this, but I felt it was necessary to do it on this occasion because I missed the opportunity earlier.

We want industry for the purpose of employment and to provide training for our apprentices, because recently we have lost the opportunity to train apprentices in Government workshops. In addition, we

have lost and are losing a lot of tradesmen to the Eastern States. A bricklayer of my acquaintance saw an advertisement in an Eastern States paper—this is relevant to industrial development and to the question of what the Government is up against—and he contacted, by phone, the advertiser in Melbourne. This advertiser who was an employer, told him over the phone to come to Melbourne right away; that he would pay the fare. My friend pointed out that he had a family, furniture, and so on. But the employer in Melbourne was prepared to move him to the Eastern States, together with his family, furniture, etc.

Unfortunately, we are losing many of our tradesmen as a result of that sort of thing. I know that industrial development is increasing in the Eastern States; but whilst I concede that, I do suggest that the answer to it is not in the making available of huge financial assistance to firms so that they may establish themselves here; because they will come here in due course, when they can see markets satisfactory to them. I hope we will not hear of similar loans being made to B.H.P. or to any of the other financial giants that exist in Australia.

Whilst I was in the north-west I learned that the B.H.P., prior to producing one ton of iron ore at Cockatoo Island, had poured thousands of pounds into the project there simply because its profits were so large that they had become an embarrassment, and the company had to farm them out somewhere. For years money was poured into Cockatoo Island, and the company was still paying a huge dividend.

A member: How do you know that?

Mr. FLETCHER: I know it, because I was there. I draw that parallel between B.H.P. and A.P.M.—and one is probably a subsidiary of the other—to show how unjustified is the Government in giving financial assistance to such giants.

Progress reported, and leave granted to sit again at a later stage of the sitting.

(Continued on page 2518)

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. WILD (Dale—Minister for Water Supplies) [8.13]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This amending Bill is being introduced as it is considered that there are a number of anomalies in the water-rating system in the metropolitan area. In the policy speech of the Government, it was enunciated that an investigation would be made into the possibility of moving more towards a "pay-as-you-use" water system. Accordingly, a small committee was appointed and a report furnished to the Government in September of this year.

Following this report, and with further investigations by the Government into the water-rating system generally, as it applied to the metropolitan area, the Crown Law Department was asked to give an opinion on the system of rating as it has applied in recent years. It was considered by the Crown Law Department that the method that had been adopted was *ultra vires* the Act.

Consequent upon the rates as struck for the financial year 1960-61, a considerable number of complaints were received as to the valuations that had been assessed; and as a result it was determined, in fairness to all, that it would be best to ask some outside authority to completely revalue the whole of the metropolitan area. Following these investigations it is now proposed to amend the Act as follows:

The "assessed annual value" is proposed to be the gross rental value less a deduction of 40 per centum for all outgoings. This is to replace "net annual value," which is the gross rental value less the amount of all rates and taxes, and a deduction of 20 per centum for repairs, insurance, and other outgoings.

In order to arrive at "net annual value" in adherence with the Act as it now stands, it is required to ascertain and deduct the actual amount of all rates and taxes in respect of each individual piece of land for which a valuation is made. This is an onerous, cumbersome, and unnecessarily expensive method that is practically unworkable.

The proposed amendment is to eliminate those ill features by substitution of "assessed annual value" for "net annual value," and so to provide a basis that is definite and clear, workable, and simple of application.

It is proposed to set up an appeal board, composed to ensure impartiality; and to retain provision for further appeal to the Local Court from decisions of the appeal board regarding valuations. It is proposed that the appeal board shall hear appeals from ratepayers against valuations of rateable lands, and also decide upon the classification of any rated land respecting which the ratepayer objects to the department's classification; that is, rateable land used for residential purposes or for other purposes.

The Bill provides that outstanding appeals made under the Act before the coming into operation of the 1960 amendment Act will be heard by the appeal board, and it further provides that any ratepayer, not having appealed previously, may lodge an appeal with the appeal board if within 30 days of the coming into operation of the amendment such person makes written application to the Minister for leave to lodge the appeal, and the Minister, in the circumstances of the case, thinks it is a proper case for an appeal. The Bill provides that all extant appeals, and appeals which are permitted by the Minister after application has been made to him, shall be heard only on the ground that the amount of the valuation of the rateable land is excessive.

The proposed amendments are to enable rateable land used for residential purposes to be rated, either uniformly or at the option of the Minister, at a lesser amount in the pound on the assessed annual value than lands of any other classification. The purpose here is to enable a measure of relief in respect of rates to be given to private residential premises, including those of the type with a private water supply, where the rebate water in return for rates is not consumed. This provision is for the purpose of validating the making, levying, and collecting of rates and associated actions up to and including the 30th June, 1961.

Mention was made earlier of an outside body to do the valuations; and, following representations made to the Commonwealth Taxation Department, arrangements have been made for this body to take over such valuations completely from the Water Supply Department. Discussions are now taking place between the Public Service Commissioner, the Treasury, and the Commonwealth Taxation Department (Western Australian Division); and it is expected that the work on the new valuations will commence in the very near future.

It is proposed that the revaluation of the whole of the metropolitan area will be completed in time to allow such new valuations to be used when assessing the rates for the 1962-63 financial year. It will not be possible to determine the rates for the financial year 1961-62 until approximately March of next year when the pattern of finance will become clearer. It is hoped, however, to strike a lesser rate for residential as against business properties with an increase in the charges for excess water being the first move towards a system of "pay as you use."

On motion by Mr. Tonkin, debate adjourned.

Message: Appropriation

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

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1960-1961

In Committee of Supply

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair.

Votes—Department of Industrial Development, £207,495; North-West, £2,459,665; Harbour and Light and Jetties, £422,560 (partly considered):

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development—in reply) [8.18]: I thank those members who have made a contribution to the debate on these estimates. It is some days since the commencement of the debate, but I will comment briefly on the speeches which several members have made.

The member for Collie asked me to give the Committee some information on whether the Government had made any efforts to attract industry to Collie. The answer is definitely "Yes". These efforts have been proceeding for practically the whole of the time the Government has been in office. Attracting industry to country districts is not easy. It is difficult enough to get it to Western Australia, but when we seek further decentralisation to country areas it is even more difficult. However, it is something with which we must be persistent; and, sooner or later, our efforts will succeed.

We have had some success in the way of attracting industries to establish and develop in various parts. We are hoping that a major example of decentralisation will be the establishment of an industry by Laporte in the south-west, which could be extremely important to Bunbury and the south-west in general. So far as Collie is concerned—and this is the town to which the honourable member specifically referred—the Government has pointed out to industrialists the advantages of Collie in regard to such factors as power; an established community with all the amenities of a township of that size; and the fact that there is a transition in coalmining methods so that there will become available an ever-increasing stable labour force for other industries.

It is realised by the Government that the eventual answer to Collie's problem is diversification of industry. That is why a great deal of attention has been given to attracting industries to Collie. To date there has not been any success, and there is no immediate prospect of success, because establishing industry in a town such as Collie has certain disadvantages in the eyes of an industrialist. Perhaps "disadvantages" is the wrong word to use. It may be more correct to say that industrialists are inclined to shy away from a town which is essentially a coalmining town, because of the industrial history of many similar towns in other parts of the world.

Mr. May: That is not the history of Collie.

Mr. COURT: However, we have endeavoured to convince industrialists that if there is a diversification of industries at Collie they will not have industrial difficulties there with the labour force that they will employ in those industries; and I believe that to be true.

Mr. May: It is true.

Mr. COURT: Currently, however, the position is greatly hampered by the fact that at the moment we are trying to attract two industrialists to establish industries at Collie we have a strike on our hands; and I can assure the member for Collie that it does not make it any easier to attract an industrialist to a place like Collie, when there is a strike in progress.

Mr. Brand: And we are paying plenty for it, too.

Mr. Bickerton: It is *sub judice*.

Mr. COURT: In spite of the present difficulties, I want to assure the member for Collie that we are pressing on with negotiations and trying to impress upon industrialists that Collie is a most suitable town at which industries can be established. Also, I have made it clear to the two cases under consideration that we would grant much more inducement to them if they went to Collie than we would if they were to establish their industries in another part of the State.

The inducements offered have been financial assistance to establish themselves at Collie, and I hope there will not be the same objections taken in this case, if we are successful, as there were over the case of A.P.M. We have offered financial assistance by way of help with establishment costs and possibly some assistance with the early uneconomic periods of development.

However, at the moment, I cannot say that there is even a 50-50 chance of getting these industries established at Collie. The best I can say is that one industrialist is sympathetically disposed to the district and has an industry which would be admirably suited for establishment at Collie. The potential labour force under discussion as a commencing force, after the factory is built, of approximately 30 men, increasing to 60 or 80, would be a very sound industry. I feel that because of the preponderance of employment being centred in the mining industry, it is important to have a diversity of industry; and the more industries of a size that employs from 60 to 100 men that we could attract there, the better it would be, because it would strengthen the economy. If one of those industries happened to go through a bad time it would not have the same paralysing effect on the district as would one major industry.

Mr. May: Are you exploring the potentialities of the suggestion that I put up to you recently?

Mr. COURT: Which one is that?

Mr. May: I handed you a long screed about it.

Mr. COURT: Yes; that matter is being actively pursued. The honourable member referred to the importance of the south-west as distinct from Collie, and I quite agree with him. We think that, being the centre of the south-west, Bunbury is the potential Port Kembla of this State. It has all the attributes needed for great industrial expansion. It has a port; it has supplies of coal nearby; it has power; it has a good stable community; it has a good hinterland; it has timber supplies readily available; and it has many other advantages which would be necessary for strong industrial development.

Mr. Hall: Do not boost Bunbury too much.

Mr. COURT: I am not going to do battle between the member for Albany and the member for Bunbury; because to try to get agreement between the members of those two towns, no matter what political colour they might represent, is an insoluble problem. However, I think the member for Albany would be sufficiently charitable to concede that Bunbury has many attractions, some of which I have mentioned.

The member for Albany dealt with a variety of matters directly relating to his electorate and some relating to the State generally. He raised the question of margarine, and that is receiving consideration. I point out to him that there are complications in regard to this matter. The honourable member well knows the reason why production of margarine has been subject to strict control and supervision. Consideration has been given to the point raised by the honourable member; namely, that we are importing a product from another State which probably could be manufactured here and it is denying men employment locally. The question is being thoroughly and objectively examined, having regard to other complications.

The honourable member has also discussed with me the two other industries embracing the scouring works and the wool tops. I know he has done a great deal of research and made many representations in this field and I appreciate the help he has given. Up to the moment it has not been possible to induce anybody to come to Albany. I made representations when in England and have also made representations since returning to this State. I agree that many of the industries upon which we should concentrate involve at least the primary processing of products which we produce in our own State.

