

this is the normal way in which a partnership is arranged. It is certainly not considered that this prohibition of public invitation, as now proposed, will seriously inhibit the formation of small partnerships.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 5.1 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 9th April, 1970

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. A. Manning) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (42): ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

2. **DUST NUISANCE**

Swan Portland Cement Company

Mr. HARMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

(1) Is he and the Air Pollution Control Council satisfied that the Swan Portland Cement Co. reduced dust emission by 60 per cent. by the 15th December last?

(2) Will he indicate rate of dust emission expressed in grams per cubic foot of the last six tests taken by the council and the dates of such tests?

(3) Can he advise when the electrostatic precipitators will operate?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) No.

(2) 26/11/69 (prior to reduction)—3.2 grains per cu. ft.

19/12/69—1.8 grains per cu. ft.

19/2/70—1.6 grains per cu. ft.

5/3/70—2.2 grains per cu. ft.

(3) First electrostatic precipitator installation should be completed by the end of this month and the second by the end of June.

An inspection this morning confirms that the construction of the first precipitator is very well under way. The only difficulty at the moment is that the driver of a truck carrying pipes and valves for the cooling tower has been taken ill in Adelaide, but every effort is being made to get a substitute driver.

3. *This question was postponed.*

TRAFFIC

Accidents: Number, and Modified Vehicles

Mr. GRAHAM, to the Minister for Traffic:

(1) What was the number of traffic accidents recorded last year—

(a) metropolitan area;

(b) elsewhere?

(2) Of the numbers how many were attributed to the factor of the vehicles having been modified or altered from the manufacturers specification?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

(1) (a) 25,583.

(b) 3,758.

(2) No statistical records of this type are maintained.

5.

CARAVAN PARKS

Metropolitan Area

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

(1) How many caravan parks are now operating in the metropolitan area?

(2) Does he consider the number sufficient to cater for the needs of caravan travellers?

(3) What legislation currently exists for the control, location and number of caravan parks?

(4) Have any applications been received from owners of rural land for such land to be gazetted for caravan parks; if so, how many?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) Nine listed in near city areas with the Tourist Bureau.

(2) This is very difficult to answer without a complete review of all the present caravan parks; whether they are being utilised to capacity, whether they have room or proposals for extension, and to what extent caravan travellers will increase.

(3) The caravans and camps regulations made under the Health Act. Councils may make by-laws under the provisions of section 200 of the Local Government Act for control of caravan parks and regulating the use of land for the parking of caravans. Local Government Model By-law (Caravan Parks) No. 2 may be adapted by councils. The number of caravan parks in a municipal district could be regulated by a town planning scheme or zoning by-laws made by the council.

(4) This information is not available.

6. *This question was postponed.*

7. **EMPLOYMENT BROKERS***Number Licensed and Fees Charged*

Mr. HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) How many employment brokers are currently licensed pursuant to the Employment Brokers Act?
- (2) How many such licensed brokers are charging as a fee to both employer and employee an amount greater than 50 per cent. of the first week's wage?
- (3) If any, who are these brokers and what is the fee in each case?
- (4) Is there a practice prevalent among some brokers for certain persons to be paid by brokers and hired to employers for varying short periods?
- (5) If so, what fee is being charged by the broker against the employee and employer?
- (6) Does he intend to seek amendments to the Employment Brokers Act in this session or the next session?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 86.
- (2) 3.
- (3) R. H. Williams—three-quarters of week's wages.
D. O. Vandersluys—five-eighths of week's wages.
C. R. Hall—\$21.50.
I point out that that \$21.50 may or may not be 50 per cent. of a week's wages, depending upon the position advertised.
- (4) The practice referred to does not constitute employment broking.
- (5) Answered by (4).
- (6) Amendments suggested by the Employment Agents Association of Western Australia, and others, are under consideration.

8. **TOXIC CHEMICALS***Tests on Animal Fats*

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

In view of the world wide concern and interest being shown in the excessive use of D.D.T. and other toxic chemicals and its effect on animals and humans—

- (1) Have tests been made by his department on animal fats to ensure there is no accumulation of toxic chemicals?
- (2) If "Yes" where and when were they made?
- (3) If not, will he ensure tests are made as soon as possible?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) Tests are routinely carried out by the Department of Primary Industry.

9. **APPRENTICES**
Painting Trade

Mr. GRAHAM, to the Minister for Labour:

What was the number of persons apprenticed to the painting trade for each year from 1961 to 1969 respectively?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

1961	....	....	....	227
1962	....	....	....	229
1963	....	....	....	230
1964	....	....	....	259
1965	....	....	....	289
1966	....	....	....	312
1967	....	....	....	333
1968	....	....	....	348
1969	....	....	....	351

The figures given represent the maximum number of apprentices registered in each of the years quoted.

10. **AUSTRALIAN IRON AND STEEL PTY. LTD.***Strike: Minister's Statement*

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Did he see in *The West Australian*, Wednesday the 8th April in the report that A.I.S. challenges on legal issue a statement that "Before the strike the company had given an assurance during award proceedings that it was prepared to discuss the production bonus"?
- (2) Is it not a fact that at no time was the company prepared to discuss the union's claim for over award payments which it had made and was quite entitled to make?
- (3) Is he prepared to apologise to the viewers of Monday's television programme on Channel 7 for continuing to assert that before the strike occurred A.I.S. was prepared to discuss with union representatives the claim for over award payments when in fact this was not so?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. The company was prepared to discuss the payment of an increased production bonus if the union members remained at work and withdrew the threat of strike.

In explanation, my understanding is that following Commissioner Kelly's disallowance of a claim for \$15 per week over-award payment, the union claimed \$25 per week over-award payment and did not wish to discuss with the company 'the production bonus scheme. Despite Commissioner Kelly's decision, the union claimed a \$25 per week over-award payment and threatened to strike if the company did not meet its demand.

- (3) There is nothing to apologise for. I am of the opinion that if the Leader of the Opposition studies the full text of the T.V. comments made he will agree with this. At no time during the T.V. interview did I state that before the strike occurred A.I.S. was prepared to discuss with union representatives the claim for over-award payments.

An appropriate extract of what I did say to the Leader of the Opposition was—

Now, in point of fact, the company was always prepared to negotiate but there was one basic condition they laid down, which he knows as well as I do, there has been a time honoured situation in this country of ours, that the men have to get back to work.

11. EDUCATION

Aboriginal Students: Living Allowance

Mr. W. A. MANNING, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that a living allowance is to be made for aboriginal students at high schools?
- (2) If so, would he give details?
- (3) To whom is payment made?
- (4) Is payment to be made in advance regardless of attendances?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Aboriginal children are granted open or special scholarships by the Education Department and bursaries by the Department of Native Welfare. In each case board and lodging is paid where the child leaves home. This year the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Education and Science introduced an Aboriginal secondary grant scheme to assist Aboriginal children from the beginning of the last year of compulsory education. This scheme provides for a living allowance.

- (2) The living allowance under the Aboriginal secondary grants scheme is \$240 per annum up to Junior level and \$300 per annum at Sub-leaving and Leaving levels for students living at home, compulsory charges for students living at hostels or colleges, and boarding expenses up to \$16 per week for private board.

In certain circumstances, approval may be given for the payment of all fees for board and lodging.

- (3) Where students are living at home, the living allowance will normally be paid to the student's mother or guardian. Where students are living away from home, the living allowance will be paid to the principal of the boarding school, the hostel manager, or to the person with whom the student is boarding, or to some other suitable person.
- (4) Payments under the Aboriginal secondary grants scheme may be made in advance to colleges or hostels if required. Private board is paid fortnightly in advance. Parents, hostels, and institutions are paid at the end of the school term. All payments are subject to satisfactory attendance.

12. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Reduced Rates: Country Districts

Mr. BURT, to the Premier:

In view of his Press statement that a new reduced domestic tariff would be introduced by the State Electricity Commission for their consumers in country districts, will he give urgent consideration to a scheme which would enable reduced rates to be granted to electricity consumers in those areas where the S.E.C. does not consider it economical to supply electricity, and where people are paying extremely high prices for it?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

This matter is already being considered but the study of it will need to be comprehensive and will take some time.

13. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Reduced Rates: Country Districts

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) With reference to the announcement by the honourable Premier that cheaper power is to be made available from the 1st September to consumers in country areas, how is it possible to calculate that the reduction in price will cost

the State Electricity Commission "about \$600,000 in revenue in a full year" before the S.E.C. has carried out a survey to classify all country consumers in rating groups?

- (2) What are the circumstances which have enabled the Government to undertake what it has promised to do from the 1st September this year and which prevented it from taking similar action six months ago when representations were made by the south west Regional Council?
- (3) What additional cost to present proposals would be involved in making rates uniform for city and country domestic consumers served by the S.E.C.?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) This assessment was made as the result of a survey which took into account the average consumption of about 20 per cent. of the domestic consumers in the country. The survey is necessary to deal with the consumers individually.
- (2) The South-West Regional Council was told on the 29th September, 1969, by the Premier that uniform domestic tariffs would be introduced when it was financially possible to do so. The financial position of the commission now enables it to take the first step in carrying out this promise.
- (3) About \$450,000 per annum.

14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Perth City Council Elections

Mr. GRAHAM, to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

Concerning allegations of improper practices in connection with the Perth City Council elections last year, what action—

- (a) has been taken;
- (b) is being taken;
- (c) is proposed to be taken?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (a) The matter was referred by the Perth City Council to the C.I.B.
- (b) and (c) No further action is contemplated.

15. PRAWNS

Cockburn Sound

Mr. JAMIESON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) What was the result of the recent trawls for prawns conducted in

Cockburn Sound on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Fauna?

- (2) What was the approximate location of each of these three experimental trawls?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The purpose of these trawls for prawns was to obtain a sample of live prawns for experimental work in the aquarium at the Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories. A total of 200 lb. of prawns was landed which represented a catch rate of about 5 lb. per hour.
- (2) Offshore from Kwinana.

FRUIT

Industry Problems: Deputation

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Railways:

Referring to the deputation on Monday the 19th January, 1970, from fruit growing interests in the south west in connection with industry problems, and which was attended by Parliamentary representatives of the district—

- (1) Has he made any decisions in respect of the points raised?
- (2) Were the fruit growing interests notified of the decision?
- (3) Were any members of Parliament notified in writing of any decision?
- (4) If "Yes" which members have been advised and date of notification?
- (5) Why have I not been notified of the position in writing?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, through the member of Parliament who introduced the deputation.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Hon. V. J. Ferry, M.L.C., who introduced the deputation—as arranged at the deputation—and Mr. R. W. Kitney, M.L.A., who requested a copy of my reply.
- (5) Normal practice was followed and a reply sent only to the leader of the deputation.
If the honourable member would like a copy of my reply, this will be arranged.

17.

ROADS

Mumballup-Donnybrook

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) In view of the increased road traffic on the Mumballup-Donnybrook Road is it intended to widen the road?

- (2) If "Yes" when will the work commence?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No funds have been allocated in the current programme of the Main Roads Department to upgrade this road, but consideration will be given to this work in future programmes.
- (2) Answered by (1).

18. COLLIE COALFIELD

Drilling: Commencement

Mr. JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

When will the drilling recommended in the Menzies and Hanrahan report on the Collie coalfield commence?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

It is expected that drilling will commence at Collie on the 27th April following the completion of work at Gnaragarra where the drill is being used in the Perth water supply investigation.

19. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Collie Power Station

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is the Collie power house only operating on certain days during the week?
- (2) Will he advise the policy for the operation of this station?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This station will be progressively used for peaking and stand-by purposes.

20. *This question was postponed.*

21. ROADS

Hamilton Interchange: Costs

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister for Works:

What is the estimated total cost of the Hamilton Interchange section of the Mitchell Freeway inclusive of ancillary works?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The construction of the Hamilton Interchange is being planned to be completed in four separate stages over a number of years. Consideration is still being given as to whether it will be desirable to complete the second, third and fourth stages before extending the Mitchell Freeway through Leederville and further north. Based on 1967 costs taken from the consultants' report an approximate

estimated cost of constructing the four stages of the Hamilton Interchange according to preliminary plans now available is \$28,000,000, of which about half will be for property acquisition. When detailed design plans are available a more accurate assessment of cost can be made.

22.

OIL

Production and Refining

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How much crude oil was produced in Western Australia in the 12 months to the end of March, 1970?
- (2) What percentage of the crude oil produced was refined at Kwinana?
- (3) Where was the rest refined?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) 13,968,319 barrels during the 12 months to the end of February, 1970. (The March, 1970, figures are not yet available.)
- (2) 27 per cent.
- (3) Victoria, N.S.W., Queensland and South Australia.

23.

M.T.T.

Electronic Data Processing

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the total cost of employing a firm of consultants to advise the M.T.T. on the use of electronic data processing?
- (2) What was the outcome of the inquiry undertaken?
- (3) What was the name of the firm involved?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) \$73,700.
- (2) It was decided to adopt the use of electronic data processing.
- (3) P.A. Management Consultants.

24.

HOUSING

Loans: Costs

Mr. JAMIESON, to the Minister for Housing:

Generally what are the legal expenses, fees, valuation expenses and four inspection costs for a loan of \$8,700 from—

- (a) State Housing Commission direct;
- (b) from a building society granting a loan from its Commonwealth-State allocation under the Home Builders' Account?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

	\$
(a) Valuation and search	9.40
Building inspection	35.00
Plan examination	10.00
Preparation mortgage	2.10
Registration mortgage	4.00
Duty	11.50
The maximum loan under State Housing Mortgage is \$8,000, but the only difference is on duty which would be \$10.50 on \$8,000.	

	\$
(b) Valuation	22.50
Three inspections	30.00
Fees entrance	30.45
Legal expenses	78.00

25. *This question was postponed.*

26. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Steel Industry: Study

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What is the present position regarding the Australia-wide study for the establishment of a major new steel making industry?
- (2) Is Western Australia being included in any such study?
- (3) If so, what are the current prospects?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) I presume the honourable member is referring to the Australia-wide studies being undertaken by Kaiser-Armco-Hamersley group.

These studies are being undertaken on a very comprehensive basis and include both the blast furnace method of iron and steel making as well as the himet and electric furnace method. They are also directed mainly at export markets for the semi-finished or crude steel.

Considerations which have to be taken into account in the course of these studies are—

- (a) Location of raw materials such as iron ore, coal (coking coal in the case of blast furnace operation and non-coking coal in the case of himet production), limestone, dolomite, etc.
- (b) Markets for finished product.
- (c) Availability of workforce.
- (d) Local labour costs.
- (e) Availability of harbour, town, housing, education, hospital, power, water and other infrastructure facilities.

The position has developed to a stage when it looks unlikely that in the initial stages Western Australia would be economic for large scale production of steel for export by the conventional blast furnace method.

I am, of course, excluding the contractual commitment that B.H.P. have for the production of steel in the 1970s as an extension of the present sinter plant and blast furnace already installed at Kwinana.

It is now fairly certain that we will be producing substantial quantities of himet in Western Australia by 1973.

Provided present negotiations in respect of location and power costs are successful, and if we can reasonably predict a more stable industrial situation than we have had in recent months—with a degree of realism on the part of all concerned, including unions, as to the limitations on the amount of costs that steel making can stand if it is to be produced in world competition—then it appears that we will be producing steel by the electric furnace method in Western Australia before a new steel industry using the conventional blast furnace method is established in the Eastern States.

