

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

Ayes	..	..	..	22
Noes	..	..	..	16

Majority for 6

AYES.

Mr. Coverley	Mr. Panton
Mr. Fox	Mr. Radoreda
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Smith
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. Styants
Mr. Hoar	Mr. Telfer
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Leahy	Mr. Triet
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Millington	Mr. Wise
Mr. Needham	Mr. Withers
Mr. Nulsen	Mr. Cross

(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Abbott	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Brand	Mr. McLarty
Mrs. Cardell-Oliver	Mr. North
Mr. Doney	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Hill	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Watts
Mr. Leslie	Mr. Willmott
Mr. Mann	Mr. Seward

(Teller.)

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

House adjourned at 10.34 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 27th November, 1946.

	PAGE
Chairman of Committees, election	2181
Assent to Bills	2181
Bills: State Housing, 3R.	2181
Vermin Act Amendment, reports	2181
Western Australian Trotting Association, recon.	2181
Cemeteries Act Amendment, 1R.	2186
Timber Industry (Housing of Employees), 1R.	2186
Hairdressers Registration, 2R.	2186
Comprehensive Agricultural Areas and Goldfields	
Water Supply, 2R.	2192
Land Act Amendment, 2R., Com., report	2198
Country Areas Water Supply, 2R.	2199
Road Districts Act Amendment (No. 2), 2R.	2199
Constitution Act Amendment, 2R.	2201

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

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West): Consequent upon your elevation to the position of President, Sir,

a vacancy occurs in the office of Chairman of Committees. I move—

That Hon. J. A. Dimmitt be elected as Chairman of Committees.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Metropolitan-Suburban): I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Question put and passed.

HON. J. A. DIMMITT (Metropolitan-Suburban): I desire, through you, Sir, to thank members for the honour they have conferred upon me. What measure of success I shall achieve will be largely dependent upon the help, co-operation and consideration which I hope to receive from all members and from the officers of the House.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

- 1, Daylight Saving.
- 2, Marketing of Barley (No. 2).

BILL—STATE HOUSING.

Read a third time and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

BILL—VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT.

Reports of Committee adopted.

BILL—WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TROTTING ASSOCIATION.

Recommittal.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, Bill recommitted for the further consideration of Clause 16 and the First Schedule.

In Committee.

Hon. G. Fraser in the Chair; the Chief Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clause 16—Minister may establish country clubs' benefit fund:

Hon. A. L. LOTON: I move an amendment.—

That in line 1 the word "may" be struck out and the word "shall" inserted in lieu.

Nowhere in the Bill is there any mention of how the funds are to be provided for

the country clubs' benefit fund. If the word "shall" is inserted here the Minister must authorise one meeting in every year in addition to those provided under the Racing Restriction Act. The galloping clubs in the country districts were in a very sad financial state about 1938, and they approached the W.A.T.C. and were given approval to conduct a mid-week race meeting. The stakes were small but the owners patronised the meetings and made normal nominations. In addition, the bookmakers made donations with the result that a large sum of money was raised at the first meeting. That was handed to the country clubs and from that time on they have had a certain amount of finance, and the country club meeting is an annual fixture, but it is now held on a Saturday and the prize money is provided by the principal racing authority. I want the same system to operate for the country trotting clubs and the only way to bring it about that I can see is to have a special meeting to raise funds.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I am sorry I cannot accept the amendment. One of the objects of the Trotting Association is to foster country clubs, and it has, over the years, provided a good deal of assistance to them. The Royal Commissioner provided, in his report and recommendations, for additional assistance to be given in the event of the country clubs being dissatisfied with what they were already receiving from the association. If we agree to the amendment we will definitely increase the number of trotting meetings by one in the metropolitan area, irrespective of what the position of the association might be. The Royal Commissioner, in his report, had this to say at page 25—

In making this recommendation, I have also in mind that it may not be necessary that this statutory fund should supersede the voluntary assistance to Country Clubs now given by the Association. I suggest that prior to the date when the District Council submit to the Association for approval details of their clubs' lists of fixtures for the ensuing year, it should make known to each Council the amount which it proposes to allocate to it that year. The powers of the Minister need then be invoked only if and when required.

The Government has accepted that recommendation which, if it is put into operation, may mean an increase in racing dates in the metropolitan area to the extent of one each year, if considered necessary in the

interests of country trotting. There are two actions that the Minister can take. He can instruct that the proceeds from a particular race meeting shall be used for the purpose of assistance to country clubs and, secondly, he can decide that a special meeting shall be held for that purpose. I think that is as far as we should go at this stage.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: When we dealt with the Totalisator Duty Act Amendment Bill some members clearly asserted that they did not know how the clubs in their areas would function if the fractions were abolished, and they looked forward to some opportunity during the session to recompense the clubs to the extent that they will lose money under the provisions of that amending legislation. The opportunity would seem to be available in connection with the trotting Bill. The association has been generous in its donations to country clubs but has always made available similar amounts to the various districts, and the district councils have had no say in the distribution. The effect of that was that in the eastern districts with a contribution from the W.A.T.A. of £200 and two race meetings, programmes with £100 in stake money were conducted. On the other hand, in the Great Southern district where 12 meetings were held the £200 contribution from the W.A.T.A. had to be distributed amongst 12 clubs. In the circumstances, I hope the amendment will be agreed to, especially as it does not mean that an extra meeting in the metropolitan area will have to be held.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: While I sympathise with Mr. Loton's objective, I do not think the amendment will have the effect he anticipates. Even with the amendment embodied in the clause, it could mean that if the Minister and the association were not very favourably inclined, the Minister could direct the association to devote a portion of the profits of one trotting meeting to the benefit club and one-tenth or one-fifth of the proceeds might be contributed. Further, the Minister might authorise a meeting to be held on a Wednesday or some other day when it would not prove profitable.

Hon. A. L. Loton: Mid-week fixtures have always proved successful in the past.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Quite possibly, but, as I have indicated, it would be

easy to defeat the hon. member's objective. I think the clause as it stands is satisfactory.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: That is your opinion.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I do not pretend otherwise. The Bill provides all the power to enable necessary assistance to be rendered to the country clubs

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I thought I made the position perfectly clear to Mr. Loton when I pointed out the two actions that the Minister could take. If the amendment be agreed to it will mean that an extra race meeting shall be held in the metropolitan area compared with the number provided for in the Racing Restriction Act, whereas under the Bill as it stands that course could be adopted if considered necessary. That is as far as we should go at present, particularly as the W.A.T.A. is in a better position now to help country clubs than ever before.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: If an extra meeting were held it would be a source of revenue to the State as well as a means of augmenting the country clubs' funds. I am sure all concerned would be anxious to make such a meeting a huge success out of consideration for the country people who provide the young horses so essential for metropolitan owners.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

First Schedule:

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I move an amendment—

That after the word "provided" in line 8 of By-law 3 the following words be inserted:—"further that no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be given by the Association to any member of the Committee, except repayment of out of pocket expenses."

These words were struck out of the by-law in a previous Committee, and I desire to have them re-inserted. According to the evidence and the report of the Royal Commissioner himself a question of principle is involved, one that this Committee should uphold. By re-inserting these words, we shall be stating that the members of the committee of the Trotting Association will not be called upon to do anything at their own expense on behalf of that body, and we shall be providing

for the payment of out-of-pocket expenses. We shall also be making sure that there will be no repetition in the future of some of those occurrences which took place in the past.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: On the 13th November last this matter was fully dealt with and I made my own position clear. I do not need to go over the ground again.

Hon. Sir HAL COLEBATCH: I supported the Chief Secretary before on this matter and do so again. I have been closely associated with various sporting bodies all my life. It is contrary to the principle of amateur sport that any member of it should be voted money for the services he renders. If the amendment is carried, members of this sporting committee will be allowed out-of-pocket expenses, which are usually on a generous scale. There is no reason why people who are interested in sport should not voluntarily give their services and should not be recompensed for the expenses they incur. That tradition associated with sporting bodies should be maintained.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: It should be possible for people who are prepared to devote their time to the interests of an organisation such as the Trotting Association to do so without cost to themselves. The Trotting Association handles £200,000 or £300,000 a year, and if it is to be properly controlled and its interests safeguarded, it is desirable that members of the committee should be reimbursed for the expenses they are obliged to incur in carrying out their work. I have never heard it suggested that the president or committee members of other organisations should not be reimbursed for any outlay they are compelled to make on behalf of the sport concerned.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I hope the amendment will be agreed to. Trotting is a sport and the members of the committee of management devote their energies and efforts to it. They should receive out-of-pocket expenses. That would include all legitimate expenditure involved in the furtherance of the sport. Surely it would be to the advantage of the committee of management that such a provision as this should be incorporated in the measure. It will be an assurance to the public that those concerned are getting nothing out of it but a refund of their own expenses.