I can probably bring a brighter light to the eye of the member for Albany in regard to mineral sands, because I have arranged with Dr. Welch, who is the

geologist at present visiting this State with the Laporte team, to examine the mineral sands at Albany. However, I want to draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that Bunbury has a distinct advantage in this matter because the company in that district has at least been exporting its product. It has developed its product, and it has a vigorous export trade. That gives it a decided advantage, because it has proved its capacity to produce these minerals in the right quantities; and it naturally impresses a firm coming from abroad, particularly if that firm has used, in its own works in England, shiploads of ilmenite from Bunbury.

I know there are disadvantages in starting the export of ilmenite at the moment, because the price is not good. But the market will recover, and I suggest the honourable member continue his good efforts to induce people to exploit these deposits; because, with the upsurge of the Australian economy, it is only a matter of time when more titanium oxide will be necessary.

The member for Gascoyne concentrated on north-west matters. I can assure him that the fishing industry about which he spoke, with particular reference to the Australian pearling company, is the subject of active discussions, not only between the Minister for Fisheries and my own department, but also with another interest which we feel might be able to supply improved facilities to help the industry to prosper and function efficiently in that area.

I agree that the facilities there are inadequate, and it is impossible for the industry to function adequately and economically. The honourable member raised a query about the letter sent out to local authorities requesting them to establish local development committees. That matter has been carefully explained to the Carnarvon Municipal Council. It was not a question of its being overlooked or forgotten; it was a question of circulating all local authorities from Geraldton south, after which the cases in the north, would, of necessity, have to be dealt with as special cases.

Other points raised by the honourable member regarding town lots, erosion, and run-throughs will be followed up. I know that the erosion problem is very acute, and the future townsite of Carnarvon must be a cause of great concern to the people. The Minister for Town Planning, the Minister for Housing, and the Minister for Lands are all involved in this problem.

I should have thought that the member for Gascoyne would make some mention of the assistance given by the Government during the cyclone and subsequently, because I feel the Government, with very prompt help from the Treasury, met that situation in a practical and efficient manner. I would like to pay a tribute to

the *ad hoc* committee, comprising senior departmental officers, that was established by the Government very quickly. They all did a great job, and I have received letters of commendation and thanks from the local people for the earnest way that the committee and its secretary approached the problems. It is good to see the district has managed to achieve a fairly high degree of productivity, in spite of the setback it experienced.

The member for Kimberley spoke on his pet subject of the sealing of roads. He was very ably supported by the member for Murray. Successive Governments have had to face this problem, and it has been a matter of urgency for many years. It has been obvious for quite a while that the days of the drover are very nearly over, and the means of transport out of the stations must, of necessity, be by road.

The Government is exploring the possibility of getting a road through the King Leopold Ranges as an initial step to opening up properties on the other side of the range. With a view to encouraging some of the battlers there—and there are one or two real battlers behind that range—to get their cattle out, we gave them some assistance to help them get their cattle into the Glenroy Air Beef scheme. We felt they might be able to get some of the rough stuff off their properties. Realising that they are being opened up by some real pioneer types, we feel that while getting some revenue, it will help improve their properties by getting rid of this type of cattle.

In practically every case they have benefited from the scheme. The final solution to their problems must come from developing a road to the port from their stations. It must be a progressive scheme, because the cost of putting a good road through now would be fantastic; in fact, we are not quite satisfied that there is a suitable route to get a road through those ranges at a reasonable cost.

However, it is our intention to steadily upgrade the route through those ranges. I think it will be agreed, if members on the other side of the House are fair about this, that the Government is allocating very substantial and ever-increasing sums on road works in the Kimberleys—in fact, in all the north-west and the Kimberleys.

This is not easy when we have pressures from all over the State. But the fact that 19 per cent. of the total road grant is given to the north is indicative of the fact that the Government is trying to give a little more than the normal allocation that would be expected if only ordinary conditions prevailed. As Minister for the North-West, I am very grateful to the Minister for Works, who has taken a great interest in the north, and has been most generous in the allocation of road funds and loan moneys to the north.

The member for Kimberley also touched on the town of Wyndham. This is a problem we are facing. Tonight, a team of four senior departmental officers leaves for Wyndham to make a complete survey of what is needed immediately, and in the subsequent development of Wyndham. It may surprise members to know that the townsite of Wyndham has not had an electric light system in the past, in spite of the fact that it has been established for goodness knows how many years. Everyone has had to make his own arrangements for power and lighting.

The Government is examining the prospect of working out a scheme which will give the town power and light. It must be acknowledged that there will be an upsurge of population, and it is not only a question of having the bare necessities for those people; the town must be made reasonably livable, because it experiences a very trying climate during the wet season.

Accordingly it is the desire of the Government to see what can be done to reorganise the town of Wyndham; to relocate the township, and see what future developments can be made in a sensible plan. With the development of the port and the increased traffic that will go through, it is possible that most of the area in the immediate vicinity of the port will have to be given to port facilities. Whilst this might be a wrench to some people who have lived in those parts, it is inevitable for the progress of a town like Wyndham.

The honourable member also touched on the meatworks. The meatworks had a very successful year. The numbers were down nearly 4,000 head of cattle, but the actual returns to producers, over-all, will probably be slightly in excess of what they got last year, because of the extraordinary increase in the quality of the meat that went through the works. I believe it is some of the finest, if not the finest, meat that has been through the works; and the reports coming back from abroad have been most gratifying.

The member for Pilbara concentrated mainly on his electorate. He naturally expressed some disappointment that there is not a similar type of Commonwealth grant available for Pilbara as there has been for the Kimberleys. As I have tried to assure the honourable member on occasions, these grants will come; but they will be a bit slower. It is not so easy to work out an obvious project for Pilbara as for the Kimberleys.

The honourable member has often referred to the Pilbara report which was prepared shortly after the present Government came into office. We were hoping that the report would form the basis of a scheme which could be submitted to the Commonwealth for a grant, along the lines of the money made available for a specific scheme in the Kimberleys.

The scheme we hoped to be able to develop would be directed at the pastoral industry, to greatly upgrade and rehabilitate industry in that particular area. When I say Pilbara, I am referring to the whole of the Pilbara electorate; not just one part. I am referring to the Ashburton, to the Fortescue, the Nullagine, Marble Bar, Port Hedland—to the entire electorate. Unfortunately there was a cleavage of opinion amongst the local pastoralists, and that opinion has been expressed forcibly in writing, and in the strongest of terms.

The main point of difference was over the fence. Subsequently, as the honourable member knows, a meeting of the pastoralists was held; and they passed a resolution—with only one area dissenting—that they wanted the Minister to be advised that instead of the resolution they had passed earlier in 1959, they did not want the fence to be proceeded with. There has also been argument, and a difference of opinion, about the various methods of handling the vermin problem. I am pleased to report that a lot of progress has been made in getting a better understanding between the Department of Agriculture, and the pastoralists in respect of the vermin problem.

The Minister for Agriculture made a very valuable visit to the area; and I have noticed that since he and the previous director were in the area there has been a marked improvement in the attitude of the pastoralists towards this concerted drive which is necessary to control the vermin.

I do not think it can be denied that members of this Government have given a lot of their time to visiting electorates in the north. I cannot recall any Government whose Ministers have spent so much time in visiting that area in order to meet the people with a view to doing what they can to overcome their problems with the very limited resources at their disposal.

The honourable member has raised the question of iron ore previously. However, he knows it is the Government's intention—in fact, it is the Government's keen desire—to get an export license for the Mt. Goldworthy deposits. The Premier and other Ministers have made it clear that the proceeds from such exports would be used for long-term development.

Mr. Bickerton: What are the chances?

Mr. COURT: I wish I knew. We feel that with the greatly improved state of the known iron ore deposits in Australia, the Commonwealth Government will eventually grant us a license. We realise that it must be cautious in the national interest. I think, however, that the position has so greatly improved that sooner or later a license will be given. It

is logical that the Mt. Goldworthy deposits will be the deposits that the Government will favour for export. Those deposits are not big enough to establish an industry on, and yet they will prove substantial deposits to develop so far as mining and transportation are concerned.

Mr. Bickerton: Has the Prime Minister changed his opinion greatly since the last Government was in office?

Mr. COURT: As the honourable member knows, there has been a dramatic change in the disclosed resources of iron ore since this was made public. That must have a great bearing on the Federal Ministers when considering this problem. The Federal Ministers have a national responsibility, but I think the Government is coming around to the point when an export license will be given. When it will be given, however, I cannot say; I have no more information than the honourable member himself possesses.

Mr. Jamieson: You are not laying claim to placing the iron ore there? You have laid claim to about everything else.

Mr. COURT: The member for Pilbara raised the question of electricity charges. It is true we said we would try to bring about a system of power in the north, whereby there would be standard power throughout that area, so that people on transfer from one place to another would know that their electric appliances could go with them. At the present time, if one gets transferred from one place to another in the north-west, one has not the faintest idea whether appliances will work or not. We are hoping that, over a period of years, we can steadily arrange for each of these towns to be converted to a system which will give ample power on a standard basis. It is a slow process. A town like Wyndham, if newly-equipped, would obviously be equipped with modern plant providing standard power and plenty of it.

We are hoping that between the sessions of Parliament we will be able to complete a survey on what power plants are required in the north so as to see what commitment is involved in encouraging and assisting local authorities to convert to a standard type of power so there will be plenty of power to encourage people to use amenity appliances. We promised to examine the possibility of providing power in those places at rates comparable with those charged in comparable towns in the south. I think that phrase was used.

Mr. Bickerton: Didn't you give an undertaking to subsidise them to bring them up to comparable towns in the south-west?

Mr. COURT: We said we would try to arrive at a price for towns in the north in line with that in comparable towns in the south.

Mr. Bickerton: Are you still of that opinion?

Mr. COURT: Yes. It should be the objective of any Government; but it cannot be done in five minutes. For the time this Government has been in office, and considering the things that have been done in the north, we have done jolly well. I am not ashamed of what we have done in the north. A lot more has happened since this Government came into office than happened previously.

Mr. Hawke: Do I hear a trumpet blowing?

Mr. Bickerton: According to your policy speech, you have a lot left undone.

Mr. COURT: This is not a question of self-praise. I am setting out a few facts. It appears to worry members on the other side of the House when this Government is able to get things done in the north. There always seems to be an outcry over something. I can never understand why the Ministers of the previous Government did not get them done if they are so urgent.

Mr. Rhatigan: You are putting into effect what was commenced by the Labor Government.

Mr. COURT: There is no gratitude amongst the three members representing the north for what is done for them.

Mr. Andrew: Like what you have done for the Collie miners.

Mr. COURT: I am grateful for the contribution to this debate by the member for Murray. As is well known in this Chamber, he has a great experience of the north. Unfortunately I was not in the Chamber when the honourable member commenced his speech; but, with his permission, I was able to read *Hansard* covering the time before I returned to the Chamber. The member for Murray has a practical approach to the north and its problems; and I know his views on these matters receive due weight amongst the departmental officers. Of course, he has always emphasised the need for first-class roads; and he has good, practical reasons for emphasising the urgency.

