

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 26th August, 1958.

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

MOTOR-VEHICLE ACCIDENTS.

Pedestrians Injured in 1954-58.

1. Mr. NALDER asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) How many pedestrians were fatally injured in motor-vehicle accidents in the metropolitan area for the years ended the 30th June, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958?

(2) How many of this number were children of school age?

(3) How many under school age?

(4) How many of these accidents occurred after sunset?

(5) What number of the accidents referred to above occurred in the metropolitan area?

(6) How many have occurred on Stirling Highway?

The MINISTER replied:

	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
1.	47	47	42	48	31
2.	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
For age group 5-16 years	Figures not available	2	8	6	Nil
3. For age group 0-5 years	Do.	4	2	3	1
4. Accidents occurring between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.	Do.	29	34	25	Figures not available
5. The answer to this question is contained in the answer to Question No. (1).					
6.	1955	1956	1957	1958	
	3	10	4	6	

RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

Closures During the Last Five Years.

2. Mr. LAPHAM asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) Approximately how many private rights-of-way or parts of rights-of-way have been closed through the machinery of the Department of Lands and Surveys during each of the last five years?

(2) What is the usual period between the initial reference to the department and finalisation of the matter?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Closures of rights-of-way in the metropolitan area under the Road Districts Act, 1919, for the past five years are as follows:—

Year.	No.
1953	Nil
1954	10
1955	7
1956	1
1957	10
1958	1
Total	29

Closures of rights-of-way by Parliament under Road Closure Acts are as follows:—

Year	Metropolitan Area	Country	Total
1953	3	3	6
1954	1	3	4
1955	5	2	7
1956	19	...	19
1957	19	...	19
Totals	28	8	36

(2) Before the passing of the Public Works Act Amendment Act, 1955, on the 13th December, 1955, the approximate time taken to close a private right-of-way, after the land had been first resumed and dedicated as a public road, was two months, but owing to the necessity for serving one month's notice of intention to resume, the period is now increased to at least three months, if no objections have been lodged.

PRIMARY PRODUCTION.

Number of Acres and People Employed, 1926 and 1957.

3. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) How many acres were under primary production in the State in 1926 and in 1957?

(2) How many people were employed in primary production in the State in 1926 and in 1957?

The MINISTER replied:

	1926 acres	1957 acres
(1) Area of pastoral leases in pastoral areas	172,700,000	189,500,000
Cleared land in agricultural areas	8,200,000	22,200,000
State Forest Areas	916,553	3,909,295
Totals	181,816,553	215,609,295
(2) Male persons (excluding Aborigines) permanently engaged in pastoral industry in pastoral areas	2,088	2,044
Male persons (excluding Aborigines) permanently engaged in Agriculture	26,395	28,254
Persons directly engaged in Timber Industry	6,231	6,507
Totals	33,714	36,805

RAILWAYS.

Resleeping, Maintenance Cost, etc.

4. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) What is the total amount per annum expended on resleeping of lines?

(2) What is the total annual cost of track maintenance?

(3) What is the cost per sleeper at mill site?

(4) What is the average cost per sleeper at laying site?

(5) How many sleepers per year are purchased by the W.A.G.R.?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

(1) The amount varies from year to year; but in the year ended the 30th June, 1958, it was £750,054.

(2) In the same year the amount of £2,974,628 was spent on track maintenance, track re-laying, and ballasting. This excludes expenditure on bridges and culverts, but includes resleepering mentioned in No. (1).

(3) Approximately 18s. each.

(4) Between 18s. 2½d. and 18s. 6d. each.

(5) In round figures the department aims to secure 500,000 sleepers each year.

PERTH-ALBANY ROAD.

Cost of Widening.

5. Mr. NALDER asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What amount of money has been spent on the widening of the Perth-Albany road between Canning Dam road and Williams?

(2) What amount of the above sum was paid to private contractors?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) £85,240.

(2) Of this sum £7,952 was paid to private contractors for the hire of graders, dozers, tractors, and loaders.

SCOTT RIVER DISTRICT.

Land Available for Selection.

6. Mr. BOVELL asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) What total area of land is available, or is to be made available, for selection in the Scott River district?

(2) How many separate lots will be open for selection?

(3) How many applications have been received?

(4) Have any allotments been finalised; if so, how many?

(5) What is the average area of each location for individual selection?

(6) Have access roads been constructed; if not, what are the proposals in this direction?

(7) In the event of the Scott River project still being in the developmental stages, what progress has been made to date and when can finality be expected?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No Crown land is available for selection at present in the Scott River district, but when the demand for land in this district warrants it, a further subdivision will be planned.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

(3) Since the allotment of 10 locations in July last, one inquiry only for a block at Scott River has been recorded in the Lands Department.

(4) Yes, ten in July, 1958.

(5) In the last allotment, the average size was 1,220 acres.

(6) This is a matter for attention by the local authority.

(7) The classification of the Scott River area has been completed. When the demand in this area warrants the making available of further land, appropriate action will be taken.

APPLECROSS AND KOONAWARRA SCHOOLS.

Extra Classrooms.

7. Mr. GAFFY asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Has any consideration been given to the erection of extra classrooms at—

(a) Applecross primary school;

(b) Koonawarra primary school?

(2) If so, what is the number of classrooms in each case?

(3) When are the classrooms to be commenced?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Two.

(3) (a) Applecross: It is anticipated that work will commence early in the new year.

(b) Koonawarra: It is expected that construction will commence in approximately one month.

POLICE.

Stations for Carey Park and South Bunbury.

8. Mr. ROBERTS asked the Minister for Police:

In view of the tremendous development that has occurred in the Carey Park and South Bunbury areas within the Municipality of Bunbury—

(1) Has consideration been given to the establishment of a police station in either of those areas?

(2) If not, why not?

(3) If so, what is proposed and where will such a police station be actually located?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) The question has not come up for consideration.

(3) Answered by No. (2).

SOUTH-WEST HIGHWAY.

Truck Bays.

9. Mr. ROBERTS asked the Minister for Works:

(1) How many truck bays have been established on the South-West Highway between Bunbury and Perth?

(2) Where, exactly, are they located?

(3) How many of such bays are to be established on such highway by the 30th June, 1959?

(4) Where, exactly, will all such bays be located?

(5) Is it anticipated that additional bays will be established on the above-mentioned highway after the 30th June, 1959?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) Eight.

(2) 33-mile, 36.7-mile, 78-mile (two), 79-mile, 85-mile, 88.6-mile, 105-mile.

(3) Five.

(4) It is expected to locate these bus bays at the following mileages:—68-mile (two), 94-mile (two), and 102-mile.

(5) Yes, as found necessary from time to time.

Reconstruction at Waroona.

10. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Works:

When does the Main Roads Department propose to reconstruct the road and widen the three culverts on the South-West Highway immediately south of the Waroona townsite?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

This situation has been under investigation for some time. A new bridge will be required and can be constructed in the early summer. The road and other structures in the vicinity will be widened during the current financial year.

DEEP SEWERAGE.

Extensions under Deferred Payments Scheme.

11. The Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

(1) What amount has been made available for connections to deep sewerage under the deferred payments scheme during the past two years?

(2) What amount is expected to be applied to the functions of this scheme during the current financial year?

(3) Is it intended to give more support to the scheme in the near future in order that this very necessary work may be continued?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Water Supplies) replied:

(1) No funds have been made available during the past two years.

(2) No provision has been made for the current financial year.

(3) This will be governed by the requirements for urgent capital works, including water supplies, sewerage undertakings, and main drainage.

AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

Cunderdin and Wyalkatchem.

12. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Have arrangements been completed to take over the former R.A.A.F. station at Cunderdin, and will this be converted into an agricultural high school?

(2) If so, when is it expected that the school will open?

(3) What is the estimated expenditure necessary to convert and equip this for use as an agricultural high school?

(4) What is the estimated cost of the agricultural high school already promised to be established at Wyalkatchem?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes, and the question of converting it into an agricultural high school is still under consideration by the Government.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

(3) £30,000.

(4) No estimate has been taken out, but it seems likely that it would be in the vicinity of £250,000.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Conversion of Salt Water.

13. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Can he advise as to whether the studies carried out by the Water Supply Department, for the conversion of salt water into fresh water, have met with any success in this State?

(2) If so, is it contemplated by the Public Works Department to make an experiment, and where will such experiment take place?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) No direct studies are being carried out by the department on the conversion of salt water to fresh. Australia contributes to a research programme centred in Holland, and the latest information is made available to all States through the Department of National Development. The department also corresponds directly with world research and manufacturing authorities.

(2) Not at this stage.

CROWN LAND.

Availability for Development, Eneabba and Dandaragan.

14. The Hon. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) Will he inform the House of the result of negotiations referred to by his predecessor (Hansard the 27th November, 1957, page 3667) between the Government and the Australian Agricultural Co. of Newcastle, New South Wales, for an area

of approximately 100,000 acres of vacant Crown land between the Eneabba war service land settlement project and the Dongara-Mingenew line?

(2) Will he give similar details regarding an inquiry, referred to in the same statement, received from the Managing Director, Olive Verdallion Plantations Pty. Ltd. of East Melbourne, Victoria, for an area of at least 30,000 acres, south of Hill River in the Dandaragan district for the establishment of an olive industry in this State?

(3) In each case will he state—

- (a) if negotiations are still proceeding the stage which has been reached;
- (b) if negotiations have failed, the stage which had been reached;
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No communication has been received from the Australian Agricultural Co. of Newcastle since June, 1957, when the governor of the company advised that it would be some time before the Board of Directors would arrive at a decision.

(2) The inquiry by Olive Verdallion Plantations Pty. Ltd. for an area of land south of Hill River for the establishment of an olive industry is awaiting personal discussions by the managing director with officers of the Lands Department.

(3) Answered by Nos. (1) and (2).

UNIVERSITY.

Source of Funds for Buildings, etc.

15. The Hon. D. BRAND asked the Premier:

(1) From what fund are the following buildings at the University being financed:—

- (a) Engineering School;
- (b) bio-chemistry buildings?

(2) What was the total amount collected by the Medical School Fund Appeal Committee and what amount has been contributed by the State Government to date?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) (a) From three sources—

- (i) a loan raised by the University which is repayable by the State Government;
- (ii) a grant from the Commonwealth Government as provided in States Grants (Universities) Act No. 27 of 1958;
- (iii) the State General Loan Fund.

(b) From three sources—

- (i) an allocation from the Medical School funds;
- (ii) a grant from the Commonwealth Government as provided in States Grants (Universities) Act No. 27 of 1958;
- (iii) the State General Loan Fund.

(2) The amount collected by the Medical School Appeal Committee, to date, totals £528,956. The medical school funds include a sum of £150,000 contributed by the State Government under the provisions of the University Medical School Act No. 30 of 1958.

ARGENTINE ANT FUND.

Contributions and Expenditure.

16. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What has been the total contribution by local authorities to the Argentine Ant Fund for each of the years since its inception?