Hon. L. CRAIG: I support the amendment. We are not dealing with a business undertaking, but with a sporting body, and the Trotting Association should be treated as such. The details of the work should be carried out by the employees and the policy should be directed by the committee. In this respect I see no difference between the Trotting Association and the Royal Agricultural Society. The members of the society are not even refunded their out-of-pocket expenses when they are travelling on its behalf. These expenses in the case of the Trotting Association should be shown as a separate item on the profit and loss account.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: I have been a member of many organisations. When it comes to a question of sending delegates to a conference, if no out-of-pocket expenses are paid the delegate usually has to be someone who can afford to attend. That means circumscribing the selection of delegates. If all the delegates were to get a refund of their expenses, the choice would be greatly widened. I hope the amendment will be agreed to.

Hon. W. J. MANN: Listening to some of the arguments, one would think this was a provision to prevent all the committee from getting any remuneration out of the association. It is no such thing. It merely provides that in some emergency committee-men may be paid. I do not read into it that the association would be foolish enough to permit the members of the committee to remunerate themselves for the work they do. It is silly to compare the Royal Agricultural Society with the Trotting Association. One organisation has a show once a year and the other conducts races every week for three parts of the year or more. On this occasion I propose to do as I did the last time.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I suppose the value of the Trotting Association's property is considerable, and a man occupying the position of president would have an important office to fill. In effect, he would be the managing director. We have no objection to managing directors, or ordinary directors, being paid more than out-of-pocket expenses in connection with the operations of organisations with which they are associated. Mr. Heenan thought that there should be no expenses or remuneration; but we find that the mayor of Boulder and the mayor of Kalgoorlie receive an allowance which is ex-

pendent at their discretion. The same applies in quite a number of other municipalities; yet we are going to ask whoever is president of the Trotting Association to do things for nothing.

We have had private racing clubs, and no objection has been raised to those managing them receiving remuneration. If we cannot trust the members of this association, the outlook is very poor. Why should we take this action because of certain things that have happened? I think Mr. Roche summed it up very well indeed when he referred to the mud-slinging that took place. As far as I am concerned, I know who I would prefer to trust with the running of the sport. I do not propose to agree to the re-insertion of these words. I think the Committee was wise in striking them out previously.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: In view of the remarks of one or two members, I think the Committee should ask, "Why did the Royal Commissioner recommend this course?" He gives the answer in his report, and I propose to read the reasons he thought it necessary that this should be included in the new constitution. On page 24 of his report, at the bottom of the second column, we find the following:—

Bearing in mind the whole of the evidence, I have come to the conclusion that the control of trotting racing is best left in the hands of the Association as the principal Club, provided that its affairs are put in order, and it is made subject to the domestic and governmental control and the legislative functions which I have previously recommended.

Why did he say that? We have to turn to an earlier part of the report, where he deals with such things as travelling expenses, and payments to committee-men, and so on. I need refer to only two or three extracts. Members themselves, I hope, have read the whole of the commissioner's remarks in this connection. Dealing with a sum of £3,000, he says—

My findings on the question of these payments for travelling expenses are—

1. That Mr. Stratton did obtain considerable monetary advantage from them.
2. That no commensurate advantage was obtained by the Association, or looked for by the committee, for this expenditure.
3. That the method of accounting effectively concealed the payments from the members.

The foregoing applies also to the payment of £300 to Mr. Atkins, another committeeman, to which I have referred, this being the only payment of any consequence on record for travelling expenses to a member of the committee, other than the president.

The next paragraph deals with benefits received by the president under other headings, and again he deals with rather substantial sums of money. His remarks in this connection are as follows:—

The amount paid by the Association represented on an average over the years 1939 to 1945 something not far short of half the total income of the Trustee Co., and enabled that company to maintain the payments of the large sums for "Managing Directors' Fees" to J. P. Stratton Ltd., for which I am satisfied there were no commensurate services rendered.

On page 12, in the second column, the commissioner says—

I am of the opinion that the payments to Messrs. Willis and Atkins, although duly authorised by the committee of the Association, were not a reasonable sum paid in exchange for actual services rendered, but were by way of an allowance to Mr. Stratton's co-guarantors to ensure their continued support.

This is not my view, but that of the Royal Commissioner, after having taken very extensive evidence.

Hon. A. Thomson: The guarantors are removed altogether; we are not dealing with that now.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I am quoting the Royal Commissioner, and the position is no different today from what it was then. There is still the same committee as existed previously. On page 13 of the report, the commissioner refers to the fact that the auditor had not drawn attention to payment to other committeemen, and says—

It is certainly not a usual one, there being no payment of a like character made to members of the W.A. Turf Club committee or the members of other racing bodies of which I have knowledge. The allowance provides yet another example of a perquisite to committeemen.

A little lower down, he says—

It is difficult on the evidence to form an accurate opinion as to the work done by Mr. Todd, but I am inclined to the view that this, like other allowances, was a fairly liberal one.

Then again, in regard to the question of entertainment, in connection with which large sums of money were involved, the commissioner says, in column 2 of page 13—

It seems to me that these forms of publicity are designed to strengthen the popularity more of the existing administration than of the sport itself.

Those are the reasons the Royal Commissioner made this very definite recommendation. He says the control of the sport should be left in the hands of the principal club, provided its affairs are put in order, and that the domestic—I take it this matter comes under the heading of "domestic"—and the governmental control are agreed to in accordance with his recommendations. So, if the work of the Royal Commissioner is to be of any value, we should be prepared to accept his recommendations.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	....	....	....	....	15
Noes	....	....	....	....	8

Majority for 7

AYES

Hon. G. Bennetts.	Hon. E. H. H. Hall
Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. W. R. Hall
Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. R. M. Forrest.	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. E. H. Gray	(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. C. F. Baxter	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. A. L. Leton	Hon. A. Thomson
Hon. W. J. Mann	Hon. H. Tuckey
Hon. H. S. W. Parker	Hon. F. R. Welsh
	(Teller.)

PAIR.

Aye.	No.
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. G. B. Wood

Amendment thus passed.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I move an amendment—

That in line 2 of paragraph (a) of By-law 100, after the word "commission" the words "and fractions" be inserted.

The by-law provides that the money in the place tote shall be divided into three equal parts after the deduction of the commission. I want to include the fractions as well as the commission, because somebody might raise a legal argument to the effect that the money must be divided as set out in the measure.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I do not think the amendment is necessary. The matter is governed by the Totalisator Duty Act Amendment Act and dividends have to be paid to the nearest 6d. Consequently

the fractions do not appear until a division has taken place.

Amendment put and negatived.

Schedule, as previously amended, agreed to.

Bill again reported with a further amendment.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1, Cemeteries Act Amendment.

2, Timber Industry (Housing of Employees).

Received from the Assembly.

BILL—HAIRDRESSERS REGISTRATION.

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West) [5.37] in moving the second reading said: This is a very clear and straightforward Bill, which possesses the virtue of being acceptable to all sections of the industry, namely, the Master Gentlemen Hairdressers' Association of Employers, the Metropolitan Ladies Hairdressers' Union of Employers, and the Metropolitan Hairdressers and Wigmakers Employees' Union. These organisations unanimously agree that it is essential that greater supervision be exercised over hairdressing establishments, particularly in regard to quality of work, safety, hygiene and sanitation. After considerable discussion these bodies requested the introduction of legislation to compel the registration of hairdressers in the metropolitan area, and recommended that the legislation of Victoria be adopted as a basis in drafting the measure.

In view of the fact that the Bill is in the nature of an experiment so far as Western Australia is concerned, it was decided that it would be preferable not to extend it to country areas at present. It is for this reason that the operation of its provisions is restricted to an area within 25 miles from the G.P.O. As requested by the industry, this measure is similar to that of Victoria, which became operative in 1936. Somewhat similar legislation, I believe, is contemplated in New South Wales, and there is a system of voluntary registration in

South Australia, but without legislative authority it is not properly effective. The hairdressing organisations appointed a committee representative of the employers and employees, both male and female, to investigate and report on the most suitable methods to raise the status of the industry and to ensure the safety of the public. It was that committee which unanimously recommended the adoption of legislation similar to that of Victoria.

It cannot be denied that conditions in a hairdressing establishment, with its wide range of clientele, should be beyond reproach and that the public should be given every protection from the point of view of safety, cleanliness and good workmanship. Both the employers' and employees' organisations are to be commended for their desire to institute and maintain a high standard of efficiency, and their representations augur well for the future of the industry and the interests of the public. Cleanliness, both of premises and equipment, is of cardinal importance in a hairdressing establishment, and with the increasing use of electrical plant, particularly in ladies' hairdressing, together with various aids to nature that are used, it is essential that every care be taken to ensure the safety of customers.