Mr. Rhatigan: He did not say anything about the Eyre Highway.

Mr. COURT: I was pleased to read his reference to the separate administration. I think it would be appropriate at this stage if I made some comments on the arrangement we have made with Mr. Baron Hay in recent days for him to act as a consultant in respect of the north-west and the Kimberleys. There is a limited number of staff available to do the necessary research work.

As is obvious, the men who do research work do a job which requires a high level of knowledge and experience; and we could not get anyone with a broader knowledge of Western Australia than Mr. Baron Hay. He is known to be a good administrator, apart from being a good technical man.

Therefore it was felt he could be very gainfully employed for the next few months making an analysis of the various projects in the north—projects that have been approved and projects in prospect. That information will materially assist the Government in policy-making.

His work will apply throughout the whole of the north-west and the Kimberleys, and will not be confined to agricultural projects. We are hoping that because of his wide experience as an administrator he will be able to make suggestions as to how best the administration could be decentralised, and how these areas could be administered to put the local people in closer touch with the administration.

Mr. May: Will he be drawing his superannuation all the time?

Mr. COURT: I would not know. That will have to be worked out between Mr. Baron Hay and the Public Service Commissioner. I do not buy into that. The member for Murray referred to experimental plots on stations. Coming from him, that, of course, carries some weight amongst the pastoralists. I hope he will tell his story outside this Chamber to the pastoralists. Fortunately, there are many who are following the advice of scientists; and they are, perhaps, benefiting as a result of the work being done by the departmental officers and scientists from the C.S.I.R.O.—work which lends itself to adaption on the different properties.

Whilst research station activity is very desirable, to carry out experiments on the properties themselves is of even greater value when those experiments represent the practical application and advice which is so readily available from the scientists. In other words, it is complementary to research station practice.

The member for Warren dealt with the forest potential in the south-west. I have already told the Committee that it is the policy of the Government to try to arrange for a pulping mill to be developed in the south-west. We do not think it will be practical within 10 years, but it is our objective to get it in the south-west. Ultimately, there will be two paper pulping mills.

We are advised that the optimum size is a 400 tons per day mill, and we should be able to support these in the south-west with the forest produce available, both from marri and from other forest produce, such as thinnings and what is now being treated as forest waste. The south-west lends itself to this industry.

I can assure the honourable member that the south-west is very much in our sights for the development of a pulping mill. Regard must be had to the availability of water, power, land, and, of course, transport. We have already announced the appointment of an expert reconnaissance team. This team is to make

a selection in the south-west of two sites considered to be as near perfect as could be as potential sites for a pulping mill, having due regard for the availability of water, power, transport, labour, and the disposal of effluent. The disposal of effluent from a pulping mill presents a greater problem than the disposal of effluent from a paper mill.

The honourable member referred to decorative timbers and the use we are making of these. It is a very good point and one that could be seriously considered, because other countries make a lot of money out of industries based on the use of their decorative timbers. It becomes part of the tourist attraction. We could, say, have a cottage industry related to tourism.

I do not think we have yet started to take advantage of our local cultural ability in the handling of some of our local materials. It is interesting to note that the point is made in the preliminary report of the U.K. industrialists who were here that we have a highly developed cultural standard in Western Australia; and they were surprised that we did not take greater advantage of the local cultural abilities in the development of decorative timbers and the like for sale to tourists and for export.

The honourable member referred to the canning industry. This is a matter which must receive greater attention in this State. It allows for the development of a secondary industry and a primary industry which gives a high yield per acre. However, it is a long-term industry. It is receiving attention at the present time; but I cannot see any quick break-through with it in view of the fact that the establishment of the necessary fruit industry is a rather slow process and has to be well planned to ensure success.

The member for Victoria Park referred to the need for a balanced economy. Then he went on to talk about the call of the Eastern States—the attraction of industry. One cannot have it both ways. It is only a matter of days since I was being harangued from the other side of the House about what was called an extravagant attempt to get the A.P.M. to come to this State. Now he has said that the former Premier said it would be necessary to buy industry to get it here. Tonight he is telling me of the difficulties and dangers of getting industry to come to this State and of the necessity to buy it; yet a few days ago I was criticised—and again tonight—for encouraging A.P.M. Apparently one cannot win. If one tries to seek or buy these industries he is extravagant; if one does not do anything about it, one is accused of falling down on his job.

The honourable member referred to foreign capital. It is a popular catchery at the moment in the Eastern States to say that foreign capital can be dangerous.

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Do not let us take up that catchery in Western Australia. First let us get the industries before we complain about them. If General Motors Holdens did for Western Australia what it has done for the Eastern States we should put up a monument to it—it would be welcomed over here with open arms. It has produced a great industry for Australia, one which has a skilled labour force. That company has the highest average payroll per man, and the lowest safety factor in industry. What more do we want? If that company were to come to Western Australia we would be grateful.

Mr. Andrew: Is it right for it to be making 200 per cent. profit?

Mr. COURT: If those profits are related to funds employed on balance sheets, the position is not like that. The honourable member wants to be fair about them.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Mr. COURT: Before we criticise these people, let us get them here.

Mr. Hawke: Is the Minister going to answer every interjection?

Mr. COURT: If the Leader of the Opposition has a couple I will. The honourable member referred to the local goods campaign. It is true we departed from the old slogan of "Buy W.A. Goods." However, we have not neglected that angle. The sales of locally-made goods are higher than ever. That is the test. The final test is in the selling of Western Australian goods. They are being sold on quality, price, and service. It is possible to sell for a while on sentiment, but not for ever. It is only with sales on quality, price, and the right type of packaging and service that it is possible to establish a solid market.

I am pleased to report that practically every one of our industrialists who has entered the Eastern States market has been successful in getting his share of that market. We have some industrialists who sell very little on the Western Australian market—they sell in the Eastern States. That is the best way of doing it—to go on the offensive against these people who try to dump in Western Australia. Nothing will cure dumping quicker than if our industrialists go on the offensive and take their goods to the other States.

Mr. Andrew: You want to get the Western Australian market.

Mr. COURT: Of course we do; and we are getting it. And we are getting some of the Eastern States market. The member for Beeloo dealt with the type of industries to be attracted. I was not quite sure whether he was favouring abandonment or a relaxation of our drive for secondary industry and that we should concentrate on the agricultural side, or whether he wanted both.

If we want high labour figures and high population absorptive capacity we must favour the establishment of secondary industry. Our primary producers are extraordinarily efficient and are highly mechanised, with the result that the value of their production is going up all the time. But this industry does not employ a great number of men. We have to get secondary industry to improve the labour force.

Our object in bringing these bigger industries here is to create a diversity of careers in this State. I do not want to dwell on that at the moment as I have touched on it before. Suffice to say we must try to get diversity of industry so as to get diversity of careers. The honourable member touched on his pet phobia of Sir Halford Reddish. His remarks were quite unfair, quite unkindly, and quite unbecoming.

Mr. Jamieson: Did you make a study of—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Mr. COURT: If the honourable member would make a fair study he would find that Sir Halford Reddish has one of the most generous employee share schemes in the world. It has been written up in countries throughout the world as one of the most generous employee schemes there are.

Mr. Jamieson: That's rubbish!

Mr. COURT: The honourable member would not know. If he would get up out of the gutter for a while he would do this place and himself a bit of good.

Mr. Tonkin: What about giving us a bit of—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order! The honourable member will address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. COURT: I am glad you came to the aid of members, Mr. Chairman. I was going to say something that would have hurt the honourable member a little bit more. He referred to the State Shipping Service and the delay that took place in respect of the *San Miguel*. I do not know the exact circumstances, but I would say that the *San Miguel* was given first priority because of the livestock. Livestock have to be treated almost like human beings, whether in trains or in ships.

I will have the matter checked, as a matter of courtesy to the honourable member, to see whether the delay was caused by the fact that the stock had been detained when coming into Derby. When stock comes into the precincts of Derby, it is important that they be shipped as soon as possible. The ships can load only at certain tides. I think that position may happen quite often when they have to juggle with berthings to fit in with the special types of cargo.

The points raised by the member for Fremantle are the only ones I have not touched on in detail; but he rather repeated the abuse I have received from time to time

in connection with A.P.M. I thank those members who have contributed to the debate, although I am not able to agree with all they said.

Votes put and passed.

Vote—Agriculture, £911,193:

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [9.41]: I will briefly give details of this vote; and if members would like further information it will be my privilege and endeavour to supply it. The estimate of expenditure for agriculture amounts to £1,013,744. This is an increase of £61,045 over last year's expenditure of £952,699. Over one-third of this increase is due to marginal and basic-wage increases and the remainder is brought about by increased costs of operating and expansion of established activities. Incidental costs will rise £6,000 on account of increased costs at the South Perth buildings.

The estimate for research stations in the agricultural districts is £167,745 compared to £154,308 expenditure for last year. Developmental work is still continuing on the new stations, which include Badgingarra to the west of Moora; Newdegate; Stoneville; Swan; and the vegetable research station at Wembley. Added to the normal cost of developmental work is the award increase in wages and the higher cost of necessary machinery. The development of Badgingarra is designed to prove for intending, as well as new, settlers the value of the light lands extending northwards towards Geraldton in a similar way to that in which the department's work proved the value of the Esperance Plains.

The extension of the fruit-fly baiting schemes has meant an increase of subsidies to district baiting committees. This increase and that of the contribution to the fruit-fly eradication fund to match the sums from orchard registration fees form a great part of the £5,952 difference between the estimate of £18,680 and the expenditure of last year—£12,728.

The demand for services for the artificial insemination of cattle is continuing, and provision has been made to extend this contributory service. The estimate of £29,100 is the same as the estimate for last year.

The estimate of £3,050 for the poultry random sample testing is the same as that for last year, although the expenditure was only £1,853 due to leucosis and a consequent reduced consumption of feed, which is the main cost.

The estimate for departmental revenue is £232,000, which is slightly less than collections for 1959-60.

Agriculture in Western Australia has a very bright future. Developmental work is going ahead on a very large scale, and is already showing results. It is interesting to note the number of acres that have been brought under the plough during the last

year. It is estimated that within two or three years we will have doubled the area cleared since 1947. Approximately 13,000,000 acres were cleared around 1946-47, and we will have an estimated cleared area of land up to 26,000,000 to 27,000,000 acres within the period I have mentioned. That is very rapid development.

On Sunday last I met a contractor who told me that he himself had this year cleared, for a number of farmers in the eastern areas, 100,000 acres. I was informed of another contractor, who was operating in the north-east area, north of Bencubbin, and who had cleared 76,000 acres. These two contractors alone had therefore cleared an area in the vicinity of 200,000 acres, which is a large area to be brought under the plough. That will indicate the vastness of the areas that are being developed, and the continued importance of the agricultural areas to this State.

