

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 25th November, 1952.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

- 1, Sheepskins (Draft Allowance Prohibition).
- 2, Railway (Mundaring - Mundaring Weir) Discontinuance.
- 3, Building Operations and Building Materials Control Act Amendment and Continuance.
- 4, Marketing of Onions Act Amendment.
- 5, State Housing Act Amendment.
- 6, Mining Act Amendment (No. 2).
- 7, Albany Public Cemeteries Subsidies.
- 8, Coogee-Kwinana Railway.

QUESTIONS.

FRUIT CASES.

As to Kent River Mill Production.

Hon. J. MURRAY asked the Minister for Transport:

Can he inform the House—

[80]

(1) The total number of fruit cases produced at Kent River mill from January, 1952, to the 31st October, 1952?

(2) The total number of loads of sawn timber produced at the same mill for—

(a) export orders;

(b) local trade?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The Kent River mill has been operated by a private company since March, 1952. The returns from sawmillers of timber produced are treated as confidential, and the information required is therefore not available.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

TIMBER.

As to Supplies for Local and Export Trades.

Hon. J. MURRAY asked the Minister for Transport:

In view of a statement made by the Minister for Housing and Forests at the opening of Quinninup Club, will he inform the House—

(1) What is the Government policy in regard to unlimited export of karri and jarrah?

(2) What (if any) steps have been taken to ensure that the future requirements of the Commonwealth generally, and Western Australia in particular, will be adequately maintained?

(3) Whether rapid increase in population has been fully considered when assessing future requirements of local trade?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The Government is not in favour of unlimited export of karri and jarrah.

(2) A plan of distribution determined by conference with Commonwealth and State authorities and the main sawmillers, and varied from time to time according to circumstances, is still in operation. This plan is based on Australia's essential and future requirements.

(3) Yes.

WATER SUPPLIES.

As to Kwinana Pipeline.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN asked the Minister for Transport:

In view of the fact that the Goldfields Water Supply main, which was originally placed underground, eventually had to be, in the light of experience, rebuilt above ground, can he inform the House why the Kwinana water main is being placed underground?

The MINISTER replied:

In the metropolitan area, the general practice is to lay pipes underground on the score of economy and access to private property. The nature of the soil and the highly developed coal-tar enamel coat-

ing practically precludes external corrosion and therefore there is no necessity to lay the Armadale-Kwinana main above ground at higher cost.

TRANSPORT BOARD.

As to Cost, Revenue and Staff.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) What is the annual cost of the Transport Board to the State?

(2) What is the revenue of the Transport Board?

(3) What are the board's commitments?

(4) How many employees are on the staff of the board?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The Transport Board is not financed from Government funds. It is, however, the medium for payment of Government subsidies for rural transport services.

(2) For 1951-52, £113,068.

(3) For 1951-52—

	£
Administration costs	25,761
Subsidies	8,332
Held in trust for aircraft landing grounds	1,171
Distributed to statutory authorities for road maintenance	77,804
	<hr/> 113,068

(4) Twenty permanent; seven temporarily employed.

Information relative to revenue and expenditure and staff is set out in the board's annual report for 1951-52 recently tabled in this House.

PRIVATE INQUIRY AGENTS SELECT COMMITTEE.

Extension of Time.

On motion by Hon. E. M. Heenan, the time for bringing up the report was extended to Tuesday, the 9th December.

BILL—NURSES REGISTRATION ACT ACT AMENDMENT (No. 1).

Third Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (Hon. C. H. Simpson—Midland) [4.45]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland) [4.46]: I am speaking to the third reading for the purpose of asking the Government to stay its hand in regard to this measure. When the Minister moved the second reading, he gave as one of the reasons for the introduction of the measure, expediency on account of the shortage of

nurses. If members study the provisions of the measure, they will find that expediency is not the real reason, and therefore I say that the Government should pause until it has a better understanding of what the effect of the Bill might be.

It will be recalled that some years ago there was a shortage in country hospitals of matrons, nurses and assistants, but today the demands for them are few and far between, which is proof that the plan put into operation on the recommendation of Dr. Cook when he was in charge of the medical services, is beginning to pay good dividends. I consider it very wrong for the department to bring in a new plan, the result of which will be very doubtful, just when the other plan is beginning to give results. The period for training a nurse in the metropolitan area is three years and, in some of the country hospitals four years.