The majority of the provisions of the Bill will be found to be of a machinery type, and I therefore propose to deal briefly with the more outstanding points. The definition of "hairdressing" is most comprehensive and, in giving an indication of the variety of work conducted by hairdressers, shows the necessity for the control of the industry as provided by this legislation. It will be noted from the definition of "hairdresser" that there may be several prescribed classes of the industry, and Clause 20 provides that the proposed registration board shall have the power, by regulation, to specify the nature of these classes.

The Bill provides that the registration board shall consist of five members, comprising an independent chairman, who shall be appointed by the Governor, a nominee from each of the ladies' and gentlemen's hairdressing employers' organisations, and two from the union of employees, one male and one female, thus providing for equality of representation for employers and em-

ployees, the maximum term of appointment being for three years. Each board member, except the chairman, must have had at least three years' experience in the trade. The board will be an entirely private organisation, not responsible in any manner to the Crown, unless specifically authorised at any time to act on behalf of the Government. Among the duties of the board will be the arranging of examinations, the registering of hairdressers, and the appointment of administrative officials.

Once the Act has been proclaimed all persons engaged or desiring to engage in the practice of hairdressing, either as principals or as employees must apply to the board for registration, and each applicant must satisfy the board as to his or her good character. The board may register without examination any person who has been engaged in the trade at any time during the 12 months preceding the commencement of the Act, provided that application for registration is made within six months of the commencement of the Act. Registration may also be effected at any time of an applicant who was constantly engaged in the industry outside the specified area prior to the commencement of the Act and up to the date of application.

Any other applicant must complete the course of training to be prescribed by the board, and pass the examination that will be set. The board may register any person who has undertaken a satisfactory course of training outside Western Australia and if necessary require the applicant to pass an examination before registration. A hairdresser who is still a member of the Defence Forces may apply for registration within 12 months from the date of his discharge. After a period of six months from the commencement of the Act any unregistered person found engaging in hairdressing will be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.

Provision is made for appeal to a stipendiary magistrate by any person whom the board refuses to register or whose registration has been cancelled or suspended. Among other things the board is given the power to make regulations to prescribe the standards of hygiene, sanitation and safety to be observed by hairdressers, and to arrange for regular inspections to ensure that such standards are rigidly observed.

Hon. A. Thomson: What power would there be?

The HONORARY MINISTER: Power to cancel registration, etc., which will be provided for in the regulations. I am sure that the House will agree that the provisions I have outlined will be of benefit to the people who patronise hairdressing establishments and who are entitled to the protection that the Bill will afford. I stress the point that every section interested in the industry is in favour of this measure—the public, which is the most important, and the employers and employees—and I therefore trust that the House will grant it speedy passage. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Metropolitan-Suburban) [5.46]: I am afraid I cannot approve of this Bill which is another of the many "Thou shalt not" measures. Already we have too many boards and too many restrictions. Why it should be necessary to bring in a Bill of this sort to provide for the observance of cleanliness and health requirements by these people, I do not know, because we have the Health Act and regulations issued under it dealing with hairdressers. However, I am credibly informed that nothing is being done about it.

So far as I can judge, the only purpose of this Bill is to create another expense for the public. Why a person should need to pass an examination and be registered for the purpose of cutting the hair of some members I can see, I do not know. Neither do I know why, when men for hundreds of years have been going to barbers to be shaved, registration should now be necessary. Provision is made for classes to be held at the Technical College where trainees may receive instruction. Why should the taxpayer have to pay for those classes? The apprenticeship regulations deal with hairdressers and why cannot they be carried out?

In former times, it was goodwill that counted in any trade or calling. Surely if some incompetent person set up with highly complicated machinery to dress hair and provide aids to beauty and women liked to patronise that person, they would deserve all they got! With all due respect to the various aids to beauty, during my short time on this earth I have found that

beauty, although only skin deep, is very much preferable when genuine. If only we could instruct our women, especially the younger generation, to let nature beautify them, they would continue to be beautiful much longer than they do at present.

The Chief Secretary: It would be rather hard to do that.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I am sorry if I appear to be old-fashioned, but I have a strong objection to all these various aids to beauty. In fact, in many instances, I consider them to be repulsive. I refuse to be one to permit of a person exhibiting a label outside his business premises to the effect, "I am registered to make you beautiful," though the Almighty may have ordained that that prospective patron should not be beautiful. Now consider the Bill: What is there in it that the public wants? Nothing. In Victoria, apparently, provision has been made amongst the hairdressers for a close organisation, and if this Bill is based on Victorian legislation, anyone from outside Western Australia would be prevented from engaging in hairdressing in the metropolitan area until he had passed an examination.

Strangely enough, the board will be empowered to arrange classes of hairdressers ranging from A to Z. I do not know whether it is the intention to register one hairdressers. But it might be that a Class Z I do not know whether a Class A will be higher than a Class Z hairdresser. If I saw a sign indicating that a hairdresser was registered as Class A, I would imagine that he was amongst the best class of hairdressers. But it may be that a Class Z hairdresser would be the best. How is the public to know? The Bill provides no protection at all for the public. The health authorities are the ones to afford this protection and should do their duty. There are many hairdressing saloons to which the health authorities, with great advantage to the public, could pay a visit.

I cannot see why the operation of the measure should be restricted to the metropolitan area. If I were a country member, I would strongly object to that provision. It is tantamount to saying, "In the town we have to nurture you carefully, but in the country any sort of hairdresser will do." If this legislation is necessary, it should apply uniformly throughout the

State. Apprenticeship regulations provide that apprentices shall be fully qualified before being permitted to work as journeymen. The Minister has told us that the apparatus used in the hairdressing saloons is complicated. If that is so, these people should come under the machinery Act and the Chief Inspector of Machinery should look after them. If it is a question of the drugs and the dyes that are used by hairdressers, surely it would be more appropriate if they held certificates as chemists. The logical conclusion is that if, as the Minister stated, the machinery used in hairdressing saloons is so complicated and dangerous, hairdressers should hold a certificate under the Inspection of Machinery Act. If it is the drugs and dyes they use that are dangerous, surely they should come under the pharmacy Act!

If nothing more is involved than ordinary means of beautifying people, let them have as much service in that direction as they wish. There would be no harm in that. But why should we force hairdressers to hold certificates. When we compel people to hold a certificate of competency, we create a close organisation and the customers have to pay for it. Provision is made in the Bill for various funds and fees, which the organisation must have, and obviously those charges will be passed on to the customer. I cannot see why the charge for a haircut should be increased. In my short life it has been increased from 6d. to 1s. 6d. and, if this Bill becomes law, doubtless before I die the charge will be up to 5s.

Hon. L. Craig: But you will not need a haircut.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: That is, provided I still have something to cut. I cannot support the Bill; I do not think it is at all necessary.

HON. G. BENNETTS (South) [5.55]: I support the second reading. Mr. Parker said he would not favour the posting of a plate outside a saloon informing the public that the occupant was qualified to make one beautiful when one was not. As I walk along the streets of Perth, I notice many nameplates setting forth that the people referred to are qualified to do this or that, but whether they are qualified is another matter. Sometimes I have reason to believe that they

are not as qualified as they claim on their nameplates.

The Chief Secretary: Who would they be?

Hon. G. BENNETTS: I refer to all walks of life—solicitors, engineers, doctors, and I might also mention doll doctors and dog doctors.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Members of my profession do not undertake to make people beautiful.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: No, but they undertake to do this and that and may not be qualified, though I would not say they are not.

The Chief Secretary: There is no guarantee?

Hon. G. BENNETTS: Certainly not. Mr. Parker referred to members' hair. Many of us have little hair and do not need a skilled man to cut it, but there are people who do need a skilled hairdresser. I have very little hair, but had there been registration of hairdressers, I might have been spared the trouble, after going to one hairdresser recently, of having to go to another. Just before the outbreak of war, I happened to be in Adelaide and saw the cashier of the West Coffee Palace who had been attended to by one of these beauty specialists. This specialist was not a skilled person, and that girl had been disfigured for life owing to the apparatus being allowed to burn off her hair and injure her face. That is what may be expected to happen if we allow unqualified persons to practise.

If any one engages in a business of this sort involving the use of electrical and other appliances, that person should hold a certificate of competency. Mr. Parker asked why a certificate should be necessary. It would give the public confidence when sitting under one of these mechanical devices that the operator was competent. One may enter a barber's shop for a haircut and shave, but after looking around the saloon, one is content to have a haircut there and go elsewhere for a shave. Of course, this aspect is covered by the Health Act. However, I cannot see why any extra expense should be incurred for a haircut if hairdressers are registered. Under a system of registration, the saloon will be conducted under better conditions. The operators will be clean, and the apparatus will be sterilised, as well as

razors, brushes, etc., which is not now done in all the shops. I hope the Bill will receive the support of members, even though many of them may not have much hair to be trimmed.

HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [5.58]: I have neither the enthusiasm of the Honorary Minister nor the detestation of Mr. Parker as regards this Bill; I preserve a middle course. I can see necessity for some of the provisions in the Bill. I appreciate the need for raising the standard of the practice of hairdressing. The Minister told us that the definition of "hairdressing" is most comprehensive. I consider it to be a really good definition because it more or less covers anything that can be done to the head or neck.

The Chief Secretary: Are you getting jealous?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Not at all. There are several points in the Bill that need careful consideration. First of all, if it is good for the measure to apply within a radius of 25 miles from the G.P.O., what is the objection to its operating outside that area? If the Bill is to be placed on the statute book, it should cover the whole of the State. If it be important for a person in the city to receive proper attention, then it is equally important for persons outside the metropolitan area to receive such attention. I can see just as much harm being done to the head of a woman from an electrical instrument in the country as in the metropolitan area—probably more so.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: More likely!

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Therefore, I do not approve of the present limitation. There are one or two other aspects that I think must be carefully considered. This Bill brings before us again what I consider to be a wrong principle. It contemplates a board which will have power to appoint examiners, lay down the standard of examinations, register the examinees who pass the examination and then afterwards police their behaviour. In other words, it does open up possibilities of a close corporation. The Victorian regulations, so far as examinations are concerned, provide that the board may appoint examiners, but may terminate the appointment of any examiner by giving him one month's notice in writing.

I would like to draw a comparison between two professions as regards their method of control and the proposed method of control of this profession—if we may term it such. The medical profession has a board appointed from the profession to police its members on behalf of the public; but the board does not lay down the standard of education for the medical profession. I think that is a good policy to adopt. It has stood the medical men themselves in very good stead that the profession at large has had no actual direct say in the standard to which its members shall be educated. The university lays down that standard, and when it grants a person a degree in medicine the Medical Board then registers him and afterwards he is responsible for his conduct to the Medical Board.

Halfway between that profession and the one we are discussing is the Nurses Registration Board, which does appoint its examiners, but it must go outside its own profession and call for examiners from the medical profession as well as from its own ranks. These would be those who have reached a high status in the nursing profession, the matrons of the teaching schools. The result has been that standards of a high order have been maintained in both those professions. The same sort of thing happens in the dental profession. The University or the college grants a diploma or a degree and then the board registers the individual. I would therefore like a board of examiners to lay down the standards and carry out the examination of the students. I realise that in this State it would probably be going too far to appoint a board of examiners; but I would desire to take from this present contemplated board the right to lay down the standard of examinations and to appoint examiners.

I would give them only the right to nominate a panel of examiners from whom the Minister could make a selection. That would mean that the examiners would not be under the control of the board, but under the control of the Minister. The examiners would then be free from any control that might be attempted by the board. That emphasises, I think, the statement I have made that the Victorian board can terminate the appointment of an examiner by one month's notice in writing. I think there should be someone outside this proposed board to control

those who are seeking to gain entrance into this trade or profession. Once the examiners were satisfied that the students could follow their calling to the required standard, the students could be given a charter, diploma or degree, or whatever it may be called, and then the board should register them.

There is another side which must be considered. A clause in the Bill gives the board the right to lay down the standard of hygiene, sanitation and safety in all places in which hairdressing is carried out. As Mr. Parker has said, it is really the duty of the Health Department to control hygiene and sanitation. I do not desire that in this State we shall have inspectors whose outlook is so narrowed that they can inspect only in one calling or trade. I do not want separate inspectors for hairdressing saloons, barbers' shops, butchers' shops or other shops; I want to see an organisation grow up the members of which can police standards. I consider that hygiene and sanitation would be much better left to an organisation under the control of the Commissioner of Public Health.

The Chief Secretary: This Bill would not take any right away from the Commissioner of Public Health.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It looks to me as if it would, because the board could make regulations providing for hygiene and sanitation in hairdressing saloons. I would strike that clause out of the Bill and make the board a purely advisory body, which could propound regulations for approval by the Commissioner of Public Health. Personally, I would rather see the board act as an advisory body, the Commissioner of Public Health to be the person to make the regulations. I will give the House my reasons for making that statement. The Victorian regulations provide—

(10) The owner or occupier shall cause the appliances specified below to be sterilised in the manner described:—

(a) Razor blades, scissors and combs—by immersion for three minutes in steam, boiling water, or in any disinfecting solution, or by exposure in a closed receptacle to disinfecting fumes for not less than twenty minutes.

(b) Clippers—by immersion in boiling water for three minutes or by immersion in any disinfecting solution for three minutes, or by flaming or by exposure to any form of dry heat exceeding 212 degrees (Fahrenheit) for ten minutes, or by exposure in a closed receptacle to disinfecting fumes for not less than twenty minutes.

(c) Hair brushes—by immersion for three minutes in any disinfecting solution, or by exposure in a closed receptacle to disinfecting fumes for not less than twenty minutes.

Personally, I do not think any commissioner of public health would propose regulations providing for three minutes' exposure in any disinfecting solution; he would see that the solution could do the job in three minutes, because there are all sorts of disinfecting solutions, each of varying strength. One of the real problems which have been facing the medical profession for many years is the fact that so many disinfectants have been proved to be worthless, often after a long trial. New ones are taking their place some of which have been accepted because of their capability in dealing with certain types of bacteria. They have been recognised as having power over bacteria after having been given a long trial. To say that any disinfecting solution could be effective after three minutes' use is ridiculous. Therefore, these regulations should in my opinion be promulgated by the Commissioner of Public Health or prepared by this board and approved by the commissioner. Personally, I consider the regulations should be policed by the Commissioner of Public Health.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If the Health Department is not big enough to do these jobs, then make the Health Department bigger, but do not pass over to other organisations what should be the work of the Health Department. If the Bill passes in its present form, the board would have power to make the following regulations, as set out in the Bill:—

(i) Prescribing standards of hygiene, sanitation and safety to be observed in premises where hairdressing is practised.

(j) Providing for the inspection from time to time by authorised officers of the board of premises where hairdressing is practised.

We have had examples before of inspectors who have not the powers of a health inspector. The matter came up when we were considering the Milk Bill. If the inspectors under this Bill have not the powers of a health inspector, then all they could do would be practically nothing. When it comes to the question of safety, should we allow this board to formulate regulations for the safety of electrical machines?

Hon. L. Craig: Subject to the approval of somebody else.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Quite so. Some of the plant which is used is electrical machinery which can easily get out of order. I think the machines ought to conform to Australian standards, and they must come under the inspection of someone who can adequately control them from a departmental point of view. We should look very carefully at the three or four aspects that I have mentioned, namely, the definition of hairdressing, the powers of the board and the regulations for sanitation, hygiene and safety. Otherwise, I am in favour of the Bill.

HON. H. L. ROCHE (South-East)

[6.13]: Whilst I am supporting the second reading of the Bill, I must confess that it is without any great enthusiasm in its present form. I think that in Committee some alterations should be effected. The portion of the Bill providing for the constitution of the board could, to my mind, be considerably improved by the inclusion of at least one member of the general public. It seems to me that we shall be creating a close corporation by handing over the industry to the proposed board. Neither do I care very much for the provision which would enable the board to take away a person's livelihood for a breach of an industrial award. That seems to me to be too arbitrary altogether.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I was pointing out that by this Bill powers are to be given to the board to prescribe a course of training for people entering the industry, and also to prescribe the conditions under which those who are already practising may be registered, so there is a strong argument in favour of some alteration to the constitution of the board. It is proposed that the employers and employees in the industry shall have absolute control. The board should be more representative of the public and it would then be of greater benefit to the community and also those engaged in the industry. While I am not hostile to the principle of some control and supervision, I am not particularly enamoured of the Bill as it stands.

On motion by Hon. A. Thomson, debate adjourned.

BILL—COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [7.33] in moving the second reading said: Before dealing with the subject-matter of the Bill, I would like to offer you, Sir, my congratulations on your elevation to the position of President of this Chamber, an honour which I feel is well merited, and it is a further tribute to the Goldfields of this State, because your two immediate predecessors came from that part of Western Australia. To this high office you bring the knowledge and wisdom that you have gained during your long experience of public life, which will prove of the utmost value to the House in its deliberations. You have represented the South-East Province in this Chamber for 24 years, during which time you have ably filled the positions of Temporary Chairman of Committees, and later Chairman of Committees.