The production of livestock also has a very bright future. I would urge all producers, whether those in the cattle industry, or those in the sheep-raising industry, to use all their endeavours to produce young stock as fast as it is possible to do so; because with this rapid development of land it is also necessary that livestock be produced to fill those thousands of acres that will become pasture land in the very near future.

It is with a great deal of confidence that we face the future. Agriculture in Western Australia is on the threshold of great expansion, and everything should be done to increase the number of livestock that will be needed. Those who engage in this project will be repaid very handsomely for their efforts.

It was estimated that this year we would have a record season in grain production. Although the season closed rather quickly for a large area of the State—namely, that portion of land extending on the southern part of the grain-growing areas—I do not think, if I have assessed the position correctly from reports given to me and by observation, that that area of the State will produce as much grain as was produced last year. But in the north and north-eastern areas reports indicate there is going to be a record production of both wheat and barley; and, to a certain extent, oats. It is quite possible even yet that grain production in Western Australia could be at a record level.

Even allowing for the reduced price of wool, which is causing many people grave concern, I feel that Western Australia will have enjoyed one of the best harvests on record. There is a feeling of optimism abroad, and while this condition exists we must make the best of our opportunities and continue to support an industry which has contributed so much to the development of this State as a whole.

Mr. Nulsen: Do you anticipate that about 60,000,000 bushels of wheat will be yielded for the season?

Mr. NALDER: That was the estimated production earlier in the season. However, I understand that figure has been reduced somewhat. It would be difficult to determine the exact figure at this stage; but with coarse grain—barley and oats—we feel there is every likelihood of a record total harvest.

MR. KELLY (Merredin-Yilgarn) [9.14]: Like other members, I have been interested to hear the remarks of the Minister. They were rather brief, and he could easily have touched on many other subjects dealing with agriculture, and perhaps given this House some indication of what is happening in those quarters.

Mr. Nalder: I promised that I would give those details after other members had contributed to the debate.

Mr. KELLY: I think that the main points of the department should have been dealt with by the Minister in his introductory speech. By leaving these points to the end the Minister will be neglecting some of the most important sections of the department. He has told us that the season is a very wonderful one and that as a consequence we are going to have a bumper harvest; also, that we are going to have a continuing demand for stock generally.

One important point the Minister did make was when he touched on the importance of livestock to the whole of the agricultural industry of this State. That is one of the most important factors that we have to face up to at present.

I was disappointed that the Minister had practically nothing to say about the dairying industry. Some of what I have to say will be more on what has happened between the Commonwealth and State Governments than on the Department of Agriculture. I think the Minister for Primary Industry in the Commonwealth Parliament on the 11th February, 1959, after a great deal of controversy surrounding the dairying industry, made a decision—or maybe the Prime Minister made the decision, but at least it was announced by the Minister for Primary Industry—that the Government would lose no time in setting up a committee to look into this important matter.

That was over 15 months ago, and we understand that an exhaustive examination has been made by that committee in all States. At a matter of fact, Mr. McCarthy, who was appointed chairman, said at the time of the appointment of the committee, "We want to meet the dairyman on his own ground; in the cowshed and at the paddock and in the factory." That was a very good intention; but I am wondering how far those bale-side talks

have helped us, because so far nothing beneficial has resulted from the inquiry that was set up at that time. I know that those in the dairying industry are anxiously awaiting the outcome of this report.

Mr. Bovell: In the interim we have extended our dairy farm improvement scheme.

Mr. KELLY: I mentioned that towards the end of my remarks on the dairying industry previously; that is another side of the position altogether. The Minister for Primary Industry has had this report in his hands for five or six weeks, and still we have had no advice regarding the recommendations of the committee. I have asked a number of questions in this Chamber regarding the findings of the committee, one only as late as today when I asked the Minister—

- (1) Has he yet received a copy of the dairying industry survey which has been in the hands of the Minister for Primary Industry for well over a month?
- (2) If so, will he lay same on the Table of the House?

The Minister's reply was as follows:—

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

This means that after five or six weeks, during which time the Minister for Primary Industry has had this report in his hands—and it is a most anxiously awaited one—we are still in the same position as we have been for some time, and we have not yet been told of the committee's findings.

The delay is most unfortunate; because if ever an industry was at the crossroads it is the dairying industry of Australia—not only in Western Australia, but throughout the whole of Australia. Those in the dairying industry are anxiously awaiting the committee's findings; they were keyed up in the knowledge that a committee had been appointed to examine the various factors that were affecting every section of their industry. Some sections of the dairying industry are badly in need of support; they are badly in need of relief. Yet according to replies to questions, one of which I have just read out, nothing is available so far.

It was rather surprising to find in the daily Press a report which shows that the committee's report is in circulation in the Eastern States. If the Eastern States Press has not been shown a copy of the report, it certainly knows what the report contains. I feel that our State Minister has been far too passive in so far as his anxiety on behalf of the dairymen of this State is concerned. I say passive because this matter has been going on for a long time, and I would have thought the Minister would be right on his toes in finding out something concrete

as to what has happened. The manager of the R. & I. Bank (Mr. Chessell) was a member of this committee.

Mr. Nalder: He could not divulge any information.

Mr. KELLY: I am not suggesting that.

Mr. Nalder: How are you going to get the information? No other Minister for Agriculture in the other States has the information as yet.

Mr. KELLY: As I have said, it is public property in the Eastern States; and if the information can be given through the daily Press in several of the other States, why cannot we be given the information here? Our Minister tells us he knows nothing about what is in the report. If that is so I think there is a certain amount of grass growing under his feet, like the good season that he has told us about. It is time he got a hustle on and got something concrete from the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. Nalder: He has already communicated twice with the Minister in reference to this.

Mr. KELLY: It must have been a commanding type of communication the Minister sent, if the Commonwealth Minister has not given the information after having had the report for six weeks. We know the matter has been dealt with; there was a reference to its having passed through Cabinet. I have other communications here which make it evident that the report has been in circulation. Yet the Minister has not done anything about getting it presented to this Parliament.

Mr. Nalder: I think you are exaggerating the position. If you have the information you should let members have it.

Mr. KELLY: Why should I go over the Minister's head to let members know what the Minister should tell them about?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

Mr. KELLY: I am doing so, Mr. Chairman although I may be looking a little cross-eyed towards the Minister. I think we should have had this report so that members could have debated its contents. It should be a most valuable document, and it seems to me that now we will have to wait for possibly another eight months before we will be given an opportunity to debate what is a vital report to the dairying industry.

Some time ago, in connection with the subsidising of the dairying industry, I made the statement that butter was being subsidised to the extent of about £13,500,000. We all know that in addition to that subsidy the consumer has to pay nearly twice as much for local butter as consumers in other countries do. So the Australian consumers of butter are paying very dearly for that subsidy.

I know there are a lot of reasons why this subsidy is paid, and I know it is essential that something be done to keep the industry going. However, my contention has been—as I have previously expressed in this Chamber—and still is, that at present the assistance is given at the wrong end. I think there would be no excuse for the dairying industry to be in this position if two-thirds, or even 50 per cent. of the money that is spent in subsidising the finished article were channelled into the industry in the earlier stages.

The emphasis should be on production rather than on the finished product, and this money could be more effectively utilised if the financial commitments of the Commonwealth Government were distributed on a *pro rata* basis to the various stages of production to enable the Government to foster schemes such as the dairy farm improvement scheme which has been in operation in this State for the last three or four years. With the limited capital available that scheme has been a tremendous success.

By interjection a few moments ago the Minister for Lands said that that scheme had been extended. I already knew that; but I feel that if a lot of the money that is being paid by the Commonwealth Government through a subsidy on butter itself were diverted to the earlier stages of production, and granted to individual farmers so that they could develop more grazing land, and handle more cows, the question would be largely solved, and a great number of those who are now struggling would have to struggle no longer.

As a State, we have proved that by our dairy assistance plan. All those who came within the orbit of that plan are very happy and doing well. The Government knows that has been the case. The Government knows it well enough, because it has extended the policy; and I still think that if we want to get the dairying industry into a reasonable state, we have to do a tremendous lot more for the individual dairyman to enable him to produce more rather than to subsidise the industry at the wrong end.

If members have been watching our orders of the day during the last few weeks they could not have failed to see that on the 23rd August notice was given that a particular Bill would be introduced into this Chamber. The Bill was read a first time on the 24th August, and I can only assume, because the first reading stage is the only one that has been dealt with—and I suppose other members think likewise—that it must be a hot potato. If it is not, there is no justification for the introduction of a Bill eleven weeks ago and allowing it to remain on the notice paper without having it read a second time.

Mr. I. W. Manning: We have had a lot of other business to deal with.

Mr. KELLY: A lot of which was trivial. On the 25th August, which was the day following that on which the Bill was read a first time—and I cannot mention the name of the Bill—it appeared as item No. 22 on the notice paper. By the 31st August it remained as item 22 and then shares began to improve; it rose to fourteenth position by the 1st September. The next day our hopes went up because it reached No. 11 position on the notice paper; then it was promoted to No. 7 on the 8th September. On the 13th September—this must have been an unlucky day for the Bill—its odds lengthened, and it went to the eleventh position. In other words, it slipped from seventh to eleventh position; then it slipped a few more notches and on the 20th September it went back to No. 15. On the 27th it became almost a dead letter. At that stage it reached No. 24 on the notice paper. That was an astounding position for the Bill to be in. On that date only private members' business was further down the notice paper. Then it made a rapid ascent from 24 to 19, and then to 16.

For several weeks it bobbed up and down, more in the fashion of a yo-yo, because it was vying with various measures for long-distance positions and then short-distance positions on the notice paper. On the 26th September an all-time low was reached, because the Bill plummeted to No. 27 position on the notice paper. On the next day it regained popularity, and it went up to No. 13.

Mr. Nalder: I can save time by assuring you the Bill will probably be introduced tomorrow.

Mr. KELLY: It is about time. Members will realise that the Bill is none other than the one to amend the Milk Act.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): I cannot allow the honourable member to discuss that Bill.

Mr. KELLY: I was aware of that. That was why I did not mention the Bill until just now. The Minister has assured us it will be introduced tomorrow, but I am wondering whether it will ever see the light of day. I notice that under the heading of "Contingencies" in the vote there is an item of £100 for the purchase of bulls. The same amount was included in the 1959-60 Estimates.

Mr. Nalder: It has been included well before then.

Mr. KELLY: I am not going back further than this occasion. I am at a loss to understand this item, because it has not been expended. At present £100 would purchase only a worn-out type; even scrubby beef is bringing £70 per head.

It is not my intention to criticise the inclusion of an amount in the Estimates for the purchase of bulls. I am in favour of whatever Government is in office establishing a bull pool. It is very necessary to

have a supply of bulls to assist in the very side of the industry mentioned by the Minister, when he referred to the production of livestock as being important. To me it is very important.