(2) What total amount has been spent on the eradication of these pests each year?

(3) What has been the Government's contribution to the fund for each of the years since its inception?

(4) What amount has been contributed and what amount spent by, and in, each of the following municipalities for each year of the Argentine ant campaign ended the 30th June each year:—

- (a) Nedlands;
- (b) Claremont;
- (c) Cottesloe?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Year	Local Authorities	
	£	s. d.
1954-55	61,855	11 5
1955-56	65,871	0 6
1956-57	64,504	1 2
1957-58	64,877	1 7
	£256,747	14 8
(2) 1954-55	104,181	11 5
1955-56	113,099	2 1
1956-57	94,187	16 4
1957-58	128,094	11 8
	£439,563	1 6

(3) Direct Treasury appropriation each year has been £35,000 plus an advance of £22,815 last year against 1958-59. In addition there has been a contribution each year of £4,000 from the Vermin Act Trust Fund and £1,000 from the Commonwealth Government. Furthermore, the Government provides, without charge, the services of specialist officers and other departmental facilities worth at least £5,000 per annum.

(4) The assessed contributions paid by the Nedlands, Claremont and Cottesloe Municipalities were as follows:—

Year	Nedlands			Claremont			Cottesloe		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1954-55	2,285	17	3	1,152	14	7	1,214	6	0
1955-56	2,265	17	3	1,152	14	7	1,214	6	0
1956-57	2,265	17	3	1,152	14	7	1,214	6	0
1957-58	2,265	17	3	1,152	14	7	1,214	6	0
	£9,063	0	0	£4,610	18	4	£4,857	4	0

No record is maintained of actual expenditure in each local authority, but the estimated expenditure in Nedlands, Claremont, and Cottesloe Municipalities, based on the area treated at the average cost of treating these types of districts, for each season is as follows:—

Year	Nedlands		Claremont		Cottesloe	
	£		£		£	
1954-55			90		512	
1955-56	13,647		3,030		3,725	
1956-57	580		160		565	
1957-58	516		822		428	
	£14,743		£4,102		£5,230	

FRUIT-FLY.

Control by Wasp Parasite.

17. Mr. OWEN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Will trials be made in Western Australia to test the efficiency of the wasp now being bred in the Sydney Botanic Gardens as a parasite for the Mediterranean fruit-fly?

(2) Has any attempt been made to introduce into Western Australia the particular species of wasp from Hawaii, which has been reported to be capable of attacking the Mediterranean fly?

(3) If so, what has been the result?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Arrangements have been made with officers of the C.S.I.R.O. to investigate the suitability of any wasp parasites at present being reared in Sydney or available in Hawaii, for use against the Mediterranean fruit-fly.

(2) Quarantine regulations require that imported insects be tested under conditions of complete control in the initial stages. It has been arranged, if these wasps show any possibility of use against Mediterranean fruit-fly, for them to be tested in this State.

Several attempts have been made to establish fruit-fly parasites in Western Australia. Wasps have been imported from India, Queensland and Fiji. Hundreds of thousands have been reared in the laboratory and liberated in local orchards, but no field recoveries have ever been made and there is no evidence the insects have become established.

(3) Answered by No. (2).

POLICE.

Establishment of Station at Kalamunda.

18. Mr. OWEN asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Has provision been made for the establishment of a police station at Kalamunda this financial year?

(2) If not, will he indicate when the construction of such station will be undertaken?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) The necessity for this station is recognised by the Police Department. It has been placed on the department's building programme, but no advice can be given, at this stage, as to when funds will be available for construction.

WELSHPOOL ROAD.

Improvement by Main Roads Department.

19. Mr. OWEN asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is it proposed that the Main Roads Department will undertake improvements to the Welshpool Road between Queen's Park and Wattle Grove?

(2) If so, what will be the nature of this work and when will it be put in hand?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) The Main Roads Department is negotiating with the Canning Road Board to undertake jointly the reconstruction and widening of sections of the existing Welshpool Road eastwards from the Welshpool railway crossing.

(2) Details of the work and date of commencement are dependent upon the results of the negotiations.

RAILWAYS.

Standard Gauge, Perth-Kalgoorlie.

20. Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) What further surveys and decisions must be made by the State Government before definite negotiations can be started with the Federal Government in connection with a standard gauge railway from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle?

(2) When will this State be in a position to negotiate in detail with the Federal Government?

(3) How much additional money must be expended by the State before detailed negotiations can be started?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

Estimates were forwarded to the Commonwealth in June, 1957. Latest advice is to the effect that no further conversions would be undertaken until the results of the conversion between Melbourne and Albury were available.

A letter was sent to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister on the 23rd June, 1958, requesting reconsideration of this State's position. A reply of a general nature was received this week.

In the meantime further expenditure on detailed surveys and estimates for the complete project is not warranted, as sufficient information is available to enable some of the work to be commenced on reasonable notice.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS.

Number Practising.

21. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Justice:

(1) What was the total number of legal practitioners practising in this State for the following years:—

- (a) 1952;
- (b) 1953;
- (c) 1954;
- (d) 1955;
- (e) 1956;
- (f) 1957?

(2) How many practitioners are practising this year to date?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Annual practice certificates are issued by the Barristers' Board for the period expiring on the 30th June each year. Based on the number of annual practice certificates issued for the relevant period, the number of legal practitioners practising as at the 30th June in the under-mentioned years was as follows:—

- 1952—201
- 1953—207
- 1954—213
- 1955—231
- 1956—231
- 1957—231

(2) The number of legal practitioners practising at the 30th June, 1958, as indicated by the number of annual practice certificates in force on that date was 238. As at the 22nd August, 1958, 235 annual practice certificates were in force.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION.

Past and Future.

22. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

(1) What was the population of this State for the following years:—

- (a) 1952;
- (b) 1953;
- (c) 1954;
- (d) 1955;
- (e) 1956;
- (f) 1957?

(2) What is the estimated population for 1958 and 1960?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) As at the 30th June in each year—

- (a) 599,858;
- (b) 620,547;
- (c) 639,771;
- (d) 658,537;
- (e) 677,389;
- (f) 691,882.

(2) The preliminary figure for the 30th June, 1958, is 705,000, but this is subject to revision. Assuming that natural increase will be maintained at its present level, a population of about 730,000 can be anticipated by mid-1960, without taking into consideration migration gains and losses, which are too difficult to attempt to forecast.

STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

Conversion of "Delamere."

23. Mr. COURT asked the Minister representing the Minister for Supply and Shipping:

(1) What are the total costs of converting the "Delamere"?

(2) Are the conversions successful?

(3) What are the total costs of the "Delamere" including conversion?

(4) What would be the approximate cost of a new vessel of comparable type?

The MINISTER FOR POLICE replied:

(1) £475,000 — including £75,000 for classification survey.

(2) Yes.

(3) £626,000.

(4) £900,000 with two year's delivery.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Tabling of Papers, Sergeant's Examination.

24. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Police:

Will he lay upon the Table of the House the paper set by the Police Department for the sergeant's examination held recently?

The MINISTER replied:

Yes. The papers requested by the hon. member will now be laid on the Table of the House.

SWAN RIVER.

Sites of Proposed New Bridges.

25. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Where is it anticipated that the next bridge across the Swan River will be constructed, after the Narrows bridge has been completed?

(2) Is a bridge envisaged at Point Resolition, and, if so, when?

(3) What surveys and assessments have taken place regarding bridge sites?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) It is premature at this stage to make a decision as to the site of the next bridge over the Swan River. Before such a decision is made it will be necessary to take account of the changing pattern of urban development and to observe and measure the effect on city traffic of the bridge over the Narrows.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

(3) Only exploratory investigations have been carried out concerning proposals associated with the Stephenson Plan.

HOUSING: COMPETITION HOME.

Capacity of Tenderers.

26. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) With reference to the answer given to my question without notice, on the 21st August, 1958, regarding tenders for the Department of Industrial Development competition home, why were firms included in the nominated tenderers, if there was doubt about their capacity to complete the work in time?

(2) What efforts were made to seek from the lowest tenderer the necessary assurances and guarantees of completion within the allotted time, and with what result?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) It was considered by both the Chairman and Chief Architect of the State Housing Commission, and accepted by the Department of Industrial Development, that there was a greater certainty of completion by the required date on the part of the selected tenderer.

(2) Assurances or guarantees, however well intentioned, would not necessarily have ensured completion within the allotted time.

IMMIGRATION.

Western Australian Intake.

27. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Labour:

(1) With reference to the answers given to my question on the 21st August, 1958, concerning migration to Western Australia, what numbers of migrants, other than personally nominated British migrants, were requested by the Government in its negotiations with the Commonwealth and other States in arriving at the agreements to which he referred?

(2) (a) Is it not correct that the Government asked that the intake to Western Australia be ceased or drastically reduced?

(b) If not, why were the numbers reduced or the flow stopped during this Government's life?

(3) Will he clarify his reference to "supply and demand" and in particular what supply of migrants has been available to Australia in recent years, and what demands have been made by Western Australia?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The disembarkation of un-nominated migrants in any State is the prerogative of the Director, Department of Labour and National Service, who acts on the advice of his State regional directors. This is in accordance with an arrangement agreed upon between Commonwealth and State Governments.

(2) (a) See answer to No. (1).

(b) The Government has always adhered to the agreed policy of working in close co-operation with the Commonwealth.

(3) All migration agreements with other countries are negotiated by the Commonwealth Government. Any request by a State Government to the Commonwealth for labour requires to be backed by the demand for such labour.

LANDS.

Development of Daglish-Jolimont University Area.

28. Mr. POTTER asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) What is the present stage of negotiation in relation to the Daglish-Jolimont University lands?

(2) When is finality likely to be reached?

(3) When is this locality likely to be thrown open for development as a residential area?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Awaiting finalisation of compensation in respect of the land to be exchanged.

(2) As soon as the matter referred to in No. (1) has been finalised, the proposal will be submitted to the Land Purchase Board for consideration.

(3) Subdivision and sale of the University endowment land is a matter for the University of Western Australia.

PERTH MODERN SCHOOL.

Attendance of Subiaco Children.

29. Mr. POTTER asked the Minister for Education:

Following the reply to the member for Leederville of the 13th August, is it intended that children from the Subiaco school shall attend the Perth Modern School in post-primary years?

The MINISTER replied:

Some children will attend Modern School and some Hollywood High School.

CROWN LAND.*Applications for Heavily Timbered Areas.*

30. Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Forests:

(1) How many applications for land in the heavily timbered areas have been referred to the Conservator of Forests for the years ended the 30th June, 1957, and 1958?

(2) Of the applications received since the 30th June, 1956, how many have been finalised—

(a) to the satisfaction of the Conservator of Forests;

(b) to the satisfaction of the applicant?

(3) In all, what area of Crown land in the South-West's heavily timbered areas has been made available for selection for the years ended the 30th June, 1957 and 1958, respectively?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) 1956-57—186.

1957-58—179.