There are advantages to us through the electric furnace method because of the great flexibility it gives, especially during the establishment period when it is not necessary to have such a massive tonnage to be economic as is necessary when the conventional blast furnace method is used.

On present indications it appears that himet will be made at Dampier unless the industrial and cost situation worsens, but it does not currently appear economically practicable to make steel in the north in spite of our desires to do so. Studies are currently being undertaken in conjunction with the companies as to alternative steel making locations within Western Australia.

Summed up, it is reasonable to expect—

- (1) Himet to be made in our north by 1973.
- (2) Steel to be produced in Western Australia by the electric furnace method ahead of any new steel industry using the conventional blast furnace method in the Eastern States.

- (3) The main outlets will be to supply overseas steel industries.
- (4) Much will depend on the stability of the outlet for the industrial scene and the extent to which wage and other costs can be kept within manageable limits.
- (5) Steel production in the north appears to be impracticable but steel production in other parts of Western Australia in addition to the B.H.P. project, looks hopeful.

27.

ROADS*Old Coast Road, Mandurah*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it anticipated that the Mandurah end of the old Coast Road will be upgraded?
- (2) What would be the estimated cost of upgrading?
- (3) If a works programme is not imminent, will speed zoning be introduced on this section?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) This road is under the control of the local authority and improvement of the Mandurah end will depend upon the priority given to the road by the shire council.

During the current year \$11,000 has been provided by the Main Roads Department to improve a section of the road immediately south of the bridge, and if the shire council gives the road a high priority in submissions to the Main Roads Department for the 1970-71 programme consideration will be given to the allocation of further funds.

- (2) No estimate has been prepared.
- (3) Introduction of speed zoning of Coast Road is being investigated by the Main Roads Department.

28.

BUNBURY HARBOUR*Scale Model*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Now that the design for Bunbury's inner harbour has been established, and because of growing interest in the project by local, interstate and overseas people, would he now have a scale model produced for display within Bunbury?
- (2) If so, when would the model be available?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) While the basic design for the approach channel and turning basin for the new harbour has been established, location of the associated servicing facilities such as roads, railways, etc. is still under consideration.

A model constructed at this stage, therefore, would be subject to amendments from time to time to keep it up to date.

- (2) A firm time cannot be nominated. However, the various departments concerned are actively working on the planning of their facilities and when this phase has been completed a model will be constructed.

29.

EDUCATION*Teachers: Transfer Expenses*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the details of present transfer expenses granted to a teacher, and where applicable his/her family, when transferred in employment?
- (2) When were these last reviewed?
- (3) Are these expenses comparable with other Government employees; e.g., Public Works Department, Police, Main Roads Department?
- (4) Is a review to take place in the near future?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) \$3.50 per day for teacher, \$1.75 per day for his wife and each of his children allowed under Education Department regulations but in high cost areas, e.g. North West, higher allowances have been paid.
- (2) The 14th June, 1967.
- (3) Public Service departments, Police, Main Roads Department—
\$9.65 per day other than north of 26°
\$10.00 per day north of 26°
for officers only. No allowance for wife or children.
- (4) No review is contemplated at the present time.

30.

INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION*Awards: "Preference to Unionists" Clause*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) At the 31st December, 1963, what number of workers were covered by awards or agreements which had a "preference to unionists" clause inserted?

- (2) At the 31st March, 1970, what number of workers were covered by awards or agreements which had a "preference to unionists" clause inserted?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) Although the information is not available in the form requested, the position generally is as follows—

As at the 30th June, 1963, 101,738 unionists were covered by State awards. Very few of those awards would have a "preference to unionist" clause included at that time.

As at the 30th June, 1969, 130,518 unionists were covered by State awards, very few of which would not have contained a "preference to unionist" clause.

31. SUPERANNUATION CHEQUES

Dating

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it so that superannuates receive their cheques which bear Friday's date each second Friday?
- (2) If "Yes" is he aware that age pensioners receive on a Wednesday their cheques which bear the following Thursday's date thereby giving all pensioners equal business opportunity and convenience on the Thursday?
- (3) Will he take steps to have superannuation cheques bearing the appropriate Friday's date delivered on the previous Thursday so that superannuates may be on the same footing as pensioners?
- (4) If "Yes" when will this be done?
- (5) If "No" why?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is understood that this is the situation.
- (3) Cheques are now posted at noon on Thursdays. Consideration is now being given to the possibility of an earlier posting.
- (4) and (5) Answered by (3).

32. *This question was postponed.*

33. POLICE STATION

Fremantle: Accommodation

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is he aware of the accommodation inadequacies existing at Fremantle Police Station in respect of—
 - (a) staff;

- (b) private accommodation for overnight prisoners or detainees?

- (2) When is it anticipated that—
 - (a) the various courts will be removed from the site;
 - (b) the vacated space will become available to the police?
- (3) Is other more commodious accommodation for the police station contemplated elsewhere?
- (4) If elsewhere—
 - (a) at what location;
 - (b) at what anticipated date?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) No. Accommodation may be taxed at times but will be overcome when a new police station is constructed.
- (b) There is generally sufficient accommodation for detention of prisoners overnight but this may be strained on occasions. However, the same provision applies and will be overcome with the erection of a new police station.
- (2) (a) Not yet decided.
- (b) Not yet decided but this will eventuate.
- (3) Yes a new police station is to be built at Fremantle and has been included in the Estimates for 1970-71 subject to finance being available.
- (4) (a) At the present time the site has not been determined.
- (b) Not yet decided.

34.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Skeleton Weed

Mr. YOUNG, to the Minister for Agriculture:

In view of the recent discovery of skeleton weed in the Maylands railway station what procedure is being adopted to check other metropolitan railway areas to determine if further outbreaks of this weed have occurred because of the very serious problems that could arise if this weed was transported to widely separated areas by the railway system?

Mr. NALDER replied:

An intensive search is being carried out by men walking in line abreast about six feet apart. The entire railway system from Midland Junction to Fremantle and Kwinana, including the Kewdale sections, will be searched. It is anticipated that this will be completed by the 17th April.

35.

NURSES*Salaries*

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Relevant to my question on nurses' salaries on the 26th March, 1970, and, in particular, to his reply to part 4(a)—

- (1) Would he grant to nursing staff in Government hospitals equal pay by administrative action, despite part 10 of the Industrial Arbitration Act?
- (2) If "Yes" will he do so to rectify the anomaly of female nurses being paid less for caring for male and female patients while male nurses are confined predominantly to male patients?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

There is no anomaly as referred to by the honourable member, it again being pointed out that the Government accepts the principles set out in part 10 of the Industrial Arbitration Act.

36.

VERMIN TAX*Shire Revaluations*

Mr. GAYFER, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the percentage increase in vermin rates in the Corrigin shire in this last year as compared with the previous assessment?
- (2) As this increase is caused by shire land revaluation, how many other shires have been revalued during the last 12 months and what was the percentage increase in vermin tax in each of these shires?
- (3) What amount does the Treasury Department expect the vermin tax to yield this year?
- (4) What was the figure received by way of vermin tax for each of the last five years and what was the rate each year in the unimproved capital value dollar?
- (5) In what year does the Agriculture Protection Board expect that it will receive sufficient moneys from these annual increases to operate its activities so that the yearly tax escalation can cease?
- (6) Does the Treasury consider that such a system of taxing is equitable when such steep increases are evidenced in one shire against a neighbouring shire?
- (7) Would not an acreage tax throughout the State, excluding the pastoral areas, be a much fairer way of levying the vermin tax?

- (8) Would he comment if he anticipates that, with the sharp decrease in farm land values especially in the wheat belt, the Taxation Department will cause a rapid and realistic survey to be made and a general and immediate revaluation of the State to take place with a view to bringing farm values closer to the present cash sale value?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) Statistics are not available of the collections of vermin rates for individual Shires. The Corrigin Shire was revalued for assessment purposes for the year 1969-70 and the total land values were increased by 193 per cent. The increased values include the values of land alienated from the Crown since the previous valuation.
- (2) Eight other shires were revalued during the last twelve months and percentage increases in land values ranged from 89 per cent to 361 per cent.
- (3) \$560,000.