I would applaud very greatly if he were to add a couple of 00's to the £100 in the item. Graded, reliable and registered stock, with the hallmark of Government approval, would make a tremendous difference to the strain of stock of many farmers who are unable to purchase such types of bull themselves. Although the price of stock was lower when the previous Government went out of office, when £100 would buy two scrubby types of beast, to-day the same amount would not buy one such type.

The pool idea could be extended by the Government, by the inclusion of heifers in the pool. In this way there would always be a pool of suitable stock available to farmers. At present many of them can buy only what they are able to afford, and many acquire animals which are not worthwhile. There are many research stations in this State on which such pools could be established. We should concentrate more on this angle than we have done in past years. I commend to the Minister the idea of acquiring a pool of graded stock to enable settlers to improve their herds.

I notice in the vote that under the heading of "Weed Control—Crown Lands" an amount of £1,400 has been set aside. This is £75 less than the expenditure for the last year. I do not know why the item has been reduced, especially when in the present abundant season there has been an increase in weeds. There is now a greater need for increasing the item because more weeds and pests have to be treated than in a normal season.

I asked the Minister some questions concerning Cape tulip. The answers I received fell short of the information I was seeking. I was disappointed when I realised the item for weed control had been reduced. I can show the Minister a number of places on which Cape tulip is established, such as roadways and Crown land. There is no room for a decrease in the item while such a position exists. The Minister should make certain that control of weeds on roadways and Crown lands becomes more effective than it was in the past 12 months.

I questioned the Minister on the use of tranquillisers and tranquilliser equipment. I indicated to him that I had no doubt about the effectiveness of the various types of tranquilliser and equipment. My fear, which was created by many people engaged in agriculture—particularly in the cattle industry—is that the abuse in the use of tranquillisers could become excessive. There is much danger in their unrestricted use.

I indicated it would be quite easy to engage in cattle duffing by the use of tranquilliser equipment. It would be a simple matter for a well-equipped gang of thieves, utilising tranquilliser guns, to raid beasts in the outer areas of properties, place them in trucks, and travel hundreds of miles away in a short time. This is a very live threat which faces many people. Very rigid control should be exercised over this type of equipment.

In his reply the Minister referred to the Firearms and Guns Act, but that legislation is not applicable. The Minister is remiss in not going very fully into this matter, and in failing to amend the existing Act. It is common knowledge that tranquilliser equipment can be purchased as easily as a pound of butter. The Minister said that great care was being taken by the people handling this type of equipment.

Sir Ross McLarty: What is the cost of a tranquilliser gun?

Mr. KELLY: I do not know. There are many types.

Sir Ross McLarty: I think it costs £300.

Mr. KELLY: That is entirely wrong. I can make one in my backyard for £5 without any difficulty.

Mr. Nalder: A full kit of modern tranquilliser equipment costs in the vicinity of £300.

Mr. KELLY: That is not the type I am referring to. The type I am referring to fires a dart into the rump of an animal.

Mr. Nalder: You cannot get any for £5.

Mr. KELLY: I know the type of equipment I am referring to. It can be manufactured by any handyman.

Mr. Nalder: You may be able to tranquillise a house cow with such equipment, but not the wild beasts.

Mr. KELLY: The Minister does not know very much about this matter, because there is every opportunity for cattle duffing to take place, unless there is some restriction on this type of equipment.

Mr. O'Connor: If this equipment can be made so easily it will be difficult to place a restriction on its use.

Mr. KELLY: That is not so. Firearms are placed under restriction, and the legislation makes it almost impossible for anyone to possess an unlicensed firearm. The equipment I am referring to can be purchased over the counter. In bringing this matter to the notice of the Minister, I hope he will be able to do something about it. Many people have expressed the desire for some action to be taken to restrict the use of this equipment.

SIR ROSS McLARTY (Murray) [9.44]: I was interested to hear the Minister introduce the vote, and I am glad to see there is to be an increase. In a State like this one expects to see in the Annual Estimates an increase in the Agriculture Vote. When the Minister replies I would like him to tell us what Item No. 10, entitled "Assistance to Agriculture," means. Last year the expenditure was £1,590. This year the estimate is £8,010, or an increase of £6,420. I do not doubt that the increase is justified, but I would like to know in what direction the money is being spent.

Another item in which I am interested is that of artificial insemination of cattle. The vote for 1959-60 was £29,100, of which amount only £21,000 was spent. The estimate for this year is £29,100, the increase being £8,134. I have not had any practical experience of this matter at all, but I presume it is successful, otherwise there would not be an increase in the vote. I assume the vote is being used, if not wholly, at least very largely in connection with dairy stock. If the Minister would give some information on those matters, I would be obliged.

I am glad to see that there is an increase of £4,539 in the vote for the Agriculture Protection Board. I want to pay tribute to the work the board is doing and the enthusiasm it displays, because the vermin problem is one of the most serious with which we are faced in this State, and any increase in the incidence of vermin could do a great deal to decrease the national wealth of this country.

We know that as a result of myxomatosis, rabbits were destroyed in millions, and consequently the national wealth of the country has been increased by hundreds of millions of pounds. Those are figures which surely would make any of us think, and think very seriously. I would have no objection at all if the increase for the Agriculture Protection Board had been a number of times greater than the £4,539 as provided.

The estimate for contingencies this year is £230,913. The amount allowed last year for the expenditure in respect of the control, prevention, and eradication of noxious weeds, vermin, and grasshoppers, and for general expenses was £183,614, of which £162,224 was spent. The amount being set aside this year is being increased by £68,689, which is a pretty substantial increase. Even so, I consider that every penny of it is justified, because this money is being used to do a great deal to preserve the national wealth of this country. I have seen reports from day to day that the rabbit numbers in this State are increasing, and certain districts have been named.

Mr. J. Hegney drew attention to the state of the Committee.

Bells rung and a quorum formed.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: We know that there is no animal which breeds at a faster rate than the rabbit. If there are hundreds in one year, then the following year there could be hundreds of thousands; and in a year or two, millions. If this should occur, there is no doubt at all that primary production in this State will be very greatly diminished. I know that the Minister, as a practical farmer, has a keen appreciation of this position and knows just what damage the rabbits can do.

I have read that certain schemes have been put into operation and we are told that the skilful use of what is known as "1080" has a very great effect in keeping the numbers of rabbits down. If that is so—and I think it is—the Agriculture Protection Board should have all the support it can receive. Not only is this of interest to members representing agricultural constituencies, but it should be of great interest to other members of Parliament representing any constituency in the State; because, as we well know, if the national wealth is decreased—and it could be substantially decreased if the rabbits increased to any great extent—the economy of the State must be affected.

The work done by the Agriculture Protection Board has been of very great value. We used to read that certain landholders had been prosecuted because they had not destroyed vermin on their properties, and particularly was that so regarding rabbits. I never believed that those prosecutions had very much effect, because a farmer would be fined £5 or £10—which he probably deserved—but at the same time he developed a hostility towards the authorities concerned, and I do not know that he would then carry out some destruction programme.

It would be a much more practical idea, even though it would be much more expensive from the farmers' point of view for the time being, if the work were put in hand by the Agriculture Protection Board, the landowner being debited with the cost. I hope that policy will be carried out. Of course there are other classes of vermin with which we have to deal, but none nearly so important as rabbits.

Mr. Burt: Not even the kangaroo?

Sir ROSS McLARTY: Not in these parts. The member for Murchison, of course, knows something of kangaroos in his own area, which is further north, where they are really a great menace. There is no question about that. But I made my contribution with regard to the northern areas earlier in the evening, and am now endeavouring to confine myself to the southern areas.

I agree with what the member for Merredin-Yilgarn said about noxious weeds. With them we are facing another problem. I am alarmed, as I move about sometimes, to see the spread of the Cape tulip to

which the member for Merredin-Yilgarn referred. It can be found quite close to the metropolitan area. The Agriculture Protection Board is doing good work in organising spraying, and is gradually lessening the amount of Cape tulip which is to be found. As this is so, the board must be exercising effective control.

Another weed which causes concern is the double-gee. I am alarmed when I see the prolific growth of this weed in some areas. The only way effective control of noxious weeds can be arranged is by providing more finance and staff for the Agriculture Protection Board.

I remember when I served on a most interesting Royal Commission, of which the Deputy Premier was the chairman. Much discussion took place and considerable evidence was given in regard to the matter of the vermin board dealing with the problem of vermin and noxious weed control. Most of the evidence we heard from practical farmers favoured the view that it was much better that the board should carry out the eradication methods on properties where a landowner was not doing so, and charge him for the work.

There is much I could say on this Agriculture Vote. Indeed, I could go on at great length; but I do not propose to say anything more this evening. However, I would be glad if the Minister would supply me with the information I seek, and if he would make some reference to what active steps are being taken to decrease the rabbit menace.

MR. MANN (Avon Valley) [9.57]: I feel this is a very important vote. In fact it is the most important, because it is by agriculture that we live, and our prosperity is gained from it. Over the years I have criticised this department.

Like the honourable member who has just resumed his seat, I have been here a long time; and over the years the Estimates have been introduced and a lot of talk has taken place, together with a lot of wailing; but nothing very much has even been done. I want to trace for a while the history of this department.

Forty years ago or more the development in the department was narrow, shallow, and complex. Over the years, it is the one department of the State that has never altered in that respect. During his regime the late director ruled supreme.

Although he was a man with a lot of ability in many ways, when it came to administration—the most important part of his work—there were some deficiencies. Therefore, when the time came that applications were called for a new director, I was hoping that some different appointment would be made. My view is that year after year, rising young men are employed but they are subsequently lost to the department because they are not given any

opportunities for advancement, for the reason that advancement is by seniority of service. After all, not everyone is blessed with the power and ability of administration. It is not merely a question of knowledge of the job but also one of ability to administer. Over the years we have lost some extremely valuable men, including Dr. Teakle; Professor Underwood, who is now at the University; Dr. Bennetts; Mr. Millington; Mr. Filmer, and a host of other exceedingly capable men. The tragic part to me was the loss of Dr. Bennetts, one of the most competent agriculturists not only in Britain but also throughout the world. He was a man who held the highest degrees possible because of the marvellous work he had done. Just prior to the time of Mr. Baron Hay he found it necessary to resign from the department. I believe that he and others resigned because of the narrow, parsimonious view held towards the department, and because of the fact that it was bound down by red tape.

We have to bear in mind that these men are entirely different from the ordinary person. They live in a different environment altogether. Their life is concentrated on research; and I refer to men like Dr. Bennetts.

In the building of the new laboratories at South Perth the expenditure was cut in half, not because of a suggestion by the men who were competent to advise on this matter, but in order to please the Treasury, to which this department has always been subservient. It was a matter of cutting, and cutting, and cutting. That has been proved by the loss of such men as I have mentioned.

I will look forward with a great deal of interest to see how the new director proves himself. He has lived in this environment for a number of years, and I will wait to see whether he has any bigger vision and will be able to secure the services of and retain in his department men with the highest degrees possible in agricultural science. The only way to do that is to alter the present policy of the department.