(2) (a) Of the 365 applications received since the 30th June, 1956, 359 have been finalised. In 112 cases the Department agreed to the release of the whole or portion of the area applied for.

(b) The information is not available.

(3) Separate statistics are not kept to show Crown land available for selection in the heavily timbered areas of the South-West. The information required could not be ascertained without a considerable amount of research.

RURAL & INDUSTRIES BANK.*Building Funds from Private Sources.*

31. Mr. COURT asked the Premier:

(1) Did the Government explore the possibility of the Rural & Industries Bank being accommodated as tenants in a suitable building to be erected by a private insurance company or other source of private capital, thus avoiding the diversion of R. & I. Bank funds from rural and other industries to a capital structure in the form of the proposed large-scale building?

(2) If so, with what result?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) No. It is the bank's policy for the bank to own its own head office premises.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

SALE OF PETROL.*Effect of Zone 5 on Service Station Proprietors.*

32. Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Labour:

(1) Has he given consideration to my submissions in connection with the unfair way that the existing zone 5 is affecting two service station proprietors?

(2) What are the results of his deliberations, and is relief to be given to these two proprietors?

(3) If not, why not?

The MINISTER replied:

Before answering the hon. member's question, I might say that he mentioned this matter during his speech on the Address-in-reply debate. I made a note of his query, investigated the position, and was to draft a letter to him when I received these questions. The answer to the hon. member's questions are as follows:—

(1) Yes; but it is not agreed that zone 5 is affecting them in an unfair way.

(2) and (3) Each of the two stations is situated in a key position on the edge of a zone on a main traffic flow. If exemption were to be given to them, others would expect the same consideration, and the whole zoning system would break down.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.**UNFAIR TRADING ACT.***Sir Norman Kipping's Views.*

1. The Hon. D. BRAND asked the Premier:

In view of the published refutation by Sir Norman Kipping, Director-General of the Federation of British Industries, of a statement attributed to him in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday last by the Premier, does the Premier propose to withdraw the statement attributed to Sir Norman in view of the damaging effect it could have on the State and the prestige of this Parliament?

The PREMIER replied:

I have had no word whatever from Sir Norman Kipping; and I doubt whether the Leader of the Opposition has had any word from him. Therefore, the only information we have had on this point is information presumably given by Sir Halford Reddish to some newspaper reporter in London. I would not, in any circumstances, be prepared to accept any information of a political, or semi-political character, coming from Sir Halford.

However, I have with me the letter to which I referred when speaking to the Address-in-reply debate the other afternoon; it is a letter from the Agent-General of which I quoted. I have the letter with me, although I did not bring it with me this afternoon because the Leader of the Opposition informed me that he was going to ask this question. In view of this question I think it advisable for me, Sir, would allow me to do so—to read the whole of the letter.

The SPEAKER: If it is in answer to the question it can be read.

The PREMIER: The letter is from the Agent-General's office, London, and is dated the 25th July, 1958. It is addressed to the Premier and reads as follows:—

Dear Mr. Hawke,

I acknowledge your letter of the 15th July, 1958, and the further statement for publication in the "Financial Times" in reply to Sir Halford Reddish.

I would like to have your further advice in this regard because it is my view that the matter could very well be left as it is without any further publication. This view is very strongly shared by Mr. Tonkin, who I understand will write to you in regard to the matter.

The Trade Mission which as you know has moved freely around England and part of Scotland over the last month, has done a remarkably good job in countering any harmful effects that the diatribe of Sir Halford Reddish might have initiated. In quite a number of places where the mission has been enabled to meet anything up to 150 business men at a time, the question of the Unfair Trading Act has been raised half-jokingly and half-seriously. Mr. Tonkin in reply has never failed to convince his hearers that there is no substance in the talk of Sir Halford. In fact everyone has treated it more or less as a joke and got a good laugh out of it.

Only the day before the mission set sail, the Federation of British Industries gave a luncheon to them, and Sir Norman Kipping, the Director General, without any prompting at all, openly said that no business man in London was being fooled by the attack on the Western Australian State legislation by Sir Halford. They realised it was a one-man issue and there was nothing in it, and I feel sure that this is the general opinion held here, in which case both Mr. Tonkin and myself feel that any further reopening of the controversy in view of the splendid reception the mission has received, would do no good at all.

Should you wish me to proceed with the matter I will, of course, do so, but I personally feel that your previous statements to the "Financial Times," plus the work of the mission over the last month, has made any further publicity on this issue unnecessary. Will you please advise?

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

It is signed by E. K. Hoar, Agent-General. I move—

That the letter be laid upon the Table of the House for two weeks.

Question put and passed.

Authenticity of Statement Attributed to Sir Norman Kipping.

2. The Hon. D. BRAND asked the Premier:

In view of the letter the Premier has just read from the Agent-General and the reference in particular to Sir Norman Kipping, who was reported to have said that no business man in London was being fooled by the attack on W.A. legislation by Sir Halford Reddish, Chairman of the Rugby Portland Cement Company, and the published statement which appeared in "The West Australian" of the 25th August, 1958, a part of which read—

Sir Halford yesterday released in London a signed statement by Sir Norman Kipping which said:

I am very surprised that the Premier should have quoted anything which was said on such a privileged occasion as a private luncheon party, and said not to him but to the Deputy Premier. Others present when Tonkin and I talked together have been consulted and none of them can remember any such remark as that attributed to me.

When pressed on my general reaction to the letter which Sir Halford Reddish has sent to the "Financial Times" in reply to the Premier's attack, my recollection is that I passed the matter off by indicating that Sir Halford had a perfect right to his own views but I did not know how far they would be shared by other industrialists.

is the Premier prepared to communicate with the Agent-General with a view to ascertaining the truth of this matter, because I believe we owe something to Sir Norman Kipping on whom the Premier's statement reflects somewhat?

The PREMIER replied:

I have not made the slightest reflection on Sir Norman at all. Any reflection I have made has been on Sir Halford Reddish.

Mr. Bovell: You do not seem to like him.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: If that is so, it is mutual.

The SPEAKER: Will the Premier kindly address the Chair?

The PREMIER: Yes, most certainly, Mr. Speaker. I accept without question the contents of the letter as sent to me by the Agent-General. It was a letter written soon after the statements referred to in it were made. I am quite prepared to write to the Agent-General and ask him to give some further thought to the contents of the letter in question, and to either confirm them

or amend them. All I would add in conclusion is that Sir Norman, perhaps unfortunately, has to live in the same business world in London as Sir Halford.

HOUSING: COMPETITION HOME.

Capacity of Tenderers.

3. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Housing:

Would he be good enough to examine the answer that he has given to my question with a view to dealing specifically with the main point of my question; namely: Why were firms included in the nominated tenderers if there was doubt about their capacity to complete the work in time? I respectfully suggest that the Minister has not answered that part of the question.

The MINISTER replied:

I think the information given should have been satisfactory to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The State Housing Commission decided to call for quotes from a number of reputable builders. The respective figures were received, one being used as a check against another so far as prices were concerned. On going through them, the officers that were mentioned in the replies I gave to earlier questions felt that the difference between the lowest and second lowest was not of sufficient consequence, by contrast with the necessity to ensure, so far as was humanly possible, that the building would be completed within the specified time; namely, by the 31st October.

Within the terms of his contract, the experience is that the lowest tenderer takes somewhere in the vicinity of six months to construct a home. However, the firm to which the work was allocated—not only in connection with its work for the State Housing Commission, but with its building activities generally, be they small or large—has shown its capacity to erect buildings with the utmost expedition. As a matter of fact, I think, in practically every case where work has been done for the State Housing Commission, it has been done in a fraction only of the time permitted under the contract.

I think the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—unless he is having a bit of a go at the Premier's campaign to support local products and to promote local industry—would agree that it would be fatuous that there should be a State-wide competition in operation for some months with a certain prize to be offered on a certain date and to run any risk whatsoever that the building would not be completed on schedule for inspection and for handing over to the successful contestant.

In other words, the major consideration was that the house should be completed by a certain time; and these officers, without any prompting from anybody, but in

the interests of the State in order to avoid making a farce of this competition, decided that even though the margin was in the vicinity of £300, there was another consideration which was of greater moment.

I might mention that, in connection with this £300 expenditure, some of the local firms have been so co-operative that, I understand, to date, approximately £1,000 for the provision of various components for the house has been presented to the State as a gesture in regard to this matter and to help the State in its drive to promote support for local industries and assistance to our industries within the State generally.

Mr. COURT: With respect, I repeat that the Minister has not answered the main part of my question which is—

Why were firms included in the nominated tenderers if there was any doubt about their capacity to complete the work in time?

I hold no brief for any of the firms, but I am curious as to why they were included in the nominated tenderers.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Surely it should be realised it is elementary that, in order to determine a fair price for a job, it is necessary to call for tenders from more than one person or firm. Accordingly, that was done. The figures were then looked at; and, as was indicated earlier, there was not a great deal of difference between the lowest and the second lowest tender.

As I have already stated—not once but on many occasions—the over-powering consideration was that the building should be completed by a certain date. All of these five firms may have been capable or may not have been capable of doing the job in the short time set aside for it; but of them, one has a greater potentiality, and experience has shown that it has completed its contracts in a short space of time. That is the reason why the decision was made.

SALE OF PETROL.

Effect of Zone 5 on Service Station Proprietors.

4. Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Labour:

Further to my question No. 32 on the notice paper, about the unfair way the existing Zone 5 is reacting against the two men to whom I referred also in my speech on the Supply Bill, is the Minister prepared to see these two men, in company with me, in order that they may be able to state their case to him and to prove that they are being treated in a very unfair and harsh way?

The MINISTER replied:

The member for Dale is going the long way around to attain his objective or to meet the desires of the two garage proprietors mentioned. First of all, he referred to the matter on the Address-in-reply debate. As a matter of courtesy I was going to reply to his representation—although it was not in writing. It was the first time I had any intimation of it. Then he asked the question which appears on the notice paper, and now he asks me if I will meet the two persons concerned. My answer is that—as every hon. member of Parliament knows—I am always prepared to meet hon. members who are making representation on behalf of their electors; and in this case I would be quite happy to meet the member for Dale on this matter, and he can bring along anybody he likes.

I will not anticipate what they are going to say. Suffice to say—as I have mentioned in my reply to the question—I have seen the two particular firms and their locations in much the same way as I did when I had representations made to me in connection with the Stonehouse petrol station. That service station did not desire to be included in the zone, so we excluded it. If hon. members would care to check, they would find that the next petrol station is about 13 miles along the road to York. In regard to "You'll Do" at Byford, about 5½ miles from Armadale, if either of or both the proprietors of those two stations are excluded from the zoning system, I think the member for Dale will agree that it will raise complications with the rostering system.

However, in answer to his question, I am prepared to meet the member for Dale in due course at his or my convenience.

TRANSPORT BOARD.

Appointment of Mr. R. H. Featherstone.

5. The Hon. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Is it correct that the former general secretary of the Teachers' Union (Mr. R. H. Featherstone) has been appointed a member of the Transport Board?