(4)—

Year	Collections	Pastoral	Rates	
			Other	Holdings
1964-65	\$373,558	1-25c in \$	-23c in \$	
1965-66	\$449,876	1-25c in \$	-33c in \$	
1966-67	\$440,827	1-25c in \$	-21c in \$	
1967-68	\$533,524	1-25c in \$	-20c in \$	
1968-69	\$593,290	2-00c in \$	-17c in \$	

- (5) The vermin rate, which is subsidised dollar for dollar by the Government, must be sufficient to finance the expanding services to agriculture, and in fixing the rate each year the Agriculture Protection Board takes into account escalation in the improved capital values.
- (6) and (7) The vermin rating system is currently being examined. Various proposals with regard to possible changes in the vermin tax system are being prepared for submission to the Government.
- (8) The situation will receive early attention by the valuation section of the Taxation office in the event that decreases in land values in a particular district become evident.

37. POULTRY: FRESH AND FROZEN*Excess Water Content*

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What action, if any, has the Government taken to protect the public from the marketing of fresh and frozen poultry with excess water content?

Mr. NALDER replied:

The problem of excess moisture only occurs in frozen poultry. Officers of the Department of Agriculture are making investigations and providing technical assistance to ensure that the level of "free moisture" in carcasses does not exceed 8 per cent., the level accepted throughout Australia and the United States of America.

38.

VERMIN

Ring Necked Pheasants

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the Department of Agriculture at present considering declaring ring necked pheasants as vermin?
- (2) If "Yes" would he table the departmental report giving reasons for recommending this action?
- (3) Is he aware that the South Australian Government is releasing the same type of bird in order to increase their propagation?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The Agriculture Protection Board has declared ring necked pheasants as vermin.
- (2) Yes. The Agriculture Protection Board recommendations are tabled herewith.
- (3) Yes. The South Australian authorities have released a number in a controlled experiment. Some were also released in Tasmania where the vermin authorities now consider they have a pest potential. The 1968 Australian Fauna Conference opposed the introduction and release of pheasants and other exotic fauna.

The Agriculture Protection Board recommendations were tabled.

39.

MOSQUITOES

Canning River: Control

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

In view of the plague proportions of mosquitoes near the upper reaches of the Canning River, will he make available assistance and chemicals to the Canning Shire Council to help control the nuisance?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

When local authorities ask for assistance it is provided on a cost basis.

40.

HOSPITALS

Bentley and Armadale-Kelmscott

Mr. MAY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What bed accommodation is currently provided at both Bentley and Armadale-Kelmscott Hospitals for—
 - (a) general patients;
 - (b) maternity patients?
- (2) What increased accommodation is envisaged for these two hospitals?
- (3) When is it anticipated that the increased accommodation will be provided at each of the hospitals?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Bentley Hospital—

(a) 47.

(b) 23.

Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital—

(a) 39.

(b) 20 (at annexe).

(2) and (3)—

Bentley Hospital:

Extra beds will be provided when funds can be allocated for the purpose. The number of beds to be added will depend on the amount of finance that can be made available at the time.

Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital:

Tenders will be called shortly for a 32 bed maternity wing to replace the annexe.

41.

FISHING

Salmon Licenses

Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) How many licenses to permit the catching of salmon were issued for the 1970 season in Western Australia?
- (2) How many holders of such licenses are wholly dependent on fishing activities for income?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Licenses to permit the catching of salmon were issued to 31 salmon teams for the 1970 season in Western Australia. The number of individual professional fishermen's licenses issued totalled 166.
- (2) Sixty.

42.

HOSPITALS

Wooroloo

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have all patients been removed from Wooroloo Hospital?

- (2) To where were patients dispersed since the decision was made to close the hospital?
- (3) Has the establishment been handed over to the Prisons Department?
- (4) Are any prisoners now held at Wooroloo?
- (5) If so, how many?
- (6) If the transfer is now complete, how many employees were transferred to the Prisons Department?
- (7) What alterations are proposed to Wooroloo?
- (8) What is the estimated cost of such alterations?
- (9) How much has so far been spent on alterations?
- (10) What medical facilities are now available to local residents at Wooroloo?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes from the main institution, but three still remain in the Wooroloo District Hospital as referred to in (10).
- (2) Various hospitals in the metropolitan area and country, including the Home of Peace.
- (3) Yes. I am advised by the Chief Secretary.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) 12 at present.
- (6) 28 transferred as prison officers and as civilian employees.
- (7) Installation of boiler facilities, showers and toilets, fencing and improved lighting. Prison labour will be used where practicable.
- (8) Estimate \$60,000 over a period of 12 months.
- (9) Nil.
- (10) A 10 bed hospital, known as the Wooroloo District Hospital, with attendance by local doctor based on Wundowie.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

IRON ORE

Supply to Europe

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is it correct as suggested by the reported comments of Dr. Sohl that European steel makers could purchase more ore from Western Australia if the capacity was available?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes" what action is in hand to enable the Western Australian projects to increase their supply of ore to Europe?
- (3) Is it Government policy to encourage markets in Europe and other countries in addition to the Japanese market?
- (4) Will Western Australia be in a position to take advantage of the facilities being developed at Rotterdam for 250,000 ton type ships carrying dry bulk cargoes?

Mr. COURT replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) and (2) Temporarily yes.

The world steel industry has experienced a sudden and unprecedented demand not fore-shadowed by the steel industry or ore suppliers, although our own local companies have already embarked on big expansion programmes. This applies to Hamersley, Newman, and Goldsworthy; and of course we have the Robe River project about to commence construction. However, when there is a temporary world shortage this is not something that can be resolved overnight, because of the huge investments involved, together with the physical and time problems in constructing new harbour, railway, town, plant, equipment, rolling stock, and the like.

For our planning purposes we are working on bold forecasts for the future of steel and production by the steel producing countries. Hence our target of 90,000,000 tons a year for Pilbara by 1977 and 200,000,000 tons a year by 1985. This is part of our total concept of developing the Pilbara as virtually a supply warehouse for iron ore materials for the world steel industry, in a range from ore through to semi-processed products.

- (3) Yes. The current visit of Dr. Sohl and his colleagues from West Germany is part of the programme.

- (4) So far as big ships are concerned we have the capacity at the present time to handle ships of 110,000 tons at Dampier and 77,000 tons at Hedland.

Very soon Hedland will be increased to 100,000 tons and Dampier to 160,000 tons. Hedland will further develop to 150,000 tons capacity.

Additional studies are proceeding so that if and when the world trade needs 250,000 to 300,000 ton vessels for iron ore trade—which is not by any means certain—we

have the locations ready for development at the appropriate time.

FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Labour) [2.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The object of the amending Bill is to extend the hours of trading of premises on which the retail selling of motor vehicles is carried on, and, at the same time, provide adequate means to prevent breaches of the shop closing provisions of the Factories and Shops Act.

Extension of trading hours for the motor vehicle trade was opposed in a petition to the Premier signed by 166 metropolitan used motorcar dealers who claimed that the 55 hours per week during which the Factories and Shops Act permitted trading at present allowed of adequate services to the purchasing public, and that extension of hours would involve additional costs.

It is clearly evident, however, from the practices adopted by many used motorcar dealers to get around or openly flout the closing provisions of the Factories and Shops Act, and the public response to these activities, that there is a demand for a greater spread of hours during which people can inspect and purchase motor vehicles.

The amending Bill by means of a new section 91A will extend the trading hours for motor vehicles to permit this class of goods being sold up to 10 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and up to 6 p.m. on Saturday afternoons.