The position of President of the Legislative Council is open to few men. Over the 56 years of responsible Government you, Sir, are only the eighth President to hold office, and I am sure that the dignity and wisdom that you will bring to the position will make you a worthy successor to the distinguished gentlemen who were your predecessors.

To Mr. Dimmitt I also desire to extend my congratulations on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. It is indeed a tribute to the hon. member that he has been elected to such an important and onerous position after a comparatively short parliamentary experience of eight years. It is a position which requires much application and thought, and I have no doubt that Mr. Dimmitt will render excellent service as Chairman of Committees.

I now wish to deal with the Bill which is, perhaps, from the point of view of the future of this State, one of the most important measures that have been brought down for many years. When introducing the Country Areas Water Supply Bill during the last sitting of the Chamber, I advised members that that measure and the one now before the House were brought forward to implement the Comprehensive Agricultural Areas and Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, and that they were, therefore, complementary. I did not feel that it was necessary for me to

explain the first Bill at length as it was mainly a consolidation of the Goldfields Water Supply Act, and also included a number of provisions adopted from the Water Boards Act. It could not, therefore, be described as an entirely new measure, although it contained a few new provisions, principally those dealing with rating and rates. The Bill that is now before the House is in another category. Although it deals with the same subject, there is nothing in it that has been taken from another measure, and, therefore, I propose to deal with it in greater detail than I did the other Bill.

It is hardly necessary for me to emphasise the need in this State for a reliable and permanent country water supply. Without this the successful settlement and development of any area is doomed to failure. It was for this reason that the ambitious and at the time world-famous Goldfields Water Supply Scheme was undertaken at the start of the century. That undertaking, as members know, has proved of incalculable worth to the State and is a monument to the ability and farsightedness of the engineers and legislators of those times. In addition, waterworks costing £2,750,000 have been carried out in the country by State Governments, without taking into consideration the cost of irrigation schemes. Of course, the actual direct revenue derived from these schemes is not substantial, but that is outweighed by the increased productivity resulting from the regular supply of water to farming and mining areas.

Western Australia has immense productive capacity provided that the necessary permanent water, which has been denied by nature, can be obtained. It is unfortunate that the principal productive areas of the State are handicapped by an erratic rainfall. During the summer months from November to March many districts receive little more than 2 in. of rain, and when this is followed by a dry winter farmers are beset by many worries. Then, too, a succession of dry years has a disastrous effect on local water conservation. This year our wheat and potato crops have been very seriously affected owing to our sporadic and indefinite rainfall.

Another major handicap is evaporation. Averaged over the mixed farming area this has been estimated to represent no less than 70 in. of water annually. An out-

standing example of this depreciation is found at Narrogin. On the occasions that the reservoir there was filled it has been found that 24,000,000 of its capacity of 77,000,000 gallons have been lost by evaporation. And so it can be seen that much of the productive potential of the State is grievously affected by the lack of a guaranteed water supply. And it is on primary industries that Western Australia will have to rely for a considerable period, as our development of secondary industries is yet in its infancy, although I might describe it as a lusty and promising youngster.

It is apparent that the provision of a permanent water supply in our farming districts is essential. At this stage I would like to quote a paragraph from the first report of the Commonwealth Rural Reconstruction Commission. This was published in 1944 and reads as follows:—

In the broad view of future agricultural development in Australia, irrigation and water supply must take a prominent place. The stability which can be added to a farming enterprise by the capacity to irrigate a small part, say 10 per cent., of a holding is most beneficial. Many irrigation projects are already in existence and in most cases they have amply proved their value. As population increases, the need for more irrigation will also increase, and it is not too much to say that in the long run water supply will be the limiting factor in Australian expansion. Australian agriculture will in time need all the water which it is possible to conserve. It follows that the wise use of our streams is of the utmost importance. In most States the broad details of these plans have already been prepared; but there is need for co-ordination in some cases where water crosses State boundaries. The Commission considers that the long view should be taken in all such cases and the water used in areas where it can do most good. In view of the relative importance of water to Australian agriculture, very careful consideration should be given to any proposals for the diversion of water which might be ultimately required for agriculture.

The State Government holds similar opinions and the necessary steps have been taken to evolve a scheme providing for a comprehensive water supply, which it is confidently expected will, if put into operation, bring to rural districts an increase of population, better living conditions and a great increase of productivity with its consequent accretion of wealth to the State.

It is estimated that the capital cost of the scheme will be £9,333,000, and that it will take ten years to complete. To adequately

finance such a scheme and to keep pace with our other commitments would be beyond this State's resources, and so the assistance of the Commonwealth has been sought. The Commonwealth Government has expressed great interest in the scheme and has appointed a departmental committee to thoroughly investigate it and to submit recommendations. The chairman of this committee is Mr. Loder, a very important and able officer, who is the assistant to the Co-ordinator General of Works. The State Government desires that this committee will conclude its work at an early date so that the decision of the Commonwealth may be obtained in time to commence preliminary work on the scheme in January next, provided, of course, that this Bill receives parliamentary sanction.

The assistance that has been requested from the Commonwealth will amount to £500,000 per annum for 10 years, or half of the estimated cost of the scheme. The State itself intends to bear the entire cost of the work required to increase the capacity of the Mundaring and Wellington reservoirs, which is a preliminary and essential part of the scheme. This particular aspect of the work entails the raising of the Mundaring retaining wall by 32 feet, and of the Wellington wall by 50 feet. This will increase the Mundaring capacity from 4,650,000,000 gallons to 15,000,000,000 gallons, and the Wellington from 7,500,000,000 to 33,000,000,000 gallons, thereby improving the impoundment of the two catchments by over 400 per cent. and providing an adequate and reliable pure water supply to an area of approximately 11,697,000 acres, extending from Dalwallinu in the north to Borden in the south, and from Northam in the west to Burracoppin in the east.

This area contains a population of 56,000 persons, 30,000 of whom dwell in towns and 26,000 in the farming areas. The principal activity in the area is wheatgrowing, and situated therein are about 60 per cent. of the State's wheat farms. It is expected that an assured water supply will bring about an extension of mixed farming with sheep and dairying. Even under present conditions sheep are an important sideline on many wheat farms, and revenue is also obtained from pig raising and export lamb production. The map which is hanging on

the wall in this Chamber will indicate clearly to members the full extent of the scheme. If they care to analyse it and have regard to the various districts to be supplied, they will appreciate the great importance a scheme of this description can be to a large number of primary producers who, year after year, have been suffering as the result of a lack of satisfactory water supplies.

Before giving some details of the scheme I propose to survey briefly the existing facilities in the area, together with their limitations and inadequacy. Long experience has revealed the lack of success of local water supply schemes in the wheat-belt. These have been generally costly to construct and usually have not been self-supporting, nor have they given an adequate service. It was thought at one time that the large granite rocks with which the area is studded would be suitable for the successful establishment of rock catchments, but neither these nor earth catchments have achieved the results that were expected. Evaporation, percolation underground, and light rainfall were the main reasons for the disappointing results. It is now accepted that no adequate storage supply can be established east of the Darling Range, and that the source of supply must therefore lie where the rainfall is certain and reasonably heavy.

The only area in the South West Land Division that possesses all the necessary qualifications is the western slopes of the Darling Ranges, where the annual rainfall is from 30 to 50 inches. For that reason it was decided to increase the capacities of the Mundaring and Wellington catchments and to pump and reticulate supplies from these head waters. The meteorological data available for Western Australia covers too short a period to provide the knowledge of wet and dry cycles that is possessed in older countries, but we do know that unless steps are taken to obviate the consequences of the dry seasons we have experienced lately, the effect on our economy may be very serious. It will not be forgotten that a very short time ago army trucks had to be used for carting water in country areas and that the railways had to haul their own water requirements from Collie.

All of the present country water supplies are considered to have reached the limit

of their capacity. Unless the position is reviewed the inevitable result will be the end of further development in these areas. With existing supplies, steady progress cannot be looked for in either the Goldfields or the agricultural areas, and no-one can dispute that, given an assured water supply, both areas are capable of much greater development in the future. The summer of 1944-45 will not easily be forgotten. In that year the reservoir at Brookton was empty in January and the Kondinin supply failed. Narrogin and Wagin were rationed, and for some time the Narrogin supply was undrinkable owing to its salinity. The situation in Narrogin has been serious for some years, and at Pingelly, too, the supply is poor.

Hon. A. L. Loton: It is worse than poor.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Yes. It is a fact that country water supplies are deteriorating, and drastic action is necessary to remedy the position. Bores have proved unsatisfactory, only one in five providing water drinkable by stock, and very few giving water fit for human consumption. The Railway Department's country supplies are proving inadequate to cope with dry climatic conditions, and the department has been forced to haul water for its requirements at high expense. In 1944-45 the demand on Mundaring was so high that water had to be pumped to the weir from the Canning Dam at a cost of £20,000. State Governments have done their utmost in the past to meet the situation. As I have already said, a huge sum was spent on the Goldfields Water Supply and on providing dams, bores and catchments.