(2) If so, what interests will Mr. Featherstone represent on the board?

(3) What special qualifications in the transport field does Mr. Featherstone possess?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The report is correct.

(2) In accordance with the terms of the Act, he will represent city interests.

(3) He is a man of some qualifications and impartiality, which is a requirement of a member of the Transport Board; because, if the Leader of the Opposition is aware of the terms of the Act, none of those appointed to the board must have

any association with or interest in transport. That is precisely the case with this appointment.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Danger Lights on Constructional Work.

6. Mr. NALDER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Works:

(1) Will he see that danger lights are placed on the heaps of poles, meant for the S.E.C. line to be constructed from Collie to Wagin, which are lying on the side of the road? They are in a dangerous position to both sides of the road between Arthur River and the wireless station.

(2) Will he see that the minimum amount of damage is done to private property in the construction of this line, because I have had complaints made to me in this respect?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) I will have the matter investigated.

(2) If the hon. member supplies me with details I will have them examined.

BILLS (5)—FIRST READING.

1. Junior Farmers' Movement Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Minister for Education.

2. State Government Insurance Office Act Amendment.

3. Workers' Compensation Act Amendment.

4. Unfair Trading and Profit Control Act Amendment.

5. Long Service Leave.

Introduced by the Minister for Labour.

CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Message.

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

Second Reading.

THE HON. A. R. G. HAWKE (Premier—Northam) [5.20] in moving the second reading said: This Bill has been introduced for the purpose of overcoming what I would describe as a small constitutional difficulty. Under the present law it is constitutional to pay expenses to a member of Parliament who is acting as a member of a Select Committee or as a member of a Royal Commission. However, the law does not allow the Government to pay expenses to a member of Parliament in some other situations, and this Bill is brought forward to overcome that position.

For instance, from time to time members of Parliament are appointed either by the State Government or by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to attend conferences in one of the other States of Australia, or even conferences in some other parts of the world. Any member of Parliament undertaking such a visit would render his seat in Parliament vacant were he to accept any payment of expenses from the Government in respect of any such visit.

It is thought proper that members of Parliament who are selected by the Government or by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Western Australian branch), to represent either the Government or the Parliamentary Association at such conferences, should, without any question, be entitled to receive expenses from the Government, and should be entitled to receive them without any possible risks at all of their seats being declared vacant because of some difficulty in the Constitution Acts.

That is the sole purpose of this Bill. The amount of expenses to be paid will be fixed by regulation, just the same as expenses are fixed by regulation today in connection with members who become part and parcel of a Select Committee or of a Royal Commission. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Bovell, debate adjourned.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading.

THE HON. E. NULSEN (Minister for Justice—Eyre) [5.24] in moving the second reading said: This is a small Bill and will be helpful to those who are affected by it. The long title is "A Bill for an Act to Amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1893-1957, and for other Purposes."

The reference to "other purposes" is included because the Bill affects the control of the law library under Section 4 of the Law and Parliamentary Library Act, 1889, and it is this part with which I will deal first. The law library was originally part of the library established under the Law and Parliamentary Library Act, 1873, and was placed under the control of a committee. This committee consisted of the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General and an elected member of the Legislative Council.

The composition of the committee was slightly varied by amending Acts passed in 1881 and 1885. By the Law and Parliamentary Library Act, 1889, the committee was required to divide the books in the library into two classes; namely, law books and books for the Legislative Council, and to deliver the law books to the judges of the Supreme Court.

The judges in turn were required to combine such books with another library already existing in the court-house of the Supreme Court to form a consolidated library to be called the law library. On completion of its task, the committee was to go out of existence. The last minute in the committee's minute book shows that its task was completed by the 22nd April, 1890. There are no available records of the control of the law library between 1890 and 1898.

In 1893 the Legal Practitioners Act was passed; and the Barristers' Board constituted under that Act was empowered, by Section 7 of the Act, to apply its funds in excess of £100 for the purposes of the law library. The early minutes of the board show that, for the first few years of the board's existence, no money was made available by the board for the purposes of the law library; but in 1898, and again in 1899, the board granted £500 for those purposes. Thereafter it appears that the Barristers' Board, in fact, controlled and managed the law library.

A board minute in 1901 discloses an instruction to the secretary of the board to increase the existing insurance policy on the law library from £1,000 to £2,000, and for that purpose to take out an additional policy for £1,000, and to have both policies endorsed with the name of the board. It is believed that the board continued to exercise exclusive control and management of the library; and it has, in fact, done so for very many years.

In recent years the board has been spending an average of about £800 a year for the purposes of the law library, and for several years the insurance of the library has stood at £50,000. However, since the 1889 Act vests the control of the library in the judges, the present board is doubtful as to its legal standing in regard both to the control of the library and to any claim it may wish to make under its insurance policy.

The Bill will regularise the factual position which has obtained for about 60 years, by enabling the board to make rules for the control and use of the library. By the insertion of a new Section into the Act doubts will be removed as to whether or not the board has a proper insurable interest in the library, by vesting in the board the books, furniture, pictures, etc. in the law library.

Another clause is designed to benefit law students and the University. Under existing statute, law students who complete their examinations at the University are not entitled to commence their two years' articles of clerkship until they actually graduate. The graduation ceremony is normally held in the month of March following the passing of examinations in the month of December of any year.

However, in order to avoid the delay of some three months between the passing of the examinations and the conferring of

the degree, the university has adopted the practice of conferring degrees upon law students immediately after they have passed their examinations in December.

This has enabled the students to obtain registration of articles with the Barristers' Board in December, and they must be admitted as legal practitioners at the December sittings of the Full Court of the Supreme Court two years after the registration of the articles; otherwise, they would have to wait till the court sittings in the following March. The University, however, would much prefer law students to receive their degrees at the graduation ceremony in March of the year following the passing of the examination.

The Bill, if passed, will enable the Barristers' Board to accept the registration of articles as a present, provided that the student in fact receives his degree within six months of entering upon his articles. The request for the amendment originated from the University and has been supported by the Barristers' Board. The amendment, in fact, approves the existing practice, but enables law students to receive their degree at the graduation ceremony.

Another provision in the Bill originated from a request by the Law Students' Association. Under the existing law, the students are required to pay 30 guineas to the Barristers' Board on their admission to the Bar, which admission, *inter alia*, entitles them to the use of the Law Library. In most cases, however, an articled clerk at the time of his admission is unable to afford this fee. Generally, he is forced to borrow the money from his parents, who have supported him for six years prior to his admission. There are also other expenses which a newly admitted practitioner has to face.

The Barristers' Board, in order to facilitate the admission of new practitioners who have the necessary qualifications, is agreeable to the abolition of the admission fee, provided that this will apply only to our own students. The relevant clause in the Bill effects this abolition; but anybody coming, say, from another State, will, under the amendment, still have to pay the 30 guineas admission fee; and so will a practitioner who was struck off the roll and subsequently applies for readmission.

Another amendment is designed to enable practitioners who have been struck off the roll, or suspended from practice, to become employed by practising practitioners with the consent of and subject to conditions approved by the Barristers' Board. At present, the section sought to be amended, requires that no certificated practitioner shall in any manner employ or engage or permit or suffer to be employed or engaged in or about his office or affairs any person who has been or shall hereafter be struck off the roll of the Supreme Court or suspended from practice, until such person is readmitted or such suspension is removed.

It will be seen that the paragraph operates as a complete prohibition against the employment of a disbarred practitioner in the office of any certificated practitioner. In the view of the Barristers' Board, the paragraph operates too harshly in certain circumstances. For instance, a disbarred practitioner might rehabilitate himself after a while and wish to engage in employment in the office of a practising solicitor, because he is not really suited for employment otherwise.

The obvious object of the existing paragraph in the Act is to protect the public and the legal profession; but the board feels that, by imposing safeguards, there would be no departure from this principle. It is therefore provided that the written consent of the board must be obtained before a certificated practitioner can employ any person who has been struck off the roll and who has not been readmitted, or who is suspended from practice under the Act. The board is also empowered to impose conditions of employment. To this extent, the English Act has been followed in this Bill.

The board submits that the English provision is more humane than our local provision, and yet provides adequate safeguards for the public and for the profession. It is understood that the Chief Justice approves in principle of the proposed amendment.

The final amendment in the Bill increases the maximum penalty provided for a breach of the Act, from £20 to £50. This is in keeping with present day monetary values.

It seems to me that this Bill will be helpful, not only to the unfortunate man who has been disbarred—he will have an opportunity of making a living if he proves he has rehabilitated himself—but to the student who now has to find 30 guineas after he has been studying hard. It will also help him to get into practice all the sooner. I feel that the concession of three months, before a man can become a qualified barrister—although he has qualified—will also help him. I think it has been the practice to allow him to be qualified, although he was not qualified in accordance with the provisions of the Act. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading.

THE HON. E. NULSEN (Minister for Justice—Eyre) [5.38] in moving the second reading said: This is another small Bill, but one which I feel is well

worth while, as people who leave Australia and go to other Dominions or Protectorates will have to continue their obligations in this State.

The original Act came into force in 1921, and its purpose is to facilitate the enforcement in Western Australia of maintenance orders made in other parts of Her Majesty's Dominions and Protectorates, and vice versa. Similar legislation was enacted in all of the other Dominions and most Protectorates.

The Act has worked more or less satisfactorily since then. Now, however, owing to the fact that certain countries are no longer Dominions of Her Majesty, it has become necessary to widen the scope of the original Act. To this end, Parliament is being asked to pass amending legislation to enable reciprocity to be carried on with these countries which were formerly Dominions.

There are cases where, by reason of the move, the defendant is no longer contributing to the maintenance of his wife and family who have remained in Western Australia; and they are, or could become, a charge on the State. Victoria has already enacted similar legislation, but confined it to India when India withdrew from the Commonwealth of Nations.

However, Cabinet decided not to confine this Bill to India, in view of the fact that Pakistan, Ceylon, and South Africa are more or less following in India's footsteps. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY STEEL INDUSTRY AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE HON. A. R. G. HAWKE (Minister for Industrial Development—Northam) [5.43] in moving the second reading said: The principal Act, the operations of which this Bill aims to amend, provides that not more than 50,000 tons of iron ore shall be taken in any one year from the iron ore deposits at Koolyanobbing, which is some 30 miles northwards of Southern Cross.

Mr. Watts: With the approval of Parliament.

Mr. HAWKE: The Act also provides that this provision shall continue for a period of 10 years from the passing of the Act, and that occurrence took place in 1952.

The Leader of the Country Party has suggested that the limitation section included in the Act could be overcome by action taken in Parliament. Clearly that is so because Parliament has the right at

any time to amend an Act of this description, even if specific words to that effect were not contained in the Act itself.

The board of management of the charcoal iron and steel industry works at Wundowie obtains practically the whole of its iron ore supplies in these days from Koolyanobbing. The industry at Wundowie has been expanded in more recent times and is now consuming a greater quantity of iron ore per annum than 50,000 tons.