It has been proved that something is wrong with the department; because apparently, when applications were called for a new director, those who applied from the other States of Australia were not regarded as being suitable; whereas those who had the qualifications and could have applied did not do so because they do not hold the department in very high esteem.

Mr. Bickerton: We have Mr. Baron Hay up north now.

Mr. MANN: That is the Government's business. He has a great amount of ability; but the trouble is that he cannot apply it

administratively; and today I am concerned wholly and solely with the administrative side of the department. Dr. Dunne has high qualifications, but I look forward to seeing whether he has the necessary administrative ability to ensure contentment in the department.

In Beverley we have the Avondale Research Station. My property is two miles from the station; and over the long years since I have been in the district that station has carried on in the same old way. The late W. D. Johnson, while a well-known member of this Chamber, went into the country during the parliamentary recess to supplement his income by building. This was when the parliamentary salary was £200 a year. While he was in the Beverley district, he built some very fine structures at Avondale which are there to this day.

I want to give members some idea of the position at the Avondale Research Station. It is a farm of some 1,700 acres with various types of soil from the lighter soils to the heavier types of soil, which is quite suitable for research work on pastures. There is a shed there which has a cement floor, and it has been in the same condition for the last 30 years. It is used as a shearing shed and the sheep are brought in at one end and stay penned on the cement floor. As every farmer will realise, when sheep are penned in a place like that all night and most of the next day, coming in full, it is not long before there is a pool of urine at the end of the shed. As I said, those conditions have existed for many years, and that has been a costly proposition so far as the research station is concerned.

There are seven men employed on that property, and it is a place similar to my own where only three are employed. But it has had losses of about £15,000 over the last five years. One would have imagined that the Government would have some better idea of showing the farmers how to make arrangements for the shearing of their sheep.

At the station there is a shearing plant. It is a travelling plant, and it is practically the only one in the Beverley district. Almost every farmer has a two or three-stand plant, so that the men can swing the handpiece around and handle the sheep. But the plant at the research station is about the most antiquated that one could possibly find.

There is a great big shed there with 20 loose boxes and a loft for chaff. It has remained in the same condition for the last 30 years and it cannot be used—it has never been used because of the layout. The whole place has an atmosphere of tragedy. The position of the water supply is acute. Most of the gullies are of a salty nature and the last two managers applied for money to try to build some sort of water scheme to provide half

a million gallons of water. There are many ravines in that area that could be dammed up to make a big scheme. But no, the money is not available! Last year £50 was allocated for the water supply.

There is no electric light at the station. The men have to live on the property and use kerosene lamps. What a tragedy! There are only two houses with septic systems; and some years ago, when a field day was held there to demonstrate contour farming, many of the farmers who came along said that they considered it was not a decent farm, let alone a research station.

Many years ago, when those officers were doing research work on ewes, they had to test the urine every two hours and they had to have two motorcars with lights burning all the time to enable them to take the tests during the night. Yet this is supposed to be a research station, and that is the attitude of the department! The losses must be terrific; and that, to me, is one of the tragic things about it—the administration of the department.

There is a research department at the University—which we support by funds allocated through this Chamber—under the control of Professor Underwood. We have a Department of Agriculture doing research work; and we have the C.S.I.R.O. establishment at Kojonup. Why is it necessary to have three separate departments? Is it a matter of jealousy or what? Is it not time they got together and formed themselves into one research department?

If the Department of Agriculture is not able to carry out the intense research work necessary in a State like this, take that phase of the work away from it and let it act purely as an advisory department advising the farmers how to grow crops and produce fat lambs; in other words, how to take advantage of the advanced knowledge already available.

Today Avondale is chiefly used for the growing of fat lambs. The recent shipment of 6,000 lambs overseas by Stacey and Son demonstrated that Western Australia is capable of producing the right type of fat lambs for export. Of that 6,000 lambs, 2,000 were sent to Canada.

Ministers for Agriculture have never been able to grasp the position. I am not casting any more reflection on the present Minister than I am on past Ministers: because when I look back over the years I see that the majority of Ministers—in fact all of them except Garnett Wood, who was the man responsible for the establishment of the experimental station at Esperance; and Frank Wise, an able administrator—have never been able to grasp the position.

During the time of Garnett Wood, Baron Hay was engaged on soldier settlement work. I am a soldier settler; and I realise

that no Minister, except the two I mentioned, has been able to grasp the importance of research. There has been a considerable waste of money in this State, which money should have been used on research.

Take the case of lupinosis, which recently occurred along the Midland line. Last year it was estimated that £60,000 worth of stock died. But what happened when they wanted a machine to try to thrash the lupins for experimental feeding? It was said that the machine would cost too much. It was just a matter of cheseparating and cutting down.

I was told one day that a handle had been lost off the binder and 15 letters were written to the department about it. Just fancy that! Until this tradition and red tape is broken down in the department there is no possible hope for the future. There is tremendous scope for research work here, and no hope of achieving it unless something is done along those lines.

When we see men like Dr. Bennetts leaving the department we realise that something must be wrong. He was the man who solved the problem of braxylike disease, which was causing such terrific losses. He also found a vaccine to counteract paralysis; yet we let a man like that go. Consequently I have little faith in the department today.

The staff at Avondale are entitled to much better conditions. Fancy in these enlightened days living in houses which are so hot that, as one manager told me, at 10 o'clock at night the temperature has reached 96 degrees on the verandah. Yet those are the conditions under which the men work. They have inadequate water supplies and kerosene lamps and only two houses have septic systems! I understand that more are to be provided but that is the position today. No wonder they cannot get men to go there. I feel sorry for these young fellows who do their training at Muresk and go out to these stations.

I hope some improvements will be made; if not, let us take further stock of the department and if nothing can be done at Avondale let us sell it or lease it or make it into a training school for young farmers. My remarks tonight may be caustic, but I have seen this position over many years and it is very discouraging.

These days young men are not taking up the scientific side of agriculture. We cannot get enough of them to go into the laboratories and do research work. The men who can breed fat lambs and grow wheat are available, but we cannot get young men to undertake research work, which is so essential in a country like Western Australia. With the position today, and the extensive use of aeroplanes, this State could have an outbreak of violent forms of disease, such as blue tongue and rinderpest which are most virulent diseases among sheep and cattle, and

could quite easily be brought here by way of aeroplanes. We have not sufficient qualified men in the department to handle such outbreaks and solve such problems. The Minister himself has adopted means to advance the production of the State. There is no doubt that our production of cereals is increasing and our stock numbers are growing considerably and, therefore, unless stricter measures are taken in the field of agriculture we will continue to lose the real wealth of our State.

MR. HALL (Albany) [10.16]: Having received from the Minister answers to a series of questions that I put to him pertaining to the meat industry, I would like to draw the attention of the Committee to the seriousness of the situation surrounding the principle involved in those questions. The question that I asked was—

Are workers engaged in the meat industry in this State supplied with protective clothing when meat is being killed for home consumption?

To which the Minister replied:

Yes, at the Midland Junction Abattoir and the West Australian Meat Export Works. At other local killing establishments the position varies.

I will not delay the business of the Committee by reading all the questions I asked and the answers given by the Minister. The position in regard to the export meat trade is slightly different. In asking the questions I had acquainted myself with the various awards that cover the industry. The point I am stressing here is that disease is not only transferable from beast to man, but also from man to beast.

In the export market we are enjoying a very lucrative trade with old boners, as these aged sheep are called in the trade. The export market provides a valuable outlet for the sale of these old sheep, which do not have much value locally. The reason is obvious to anyone who has a knowledge of the trade. The standard set for beef production in America is very high, and therefore we will never be able to meet the demand there because the people of America are beef-eaters in the main and they insist on the highest quality.

However, this market for old mutton is varied because it is used for by-products, of which there are many. If we do not adopt protective measures in this State to prevent the spread of any disease, and we lose that market through our own carelessness it will be a tragedy for this State. I know the Minister will assure me that the killing of animals for meat for home consumption is correctly supervised; but I have been through many abattoirs in this State and have seen examples of workers wearing uniforms—if one could call them uniforms—which were extremely dirty. Anyone interested in the trade who

visited such abattoirs must feel that such conditions would have a direct reflection on the export market.

Having built up this market from practically nothing, because of the emergency that arose in America, we should ensure that protective measures are taken so that that trade will not be affected. In my opinion the control over the cleanliness of uniforms or apparel worn by workers should be just as strict as the supervision over the killing of the animals themselves.

The other point I would like to cover is that raised by the member for Avon Valley; namely the need for greater co-operation between various departments. In trying to increase our agricultural production these days, we must consider an efficient transport system for our products. In view of the large production of grain in many of our agricultural areas today, and the fact that some railway lines have been closed, there is no doubt that the use of road trains will have to be employed more in the future so that we can get the grain production from any particular zone to the nearest port as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Therefore, if we do not get co-operation between the various departments, delays and friction will occur in having grain exported from this State by ship.

I also wish to mention once again the establishment of an egg floor in Albany. After raising this point with the Minister and proving conclusively that we have sufficient egg production in the district to warrant the establishment of an egg floor at Albany, I am sure the Minister will agree that it is essential because the population will carry it. Further, if a floor were established at that centre it would encourage a greater production of eggs in the district generally.

In the Albany district we also produce apples, lamb, mutton, and wool in the grease. We could probably by-pass whale oil. In regard to the production of apples, I would like to stress that we have keen competition from the Argentine and our aim should be to transport the apples to the nearest port with the least possible damage to the fruit. No doubt the rail link between Manjimup and Albany will ensure that. Once the apples arrive at Albany we should use the first transit shed with a refrigerated unit where the apples could be stored and a regular flow kept up to the ships without worrying about further consignments from Manjimup and other districts. I hope the vote will be agreed to.

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [10.22]: During the debate on the North-West Estimates I referred to a report which was drawn up a few years ago by Pilbara pastoralists, two of them being officers of the Department of Agriculture. I asked whether the Minister was acquainted with that report because one of the matters with

which it dealt was the necessity for stricter vermin control. From discussions with station-owners in my electorate I have ascertained they have extreme difficulty in obtaining money from the Agriculture Protection Board, not so much from the point of view of additional doggers being employed, but more in regard to money being made available for the destruction of vermin in general.

One of the greatest difficulties which confronts pastoralists in the area I represent is the number of abandoned stations which virtually harbour many types of vermin, particularly dingoes. Several of the stations which are at present being worked have two or three sides of their properties bounded by these abandoned stations. In my opinion, greater research could be made into discovering ways and means of keeping down the vermin that exist on these abandoned stations.

I would like to point out that some of these stations which are abandoned have been applied for by several people who are anxious to occupy and develop them. Only recently I had a discussion with a person who had applied for a station in that area, only to receive a reply from the Lands Department to the effect that it would let this applicant know when this station would be allocated to him and that it was looking into the matter. The department, instead of rendering every assistance possible to have the applications granted, indulged in the usual procrastination which is used apparently to frustrate people who are anxious to take up such properties. If stations were allocated to the applicants seeking them, it would assist greatly in keeping down the vermin.