Turning now to the scheme, the area to be supplied is divided into two divisions—the northern, to be served from Mundaring; and the southern, from the Wellington Dam. The northern area comprises 6,621,000 acres, 4,777,600 of which are not at present reticulated. Towns in this division that do not possess a reticulated supply include Ballidu, Dalwallinu, Dowerin, Koorda, Pithara, Wongan Hills and Wyalkatchem. Bruce Rock and Trayning have their own local supplies, and other towns, amongst which are Northam, Merredin, York, Kellerberrin, Beverley and Nungarin, are linked with the Goldfields Water Supply. The southern area, or that which will obtain its needs from the Wellington Dam,

contains 4,986,000 acres, practically all of which is not reticulated. In this area Corrigin, Dumbleyung, Tambellup, Gnowan-gerup, Wickepin, Kojonup, Broomehill and Kulin have no existing reticulation. Kondinin and Narembreen are connected with the Goldfields Water Scheme, but their supply, unfortunately, is not reliable. Narrogin's supply is most uncertain and at times unfit to drink, while Pingelly's supply is also unreliable and very brackish. Brookton's water scheme is another that cannot be relied upon.

It is estimated that the total annual quantity to be drawn from the main reservoirs will be 3,429,475,000 gallons from Mundaring, and 1,416,860,000 from Wellington. To obtain these figures it was necessary to arrive at some estimate of both town and country requirements, and as it was found that the farms in the area averaged about 1,200 acres, a basis of a 1,000-acre farm was adopted, carrying a wheat crop, 300 sheep and 10 cattle, and, of course, the farmer and his family. It is considered that this unit would require 700 gallons of water daily in the summer, sheep having one gallon each, cattle 10 gallons a head, and 300 gallons being utilised for domestic purposes.

A survey of existing reticulation schemes reveals that the maximum daily summer pull would approximate 900 gallons, and so the pipes of the proposed supply will be large enough to cater for such a flow. The average daily quantity estimated to be needed in winter is—

	Gallons.
Domestic requirements	300
10 cattle at 10 gallons per head ..	100
A total of	<u>400</u>

From these figures it is considered that the total annual quantity required for a 1,000-acre unit would be—

	Gallons.
Summer	128,100
Winter	<u>72,800</u>
A total of	<u>200,900</u>

Data available in regard to towns under the Goldfields Water Scheme has revealed that the average daily requirement is 40 gallons for each person, with a maximum supply of 60 gallons. In arriving at the annual amount

necessary, provision has been made for an estimated increase in population of 25 per cent. in the towns in the northern area, and 100 per cent. in those in the southern district.

A matter for serious consideration in the design of the scheme is the utilisation where possible of existing water supply works. In the northern or Mundaring area, the principal established works comprise the Goldfields main pipe line with its associated pumping stations and summit tanks, and the large reservoir of 43,000,000 gallons capacity at Cunderdin, also the main storage reservoirs, service tanks and pumping stations in the No. 1 or Barbalin district. In the southern or Wellington area, there are reservoirs at Narrogin, which has a capacity of 77,000,000 gallons; Brookton, 30,000,000 gallons; Wagin, 20,000,000 gallons; Katanning, 29,000,000 gallons; Narembreen, 21,000,000 gallons; and Kondinin, 9,000,000 gallons. In addition there is at Pingelly a service tank which can hold 50,000 gallons. In the northern area, until the Mundaring wall has been at least partially raised and extra water stored, no additional supply from the Goldfields pipe line can be allowed.

For the full development of the scheme it will be necessary to reorganise and strengthen the pipe line and pumping equipment and provide auxiliary pumping stations, rising mains, reservoirs and distribution systems. It is anticipated that when the extra capacity in Mundaring Reservoir is ready, electricity will be available from the new metropolitan power station. It is proposed, therefore, entirely to rebuild and electrify the existing No. 1 Pumping Station at Mundaring, which will then pump 14,000,000 gallons daily over a lift of 730 feet. By this means water will be delivered directly to the existing No. 3 Pumping Station at Cunderdin and the present No. 2 Station can be done away with. A booster pump will need to be installed near Kellerberrin to enable the maximum daily requirements to be passed from the Cunderdin Pumping Station to the No. 4 Pumping Station.

With regard to distribution, the electric pumping station at Cunderdin will lift water through rising mains running north and south, to service reservoirs from which distribution will be by gravity. On the

northerly rising main a second pumping station, powered by a Diesel unit, will be necessary at Minnivale, and seven small pumping units will be required in certain local high areas. All pumps and mains will be capable of carrying the maximum supply, and all service tanks will be able to provide sufficient storage for five days.

In the southern area, or that to be supplied from the Wellington Dam, much of the increased capacity provided by the raising of the retaining wall will be required for the irrigation of coastal areas, but the dam will still be able to provide all the water necessary for the whole of the southern area. The main pipe line will connect Wellington Dam to the existing reservoir at Narrogin, which has a capacity of 77,000,000 gallons. Power will be provided from the proposed South-West power scheme, and it is probable that a pumping station will be situated at the Wellington Dam, with another station some 30 miles east of the dam. Each station will be able to pump approximately 5,600,000 gallons daily, over a total rise of 500 feet. A third pumping station driven by electricity will be located at Narrogin and will deliver water through rising mains north to a hill some five miles away, from which water can gravitate as far north as Brookton, and east to a hill near Wickepin, from which water can be gravitated over an extensive area stretching as far as Narembene and Kondinin, where the existing supply will be augmented from the scheme, thereby giving these centres ample supplies in dry seasons.

A south running main will also take water by gravity from Northam to near Wagin, where an electric pumping station will lift it through a rising main to service tanks situated on hills, the main running as far as Holly, which is south-west of Katanning. Three small pumping stations will be provided to deliver water to various small high level areas. Distribution to farms from the service tank will, of course, be by gravity. I might mention that the particulars I have given the House may have to be modified to some minor extent, but members will be able to obtain a comprehensive outline of the scheme from my description.

At this stage, I wish to make a most significant point and that is the importance

to each other of this water scheme and the South-West power scheme. It is not too much to say that these projects are complementary and that each will benefit by the installation of the other. Furthermore, the use of electric power for water delivery will assist towards a reduction of both the capital and operating costs of the scheme. Members will no doubt have read the information contained on pages 21 and 22 of the report on the scheme, copies of which were circulated some time ago. The information on those pages deals with the proposed stage-by-stage order of construction, and sets out the work which will be carried out each year until the conclusion of the scheme.

Dealing with the financial side, I have indicated that the capital cost will be about £9,333,000. As set out in Part IV of the report, the estimated annual cost of the scheme is £550,236, made up as follows:—

			£
Operating expenses	..	..	134,000
Sinking Fund	..	..	39,581
Interest at 3½%	..	..	326,655
Total	..	..	£550,236

It is estimated that the annual collection of revenue will be about £248,000, details of which are given at page 23 of the report. This amount, providing it is all collected, will meet the operating and sinking fund costs and contribute over £20,000 towards the interest charge.

When introducing the Country Areas Water Supply Bill, I indicated that it was proposed to charge an annual water rate of 5d. per acre, this to include the £5 holding fee charged under existing legislation. This amount is based on the charges made under the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, which amounted to 4¾d. per acre annually, this figure including the fixed rate for each holding, together with the amounts actually collected—not charged—for excess water over a period of 10 years ended the 30th July, 1944.

In the area to be served by the scheme the main production is wheat and sheep. Taking the year 1939-40 which has been selected as being the last annual period unaffected by war conditions, the acreage sown in wheat was 1,274,401, the total yield being 17,505,796 bushels, this giving an average of 13.7 bushels per acre. During that

year, the area also carried approximately 2,400,000 sheep, 36,000 horses, 19,500 cattle and 40,000 pigs. Development of agriculture in this area has been retarded by the insecurity of the water supply position. Given security of water supply it is reasonable to consider that the designed basis of the scheme—namely, each 1,000-acre unit carrying 300 sheep in addition to crops and a few other animals—is sound; in which case the area can support 3,500,000 sheep, representing an increase of 1,100,000 sheep over the 1939-40 population. Again, with security of water supply and the amenities which it will provide, it is thought that employees will be more content with farming work, and that as a result there will be an increase in wheat cropping. At the present time it is hard to estimate in monetary terms what this will amount to, but it should certainly be substantial.