Mr. Brand: How much more?

Mr. HAWKE: It is anticipated that at least 80,000 tons per annum will be required, and therefore it is necessary for Parliament to be asked to amend the Act in order that a greater quantity of iron ore required by the industry should be obtained without any breaching of the existing law.

At present, the industry is taking iron ore from Koolyanobbing at a rate greater than 50,000 tons per annum and will require to continue to take from the deposits there approximately 80,000 tons per annum. Therefore this Bill proposes to delete the words which limit the quantity to be taken to 50,000 tons per annum, and proposes to include in the Act a provision which would allow the management of the charcoal iron and steel industry at Wundowie to take from Koolyanobbing as much iron ore as the management of that industry would require from time to time. It could happen, at a much later date, that Parliament would have to be approached again in connection with this matter because there are possibilities of a very large charcoal iron and steel industry being established in the South-West of the State.

Mr. Sleeman: Why make two bites at it?

Mr. HAWKE: Well, I think it is desirable to make two bites if later on a second bite is found to be required.

Mr. Brand: One step enough for me!

Mr. HAWKE: At this time only one bite is necessary, and that is the bite which the Wundowie charcoal iron and steel industry has to make.

Mr. Brand: The Minister thinks one bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Mr. Sleeman: I will tell you something about that directly!

Mr. HAWKE: Subsequently Parliament could easily be approached should it be found necessary to obtain supplies of iron ore from Koolyanobbing, to supply raw material to the suggested large-scale charcoal iron industry in the South-West. I have no doubt at all that Parliament would be very happy to amend the Act again at a later date in order that iron ore, which might be required by a large-scale industry in the South-West, should be supplied to the maximum quantity necessary. In fact, members of both Houses of Parliament, I

should think, would be very happy to embrace an amendment of that kind because the establishment and operation of a large-scale charcoal iron industry in the South-West would, in the first place, provide employment for at least 1,000 men and also provide, I should think, indirect employment for five times that number.

So the development of an enterprise of that kind in the South-West—or for that matter, in any other part of the State—would give a great step-up to our total economy and would have the effect of increasing very greatly the industrial and general progress in Western Australia.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It could conceivably be a burden on the economy though.

Mr. HAWKE: Anything could conceivably be a burden on the State's economy, I think, if we were to adopt an attitude of mind which was conditioned more by fear than by initiative. Anything which was put forward as a proposal could be described in the way that the member for Cottesloe has just mentioned.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: If you were sponsoring a private enterprise show your words would really sound well.

Mr. HAWKE: We should not confuse this issue by raising the argument of State enterprise as against private enterprise. I think that issue had a wonderful airing last week in this Chamber—and also the week before. I have no doubt that before the session ends this question will be thrashed around quite a deal again. However, that issue is not before us; nor, actually, is the proposition of allowing adequate supplies of iron ore to be taken from Koolyanobbing to service a suggested large-scale charcoal iron industry in the South-West.

The fact remains, however, that the iron ore deposits at Koolyanobbing are extensive and of good quality, and do provide for the State iron ore which is reasonably accessible, and which could become an economic supply of raw material for any further development of the charcoal iron industry in Western Australia beyond what is already existing at Wundowie, plus the extensions which are now moving towards completion at that centre.

In the circumstances it is necessary, I think, that Parliament be consulted as to the use to which this iron ore might be put from time to time. Members will be interested and pleased to know that another deposit of iron ore has been discovered—not far from Koolyanobbing—at a place called, from memory, Bungalbin. The quantity of iron ore there has not yet been fully examined and so cannot accurately be estimated at this stage. However, it is thought that the deposit is fairly large and, also, that the quality of the iron ore generally at that place is quite high.

Mr. Brand: Is it accessible?

Mr. Watts: Is it nearly as accessible as Koolyanobbing?

Mr. HAWKE: The iron deposit at Bungalbin is fairly easily accessible; almost quite as accessible as that at Koolyanobbing. I do not want to enter into the argument which the member for Fremantle tried to throw into the ring a moment or so ago, except to say that the most easily accessible deposits of iron ore in Western Australia were undoubtedly those which were and still are, for the greater part, at Koolan Island and Cockatoo Island. However, those huge deposits have been lost to Western Australia, unfortunately, and so we cannot deal with them at this stage. Nor does there seem to be any possible way of dealing with them in the future in order that they might be channelled into processing plants in Western Australia, as against being sent away from Western Australia all the time to be processed in another State of the Australian continent.

I should say, at this stage, that the wood distillation and charcoal iron industry at Wundowie has developed to a point where it is not only technically successful—as it has been almost all the way through—but has now also reached a stage where it is financially successful as well. I know that a good deal of criticism has been launched, from time to time, against this industry.

However, when consideration is given to all the circumstances, I think we owe a great debt of gratitude to the technicians in this State who were responsible, initially, for developing the plans in connection with the industry; to those who were responsible later for establishing it; and to those who, since then, have been responsible for carrying the industry along.

There is all the more reason for satisfaction, I think, in the fact that practically the whole of those men were Western Australians. It is true that in later years some migrants have been recruited to the technical staff at Wundowie, and particularly in the laboratories; and that they have been able to add considerably to the measure of skilled knowledge and practice which are now part and parcel of the industry and of its day-to-day operation.

As I have said, this Bill aims to give the board of management of the industry at Wundowie the right to take from Koolyanobbing such quantities of iron ore as are required by the industry at Wundowie from time to time. I present the Bill to the House with every confidence of its being accepted as a very necessary alteration to the existing law; and I express considerable satisfaction that the industry at Wundowie has expanded so greatly in recent years as to require, now, a much

greater quantity of raw material than was required when this Act was passed in 1952. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

BILL—STATE HOUSING ACT AMENDMENT.

Message.

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

Second Reading.

THE HON. H. E. GRAHAM (Minister for Housing—East Perth) [5.56] in moving the second reading said: When the State Housing Act was amended in 1954, to allow second mortgage assistance to be granted under the provisions of the Act to persons who had funds of their own and were able to borrow in the ordinary way, but were still a little short of the required amount, certain alterations were made. It was felt that the provisions then inserted were sufficient to meet all the needs; but recently, a Crown Law Department opinion has somewhat restricted the activities under that new section.

The Act at present reads that where a worker desires to build a dwelling-house, at a cost not exceeding £3,000 exclusive of the value of the land on which he proposes to build the dwelling-house, certain conditions apply, and then it continues to the effect that under certain circumstances additional money can be made available. The Crown Law Department informs us that the words "where a worker desires to build a dwelling-house" are restrictive; that is to say, that finance under this heading can be made available only where a person has an intention to build a house and lodges his application with the commission, the commission subsequently agreeing to make the funds available.

In actual fact the Housing Commission—although it has been passed, if I might use that term, by the Audit Department—has been actually going beyond the strict letter of the law, because in quite a number of cases persons have been assisted where they had, under their own steam, set about building their homes and then encountered certain financial difficulties. That is to say, moneys which they expected to get from certain sources to supplement the finance already available to them, were no longer available. Some who have proceeded under self-help conditions have got so far and then become bogged down. The State Housing Commission, with the best intentions in the

world, has made available to them loans of, say, £500 or £1,000 which have enabled them to complete their homes.

The small Bill that is before us is to remove the doubt that has been expressed by the Crown Law Department; so that in the future it will, without any question, be possible for the commission to make advances where a person has an intention to build, as is the position now; and, to continue further, that where a person has partly built his home and desires assistance such assistance can be given; and, thirdly, where a house has actually been completed, but has been lived in by nobody but the owner, and for a period not exceeding six months, the State Housing Commission will be empowered to give second mortgage assistance.

There are cases—and I can recall one—of where some moneys were due to a person who involved himself in a transaction to pay for his home. Something went wrong, and the £400 or £500 was no longer available to him and he was in most difficult circumstances, not knowing in what direction to turn. In view of this, it has been decided to extend the coverage to persons in that category.

It will be noted that the Bill states that the words "new house" shall have the same meaning as that term which is used in the Housing Loan Guarantee Act. I think it would have been far better had the Crown Law Department rewritten the interpretation, thereby avoiding the necessity for anybody such as hon. members having to refer to another statute to see what it is all about. If anybody feels keenly about it, I would have no objection to such an amendment being made; but I think I should point out that those most concerned with the detail in this matter will be officers of the State Housing Commission and, of course, they know the interpretation backwards and forwards.

To save hon. members the necessity of having to refer back to the Housing Loan Guarantee Act, which was passed by Parliament last year, I shall read the interpretation of "new house." It reads—

"new house" means a dwelling-house which, since its completion has not been occupied at all, or which, since its completion, has been occupied but for a period not exceeding six months and then only by the borrower and his dependants, if any, or by the purchaser and his dependants, if any, and includes the land on which a dwelling-house is erected and all the appurtenances of the dwelling-house, including out-buildings, fences, and permanent provision for lighting, water supply, drainage, and sewerage.

This small amendment to Section 60A of the State Housing Act is merely to tidy up the legislation; and, in fact, to give effect to what we thought we were doing several years ago. I feel that the Bill, when it becomes law, can do nothing but good. It will be of advantage to the State Housing Commission because it will mean that for the expenditure of, from experience, an average of £700 or £800, it will be able to assist applicants to get into their own homes instead of being called upon to provide a block of land and financial assistance up to £2,500, as would be the case if this legislation were not passed. I am certain the Bill will commend itself to all hon. members and I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Wild, debate adjourned.

PLANT DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading.

THE HON. L. F. KELLY (Minister for Agriculture—Merredin—Yilgarn) [6.8] in moving the second reading said: This is only a slight amendment to Section 8 of the Plant Diseases Act, which deals mainly with the registration of orchards. In 1952, this House dealt with an amendment to the Act which increased the annual fee to be paid for the registration of orchards from 1s. to 2s. Since that time there has been a fair amount of pressure and many inquiries in regard to the advisability of increasing the period of registration from one to five years, and there has been a great deal of public interest in the possibility.

The amendment proposed in the Bill seeks to enable the registration to be made on a five-year basis with the right to pay the fee for five years at the date when the registration is due. The relative section of the Act specifies that applications for the registration of orchards should be made annually. The Bill now before the House provides for registration as prescribed; and, if passed, it will allow orchards to be registered in advance and will also permit the payment of an annual fee should the owner desire to pay annually.

It should be pointed out that some saving will be effected in the cost of stationery, postages, etc., when payments are made in advance on a five-year basis. When the Bill becomes law, the proposed legislation will become effective as from the 1st July, 1959, because registration for the current year has already been made on an annual basis. As I have said, the Bill is a very simple one. There is nothing more to it, as members will realise from a study of it. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Owen, debate adjourned.

HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading.