Therefore we have one batch of the three-year trainees going into hospitals as trained nurses and one lot from the four-year trainees. Thus, it is premature for the Government to claim that it is now expedient to alter the system. Let me recall the conditions applying to nurses in 1947 when the present Government took office. Considering the pay and other conditions at that time, the Government did an excellent job in bringing the nurses into a position somewhat comparable with that of people engaged in other professions.

Hon. G. Fraser: Do not make a party question of this or you might be on soft ground.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am quite prepared to acknowledge what was done by the Government and I do not fear criticism of anything I am saying. I give the Government credit for the improvement brought about, which nobody will deny. Probably not many members are aware that, some time in June, the Nurses Registration Board made two decisions. The first was that legislation should be introduced to enable nursing aides to be recognised and the other was that country hospitals, which had been used as training centres, should no longer exist as such.

It was only after the members for the districts, municipal councillors, the medical profession and the matrons and nurses themselves had applied extreme pressure to the Government and the department that the status quo was resumed, and those hospitals were reinstated as training centres. That decision was a big mistake and it was made at the same time as this one to have nursing aides, or as the new title describes them, "assistant nurses." Therefore it is premature for the Government to bring down this measure when we are just beginning to reap the benefits of the plan that was put into operation in 1948. One very bad feature of this ar-

rangement is that, to a certain extent, it creates class distinction and, in addition, I am more worried about the conditions under which assistant nurses or nursing aides will operate.

Hon. R. J. Boylen: There is no more class distinction here than there is between a dental surgeon and a dental mechanic.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes there is, because in a hospital we have trained nurses. Many of the girls who are at present going through their training will, when they find out the conditions applying to an assistant nurse, take the easier road. The girls will know that they will work in hospitals and will be called nurses irrespective of their title in the Bill. They will have very little responsibility because they will not have to undergo a course of training or attend tedious lectures. At the end of three years they can get married without any responsibility—

Hon. L. Craig: No one can get married without responsibility.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: —in regard to nursing.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: What is your objection to these nursing aides?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The girls who would ordinarily do the full course of training will take the easy way out and act as assistant nurses for the time. The department loses, through marriage and other causes, something like 80 per cent. of the trained nurses. If more of them do not complete their training we will probably find in 10 years' time that there will be insufficient trained nurses to carry out the necessary work. What is more, a fully trained girl who gets married can come back into the profession—and many of them do—but if a girl is a nursing aide she can never come back to do a fully qualified job. The plan which was put into operation by Dr. Cook has been well worth while. The nurses are quite happy. The medical profession in my area does not want the scheme proposed in the Bill, and the nurses themselves do not like it.

Hon. R. J. Boylen: The Nurses Registration Board approved of it.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes, but what is the Nurses Registration Board?

Hon. R. J. Boylen: The Nurses Union approved of it, too.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Some members of the medical profession might agree to it, but some do not. Some of the nurses might, but a lot do not. This is all the more reason why the Government should stay its hand and give the matter further consideration until at least our second or third lot of nurses, who are training now, are out of their training. It could then decide whether there was any need to play around with a very doubtful scheme.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
(Hon. C. H. Simpson—Midland—in reply) [4.55]: I do not propose to reply to the hon. member at length. I take it the substance of his request is that his submission shall be placed before the Minister and the Public Health Department. I hope he will accept my assurance that that will be done. I think it has been said quite clearly that one of the main reasons for the introduction of the Bill is that it complies with requests from the Western Australian Nurses Association which, I think, must be recognised as the official mouthpiece of the nurses themselves.

It is quite true that some years ago there was a shortage of nurses, and that shortage has been largely overcome. One of the difficulties in maintaining an adequate supply of nurses then was the fact that two out of every three trainees starting on their course either left the department during their period of training, or married during their first year as actual nurses. I knew the anxiety of the Public Health Department was, in view of our build up of population, to ensure that there would be an adequate supply of nurses to staff the hospitals. I assure the hon. member that what he has said will be brought under the notice of the department and the Minister concerned.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

BILLS (5)—FIRST READING.

1. Workers' Compensation Act Amendment.
2. Brands Act Amendment.
3. The Fremantle Gas and Coke Company's Act Amendment.
4. Traffic Act Amendment (No. 3).
(Hon. E. M. Davies in charge).
5. Fremantle Municipal Tramways and Electric Lighting Act Amendment
(Hon. E. M. Davies in charge).