A joint submission by the Chamber of Automobile Industries and the Western Australian Automobile Chamber of Commerce supported the extension of trading hours to the extent of only Wednesday evenings to 10 p.m., but the amending Bill, by providing additionally for Saturday afternoon, will allow more hours of daylight for the purchasing public to inspect used vehicles. The extension of trading hours is permissive and not mandatory.

The after-hours activities of a number of used motor vehicle dealers designed to effect retail sales at times when their premises should be closed for business have caused concern to the two chambers representing the retail motor trade, and has created a number of difficulties for the Factories and Shops Inspection Branch of the Department of Labour.

Experience has disclosed a number of weaknesses in the shop closing provisions of the Factories and Shops Act and amendments in the Bill are designed to eliminate

these and provide for increased penalties for breaches of trading hours.

The definition of "shop" is amplified and the amendment to section 93 will remove words which had a nullifying effect on some of the closing provisions.

The addition of a penalty clause applicable to breaches of closing provisions and the sale of goods outside appropriate hours will be an increased deterrent to after-hours trading. These penalties are for a first offence not exceeding \$100, for a second offence within 12 months not exceeding \$300, and for a third offence within 12 months not exceeding \$500. The present general penalty provides for a maximum of \$100 for a first offence and \$200 for a second or subsequent offence.

Care has to be taken to ensure that the extended hours for motor vehicles do not enable the retailers of these items to stock and sell other goods. Experience has shown that the tendency today is for shops to diversify their stocks and complications arise when the Act allows of extended hours of trading for certain classes of goods and the stock of a shop includes other lines. To confine the stock of a shop which is permitted extended hours rigidly to the goods to which those hours are applicable would be too restrictive. If this were done then under the new hours applicable to motorcar retailers such shops could not stock accessories and service stations could not stock even cigarettes.

The new section 93A meets this situation by making it an offence for a shopkeeper who is permitted to keep his premises open beyond normal hours for a specified purpose, or sale of specified goods, to operate or sell other goods at times contrary to the provisions of the Factories and Shops Act.

Amendments in the Bill allow of exempt goods being sold at any time, restricted goods to be sold during specified hours, and other goods only during normal trading hours.

A new provision introduced by the Bill is the prohibition of advertising in a manner which is intended to promote the business of a shop by stating, implying, or suggesting that such shop will be open for business at a time when it is required to be kept closed. This is a further means of preventing illegal extensions of trading hours, and follows the legislation for this purpose in New South Wales and Victoria.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Jamieson.

TAXATION (STAFF ARRANGEMENTS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 7th April.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [2.56 p.m.]: Last year Parliament passed legislation in connection with

the setting-up of a new State taxation department. The Bill at present before the House is designed to make two new provisions arising out of the legislation passed last year. Firstly, there is the provision to take over from the Commonwealth certain Commonwealth officers; and to preserve the equity of those officers in the Superannuation Fund an amendment is found to be necessary. Secondly, there is required specific authority—which does not now exist and which was not provided for in the 1969 legislation—to enable certain financial adjustments to be made, associated with refunds which become payable in certain circumstances.

We can summarise this by saying that those circumstances may be a refund from the Consolidated Revenue Fund equal to an amount paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund by the Commonwealth officers who are taken over, and there is a provision enabling a refund by the State Superannuation Board to the Consolidated Revenue Fund so that that fund is properly compensated. It is necessary that ex-Commonwealth officers who were contributors to the Commonwealth Provident Account should be looked after so that they will not lose their equity. There is therefore provision to enable contributions to be made to the State Provident Account.

The sole purpose of this provision is the protection of the interests of the officers who transfer from the Commonwealth service to the State service and the preservation of their equity. We believe that is a very laudable objective which should be attended to. We therefore support the Bill.

MR. T. D. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [2.58 p.m.]: I support my leader's remarks relating to this Bill. As I see it, it complements a measure passed by this Parliament last year, and its purpose is to facilitate the entry into the State Public Service of ex-Commonwealth officers who will be engaged in carrying out the work of the proposed State taxation department. As I intend to speak a little more fully on the next measure, I shall limit my remarks regarding this Bill to what I have already said.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

ACTS AMENDMENT (COMMISSIONER OF STATE TAXATION) BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 7th April.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [3.1 p.m.]: We are prepared to agree to this Bill with equal facility to

that with which we agreed to the last. It is a necessary Bill, and quite simple in its provisions which are easy to understand and appreciate. I am very glad the Premier took advantage of the opportunity to give us some information about the progress being made in the establishment of this new department. It is obvious some doubt exists as to whether the arrangements will be fully complete to permit of the commencement on the date originally contemplated. So I think it is a wise provision in the Bill that it shall come into operation on a date to be proclaimed.

The Bill simply has three aims or purposes. It is necessary to bring together the different taxation Acts existent in the State so that they can be administered by the State instead of the Commonwealth—some of them—as was previously the case. So this Bill, if passed, will enable that purpose to be achieved.

Then there is a very necessary provision that the Commissioner of Taxation shall have the power to delegate his authority to other officers. Obviously it would be far too onerous and irksome to expect that the commissioner, personally, would be the only one to exercise the authority given him under the legislation. So it is necessary and indeed desirable that he should have the power to delegate his authority to certain persons under his control.

The third purpose or aim of the Bill is to enable the State commissioner to exchange information with the Commonwealth. A little thought will show that this is a most necessary power in any taxation administration. In order that the amounts due to the State and the Commonwealth may be fairly obtained, it is essential that the fullest information should be available to both departments. It may well be that the Commonwealth department has knowledge which the State department does not have, and *vice versa*. Therefore, it is essential that power should be available to enable an interchange of information.

So, as those are the only provisions in the Bill, and we consider them perfectly desirable and justifiable, we are pleased to give our support to the measure as being one necessary in order to enable this new department of the State to function properly in the interests of the State.

MR. T. D. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [3.5 p.m.]: As has been outlined by my leader, this Bill is divided into 13 parts, 12 of which are concerned with amending various Statutes of a fiscal nature. The format of the scheme contemplated is for an officer, known as the State Commissioner of Taxation, to administer the several assessment and taxing Acts of the State. In the past some of these were

administered by the Commonwealth Department of Taxation, and the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation assumed the title of State Commissioner.

It is assumed that the proposed State Commissioner of Taxation will derive his authority from the Public Service Act, and also from the other Acts to be amended by this Bill.

It is hoped, with the consolidation of all the State taxing measures in the one Bill, that when assessments are made by the commissioner and rulings in particular cases are given by him, those rulings will at least be made available to the persons most interested—particularly those persons called upon to give advice to taxpayers and those who are called upon to give advice and to assist in the administration of estates. This also applies to the matter of not evading tax, but avoiding it wherever possible.

In the past it would seem that rulings given by the Commissioner of Stamps were often very difficult to obtain, and I hope that with one commissioner administering all these taxing Acts, the rulings, when given from time to time, will be more readily available.

I have often wondered why such a measure as we are now debating has not come before this Chamber previously; that is, before the time that any of us were in this Chamber. It seems that this would have been the logical thing to do, many years ago—for a State taxing department to be created, and for the various State taxing measures to be administered by that department. It is propitious, of course, that this step should now be taken at a time when State finances are in such a desperate condition.

I feel that no matter what steps the State attempts to take, the financial position of the State will never be fully resolved until we can achieve some form of relaxation on the part of the Commonwealth Government. It is true that when federation was contemplated and the States were being coaxed, or in some cases cajoled, into federation, an unhappy marriage took place. The Commonwealth bridegroom and the State bride were hastily thrown into marriage; but I am afraid the State bride, bringing forward all these State taxes, said to the Commonwealth, "Here is my dowry, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow."

This position has remained to the present day and unless some relaxation on the part of the Commonwealth is forthcoming, I think the position confronting the States will not become in any way more improved. However, that is by the by. I support, as my leader did, the passage of this measure.