THE HON. H. E. GRAHAM (Minister for Housing—East Perth) [6.12] in moving the second reading said: This will be one of the shortest second reading speeches I have ever made. Unfortunately an error was made when an amending Bill was before the Legislative Council last year. Many deletions and insertions had to be made, several of them being consequential, and it was unfortunate that one too many deletions was made. As a result, the section referred to in the Bill does not make commonsense, and in order to insert what has been agreed to by both Chambers—namely, that the interest rates on the second mortgage should not exceed that on the first mortgage unless with the consent of the Minister—this Bill has been introduced.

I might say that the present Minister intends to be generous in connection with the matter, but it is not expected that the second mortgage would or should be higher than the first. Nevertheless, there are cases—for instance, with war service homes where the interest rate is 3½ per cent—where it is hardly likely that the applicant would get a lower interest rate elsewhere. As I have already indicated, this Bill seeks to do what we had agreed to, and what the Legislative Council thought it had done; namely, to insert a few missing lines into the Act. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Wild, debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

CIVILIAN LAND SETTLEMENT.

Implementation of a Comprehensive Policy.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse) [7.30]: I move—

That in view of the vital importance to this State's economy of progressively increasing primary production, this House calls on the Government to implement a comprehensive policy for civilian land settlement through—

- (1) availability of farms to approved applicants similar to the war service land settlement scheme;
- (2) attraction of capital investment from outside the State for individual land development in Western Australia;
- (3) encouragement of settlers from within Western Australia with own capital;
- (4) financial assistance to approved applicants with limited capital for development of virgin land;

- (5) financial assistance to existing farmers with limited capital and under-developed farms;
- (6) greater activity in survey, classification and subdivision of areas of Crown land.

With the end of the war service land settlement scheme in sight, Western Australia must look forward to further development of its primary industries. The financial and economic stability of this State has, since its foundation, been dependent on primary production. Our whole structure must continue to be supported from rural development; and I had looked forward with some anticipation, when His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor delivered his speech to Parliament, to hearing that there would be considerable mention of the Government's intention regarding land settlement. The Speech which I have before me refers to land settlement, and I quote—

There is a very keen demand for land, particularly in the South-West coastal areas extending from Albany to Esperance. Many applicants from the Eastern States are anxious to settle in Western Australia. Additional land is being classified for subdivision and allotment.

The termination of the developmental phase of the war service land settlement scheme is approaching. The State will then have provided sufficient farms to supply the needs of all eligible and qualified ex-servicemen who are still applying for farms under the scheme. Allotment of these holdings should take place within the next two years.

I had hoped that the Speech would continue and give some outline of the Government's intention. If the war service land settlement scheme is to be completed within a period of two years, it is of course the responsibility of the Government to start now to consider a scheme for civilian land settlement. At this juncture it might be as well to trace the history of primary production in Western Australia. In 1890 we saw the commencement of responsible Government under the Premiership of Sir John—later Lord—Forrest and for ten years his Government was mainly concerned with the problem of taking transport out into the far back country, particularly into the South-West Land Division.

It might be said that Sir John Forrest's Government was responsible for providing a railway system through our country areas in Western Australia which, I believe—and I say this with some experience—has been responsible for a great amount of development in this State. I feel that the railway system in this State—and here I reiterate my interjection to the Premier

the other day—is a public utility; and, as such, it has been responsible, more than has any other single factor, for opening up the rural districts in Western Australia.

The progress of time has of course demanded the implementation of other forms of transport. But having performed this very necessary initial developmental phase, it was left to the later Governments of Moore and Wilson to sponsor the agricultural development of Western Australia. When the late Sir James Mitchell—who was personally known to us as Premier, later as Lieut.-Governor, and later still as Governor, of Western Australia—entered Parliament in 1905, and became an Honorary Minister in the Moore Government, he at once realised that the production of wheat, wool, and dairy produce, was hardly sufficient for the requirements of the State's population.

The late Sir James Mitchell interested himself, as we all know, in land development and later, as Minister for Lands and Agriculture was responsible for developing the wheat and wool producing areas in the eastern portion of this State. It will be recalled that he induced civil servants and workers from the waterfront at Fremantle to take up land and to develop those areas. The particular area to which I am referring is one of the most productive in Western Australia.

Not being satisfied with that, the late Sir James Mitchell, as the Premier of the State, went to England in 1919 and was able to obtain loan moneys at very low rates of interest for the purpose of establishing an immigration scheme to develop the dairying areas in the lower South-West. Today we have established in Western Australia a dairying industry which is almost providing the needs of the population of this State.

I would say this: A fundamental need of a State is to produce its own requirements. We provide more than our own requirements in the production of wool; we provide more than our own requirements in connection with wheat. In the case of fruit and commodities of that nature, I think we almost provide the quantity to meet local demand. In the case of dairy produce—butter production, anyhow—we are still behind the consumption rate of the population of Western Australia.

Mr. Nalder: Do we export any butter from Western Australia?

Mr. BOVELL: I understand that the butter production in this State is retained for local consumption. For the year ended the 30th June, 1958, it was necessary to import—if I might use that term—from the Eastern States about 1,000 tons of butter in the slack production period; that is, in April, May and June.

Mr. Hearman: We also export some butter during the flush period. The figure you gave is not representative of our requirements.

Mr. BOVELL: That may be so. I understand that practically all of this State's production of butter is used locally, and it has been necessary to obtain more from the Eastern States in the slack period. In the period I referred to, the imports amounted to over 1,000 tons. I have not the figures of any exports of butter from this State. I understand that our own butter production was kept in cool storage for consumption in this State.

Mr. Hearman: You have to take into account equalisation; otherwise you will be in trouble.

Mr. Nulsen: What is the production in Western Australia?

Mr. BOVELL: I have not the production figures for the year 1958. The production in 1957 was 7,466 tons. I should say that the production for 1958 was somewhat lower. I shall quote certain figures for past years in regard to butter as well as other types of production. However, land settlement schemes which I am endeavouring to have established are and have been necessary for the sound economy of Western Australia. I have taken out some figures for butter production over the years to show the trend in each decade.

In 1910 the production in this State was 286 tons. In 1920 it was 544 tons. I would point out that 1920 was the year in which Sir James Mitchell commenced negotiations for the establishment of group settlement schemes. In 1930—that is, 10 years later—the production rose from 544 tons to 2,100 tons. In 1940 the production rose to 6,251 tons. In 1957, as I have already informed the House, the production was 7,466 tons.

The following are the figures for cheese production in this State:—

	Tons.
1957	1,152
1958	1,048

That is a slight decrease from 1957.

The production of wholemilk is interesting. This has become a very progressive industry in Western Australia. I would inform the House of some figures showing the progress made by this industry. The sales of wholemilk in the metropolitan area were as follows:—

	Gallons.
1933	3,650,000
1938	4,699,979
1943	6,331,580
1948	7,788,140
1953	10,062,869
1957	11,557,013

So the sale of wholemilk in the metropolitan area increased from 3,650,000 gallons in 1933 to 11,557,013 gallons in 1957.

The sale of wholemilk outside the metropolitan area was as follows:—

	Gallons.
1950	2,015,406
1953	2,388,700
1957	3,574,730

That shows that over the years from 1933 to 1957 the consumption of wholemilk in Western Australia increased almost fourfold.

The statistics of agricultural development in Western Australia are most interesting. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, and the indulgence of the House, I shall give a picture of the progress of those statistics over the past years. In the year 1860 when there were very few people in this State, the area used for cropping was 24,705 acres; the number of cattle stood at 32,476 head, and the number of sheep was 260,136.

In 1890—30 years later—the cropping acreage had increased to 60,678 acres; the number of cattle, to 130,970, and the sheep, to 2,524,913. In 1920, the figures were as follows:—

Cropping, 855,024 acres;
Number of cattle, 825,040 head;
Number of sheep, 5,158,516.

In 1950—that is, just after the war—the area used for cropping was 4,532,756 acres. There were 841,204 head of cattle, and there were 11,361,908 sheep. In 1957—these are the latest figures available to me—the area used for cropping in Western Australia was 5,139,098 acres.

Mr. Nalder: That does not include only wheat; it includes oats and barley?

Mr. BOVELL: Yes, all cereal crops. The number of cattle was 957,175, and the number of sheep had increased to 14,886,549. According to the statistics in the Year Book, and the quarterly statistical publication issued by the Government Statistician, in 1957, in addition to the area I have quoted, the area of established pasture was 6,055,737 acres. The figures I have given are for the years from 1860 to 1957 and show a marked increase in the development of our primary industries. Without that development we could not have progressed to the extent that we have.

It has been said that gold brought the people to Western Australia. Before the gold find, the community was very small in numbers by comparison with those of the other States; and since the decline in the goldmining industry, superphosphate and trace elements have kept them here. I believe that that is quite an apt phrase which should be applied to the conditions relating to the progress that Western Australia has made.

The total of all primary production in 1946-47—that was virtually the year following the war—was £30,175,358. In 1955-56—and these are the latest figures available to me—the total value in pounds was

£100,218,822, showing an increase of over three times in money value. Of course, we must take into consideration the depreciation or decreased value of the pound. However, it does give a picture of the dependency of Western Australia on primary production and the need for further development.

Included in the figures that I have just quoted is mining. For the benefit of hon. members I will quote some of the figures showing agriculture and mining. In 1946-47, agricultural production was worth £25,118,461 to the State. The mining value at that time was worth £5,056,897. In 1955-56, to correspond with the figures and periods I have already given, primary production was valued at £86,071,077, but the products of mining were valued at £14,142,765.

According to the figures and statistics that I have been able to get from the publications available to me, the total production of mining, agriculture, manufacturing and every other type of production in Western Australia in 1946-47—that was the year just following the war—was £45,923,834. In 1955-56 it was £169,946,624.

In taking the manufacturing value into consideration, we have to realise that the progress of the manufacturing and secondary industries in Western Australia could not have been made without the production from primary industries. I might mention, for instance, that Western Australia has a worsted and woollen mills—very progressive woollen mills—at Albany and at Fremantle. For many years this industry had its teething troubles; but in recent postwar years, it has shown itself as a very worth-while industry and is now on a sound financial basis. This industry is, of course, using our own wool.

Western Australian tinned foods—such as fish, fruit and so forth—are the local products of our primary industries. In the development of our secondary industries, we must take into consideration the part that primary industry is playing in that development. Without primary production our manufacturing and secondary industries could not have progressed to the commendable extent that they have done; and here I want to say that I join with the Premier in advocating the use by Western Australians of locally made goods, especially when those goods are manufactured from the primary products that come from Western Australia's soil.

I previously stated that butter production had fallen somewhat in Western Australia over the past 12 months, and that that is rather disappointing. But we must take into consideration the figures I have quoted in regard to the production of wholemilk. Wholemilk production shows a marked increase year by year; but I would like to see the development of our under-standard farms, especially those in the dairying area.

The Government has a commendable scheme, and one that I have advocated in this House ever since I have been a member of Parliament. This is a scheme for assisting the under-developed farms in the lower South-West, as the heavy costs of clearing are somewhat beyond the financial resources of those farmers. I do know that the little progress that has been made with the dairy farm improvement scheme is appreciated by those farmers who have participated in the Margaret River district, which is in my electorate.