Perhaps the Minister would enlighten me on another point. The matters with which I now intend to deal will be the subject of a discussion I will have with the Minister at a later date when I have more information at my disposal. There are two matters concerning the research stations in my electorate; namely, Abydos and Woodstock. A great deal of research has been done by the officers on these stations in the last few years; but, of course, they have been subject to much criticism. Many people voice the opinion that the money is wasted; others say that the research stations have proved only what they already knew. I do not know about that. No doubt the Minister has a knowledge of their work. I am one of those who believe in research stations of that nature. I do not think that we always get immediate benefits from them. Perhaps the information obtained as a result of their establishment will prove valuable for the next generation in 10 or 20 years' time.

I have heard that those stations have more or less concluded their work and the department intends to close them. The Minister shakes his head from side to side,

so I take it that is not so. I merely thought I would check on the point because, in my opinion, the work should be carried on in the area. I do not agree, of course, that they should waste money; but if they are doing any good at all, agriculture and the State in general must benefit from their efforts.

In the North-West estimates I found that the cost of running these research stations has been grouped, and only one amount is shown. The cost of one of the research stations in the Kimberleys, together with the cost of the two stations I have mentioned, was represented by only one sum. I requested the Minister for the North-West, during the debate on last year's estimates, to have the cost of conducting the research stations of Abydos and Woodstock shown separately in the break-up of the estimates. Perhaps the Minister could supply me with the figures relating to those two stations at his earliest convenience.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [10.27]: I want to pay a tribute to at least two officers employed by the Department of Agriculture who have been stationed in the north-west for some time. Both of these men have performed an excellent job in the pastoral areas as well as in the Gascoyne irrigation area, which is more closely settled. I refer to Mr. Suijendorp and Mr. Lawson. As I said when speaking to the North-West estimates, I am surprised at the number of technical officers, both agricultural advisers and technicians, who have been appointed to serve in the north-west, and who have then resigned from the employment of the Department of Agriculture. Like the member for Avon Valley, I think there is something sadly astray in the administration of the department which is causing the loss of these valuable men.

Over the years, it has been found that many of these officers have transferred their services to private enterprise. If they are of value to private enterprise surely they have some value to the State, especially in regard to the nature of the work upon which they are engaged. There was one young man who was appointed to the north to fill a position as tropical adviser. He was not qualified, because he had not done a course in tropical agriculture; but the department sent him to Queensland for three months to do what could be regarded as a post-graduate course, so that he could more efficiently fill the job as tropical adviser in the north, and with more or less the understanding that when he returned he would be classified as such.

However, on his return, no such classification came forward. He stayed with the department for a considerable time after that, but he was eventually lost to private industry. Admittedly, he is still in

the agricultural field and still advising many farmers, orchardists, and pastoralists with regard to the use of chemicals and such-like things.

That was a young lad who came to the Gascoyne Research Station practically from his cadetship. He did an excellent job, and went to Queensland to further his studies; yet we lost his services. I could name quite a number of others, most of whom have gone into private employment. I have not been able to ascertain the reasons why these men were lost to the Department of Agriculture. It is only those who get very wrapped up in their jobs in the north-west who seem to stick.

Over the past nine or ten years there have been instances where two members of the Department of Agriculture in the north-west have resigned from the department, and have gone back only a few months later after their job has been advertised at a higher salary than that which they were receiving. They were doing those jobs a few months before at a lower salary. Surely they should have been entitled in the first place to the salary at which they were re-employed.

It seems to me there is something wrong. If it is the administration, let us hope that Dr. Dunne will do something in his new capacity to overcome the disabilities and the pitfalls which have been evident in the past so that we may retain in our own Department of Agriculture, which is of such value to the State, men who are well worthwhile retaining.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture—in reply) [10.33]: I thank members for their contribution to this debate, and I will endeavour briefly to reply. Some of the information which is required I have not on hand, but I will endeavour to make it available as early as possible. In reply to the member for Merredin-Yilgarn with reference to the report of the committee set up by the Commonwealth Government to investigate the dairying industry in Australia, it is, as the honourable member stated, some five weeks since that committee submitted its report to the Commonwealth Government.

I think, Mr. Chairman, you will realise that that committee was investigating for possibly 18 months, and after it had submitted its report the Commonwealth Government would have to give consideration to it; and that cannot be done in a short period of time. Some folk are becoming restless about the delay; but I am quite confident that that report will be released as soon as possible, and that it will be made available to those who are interested in the dairying industry. I feel rather confident that the report will be a very valuable document, and that some recommendations which can assist the industry in Western Australia will be forthcoming.

The honourable member mentioned the item in the vote of £100 for the purchase of bulls. If members examine the votes for a number of years they will find that the sum of £100 has been provided. In years gone by, dating back to about 1930, Governments have made available sums of money as subsidies to assist dairy farmers with the purchase of better types of bulls. As years passed, no advantage was taken of that subsidy by the breeders, but the amount of £100 has appeared in the Estimates from year to year.

I made an inquiry about the reason for that amount still remaining in the Estimates; and I have been assured that it is advisable, even at this stage, still to provide that sum, even though no-one draws on it. If it is found that no-one is likely ever to avail himself of the subsidy, most likely it will be taken out of the Estimates.

The matter of weed control is one of concern to all landholders in Western Australia. The problem is being tackled by the Agriculture Protection Board, and I feel quite confident that there is already an improvement in the work being done. The matter of Cape tulip has been in the minds of many members of this Committee; and this has been expressed by various questions asked and comments made over the years since I have been a member of this House. I feel sure that every effort is being made to control the spread of Cape tulip. I would mention the interest being taken by the Railways Department, which is using modern methods of spraying Cape tulip on the railway lines; and I know that good results have been achieved. Many local authorities, with the assistance of the Agriculture Protection Board, are spraying roads, vacant blocks, and Crown land with the object of keeping the spread of Cape tulip in hand.

I know that last year the member for Narrogin was very interested in this matter, because a considerable acreage in his electorate was affected by Cape tulip. I am pleased to say that, as a result of the activities of various farmers, road boards, and the Agriculture Protection Board, there is a definite sign that this spread is being brought to a halt, and that control measures are proving successful. I am not saying that with the idea of everybody thinking there is no problem in this regard. There is a continuing problem, not only with Cape tulip, but with other noxious weeds as well. However, every effort will be taken to control the spread of those noxious weeds, which are problems in the other States also.

So far as the entry of noxious weeds into this State by way of stock being imported is concerned, the Government is using every endeavour to see that the control measures taken at Kalgoorlie are effective. These measures have been criticised by people who have been importing stock, but I think members will agree that we cannot ease up in our control in this regard.

In recent years, quite a number of stock have been imported from other States; and on several occasions we have found that stock—and especially sheep—have been carriers of a number of noxious weeds which we are hoping to keep out of this State. We have been approached with regard to some relaxation at Kalgoorlie, to which city large numbers of sheep are brought and pastured for a period. At one stage, agreement was reached which allowed the sheep to be pastured on some of the open spaces around Parkeston. But it is felt that this has not been a wise move, and the restrictions will have to continue.

On one occasion it was necessary to send sheep to Fremantle to be shorn. Of course that involved extra cost; but it must be emphasised that if we relax our control measures many districts of the State will be covered with noxious weeds which have been a curse to agriculture in the Eastern States.

So the department intends to continue to control the entry of stock into Western Australia and to see that stock—especially sheep—do not spread noxious weeds in this State. As I mentioned before, sheep are the main carriers. We do not want to relax one iota, but want to continue to carry out the control measures which are being undertaken in the goldfields area.

The matter of tranquilisers was mentioned by one honourable member. Neither the department nor I, as Minister, have been approached by any of the organisations of the pastoralists or the Farmers' Union. On a recent tour of the north I discussed this matter with a number of pastoralists; and although the use of this method of handling stock has been introduced, it is not widely used at the moment. It is still in the experimental stage. However, if it becomes a problem I feel sure the officers of the department will keep their eye on it and seek the advice and help of the Police Department if necessary.

The member for Murray made a request with regard to Item No. 10, and suggested that some information could be made available. He was referring to assistance to agriculture. Last year, the matter of pleuro-pneumonia and its control was discussed at the Agricultural Council meeting, and it was agreed that some effort should be made throughout the Commonwealth to eradicate this disease from our herds, the expense to be shared by the Commonwealth and State Governments.

In Western Australia this amount will be used in an endeavour to eradicate pleuro-pneumonia from the north-west. The contribution of this State amounts to 9 per cent. of the total; and, as I have mentioned, it will be used in an endeavour to control this problem in our beef herds in the north.

Concerning artificial insemination of cattle, there has been some criticism voiced by a section of dairymen; but the department is endeavouring to overcome the problem. Without wearying the Committee, since I am endeavouring to give as much information as possible, I would point out that the artificial insemination set-up at Wokalup has been established with a view to assisting dairy farmers to improve the quality of their herds. Only best bulls are used—tried and tested strains—to improve the quality of dairy cattle in this State. The initial problems associated with the establishment of the insemination scheme at Wokalup have been overcome, and reports of those using the scheme—especially in the whole-milk areas—have been most gratifying.

The criticism has been from areas further removed from Wokalup. The department is facing a number of problems, including that of distance from the research station, where it is necessary for operators to travel many miles to make contact with the farms that require the semen. However, every endeavour is being made to overcome these problems, and the increase in the vote is to extend the area of the activities of the artificial insemination set-up.

The matter of vermin was mentioned by the member for Murray. Members who cast their minds back over a number of years will recall the problem that faced this State concerning the rabbits. It has already been explained that myxomatosis had the effect of reducing the rabbit population considerably; and we are endeavouring in every way to keep rabbits well and truly under control. I think the activities of the Agriculture Protection Board are proving that.

Although there has been criticism—and I do not think any department or organisation is free from criticism—it must be admitted that the work that has been done and is being done is in the interests of the State, and it is having the effect of keeping the rabbit population under control.

The vigilance of officers in various parts of the State concerning other vermin is also to be commended. The matter has been referred to by various speakers representing both the lower portions of the State and the north. There are very great problems associated with the control of vermin.

From a recent tour I made of the north—travelling from Wyndham to Broome and from Derby to Port Hedland—I was able to appreciate the problems which face pastoralists in that area. However, I feel that the work which is being done, and which is intended to take place over the ensuing months, will produce definite results.

Reference was made by the member for Murray to the cattle industry. The value of the industry in the north is fully recognised; and the Minister for the North-West referred to the fact that the excellent year recently enjoyed in the north has resulted in good-quality cattle passing through the meatworks. He referred to the value of drovers in the past and the fact that they contributed much towards getting the stock to the meatworks. He also pointed out that the problem of getting drovers to carry on this work was an increasingly difficult one.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, you will allow me to repeat comments made by the member for Darling Range with regard to the shortage of drovers in the north-west.