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [3.8 p.m.]: I would like to thank the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kalgoorlie for their support of these measures. They are not of a controversial nature; they are clearcut and, indeed, essential to set up the machinery for the new State department. I would like to assure the House that we are doing everything possible to establish the department on time. In the main, it is a matter of accommodation; but even if the department cannot be started on the suggested date, the commencement will not be far beyond that date.

As far as the financial problems between the Commonwealth and ourselves are concerned, I would say that is a subject for another debate. Suffice it for me to say that for many years it was a financial advantage for us to have the Commonwealth do the work it has been doing in relation to taxation and valuations. In fact, it was finally the decision of the Commonwealth that we ought to take over our own responsibilities, because the matter was quite uneconomic from the point of view of the Commonwealth, and the time has come for us to accept this responsibility; and, because it is of a domestic nature, I hope it will resolve some of the problems we have in connection with revaluations and local taxation matters, all of which bring their difficulties from time to time.

Such matters involve individual cases and, of course, they always involve the problem of revaluation in districts throughout this vast State of ours. We hope that in the fulness of time we will be able to eliminate a lot of these difficulties and bring about a situation which is both equitable and acceptable in relation to taxation based on revaluation.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

PERTH MINT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 26th March.

MR. JAMIESON (Belmont) [3.13 p.m.]: I am at some disadvantage at the moment because during the course of the second reading address I had hoped to be clearer on what actions could be taken. I understand, however, that the situation is such that the business sheet is running fairly thin and we require some procedure on this particular matter. As I am not at all clear about the position, we must risk the situation as it exists, although I understand the Minister will take certain action during a later stage of the Bill to provide more clarification.

My examination of the entire position concerning the Royal Perth Mint as it stands at the present time is that it appears to have grown from a situation which was never very clear, because in the first place the original Act that set it up, and which was introduced by Premier Forrest in 1895, did not give any clarity of action at all; it was merely an appropriation Act, to appropriate something like £10,000 in order to run the establishment.

There was no clear indication as to whether the Imperial Government would have authority over the Mint; indeed in examining the position down the line it appears that the Government had very little, if any, authority in regard to the matter. The establishment was run by State finances, the losses being carried by the State. As a consequence the tie up with the Imperial Government was more apparent than real. As a matter of fact it had no reality at all. This system has continued over the years.

The only amendment to the original Act which set up the Mint was to increase the amount payable to the Imperial Privy Purse for the purpose of running the Mint. However, from a historical point of view it is worth examining the reason for the Mint being set up. It would appear that at the time, in the 1890s, the parliamentary members of the Colony were a bit concerned at the amount of bullion going out of Western Australia after being produced here; this was sent to other places to be made into coins.

As the Minister indicated, a Royal Mint branch was established in New South Wales and latterly one was also established in Melbourne, Victoria. This was found to be most successful from the point of view of maintaining gold coin production in the particular States. It would appear that in those days one only had to produce so many ounces of gold to the Royal Mint and the Mint would then proceed to convert it into sovereigns and half sovereigns. This was the original intention of setting up the Mint.

The economics of the day did not seem to be in any way strained because there was unlimited production of currency. I find this very appealing, and no doubt the Premier today would feel the same if we still had charge of the production of coinage. But this aspect slipped from the control of the State—if the State had any control at all—and was placed under the control of the Federal Government by the Constitution under which it exists at the moment, which was adopted by the people of Australia.

So any benefits which should have accrued from the original concept of the Mint never did accrue, because it was not until 1898 that the Mint started to produce at all, and even then it is very doubtful that it achieved the purpose for which

it was set up—which was to produce as many sovereigns as it could provided the gold was available. This seems rather unusual today when paper currency can be produced in unlimited supply with the possibility of causing inflation.

In those days, however, there was a gold standard and gold was gold wherever it was used. It had a basic sale price which could be negotiated in any part of the world. This, of course, is not the case with paper currency.

The original concept of establishing the Mint seems to have led the Premier of the day into some problems. He thought he would receive considerable opposition in Parliament to the establishment of a Mint but strangely enough although his introductory speech featured the fact that it would be bad for members to refuse to endorse the legislation—and he kept labouring the point that members should not oppose it—there was in fact not one member who opposed it. The measure went through on a unanimous vote. The Premier appeared to have been fed with some incorrect rumour on this aspect.

Mr. Bovell: I hope history repeats itself.

Mr. JAMIESON: I hope it does not under the present proposals. If some changes are not made, I will be strongly opposed to the third reading. I will develop this aspect fully later on.

However, the Mint did get off the ground. I think in the first place a couple of machines were obtained and these, with the use of manual labour, churned out about 5,000,000 sovereigns or half-sovereigns each year. This was achieved by the turning of a handle. Later on, when the machines were converted to steam power, they each churned out about 15,000,000 sovereigns or half-sovereigns each year.

The Treasurer is smiling now! Unfortunately we have lost this control and have to rely on the Commonwealth to produce the money by taxation reimbursement and the like. We have also lost all the associated glamour the colony had in those days when it was producing its own finance.

If the situation had continued as it was and the sovereigns had remained in Western Australia, as more gold was produced from the goldfields over the years, then Western Australia could probably have been a very rich State and have attracted more people than it did when the gold standard was let go and we adopted a different system of finance. This may, of course, be conjecture and we can only judge by what has happened.

From that time on the main purpose of the Mint has been for refining, and, indeed, I read several years ago in an article in *The Kalgoorlie Miner* that we were importing more gold than we were exporting. This was rather an unusual feature at the time. However, in those particular years the bullion was remaining in the State and

not being transferred to the Commonwealth Bank's principal vaults in New South Wales. We still do import a lot of gold statistically because most of the gold produced in the Northern Territory, Victoria—where it is still produced to a minor extent—Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales, and New Guinea, finds its way to our Mint for processing and refinement. Therefore over the last 50 years the prime responsibility and occupation of the Mint has been the refining of gold.

I understand that our Mint is the only Government establishment which refines gold in Australia. There is a private establishment in Sydney which refines gold for jewellers and commercially for bullion purposes if it receives a contract to do so. However, from the point of view of a Government establishment, ours is the last remaining Mint in Australia for metal refining.

In earlier days "minting" mainly referred to the making of coins. However, unless the metals required for the making of coins become more readily available it does not appear that the future of the establishment will be associated with the making of coins. The demand for cupro-nickel is at a world premium and the Mint here finds it very difficult to obtain suitable metal with which to mint coins, or at least the blanks for countries desiring coins to be minted here. I understand endeavours have been made to ensure that some of the nickel which is produced in Western Australia is ultimately returned here for the purpose of coinage after it has been refined in Canada. However, my understanding is that the ability of the Mint to accept contracts for coin making for other countries is limited because of the non-availability of the required raw materials.

Our Mint has no doubt had quite an appreciable effect upon the emerging countries because, to my knowledge, many of the artisans from the Mint here have been sent to Singapore and Malaysia to inform the people in those countries how to run and control a mint, how to develop dies, how to make the coinage, and how to correctly anneal such coins so they will not break or become faulty. This is apparently one of the arts of coin making. I feel that in this way we owe a lot to the employees of the Royal Mint.

The Bill mainly deals with the changing over of these employees—whether they be staff, established employees, or unestablished employees—from the control, as it were, of the Imperial Civil Service to the control of the State Civil Service. The Bill indicates—and the Minister explained the situation rather clearly—that one of several courses is open to the employees at the Mint. They may nominate to continue on under the Imperial scheme under which they receive at the end of their ser-

vice a non-contributory pension together with a lump sum allowance which has been accumulated on their behalf.

The second course open to them is that they may nominate to change over to State Civil Service conditions in which case long service leave will start to apply from such changeover, as well as all other conditions applying in the State Civil Service, including the opportunity to join the Superannuation Fund. The amount of money which would then be available to them in the form of a pension that had not been contributed to, and the lump sum gratuity due to them, would be assessed actuarially, and the units of superannuation would be bought for them and they would continue on under the scheme of the State Civil Service.