Mr. Nulsen: What is the average cost of clearing an acre of land in that very heavy country?

Mr. BOVELL: I think it is somewhere in the vicinity of £30; that is to clear it and get some pastures established.

Mr. Kelly: Double that figure would be nearer it.

Mr. BOVELL: In the area I represent, £30 per acre would be somewhere in the vicinity of the amount to clear and establish pasture on that land.

Mr. Nalder: That would not include all the big timber.

Mr. BOVELL: It would include some of the big timber; not all, but most of it. The financial difficulty that farmers have in the heavily timbered areas is this: It costs more to clear and pasture an acre of land than the land can be sold for on the market. One can buy an improved farm for much less than one can develop it for. That is why I say it is the responsibility of the Government, or the taxpayers of the Commonwealth and the State of Western Australia, to assist in the establishment and further development of our primary industries.

Mr. Nalder: That does not apply only in the South-West. I think you will find the same thing in the main country areas.

Mr. BOVELL: That may be so. As the member for Katanning knows, I had considerable experience in my younger days as a bank officer. I had the privilege of managing a branch in the electorate of the Leader of the Opposition, and later, in the electorate of the member for Mt. Marshall, and I have first-hand experience of some of the difficulties during the 1930's, when money was somewhat difficult to obtain for development of farm lands. From my experience, I do think that the cost of clearing and developing an acre of land in relation to its saleable value is much more in the heavily timbered areas than it is in the areas to which the member for Katanning has referred by way of interjection; but I will agree, that to an extent that applies all over the State—to the South-West Land Division, anyhow.

Mr. Nulsen: What would be the average quantity of super they would use in the South-West?

Mr. BOVELL: That all depends on the land. In some areas in my district very little super is used; in others, a considerable amount. It all depends on the factors of the land, but I have found in my experience in postwar years that trace elements have been playing a very important part in the progress of pasture improvement, if I might put it that way. Copper, zinc, and other minerals have played a vital part in the progress that has been made, but in conjunction with super.

It is almost impossible to farm successfully without super, though as I have said, there are some areas that can do with less super than others. The urgent need for a comprehensive policy for civilian land settlement is emphasised by the figures which the Minister for Lands gave me in answer to a question last week.

The total number of applications received for land for the years 1950 to 1957 inclusive is 17,032. Those approved during that time totalled 13,931, leaving a deficiency of 3,101. I think it would be appropriate if I quoted figures for some of the years, because this reply that the Minister gave to my question indicates that the number of applications received each year has been increasing; and the number of those that have been approved has been decreasing, which only emphasises my point that the need for a civilian land settlement scheme today is, in one way and another, vital for the further progress and stability of the economy of Western Australia.

In 1950 the number of applications for land received was 1,760; and in that year, the number approved was 1,770. It will be noticed there are 10 more approvals than applications, but as the Minister said, these approvals include applications lodged during the previous year. So, although there may be a surplus of approved applications during one year, some of those are carried over from the previous year.

In 1951 the number of applications for land in Western Australia was 2,269; and in that year the number approved was 2,308, again a surplus over applications. In 1952, the number of applications received was 2,102 and the number approved was 2,052. That is the first year that shows a lesser number of approvals than applications. In 1953, 2,289 were received and 2,028 were approved. So there is a further decline of approvals against applications.

In 1954 there were 2,412 applications received and 1,804 approved. In 1955 there were 2,078 received and 1,524 approved. In 1956 there were 1,965 applications received, 1,288 being approved. In 1957, the latest figures available, there were 2,157 applications received and 1,157 approved, showing that in the last year there were 1 000 applicants for land in Western Australia who were not satisfied.

I think that picture in itself shows the vital need for immediate action regarding the encouragement of further development of our agricultural industry. In my motion, as read out previously, I enumerated a six-point plan; and with your permission, Mr. Speaker, and again with the indulgence of the House, I will go through each of the six points and make what I consider some pertinent comments thereon.

The first point concerns the availability of farms to approved applicants similar to the war service land settlement scheme. Now I want this to be made quite clear: that although these points are enumerated one to six, there is no special preference. I have endeavoured to cover the whole phase of land development in my motion, and I hope that at least some of my proposals will be able to be put into operation without very much delay.

In referring to this war service land settlement scheme, and the need for a similar civilian scheme, I want to say quite emphatically that it is the principle only that I advocate: that is, that funds necessary be provided from Government sources for the development of Crown land. To elaborate on that, the land settlement brochure for the year ended the 30th June, 1957, includes an illustration of a map of the South-West Land Division of Western Australia showing areas approved for wheat and sheep grazing; approved for dairying; under consideration for dairying; and under consideration for wheat and for sheep grazing.

I asked a question on this subject the other day; and in reply the Minister said there was a total of 840,176 acres for development under the various headings to which I have referred. I would like the Minister—I hope he will speak to this motion—to state whether it is anticipated that the whole of this area will be used for war service land settlement, or whether some of it will be carried over to a civilian land settlement scheme.

There was reference, in the "Sunday Times" of the 17th August, to a plan by the Government for the development of an area of land between Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe; and I would like the Minister to indicate—to a greater extent than appeared in the Press—what is the Government's intention in regard to the development of this land; because I hope that that development will not involve costly Government administration, which must be avoided at all costs. Experience has taught us that the group settlement scheme was costly.

There was nothing wrong with the principle of the scheme, which was to settle migrants from Great Britain and to rehabilitate people from the Goldfields, because in those days the gold-mining industry was not at its best. I might add that some of those Goldfields

people who came to the South-West of the State with their wives and families under that scheme have played a vital part in the development of that area.

It was my pleasure to take a former Minister for Agriculture (the late Mr. Garnett Wood) through the area from Busseton to Margaret River and Augusta, and we visited several properties and one, in particular, which had been developed by a man who came from the Goldfields under the scheme to which I have referred. That man has now passed on; but his son is carrying on the property, which is in the Forest Grove district, and is a credit to the family concerned.

The group settlement scheme, with cheap Government money from Great Britain and the assistance it gave to migrants and our own unemployed, was sound in principle. The war service land settlement scheme was also sound in principle, being evolved for the purpose of rehabilitating servicemen who had given years of their lives to defending this country, and who were qualified in some way for agriculture; but the administration of both those schemes has proved costly to the Governments concerned. I believe a civilian land settlement scheme is necessary for the development of large areas in this State, but it should be approached with the idea of keeping administrative costs down.

I think the best people to manage a scheme such as I envisage are those who have themselves been successful primary producers—and not Government servants. I believe that public servants in the various phases of our administration should act in an advisory capacity in relation to such a scheme; but the actual administration of a land settlement scheme should be in the hands of primary producers who have proved that they can develop the land and who have experienced, first hand, the problems of primary production.

Mr. Nalder: Why not seek the advice and assistance of practical men living in the districts concerned?

Mr. BOVELL: That could be incorporated in the proposal. At present I am only giving a forerunner of what I will suggest at the end of my speech. In order to develop a scheme involving a large area; it will be necessary to obtain the financial assistance of the Commonwealth Government; and I was interested to read, in the March issue of the "Listening Post" a report of the remarks of the Minister for Lands in regard to proposals for land settlement. In the March 1958 issue of "Listening Post" we read—

League sees Minister on Land Matters.

The possibility of surplus farms under War Service Land Settlement Scheme, finance for a civilian settlement scheme and legal representation at appeal board hearings, were

among matters raised by the League's deputation to the Minister for Lands, Mr. Kelly, recently.

I will not read it all, but only portion of it. To continue—

The deputation comprised land committee members Messrs. Davies, Milne, King and Lyon and Secretary Giblett and the Minister was attended by the Chairman of the Land Settlement Board (Mr. Baron Hay). The Minister said it was too early to say whether there would be any surplus war service farms and, if so, to detail the manner of their disposal. The Commonwealth authorities might want them for Eastern States applicants—

This is what Mr. Kelly is reported as having said—

but the position would be watched and attention paid to the League's request that consideration be given to near-miss applicants in this State.

This is the part of particular interest, which I would like the Minister to elaborate on when speaking to the debate—

Mr. Kelly said the State Government had been trying for three years to obtain finance from the Commonwealth for a civilian land settlement scheme and would appreciate any assistance the League could render in that connection. He agreed to have the League supplied with details of the scheme put up to the Commonwealth.

I have looked with interest at "Listening Post" since then, but have not seen the further comments of the Minister in this regard. In fairness to all concerned, I think the Minister should lay on the Table of the House the file dealing with these negotiations with the Commonwealth for three years—although I will not move in that regard at the moment. I hope the Minister will give the House some information in connection with his representations to the Commonwealth Government. The Government should give earnest consideration to the following:—

That the proposal include selection of land that

- (1) with further development will produce commodities for which there is some current and foreseeable demand;
- (2) will produce the greatest economic return for the least capital expenditure;
- (3) will keep the final capital cost as low as possible, the settler to be assisted to carry out as much development as possible and thus avoid the setting up

of large and extravagant Government land development departments;

- (4) areas for development to be selected whenever possible in districts already served by public utilities and amenities such as roads, railways, schools, etc., as the additional cost to the State Government could otherwise be enormous.
- (5) applicants to be carefully selected as to ability and aptitude;
- (6) lack of finance to be no deterrent to eligibility; and
- (7) land to be made available on a freehold basis.

The cost of supervision could be reduced to a minimum by the settler being allotted his holding and taking possession as soon as possible. He could then be fully employed assisting in the developmental programme of the property to which he had been allotted.

The second item in my motion deals with the attraction of capital investment from outside the State for individual land development in Western Australia. As has been evinced from information the Minister has given in replies to questions, and from the great amount of interest that has been taken in the Esperance project, many farmers of considerable financial standing in the Eastern States are showing a keen interest in land development in Western Australia. Agricultural land in the Eastern States is at a very high premium—

Mr. Kelly: And it is at a high price, too.

Mr. BOVELL: —and it is not possible for farmers in those States always to secure sufficient land to provide for their sons. While travelling in the Eastern States a year or so ago, I met a man who had been farming on the Darling Downs in Queensland. He had been over here to look at the Esperance area, and he was most interested in it because he had four sons. He said that his farm, which was near Roma in Queensland, was not big enough to enable him to engage all his sons, and therefore he was looking elsewhere for land. He had disposed of his property in Queensland for some £40,000, and he hoped to establish himself in Western Australia.

Unfortunately he did not stay here, but he had been over here and had brought his four sons with him. At that time he was unable to get sufficient land for his purpose; and, as he could not wait any longer, they all went back. I am not criticising the department in any way, because Mr. Denny—who is now in England in the Agent General's office—was in the Lands Department, and I discussed the matter with him, and with other officers

of the department, and they did everything possible to facilitate the release of land for this man and his four sons. Unfortunately, the department was not able to do anything in time.