Droving—The Modern Way

The days of the drover are just about over.

Said the Member for Murray—Sir Ross, When telling of stations owned by relations

Where mechanical travel has ousted the hoss.

With no edible stubbles the Kimberley's troubles

Are caused by the wild kangaroo.

With donkeys and asses devouring the grasses

That were meant for the cattle to chew.

We're all in accord that the plains of the Ord

Will flourish where grass now is rare.

From land so well watered the steers will be slaughtered,

Then brought to the market by air.

The member for Murray must know that with the introduction of mechanical means, although drovers have played an important part in the past, road trains will probably contribute to the transportation of stock in that area, as they are doing in other areas, and the cattle will be brought into the meatworks in good condition and in a quicker and more efficient manner than hitherto. That matter is being well and truly looked after. Although I travelled over many miles of roads, and found them to be in excellent condition, I feel that the most important problem is the bridging of creeks and rivers over which the roads pass. That is a problem of immediate importance.

Mr. Bickerton: Did you travel by car or train?

Mr. NALDER: In a four-wheel-drive truck, from the Kimberleys down to Derby, and from the Gascoyne up to Port Hedland.

Mr. Bickerton: What speed were you doing?

Mr. NALDER: Round about 60 miles an hour.

Mr. Bickerton: That's a good speed.

Mr. NALDER: I listened with interest to the criticism of the member for Avon Valley. As far as the housing conditions for the staff at Avondale are concerned, steps are being taken to assist them in this regard. I have not received any suggestions from the honourable member.

Mr. Mann: It's not my job to make suggestions.

Mr. NALDER: I feel that if the honourable member were interested in the area, he would have offered some suggestions. He did refer to the possible disposal of the research station there. I do not know how the people of Beverley would react to that suggestion. If it is not contributing in any way to research, I would say that consideration would have to be given to the honourable member's suggestion.

Mr. Mann: There are a lot of other research stations in the State like it, too.

Mr. NALDER: The point raised by the member for Albany concerning the meat industry is an important one. Every effort is being made, particularly with regard to export meat, to ensure that stock are killed under the best of conditions and that the meat is handled to conform with regulations. During the past few months I have visited slaughter houses from the north to the south and have had an opportunity of seeing at first hand the work that is being done.

I can assure the honourable member, and all members, that no stone is being left unturned to ensure that meat is killed under the best conditions; and inspecting officers ensure that no dirt, or hair, or other matter is on the meat when it is packed. I would say that the work that is being done in this regard is a credit to all concerned. I would invite any interested member to have a look at Midland Junction, or Robb Jetty, or any of the other abattoirs to see the importance attached to cleanliness and the handling of the meat.

Concerning the egg floor at Albany, that is a matter for the Egg Board to deal with; and I can assure the honourable member that when the board considers it necessary to establish a floor at Albany, it will be done. However, at this stage the board considers it unnecessary, and that it would not be economical to establish a grading centre there.

The member for Pilbara raised a point regarding abandoned stations. This matter was discussed when I visited the area recently. Existing watering places have been used to poison quite a large number of vermin. I understand that water-holes were fenced off for a period, and the gates were then opened and kangaroos allowed to come in and drink. The troughs were

poisoned, and many hundreds and thousands of kangaroos were killed. I think that every effort has been made to use this avenue of destroying vermin.

Reference was made to Woodstock and Abydos Research Stations. I would point out the importance of these two stations. At this stage there is no thought of disposing of them. As to the costs involved, I will endeavour to have those figures made available since they are not available on the Estimates. I would like to inform the Chamber of the valuable experimental work being carried out on those stations in connection with the breeding of sheep. The results of the experiments are very illuminating; and although I have not had the official figures, I understand that the information gained to date is valuable. Breeding problems associated with the north-west are causing pastoralists much concern, and experiments are being carried out to provide an answer to those problems. So far, the work performed there has been helpful indeed to all concerned, and I can assure the honourable member that it will continue.

The member for Gascoyne referred to the valuable work being done by the officers of the Department of Agriculture in the north. I, too, praise highly the work that is being done by the departmental officers in that area. The valuable assistance and advice they are giving is greatly appreciated by the people in the north, and the department is doing all it can to keep those officers happy and contented whilst they are serving in those positions. The problem of retaining officers in the north is not confined to the Department of Agriculture. I venture to say it is shared by the pastoralists themselves, apart from other Government departments.

Every effort is being made to solve the housing problems of those officers and to ensure that their children are transported to the nearest school so that they may receive an adequate education, and so on. In fact, every thought is being given in an endeavour to satisfy the needs of those officers. The Government will continue to try to ensure that their services are retained for the benefit of the people in the north, so that any advice the officers may have to offer will be available to them.

I now refer to the efforts of the department to regenerate huge areas of land in the north that are at present non-productive so far as pastures are concerned. I have many picture slides—which I will be only too pleased to show to any honourable member who is interested—of the work that has been done and the wonderful results that have been achieved in reclaiming a great deal of the waste land, not only in the north, but also in the central portion of the State. The work performed has much to commend it; and, in years to come, with controlled grazing it will be found that much of the

area now regarded as useless will have been brought back into production, thus making thousands of acres of grazing land available for the raising of beef cattle.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—College of Agriculture, £63,597; Agriculture Protection Board, £38,954—put and passed.

Vote—Public Works and Buildings, £1,365,050:

MR. WILD (Dale—Minister for Works) [11.41: The Public Works Department's activities cover the entire State and include construction and maintenance of jetties, harbours, and rivers; construction and maintenance of public buildings; construction, maintenance, and operation of all goldfields, agricultural, and country town water supplies; sewerage, irrigation, and drainage; and the acquisition of property as required for Government purposes.

In addition to work provided from its own funds, the department undertakes work from funds provided by the Commonwealth Government and other State Government departments, local government authorities, and other organisations. Of the total expenditure on the activities of the department for the year ended the 30th June, 1960, £7,786,985 was incurred by the engineering division, and £6,946,129 by the architectural division, a total of £14,733,114.

The construction of the modified comprehensive water supply scheme has continued within the limits of available funds. As the major pipelines to country towns have been completed, work has been concentrated upon constructing extensions to farmland areas. This modified scheme is being financed on a pound for pound basis by the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments; and if the present rate of progress is maintained, it should be completed in time for water to be available throughout the whole area of the scheme during most of the 1961-62 summer. Investigations for the extension of this scheme have been completed, and the Commonwealth Government is at present considering the case presented for further financial assistance. I might say here that the original application to the Commonwealth Government was rejected, but we have again reopened the case.

The goldfields water supply scheme is being continually improved and maintained. As finance permits, sections of the main conduit are either enlarged or replaced where defective. Existing water supply schemes in some 27 country towns will receive attention to meet increasing demands and keep pace with local development.

New reticulated schemes will be functioning this financial year in the towns of Denmark and Port Denison, while minor

schemes are likely to be completed in the towns of Wubin, Borden, and Ravens-thorpe. It is also expected that work will commence on schemes for the reticulation of the towns of Nannup and Greenbushes.

Except for minor works, Wellington Dam has been completed. This, in conjunction with the enlargement of the Collie main channel on which further expenditure will be incurred this financial year, will make the Collie irrigation area safe from water shortage.

It is proposed to construct an earth-bank dam 150 feet high across Logue Brook to supplement the supply of irrigation water to the Harvey district. This financial year it is expected that preliminary works and a diversion tunnel will be constructed.

At Esperance, investigations will be made with the object of improving an area near Dempster Head for jetty proposals, while at Albany work will be continued on the construction of a new transit shed behind No. 1 berth. Further rock dredging will also be carried out in this harbour.

As a part of a three-year plan, extensions will be made to the breakwater at Bunbury, while work will be continued on the construction of the fishing boat harbours at Geraldton and Fremantle.

In the country centres of Geraldton, Northam, Collie and Albany, sewerage schemes are being maintained and improved. Construction of a sewerage scheme for the central part of Merredin and an effluent disposal scheme at Bunbury are in progress. In addition, it is proposed to commence construction of a sewerage scheme at Narrogin and Katanning this financial year.

Outport installations, water supplies, and Government buildings will continue to receive attention throughout the North-West. The Commonwealth Government is providing an amount of £5,000,000 to be expended over five years for the development of the north-west and under this scheme, extensions to the Wyndham jetty have been completed and work is in progress on the reconstruction of the original jetty. A contract has also been let for the construction of a diversion dam across the Ord River to provide water and to promote closer settlement of the East Kimberley area.

A large programme of hospital, school, and other works was completed during the year and further large programmes are under construction, or being planned.

Major works completed include the new Esperance Hospital, extensive additions to the Derby Hospital, new high schools at Medina, Busselton, Bentley, Scarborough, and Kalamunda, the Caversham Boys' Reformatory, the University Women's College, and new courthouses and offices at Derby and Port Hedland.

Major works under construction include the Albany regional hospital; extensive additions to the King Edward Memorial, Narrogin, and Fremantle Hospitals; a new hospital at Osborne Park; the linear accelerator building and X-ray laboratories at Hollywood; a new high school at Melville; additions to the Bentley, Hollywood, Busselton, Collie, Northam, Katanning, Perth Modern, Albany, Applecross, Kalamunda, and Narrogin High Schools, the University Engineering School, the University Chemistry Department, the Rural and Industries Bank, offices and work for the Government Printer, the Agricultural Department's laboratories and offices, Parliament House additions (first section) and courthouses at Katanning and Mullewa.

The programme for the current financial year provides for a large number of school-works, including new high schools at Swanbourne and Embleton, and additions to the Belmont, Applecross, Bunbury, Mt. Lawley, Scarborough, Geraldton, and Albany High Schools. Hospital works include new nurses' quarters at the Royal Perth Hospital; further additions to the Fremantle Hospital; and additions to the Perth Dental, Swan, Carnarvon, Port Hedland, and many country hospitals. Other works to be commenced include the University Physics Department, first section of the new police headquarters at East Perth, the new Government Stores, and a native hostel at Onslow.

A large programme of maintenance works was carried out during the past year; and a further large programme, to cover requirements for this year, has been implemented.

Progress reported, and leave granted to sit again.

House adjourned at 11.10 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 9th November, 1960

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1 to 3. *These questions were postponed.*

ALBANY HARBOUR

Erection of Transit Shed

4. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Mines:

With reference to the estimated expenditure on the Albany Harbour for the current financial year, will the Minister advise—

- whether it is intended to have the transit shed completed and handed over for use before the 30th June, 1961;
- if so, when is it anticipated the work will be completed?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- No.
- Answered by (a).

BUILDERS' REGISTRATION ACT

Inquiry by Select Committee

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [4.36]: I move—

That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the Builders' Registration Act, 1939-1959, its application and effect on building and to make such recommendations as are considered necessary.

My reason for moving this motion is that I believe that since this legislation was enacted, buildings, particularly houses, have not improved. In drawing attention to this point, I refer particularly to the growth of several companies in this State