It is recognised that the magnitude of the gross returns to the farmers will be governed by market trends. The economic life of Western Australia is, however, indissolubly bound up with agricultural production for export, and any proposal which will increase the efficiency of farming methods and also increase production must be seriously considered. An increase in gold production on the Eastern Goldfields, which is dependent on a secure water supply, can also be looked for with an increase in reliable water supply, and this will also prove of benefit to the State. A most important benefit which will accrue from the development of the scheme is the provision of security of water supplies for both town and farm populations.

Members will note in the Bill that provision is made, at the discretion of the Minister, for certain areas not including town-sites, to be excluded from the scheme. If at least 50 per cent. of the ratable land owners in any area of not less than 50,000 acres which is within the boundaries of the scheme, request, within three months of the proclamation of the Act, that that area be excluded from the scheme, then the Minister may give consideration to the request. In arriving at a decision the Minister will, of course, have to take a number of factors into consideration. It will be apparent that no hard and fast rule can be laid down in this connection. Where it may be neces-

sary for mains or waterworks to be constructed outside the boundaries of the scheme, land owners or occupiers in the vicinity but not within the area of the scheme may apply to be supplied with water under such terms and conditions as the Minister may consider reasonable.

It is generally conceded that reticulation from an assured and permanent supply is the safest way of ensuring continued success in farming operations. Every year the unsuitability of our present water resources becomes more apparent. Considerable expenditure has been incurred in assisting drought stricken farmers and townspeople. In the 1944-45 summer, this assistance cost the Government about £150,000, not to mention the expense to individuals. The provision of an adequate water supply will also permit of the decentralisation of industry and enable the establishment of small and useful domestic industries in country districts.

Hon. A. Thomson: Not only Narrogin. That will apply to all country towns.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I did not say it would apply to Narrogin only.

Hon. A. Thomson: Yes, you mentioned Narrogin.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Not now.

Hon. A. Thomson: I apologise. I thought you did.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: No. I have not mentioned Narrogin for the last ten minutes.

Hon. H. L. Roche: That is something when you are talking about water!

Hon. A. Thomson: Or the lack of it!

The CHIEF SECRETARY: The impact that this scheme will have on the economy of the State is obvious when it is realised that in 1939, 21 per cent. of our population was engaged in agricultural and pastoral pursuits, and that the gross value of our agricultural production amounted to £16,000,000. In that year our total exports were valued at £23,000,000, of which agriculture contributed 42 per cent. and gold mining a similar percentage. Although we possess only 8 per cent. of the population of the Commonwealth, in 1939 we contributed 20 per cent. of the wheat output, 22 per cent. of timber, 15 per cent. of tobacco,

10 per cent. of apples, 8 per cent. of wool, 6 per cent. of bacon and ham and 3 per cent. of butter.

With our reliance upon agriculture and mining, it is obvious that the successful implementation of this scheme will most materially add to the wealth of the State and to the happiness and comfort of the rural population. So, while my remarks can only be considered to be a brief outline of the scheme, I feel sure it will be received by members of this Chamber as making a very important contribution to the development of the agricultural areas of the State. There can be no question but that water is one of the main factors in the further development of our agricultural districts. I wish to pay tribute to the professional men who have devised this scheme. One has only to analyse the map that is on the wall of the Chamber to realise the enormous amount of work entailed in its production, and when one takes into consideration the information supplied in the report which members have, and which they can read at leisure, one must realise that here is a scheme, comprehensive in character, that will serve a large number of areas, some of them remote from the metropolitan district, and which will give to the people of such areas a far better opportunity of developing their interests than they have had up to date.

I do not know whether it can be said that this scheme is revolutionary in character as regards those areas, but I think that if it can be successfully implemented—that depends upon this Parliament and the assistance that the Commonwealth Government will give the State in the matter of finance—within a few years certain areas that are to be served by the scheme will be far more productive than they have ever had opportunity of being in the past; and after all is said and done, it is production that we want. There is no need for me to stress the importance of that factor. In submitting this Bill to the House I feel sure it will receive the serious—and I hope the favourable—consideration of members. If that is so, one can rest assured that certain areas of the State will be far more prosperous in the future than they have been in the past. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. Thomson, debate adjourned.

BILL—LAND ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 21st November.

HON. C. H. SIMPSON (Central) [8.20]: My object in moving the adjournment of the debate was to check up on two provisions embodied in the Bill that concern returned soldiers. I am glad to say that I have been able to examine them fully, and have consulted the executives of the returned soldiers' organisations. They are happy about the provisions in the Bill and are hopeful that it will be passed without amendment. The two matters that I wished to check up on particularly are embodied in Clause 9. They are proposed new Sections 139(A) and 139(B). The Honorary Minister has explained them fairly fully, but I will say briefly that the object of the first is to defer the payment of rent during the time of service of a soldier. It defers the collection of rent until he has had time to re-establish himself, under the condition that he is then entitled to a 50 per cent. rebate.

The second deals with the 50 per cent rebate in the case of a soldier newly taking up land. Under the old Act such a soldier was entitled to the 50 per cent. rebate, but if it so happened that circumstances compelled him to dispose of his property he had to refund the whole of the rebate that he had been allowed. Under the new provision no such penalty is provided, and if circumstances require him to dispose of his equity he will not have to refund any of the benefit derived from having had to pay only half the rate. I have examined the rest of the Bill and it seems to be beneficial to the man on the land. I have much pleasure in supporting it. This measure is really the result of a promise made by the Minister for Lands to the R.S.L. to implement legislation which that body recommended. The R.S.L. is very happy to know that this Bill has been brought forward, and is hopeful that it will be passed without amendment.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

BILL—COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 21st November.

HON. A. THOMSON (South-East) [8.27]: This Bill is complementary and subject to the carrying of the measure that has been so extensively dealt with by the Chief Secretary. I will content myself with reserving my remarks for the subsequent Bill, and therefore will support the second reading.

The Chief Secretary: I think I am in order in informing Mr. Thomson that he may discuss both Bills while we are dealing with this Bill.

On motion by Hon. H. L. Roche, debate adjourned.

BILL—ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. E. H. Gray—West) [8.28] in moving the second reading said: This amending Bill contains many new provisions that have been asked for by the Road Board Association and other bodies, as well as clauses inserted by the department with the object of giving road boards greater powers in some cases and simplifying procedure in others. I do not intend to explain the Bill clause by clause at this stage, thinking that that would be better left until in Committee but will briefly review some of the more important additions.

Provision is made for promoting the status of secretaries of boards by making it compulsory that they should hold a certificate of competency before appointment, as is the procedure in other States. To carry out this proposal provision is also made for the appointment by the Minister of what is called a road board secretaries' board, which will have the power to hold examinations and set subjects at such examinations and to issue certificates of competency to successful candidates. This proposal is recognised as necessary. It has been sought by the Secretaries' Association, and will be of great assistance to road boards, saving a lot of unnecessary work when decent people apply for jobs as board secretaries but are not

competent to do the work. If the proposal is agreed to it will protect road boards and save the department and the Minister difficulty in straightening out cases where persons not competent to do the job have been appointed as secretaries.

Another provision that will benefit employees of a road board is one which gives the right of appeal, by any employee who has been dismissed, to a person to be appointed by the Minister. The present provision in the Road Districts Act is that no secretary can be dismissed without the approval of the Minister but does not extend to any other employee.

It is proposed to extend the power to all road boards owning suitable generating plants, if they so desire, to manufacture ice. At present this privilege only applies to Meekatharra Road District. The same clause also allows boards to establish, maintain, or subsidise, either alone or in conjunction with any other road board or municipal council, kindergartens, community centres, maternal and infant health centres, dental clinics and ambulance services, the want of such amenities having been stressed not only by local authorities but other public and private bodies. Similar provisions were recently inserted in the Municipal Corporations Act.

A new section is proposed dealing with the maintenance of local water supplies. The Bill provides that a road board shall, when and as required by the Minister, pay the Minister from its general revenue a sum to be determined annually by the Minister as a contribution towards the cost of maintaining public water supply facilities in its district other than water supply works in connection with which a water rate is levied. In connection with dams, tanks, wells and other equipment which have been provided free throughout the agricultural areas, it has been the practice for many years to hand over the control of such water supply facilities to the local authorities in accordance with the provisions of the Road Districts Act with a view to their proper control and adequate maintenance.

Replies received from local authorities to the department's periodical questionnaires seeking information regarding the condition of these facilities indicated that in many instances these important works were not being adequately maintained and, during last season's drought, it was necessary for

the Government to take action in one portion of the State and authorise expenditure of the sum of £16,000 for the cleaning out and repairing of a number of tanks which had been the responsibility of the local authority for many years past. The stage has now been reached when it is considered imperative that the neglect of these valuable works should be stopped, and it is proposed, as circumstances permit, to employ permanent gangs of men to attend to their maintenance. Country members will know that these water supplies have been neglected and that when a dry period has occurred, everybody has been in trouble.