The third course is that they may nominate to opt out of the service whereupon they would receive their due non-contributory pension and the lump sum as long as they nominated to opt out within a period of one month of the take-over.

Apart from the established employees, there are what are called unestablished personnel who principally seem to be those who have not served at the Mint for 10 years. This 10 years' service is a primary requirement under the Imperial Service before one can apply to become established. Such an application is granted even then only when an established position becomes vacant.

The unestablished personnel are under a somewhat different system and I think that they are treated more generously under the provisions of this Bill; and I wonder why. They are allowed to credit their money towards long service leave entitlement after it has been assessed. They are allowed two or three other schemes which seem to be way and above the provisions made for the more loyal—if I might use that term—people who have been employed by the Mint for a much longer term.

Indeed to such an extent is this apparent when one examines the proposals in the legislation that it appears the right advice to give to the established personnel would be to take advantage of the third course open to them; that is, to choose to cease to be employees and receive their just entitlements which have been assessed.

I instance the example of one tradesman who is employed at the Mint. He has been an employee for about 20 years and, under normal circumstances, has another 20 years' service ahead of him. If he were to opt out at this time by giving a month's notice he would receive for life a pension of \$15 per week for which he has not contributed. On top of that, he would receive a lump sum of between \$1,200 and \$1,500. However, because of his skill in his trade, he would

be able to offer himself to the Mint after a week or so and he could be re-employed on a tradesman's rate in parity with other tradesmen working there.

Consequently, it appears to me that the correct advice to give to employees of the Mint is, "Take advantage of the third set of circumstances which prevail at takeover." I consider this is most undesirable and whoever drew up this Bill was most unwise in including such a provision.

One could liken this to another situation which occurred in recent years; I refer to the taking over of the Midland Railway Company and its employees by the West Australian Government Railways. Perhaps someone might say that the situation is different in this case because the Mint is being taken over by one Government department from another Government department, so to speak. In effect, there is no difference and a comparison can be drawn.

With the takeover to which I have referred, the provisions of gratuities, long service leave entitlement, and everything else, were protected, whatever else happened. What occurred after the people concerned were employed by the Government was kept completely separate. It is true that they cannot and will not receive the amount of gratuity paid on their behalf until such time as they retire from the railways.

Some unusual situations arose through the takeover to which I refer. There were instances of guards employed by the Midland Railway Company who chose to opt out because they had a few hundred dollars to their credit. However, the same men were re-employed by the Government a few weeks later because they had safe-working tickets and were proficient at their work, and, at that time, the department was short of staff.

Exactly the same position is being repeated now. The only difference is that the men employed by the Mint are more skilled, in the main, and a number are professional men. I do not see that the position should be allowed to occur where they will be forced to give up their employment at the Mint to protect their own equity. I suggest that the Government has not delved sufficiently deeply into this matter if it is forcing the employees to make such a decision. The people concerned are in the position at the present time where they have to take this action because they have no alternative.

If some were foolish enough to continue in the service of the Mint without breaking the employment period and gaining what equity is available at the present time, they may be placed in a ludicrous position in the future. It may be that, after a year or two, they will want to resign from the Mint because of changed circumstances. Differences of personality

sometimes occur between employees and more senior members of the staff and, in consequence, it is desirable and often advisable for a person to leave his employment for his own peace of mind.

Under the present proposal, if an employee should resign at a later date the only payment to which he would be entitled is the amount he has contributed in superannuation from the time of the takeover. In other words, he would be penalised and all his previous entitlements would be forfeited. Virtually, if employees do not opt out at the end of the period and then offer themselves to the Mint for re-employment, they have sold themselves into a form of bondage and they cannot resign. This would be a foolish position for any employee to find himself in, whether he was a member of the professional staff or a more junior worker.

There are other reasons why an employee may choose to resign at a future date. At the moment, we expect the Mint to carry on in its present location for some time. This may not be the case, however. These days we hear a great deal about the problems of pollution. A gold refinery in the centre of the city may contribute to these problems. Many blocks of flats have been built around the locality of the Perth Mint. The time might come when the Government is forced, because of its own actions on pollution, to take steps to transfer the Mint elsewhere.

Members are probably aware that within the last two days a full-scale strike has occurred at the headquarters of the Royal Mint in the United Kingdom. I understand the building is situated on the Thames embankment near Tower Bridge. The strike has been caused because of a proposal to shift the operations of the Royal Mint to Wales.

A similar situation could very well occur in Western Australia. I am not suggesting that a strike is likely, but I do suggest that there is a distinct possibility that the site of the Mint may have to be shifted in the future. It might not be this year, next year, or even in five years' time, but it could be the case in, say, 10 years' time.

If it were decided to shift the Mint to another site, it might be advisable to establish it in a place like Kalgoorlie or one of the other goldfields centres which would be more accessible to the gold which the Mint would refine. If this were to happen, the personnel of the Mint would be required to transfer to the new location. Such a transfer may not suit staff personnel, because of domestic circumstances. If it did not suit them and they decided to resign from the Mint, they would be entitled only to their superannuation payments, namely, their own contributions in the interim period between the takeover by the State and the time they decided to resign. This is not fair enough.

Other aspects of the employment of personnel need investigation. I have copies of many letters which have passed between officers of the Treasury and the staff of the Mint. These letters indicate that the personnel of the Mint would be employed on no worse conditions than prior to the time of the takeover. Am I to assume that they will be employed on no worse conditions if, in future, they have to pay a two-seventh contribution to superannuation when their pension under the Imperial scheme has been non-contributory? Surely the only way to achieve this objective is for the Government to take responsibility for paying the full amount of superannuation from its own funds. I understand there has been a suggestion that this will occur. However, if it does not occur, surely the employees will be worse off; because previously they were paying nothing as it was a non-contributory scheme and something to which they were entitled because of accumulated service.

Surely some thought will have to be given to how the personnel of the Mint are to be suitably accommodated in accordance with the letters that have passed between representative committees and the Treasury. The advice has been repeated over and over again on behalf of the Government, but it does not appear to have been carried into the proposed legislation. The only alternative, as I see it, is for the Government to increase wages to cover the two-seventh contribution if it does not intend to pay the full amount of superannuation itself. To me this seems the only way to ensure that the statement that the men will be no worse off is correct.

It is no use for the Government to rely on the fact that members of the civil service receive long service leave and other entitlements. Many of the staff employed at the Mint under the present conditions receive six weeks' annual leave which, of course, is two weeks over and above the entitlement of members of the civil service in this State. If one adds up this extra fortnight over a period of seven years, it will be seen that the employees at the Mint receive a period of 14 weeks, which is one week more than the period of 13 weeks which a civil servant normally receives in long service leave. So it would appear that any way they look at it they will not be provided with conditions equal to those they have now.

I would suggest that the only fair thing to do is for the Government to have a very close look at the situation to make sure that it has not promised something that has not been carried forward in this legislation. In my view the only fair thing to do is to clarify the situation so far as the personnel of the Mint are concerned before the Bill leaves this Chamber.

There is another aspect in this legislation which I do not like to see in any measure. There appears to be no right of appeal to the Promotions Appeal Board. If this is so then the situation will be completely different from the normal conditions of civil service employment. If the employees of the Mint are not given the right to appear before the Promotions Appeal Board they must be compensated in some other way; they must be given some special conditions and, so far, the Government has not indicated that special conditions will apply to these people to compensate them in this connection.

All in all, I realise that the legislation had to come sooner or later; although I think it is probably later than it ought to have been. The Government should have taken over this establishment many years ago and given it complete coverage. In that event it probably would not have been faced with the problems that are now manifest in this attempt to tie the pension scheme to the superannuation scheme. In my view the proposal in the Bill does not properly meet the situation because, as I have pointed out, an employee could opt out and receive his \$15 a week pension for life and still keep on working at his trade. That pension would supplement his income and would give him a good margin. Also, a lump sum would be very useful to some people at the present time and, after having received it, they would be entitled to be re-employed and be covered by all the provisions of civil service employment.