Received from the Assembly.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED.

1. Traffic Act Amendment (No. 2).
2. Mining Act Amendment (No. 1).
Without amendment.

BILL—EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Assembly's Message.

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Council's amendment.

BILL—MAIN ROADS ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and passed.

BILL—PLANT DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. Sir Charles Latham—Central) [5.3] in moving the second reading said: This Bill is a complementary piece of legislation to a measure that was recently discussed in this House. There are two different Acts of Parliament which deal with this subject and one covers regulations and the amount of fees payable. It is necessary to amend this Act to bring it into line with the legislation that was recently introduced and discussed in this Chamber. All the measure does is to give power to increase the charge from 1s. to 2s., as mentioned in Section 39 of the principal Act. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [5.5]: I did not hear all that the Minister had to say when he introduced the Bill, but I have a recollection that we passed exactly the same piece of legislation only a week or so ago.

The Minister for Agriculture: I thought we did, too.

HON. G. FRASER: I am positive of it, because I remember speaking on it. I would like the Minister to check up on the point.

On motion by **HON. R. J. BOYLEN**, debate adjourned.

BILL—MARKETING OF BARLEY ACT AMENDMENT (CONTINUANCE).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 13th November.

HON. C. W. D. BARKER (North) [5.6]: I asked for the adjournment of the debate in order to study the measure. I listened carefully to the arguments that have been advanced by all members and during the last week growers, merchants, brewers, malsters, and everyone concerned in the production, disposal and use of barley has discussed this question with me.

The Minister for Agriculture: It is an important Bill.

HON. C. W. D. BARKER: In these circumstances, I ask every member not to record a silent vote on this measure and I am afraid that I cannot support it because it is in the interests of the majority of people in the State to discontinue this piece of legislation. I have listened carefully to all sides and I have drawn my own conclusions. I find that the board has done nothing to justify its existence; it has not increased the production of barley and, as a matter of fact, our production is less now than it was in the year 1949-50. In the year 1951-52, 56,547

acres of barley were grown and under the present marketing arrangements there has been no encouragement for growers to increase the acreage.

HON. L. A. LOGAN: Why do you not get the right reason?

HON. C. W. D. BARKER: In 1949-50, 67,965 acres of barley were grown.

Members interjected.

HON. C. W. D. BARKER: I understand that there are both two-row and six-row barley and that the farmer has always advocated a competitive market.

HON. A. R. JONES: Orderly marketing!

HON. C. W. D. BARKER: Why the sudden change of attitude? Is it because the board has guaranteed the farmer a considerable rise in the price of barley?

HON. A. L. LOTON: You have somersaulted.

HON. C. W. D. BARKER: If the price of barley were to increase suddenly, that would be reflected in the price of beer—the working man's pot of beer—and also in the quality of our beer of which we are exporting large quantities at the moment. I learned that it is harmful to bulk two-row barley instead of malting it.

The Minister for Agriculture: You have been got at.

HON. C. W. D. BARKER: I have not. I have drawn my own conclusions.

The Minister for Agriculture: You have not.

HON. C. W. D. BARKER: And I am stating my own conclusions. I think the Minister's statement that I have been got at, is unfair.

The PRESIDENT: Does the hon. member desire the phrase withdrawn?

HON. C. W. D. BARKER: Yes.

The PRESIDENT: I must ask the Minister to withdraw the phrase.

The Minister for Agriculture: I will withdraw the comment if it hurts the hon. member.

HON. C. W. D. BARKER: I am taking the broad view on this subject.

The Minister for Agriculture: Very!

HON. C. W. D. BARKER: I think it is in the interests of the State that this board should be abolished. We have more marketing boards than we have road boards and nobody can say that they are an advantage. Look at the Egg Board, the Onion Board, the Potato Board and every other type of board! Nobody can say that those boards have done any good or improved the products over which they have control. I cannot agree to this Bill and therefore I intend to vote against it.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Suburban) [5.10]: As far as I can see, there is nothing to warrant the continuance of the

Barley Board. I have always been against boards and pools; there is only one law, and that is the law of supply and demand.

Hon. L. A. Logan: The law of the jungle.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: If we have any more boards this country will go back to the jungle.