It was not anybody's fault, but it is an indication that the capital is there and people are wanting to come to Western Australia if land can be made available. We should do everything in our power to attract these Eastern States farmers who have the ready money available, and some interest has already been shown, particularly in the Esperance area, because of the activities of the Chase Syndicate. Experienced young men from the Eastern States should be encouraged to develop land in Western Australia, particularly if they have the necessary capital.

The work that has already been done at Esperance has proved that the area is a good one; and if Eastern States farmers are prepared to finance their sons to develop land in Western Australia, we should do everything to encourage them. Further publicity through our tourist agencies in the Eastern States should be encouraged, and we should do everything possible to attract people with capital from Eastern Australia to invest in agricultural pursuits in Western Australia. I would like to deal in more detail with each of the items in my motion; but at the moment I am just giving a general outline of what I have in mind.

The next item deals with the encouragement of settlers from within Western Australia with their own capital. Selected areas should be made available for outright purchase on a freehold basis. It should not matter what areas of land farmers have; provided they are prepared to develop the land available to them, they should be able to secure further land.

Mr. Nulsen: Do you mean on a conditional purchase basis?

Mr. BOVELL: That is tantamount to a freehold basis. The present system is to issue Crown grants. I do not mean this to be on a conditional purchase basis. I want them to be able to purchase the land outright, as has happened with some business organisations. I instance the case of the A.M.P. Society, and the land it has made available in the 90-mile desert area in South Australia. If firms, institutions, or other private enterprise could be induced to take up areas of land and develop them, and make farms available, as has been done by the A.M.P. Society in South Australia, everything possible should be done to encourage them. That might sound ambitious, but every avenue must be explored to ensure that our agricultural resources are developed to the full.

The fourth item mentioned in the motion is that financial assistance should be granted to approved applicants with limited capital to allow the development of virgin land. There are a number of

young men who have been born and bred in the country; who understand country life; and who have a limited amount of capital. With some financial assistance they would become successful primary producers.

In my own district I see too many instances of where young men, although they desire to remain on their father's properties, have owing to economic circumstances, to seek employment elsewhere. Usually they go into the timber industry, the fishing industry, or some other industry that attracts their interest. They do this because of the ready money which is available, and because there is very little prospect of their fathers being able to pay them the same wages.

I said earlier that in my opinion it was necessary to seek the co-operation of the Commonwealth Government to grant the necessary finance to assist in the development of areas on a large scale; but I consider it to be the responsibility of the State Government to set up an organisation which will make capital available to young men in Western Australia—young men who have a limited amount of capital of their own—and who would be successful in developing their own farms.

Mr. Hall: What percentage of failures would you expect in a scheme like that?

Mr. BOVELL: I am not looking for failures.

Mr. Hall: Someone would have to carry them.

Mr. BOVELL: In every project there is a certain percentage of failures. But I say now that had it not been for the enterprise of the leaders of our State at the time, the prosperity of the Eastern wheatbelt would not have been available to our economic stability as it is today. Also, had it not been for the group settlement scheme, the South-West would not have been developed to the extent that it has been.

Whilst I am talking about that I do not want to give all the credit to the late Sir James Mitchell. The late Phillip Collier carried on where Sir James left off; and although times were difficult during his period of office, he continued with the scheme—despite the fact that finance was scarce at the time—and ensured that it was fostered in every way possible.

Young men who have limited resources; who are born and bred in the country; and who are farmers' sons should be encouraged to stay on the land by being granted assistance either through the Rural & Industries Bank or through the private banks, so that they might further their enterprises.

I will now quote from the speech made by the Hon. F. J. S. Wise, who was Minister for Lands in the Willcock Government in 1944. In the 1944 Parliamentary Debates, Volume 1, page 788, Mr. Wise was

reported as having said, when introducing a Bill to establish the Rural and Industries Bank, the following:—

The idea is to re-establish it as such a bank with a special Government agency department for financing the weaker type of settler's account and also undertaking special works on behalf of the Government, works associated with land settlement generally and the development of industries associated with rural life.

I do not think the Rural & Industries Bank is playing its full part as was originally envisaged and as set out by Mr. Wise when he introduced that Bill. I believe that with the co-operation of the Associated Banks of Western Australia and that of the Rural & Industries Bank, per medium of its agency section, young men can be assisted to develop the land.

Mr. Watts: We have been told for a long time that the agency section has no money until the money it has already advanced is refunded.

Mr. BOVELL: It is the Government's responsibility to see that the money is refunded and additional funds made available. I do not wish to enter into a discussion on Chamberlain Industries; but I would point out that there is £3,000,000 at stake in that project, and I think the members of the Country Party would agree with me that if the Rural & Industries Bank had £3,000,000 to advance to settlers, it would be of untold benefit to primary industry.

Mr. Brand: What about the £750,000 for a new building?

Mr. BOVELL: I do not want to start a controversy. I am endeavouring to woo the Government—

Mr. Kelly: Now we are hearing the truth!

Mr. BOVELL:—into its responsibilities, rather than abuse the Government into them.

Mr. Hawke: The hon. member is doing very well.

Mr. BOVELL: I am not accustomed to such flattery from the Premier.

Mr. Brand: I would not place very much reliance on that one, either.

Mr. BOVELL: The fifth item in my motion is: "Financial assistance to existing farmers with limited capital and under-developed farms." I believe that a system could be instituted such as that which functioned under the Industries Assistance Board. In my early banking days, the first branch at which I had the privilege to serve and the first job I had to perform—apart from my probationary period in Perth which I did not appreciate because I came from the country and was anxious to get back there—was at Katanning in 1924.

At that time the Industries Assistance Board was playing a great part in the development of the Katanning district. I well recall that the late Mr. Dixon was the manager of the Katanning branch of the Agricultural Bank in those days. That bank was not such as the Rural & Industries Bank is today; but as a young bank officer, I wondered what the small pieces of paper were which were continually being sent in by various people, because to me they seemed to be of no value. I learned, however, they were vouchers which were worth money to the farmer and were issued by the field inspectors of the Agricultural Bank for developmental work which had been completed.

Mr. May: A form of I.O.U.

Mr. BOVELL: A farmer who had completed certain improvements on his property under the supervision of the Agricultural Bank inspector, was granted an advance from the Bank—repayable, of course—which would enable him to complete certain further development. I believe that is the principle which should be re-introduced for the development of land today. In the South-West—in my own area, anyhow—the average farm ranges from about 160 to 320 acres. I believe that, in the heavily timbered areas, it is necessary, on an overall plan, for each individual to have an average of 300 acres for development.

However, a farmer who has 160 acres, bounded by forest country, and who has three or four sons, is unable to keep his sons on the property and they are lost to the industry because of lack of opportunity. If some assistance could be granted to these young men and special attention paid to the availability of Crown land adjacent to their parents' holdings—and this is quite a common occurrence in the South-West, anyhow—it would allow the sons of farmers to have an area of Crown land close to their fathers' properties so that they could develop it with the help and experience of their parents and with the use of their plant, which would be available to the sons. In addition, if assistance could be granted to them under such a scheme as was laid down under the Industries Assistance Board, I believe a great deal could be done to further the development of primary industries in Western Australia.

There is no better potential farmer than the boy or girl who has been raised in a rural district and who, at maturity, is available to improve an area of land and so continue in the environment that he or she is accustomed to. On the other hand, once he or she leaves that particular environment, the services which he or she may be able to give towards the development of rural areas may be lost

forever. I therefore ask the Government to give consideration to the introduction of a system of assistance to primary industries as applied under the old Agricultural Bank.

The sixth and final point of my motion is: "Greater activity in survey classification and subdivision of areas of Crown land." This will at least give me an opportunity of paying a tribute to the Surveyor-General and his staff for the colossal job they have performed during the postwar years. There has been great development in rural industry. There have also been—although not enough perhaps—large areas of land made available for further primary production. But I am fully convinced the Surveyor-General and the limited staff he has had in the past, have done a mammoth job in achieving as much as they have.

I believe it is necessary to appoint additional surveyors forthwith. From my own experience I know that when land is made available by the Land Board it is made available subject to survey, and the farmer has to guess exactly where his boundary is. This is no fault of the Surveyor-General and his staff. It is just that they have not been able to cope with the pressure of work on hand.

Mr. Nulsen: Unfortunately surveyors are a scarce commodity.

Mr. BOVELL: I am aware of that. I am merely impressing on the Government the need for additional surveyors, and I am also expressing my appreciation of the wonderful job the surveyors have done under difficult conditions.

Mr. Brand: What is the prospect of getting more surveyors?

Mr. BOVELL: I hope the Minister will answer that when he speaks to the motion. Those are the six points of my motion, and I hope the Minister and the Government will give serious consideration to them. I trust it will be possible for the Government to adopt at least some of the points I have set out.

I spoke earlier of the danger of expensive departmental development schemes. I would say—and I gave an indication of this earlier—that the appointment of a governing authority to fully investigate and inquire into the proposal of civilian land settlement should be drawn from primary producers in Western Australia who have been successful in their own sphere of activity. The members should be drawn from the wheat industry, from the sheep industry, from the dairying industry, and from the fruit-growing industry.

In referring to the fruit-growing industry, I feel that there is a great potential latent in that industry. When I visited South Africa by courtesy of hon. members

of Parliament, I saw great citrus groves that were producing untold wealth for South Africa. I believe that the area round Geraldton would be one that could be used for citrus growing. When I was there as a bank officer in the years before the war, I saw and tasted some of the best oranges ever; these were grown round the Northampton district and at Dindaloa in the Chapman Valley.

Mr. Hawke: Have you tried the Northam oranges?

Mr. BOVELL: No; but I would be very glad if the Premier could bring me a sample. I have tried the Pinjarra oranges given to me by the former Premier and member for Murray, and found them to be very good indeed.

Mr. Nulsen: The finest oranges I have seen and tasted were grown at Wiluna.

Mr. BOVELL: I could appreciate that, because the area inland from Geraldton shows the wonderful potential that is there. I would not be too sure of my facts, but I also believe that certain fruits could be grown, in an experimental way anyhow, in the Minister for Health's own district. Be that as it may, there is definitely a great potential for the fruit-growing industry. But this authority—if there is to be one, and I believe it is necessary—should be composed of practical primary producers, and they should have the authority necessary. As an advisory panel—and I stress they should act in an advisory capacity only—I would suggest co-opting the following:—

- (1) The Chairman of the Associated Banks of Western Australia;
- (2) the Chairman of Commissioners of the Rural & Industries Bank of Western Australia;
- (3) the Surveyor-General;
- (4) the Under-Secretary for Lands;
- (5) the Director of Agriculture;
- (6) a representative appointed by the R.S.L., who has experience of the war service land settlement scheme.

I have not referred to the Farmers' Union; because, in my opinion, the controlling authority contained in this proposal, as I see it, will consist of practical primary producers. So the primary producers themselves will be the authority which will inquire into the proposals for a land settlement scheme, and they will be assisted by the advisory panel I have proposed.

On motion by the Minister for Lands, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.48 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, 27th August, 1958.

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