Hon. R. M. Forrest: The local authorities have not been able to get the necessary labour.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Even in times when labour was available, these supplies were neglected. Upon the road boards contributing towards the cost of these maintenance patrols as and when required by the Minister, the responsibility for their control and maintenance will be removed from the boards to the Minister for Water Supplies. In view of the great local benefit obtained from these water supplies, it is considered only reasonable that the local farmers, through their road board, should contribute something towards the cost of ensuring a reasonable supply of water when their own supplies have been seriously diminished. Judging by past results, it is considered likely that the road boards will be pleased to have the responsibility for these water supply works removed from their shoulders and will be quite willing to contribute from their general revenue towards works which add so substantially to the stability of their districts.

Section 201 of the principal Act is to be amended by giving a board power to permit and regulate the planting of lawns and gardens along roads by owners and occupiers of premises abutting thereon and making adequate provision for the watering of the lawns. This is similar to the provision recently included in the Municipal Corporations Act. Another important amendment is that giving power to the Governor to make model building by-laws which may be adopted by a board either with or without modification. This is a very necessary provision especially for road districts in the metropolitan area in order to bring

building regulations into uniformity with those of municipalities.

Provision is made whereby a board may make a valuation of part of its district instead of making a new valuation of all ratable property in its district at one time. This is the outcome of a decision of the Supreme Court when the power of a board was challenged in regard to this mode of valuation. Provision is also made that where a road board has adopted the annual value in its district or portion thereof, 20 resident owners may demand that the question whether or not the system of valuation on the annual value basis should, for the then current year and three succeeding years, be replaced by the system of valuation on the unimproved value, be submitted to the vote of the resident owners in such district. If such demand is made then a poll is to be taken of the resident owners of the district or such portion thereof. The object of this is to give ratepayers the opportunity of protesting against any disability which may exist in their minds through the board's decision to use annual values in preference to unimproved values.

Another new clause is that relating to farm and grazing land owned by a Serviceman who went away and left the land unoccupied and unworked during his absence, in which case the board may, with the Minister's approval, refund to such person any rates which shall have been paid by him. This will be a distinct concession to our returned men, who will be able to rehabilitate themselves on their own property unfettered by accrued rates.

The next amendment, and I think the most important, is that dealing with the sale of land for non-payment of rates. For some time road boards have been asking that the procedure should be simplified. Departmental officers have therefore given consideration to the matter and have submitted that, in their opinion, the system adopted by South Australia is more simple and yet just as efficient as our own. It will mean that a board will not have to go to a resident magistrate to obtain an order for the sale but will proceed by public auction or private contract under conditions laid down by the board. Machinery provisions have been introduced into the Bill after consultation between the

Crown Law officers and the Commissioner of Titles to simplify the transfer after the sales have been effected, and this will also to some extent reduce the costs to the board in connection with the sales. Members who are conversant with road board work, particularly in the metropolitan area, are aware of the great difficulty and tedious procedure necessary to effect the sale of land for which no rates have been received. I suppose there are hundreds of such blocks in the metropolitan area.

Hon. W. R. Hall: And in the country, too.

The HONORARY MINISTER: Yes, and it is impossible to trace the owners. The proposed system will be more simple and more effective. It has been found necessary, in view of a recent Supreme Court action to make provision for a board or ratepayer to test the validity of any assessment, rate or order for borrowing money affecting a district or any part thereof by way of complaint, to be made within four months of the striking of the rate, or two months from the time when the resolution for the loan was passed, to a court of summary jurisdiction. In the case I have referred to, a certain ratepayer tested the validity of a rate assessment by action in the Supreme Court after about 2½ years. As members will see, the Bill confines the time for testing the validity of the rate to within four months of the striking of the rate.

There is another important amendment which, if approved, will necessitate half-a-dozen consequential amendments. I refer to the abolition of plural voting. This will be the first opportunity this House has had to effect this very desirable reform upon its own initiative. I am hopeful that members will give the matter serious consideration before the Bill is taken into Committee and will approve of this progressive idea. We have outgrown the plural voting idea.

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Only some of you have.

The HONORARY MINISTER: If the question were put to any impartial body of citizens—

Hon. L. B. Bolton: Is not the Legislative Council impartial?

The HONORARY MINISTER: —I believe there would be an overwhelming major-

ity in favour of the abolition of plural voting. We can inaugurate this reform by amending the Road Districts Act. A man who owns two or three blocks of land—

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: And pays rates on them.

The HONORARY MINISTER: —should not have plurality of votes, and it is high time we tried the experiment of abolishing plural voting. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. H. S. W. Parker, debate adjourned.

BILL—CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 21st November.

HON. A. THOMSON (South-East) [8.45]: I suppose I am probably looked upon as being a person who does not move with the times, but I definitely oppose this Bill, to which so many amendments have been submitted by the Chief Secretary for the consideration of members. Personally, I consider the Government would be sincere in suggesting those amendments if it introduced a redistribution of seats Bill. I propose to make a comparison between four electoral districts in the North and four districts in the South-East Province, of which I am a representative. I quote the following figures:—

Electorate.	No of Electors on Roll.		
Pilbara	812
Roeibourne	492
Gascoyne	949
Kimberley	590
			<hr/> 2,843
Albany	4,622
Katanning	5,257
Wagin	3,944
Williams-Narrogin	3,141
			<hr/> 16,964

In effect, this means that one vote in the North is equal to seven cast in the electorates in my province. I have no wish to do an injury to the North—I realise the extent of its area—but the ardent advocates of adult franchise in this House should be more consistent, particularly those who represent the Government. They should consider some

of the existing anomalies. I now propose to compare the Goldfields electorates with the electorates in my province, and I quote the following figures:—

Electorate.	No of Electors on Roll.
Boulder	3,437
Brown Hill-Ivanhoe	4,041
Hannans	3,444
Mt. Magnet	2,225
Murchison	3,237
Kanowna	3,094
	<hr/> 19,478 <hr/>

The PRESIDENT: Order! I would remind the hon. member that the Bill deals with an amendment of the Constitution. I hope he will link up his remarks.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I admit what you say, Sir. I am giving my reasons for opposing the Bill, and with your kind permission I shall continue with my comparison. The four electorates in my province that I have already quoted have a total enrolment of 16,964. To these I would add the following:—

Pingelly	3,672
Beverley	3,590

making a total of 24,226. That is as against the Goldfields total of 19,478. In effect, we in the Great Southern district are under-represented by one seat. We should be entitled to an additional electorate, because the difference between the two sets of figures is 4,748, almost equal to the number of the Albany electors. When the redistribution of seats was suggested years ago by the late Hon. J. Seaddan, we were under the impression, on the figures given to us, that an additional seat would be provided for the Great Southern district. To our amazement, when the redistribution actually took place we were worse off. The boundaries of the Wagin electorate were extended further outward to Ravensthorpe. I quote these figures as one of my reasons for opposing the Bill. I think that so serious an amendment of the Constitution should be submitted by the Government, not by a private member, however well-intentioned he might be.

On motion by Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.53 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 27th November, 1916.

	PAGE
Questions: Police, as to arming officers	2202
State Brickworks, as to production, etc.	2203
Railway strike, as to "current legal proceedings" ..	2203
Assent to Bill	2204
Motions: Basic wage, as to inquiry into declaration and items for fixation, discharged	2204
Railways, as to inquiry into efficiency and adminis- tration	2204
Bills: Timber Industry (Housing of Employees), 3a.	2203
Imprisonment for Betting Abolition, 2a.	2221
City of Perth Scheme for Superannuation (Amend- ments Authorisation), 2a.	2225
Canning District Sanitary Site, 2a.	2226
State Housing, returned	2227
Eastern Goldfields Transport Board, 2a.	2227
Charitable Collections, 2a.	2229
Loan Estimates, 1946-47, Com., conclusion	2232

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

QUESTIONS.

POLICE.

As to Arming Officers.

Mr. McLARTY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

1, Is it the policy of the Police Department to arm members of the Force when carrying out their duties in regard to criminal offences?

2, If not, will consideration be given to affording this protection to members of the Force?

The PREMIER replied:

1, Any Police officer who requests to be supplied with a firearm while carrying out his duties is supplied with one.

2, Answered by No. 1.

STATE BRICKWORKS.

As to Production, Etc.

Mr. McLARTY asked the Minister for the North-West:

1, Are the State Brickworks at Byford working to full capacity?

2, If not, what is the position at the present time?

3, When will the works be in full production?

4, What action has been taken to provide against the loss of any skilled or experienced labour, pending full production?