As a consequence, the only way these people have to keep the cake that they have baked over the period of their employment is to eat it now and not to contemplate eating it at a later date. What they have accumulated up to the time of takeover should be protected, and if what they get is in excess of what the average civil servant in this State would be getting then that is their good fortune because it was money accumulated as a result of their employment. Whatever happened prior to their being taken over by the State should be treated as another kettle of fish. There should be a completely new start for them and if the Minister is not prepared to amend the legislation in some way to protect the accumulated equities that these men have, and allow them to keep what they have earned, I will have to oppose the Bill at the third reading.

Some of the letters from the Treasury indicate that these employees have no real equity at all. But they must have, otherwise they would not be given the right to opt out in a month and collect that equity. So it appears to me that the Treasury has tried to put itself in a good

position by cancelling out what is virtually owed to these personnel who may, at a later stage, for some reason or other, find themselves unable to continue.

I support the Bill at this stage because there is nothing else one can do. However, I wish to record a very strong protest against the conditions that will prevail if the Bill is passed in its present form, and if those conditions are not altered substantially by the time the measure reaches the third reading stage I shall have to oppose it. I believe that even the senior officers of the Mint did not appreciate at one stage—and probably did not appreciate it even as recently as a week ago—what this legislation will mean to them. However, they are now more fully informed on the position and, as a consequence, I can visualise some ructions, and a smooth takeover will not be effected if the Government proceeds along the lines envisaged by the Bill.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

Mr. JAMIESON: These negotiations between the staff and the Treasury have been proceeding for some time. As a matter of fact a general circular was issued to the Royal Mint employees on the 16th January, 1964, setting out proposals relating to the changeover, and indeed there were representations made long before then. However, possibly they can all be dealt with in the Committee stage when we reach the relevant clause relating to the transfer of the Royal Mint employees.

In conclusion, suffice it to say that the Mint, as we know it today, carries out sophisticated activities by minting coins for other countries and refining gold, silver, and other precious metals; and, no doubt, in the future, it will be refining platinum. I mention platinum because obviously, before long, it will be mined in commercial quantities. Therefore, there is no doubt that the Mint has come a tremendously long way from the time it was first proposed to establish it in 1898 for the express purpose of turning gold bullion into sovereigns for the princely price of 2d. an ounce. We have now reached the stage where the Perth Mint would not even turn copper into cents for anything like that price. At this stage I support the Bill, but I hope the Minister will be able to come to some agreement on the proposed amendments before we proceed too far in the Committee stage.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [4.7 p.m.]: The member for Belmont has given an interesting historical review of the Royal Mint, and of course it is admitted that it is rich in history. I will not delay the House further by dealing with this aspect. The main point contained in the speech made by the member for Belmont was the transfer of the staff so that they will be working under State conditions instead of Imperial conditions. He is also concerned with the

conditions which would apply to established or unestablished members of the staff.

The member for Belmont has asked the Government to take another close look at the legislation, especially in relation to the conditions which could apply to members of the staff. The Treasury officers, with the Public Service Commissioner, have studied this aspect for some time and, as far as I am aware, the legislation has been based on the principle that employees shall voluntarily accept their transfer so that they will be working under State Civil Service conditions instead of Imperial conditions, and that the personnel who do transfer to the State will lose no rights and will be employed under the same terms as apply to them at present.

The other evening the member for Belmont mentioned that he was endeavouring to frame some amendments and it was necessary to obtain the assistance of the Parliamentary Draftsman. Therefore, it was not possible for him to have the amendments drafted until shortly before the House met this afternoon. As you are no doubt aware, Mr. Speaker, this legislation will be under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Mines and, as his representative in this Chamber, I am handling the legislation on his behalf. Just before the House met I was able to hand to my colleague, the Minister for Mines, who is in another place, a copy of the amendments proposed by the member for Belmont. I have also forwarded a copy of the amendments to the State Treasury and the Public Service Commissioner.

The Government is anxious to consider every aspect of this proposal, because as the member for Belmont has said, negotiations have proceeded for a number of years. Therefore, if we are able to proceed to clause 16 in the Committee stage today I would be prepared to have progress reported, and over the weekend I can obtain the advice of my colleague, the Minister for Mines, who is the prime source of my advice.

After all is said and done I am only handling the Bill on behalf of the Minister for Mines and I think he should have the opportunity to study the amendments proposed, and to give him that opportunity I would be prepared to have progress reported when we reach clause 16 in the Committee stage.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. W. A. Manning) in the Chair; Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 15 put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Jamieson.

STATUTE LAW REVISION BILL

beneficiaries of the law. The Bill is intended to bring the Statute Law Revision Bill into effect.

Debate resumed from the 25th March.

MR. D. EVANS (Rangoon): I am glad to see this Bill represents another step in the programme towards bringing our Statutes into manageable form and for inclusion in what is most desirable, namely, a minimum number of volumes which will make them readily available for reference and use.

As long as we adhere to the principle that ignorance of the law generally offers little or no excuse, I consider there is an onus on the Legislature to present its Statutes in such a form that whenever one wishes to refer to a Statute it should be available to him without any great effort on his part. I would point out that this programme of Statute law revision has for its object the laying up of the law, especially in regard to those Acts which may be said to be outmoded, those which have become spent by time and those which will not be enforced because they are not considered desirable.

Whilst I applaud the present programme and what has been done in the past, I would like to make a plea that those dealing with law reform and law revision should also concern themselves with being vigilant and with watching the form in which current and future law is presented to this Chamber and, indeed, to this Parliament, inasmuch as a greater effort could perhaps be made by the authors of Bills to embody the legislative principles in simple and plain language.

This Bill deals, firstly, with Acts which may be said to be time-exhausted, and these Acts are shown in parts I and II of the first schedule to the Bill. In the main they deal with supply, appropriation, and loan Acts, and we are invited to approve of their disposal.

Part III of the first schedule lists five railway Acts, and these have reference to lines which have not been in operation for some years. It is noted that most of the Statutes which authorised the construction of the several railway lines were themselves repealed by the 1955 Statute Law Revision Bill.

Part IV of the first schedule deals with several Acts which had the purpose of amending previous principal Acts. These amending Acts have long served their purpose, as the principal Acts have been amended. The continuance of these amending Acts cannot be justified.

Part V of the first schedule contains several enactments. Some of them are Colonial Ordinances, and are no longer within the legislative competence of the State. I could give one example, that being of Vic. No. 9 which was passed in 1887.

Its purpose was "to prevent the bringing of spirituous or fermented liquors on board Her Majesty's ships and the aiding any officer, seaman, or marine to desert therefrom."

The second schedule seeks to confer short titles on several Acts which at the present time do not have short titles. This is done simply to enable them to be brought into the form where they might be more easily disposed of, and so that the fact of their disposal might be recorded in the index of repealed Acts.

Finally, the third schedule contains Acts the titles of which are to be amended by deleting the article "The." This, of course, will facilitate their reprinting and indexing. These Statutes are not necessarily to be disposed of, and certainly are not to be disposed of by the Law Revision Bill before us. The Bill receives our endorsement.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

BILLS (4): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Wills Bill.

Bill received from the Council; and on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), read a first time.

2. Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act Amendment Bill, 1970.

Bill received from the Council; and on motion by Mr. Lewis (Minister for Education), read a first time.

3. Interpretation Act Amendment Bill.

Bill received from the Council; and on motion by Sir David Brand (Premier), read a first time.

4. Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act Amendment Bill.

Bill received from the Council; and on motion by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), read a first time.

PUBLIC EDUCATION ENDOWMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned.

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 4.24 p.m.