Hon. L. A. Logan: This is not another one.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Then if we continue them we will be going back to the jungle.

Hon. L. C. Diver: How about insurance pools?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: That may be all right. I have not the slightest objection to any voluntary pool but I have the strongest objection to a compulsory pool and the forcing of people to pool their produce when they do not want to market their products in that manner. It is quite obvious that there are a number of producers who do not want to join the pool.

Hon. L. A. Logan: A large majority of them do.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: A considerable number of those who have influence do not want to join the pool, otherwise it would not be necessary to have a compulsory pool.

Hon. L. A. Logan: Not one grower has said that he does not want it. After all, the grower produces the barley.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I have spoken to only one farmer and he says that this pool is a diabolical thing.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: He must be a St. George's Terrace farmer.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: No, on the contrary he is a farmer who is very much against pools on the ground that they mean one price for the product and consequently there is no incentive to improve the quality. I hear no remarks to indicate that members disagree with that view. If this board is continued there will be no incentive for growers to improve the quality of barley, and, so far as two-row barley is concerned, it is quality that counts. If a farmer can produce good quality two-row barley, why should he not be able to demand his own price?

Hon. L. A. Logan: You could not have a fixed price for it.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I am not speaking of the past; I am speaking of the future.

Hon. L. A. Logan: Give him a chance to prove it.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: That is what I want; I want to give him a chance to prove that if he wants a pool, a voluntary one will be set up. I object to forcing anyone into using a pool if he does not want to do so. The use of a pool lowers the

quality of the product and lessens the incentive to produce a good quality barley. I see no reason why a producer should not have the absolute right to dispose of this commodity as he thinks fit.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is what he wants.

Hon. A. R. Jones: He has asked for that.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Then I support him and I trust that the two members who have interjected will vote with me in an effort to defeat the Bill. That will give the producer an opportunity of disposing of his product as he wishes, in whatever market he wants, to whoever he likes and for whatever price he cares to ask—that is the ordinary practice of supply and demand. Thus the price will be fixed between a willing seller and a willing buyer and that is the only way in which a nation can work.

Hon. A. R. Jones: You would like to get us back to the 1930's.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I would like to get the hon. member back to the time when we did not have any pools. It is obvious that bulk-handling is at the back of this Bill.

Hon. A. R. Jones: Why?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Read the Bill. The Minister for Agriculture: Do you object to bulk-handling?

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: I do for two-row barley. I can only tell members what I have been told because I am not a barley-grower, a maltster or a brewer, and I drink very little beer. I do not come into any of those categories, because they do not affect me personally. I am informed that two-row barley for malting cannot be held by maltsters in bulk. It has to be bagged because it has to be kept for two or three months.

Hon. A. R. Jones: They could bag it after they got the barley.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Of course they could, and they could pay the farmer for bagging it for them if they liked, and the farmer could charge them accordingly. Why compel them to do what is proposed? Why cannot the farmer be allowed to deliver barley in bags and save a lot of labour? Members should leave it open. If the producers want a pool, let them have it. If they do not, I will support them, and I will not force them to have a pool. Accordingly, I intend to oppose the second reading of the Bill.

HON. H. L. ROCHE (South) [5.16]: In rising to support the measure, I express the hope that the House will agree to the second reading. I point out to one member who has spoken this afternoon that, despite what he may have heard about control and the statements that may have been made to him, I would

imagine that they have arisen from the rather intensive lobbying that has been proceeding against this measure. I advise him that the growers are entirely content that this legislation should be continued. I think most members of this House will agree that the growers who produce the barley and own it, are those who are primarily concerned in this matter.

When I say that the growers are content, I have yet to hear of even one individual grower who is opposed to the continuance of the legislation. I am quite certain that no section of organised growers is opposed to it. As an illustration of that, I shall read telegrams that we members who represent the South Province have received in connection with the Bill. The first comes from the growers in the Ongerup area, and reads—

Joint meeting of growers from Gnowangerup, Borden, Ongerup and Tambellup areas, 45 present, unanimously urge strongest support passage of barley Bill now before House.

The second was received from the president of the barley section of the Katanning zone council of the Farmers' Union. It reads—

Barley section Katanning zone council urge full support to barley Bill.

Hon. G. Fraser: Those telegrams were sent to you because those people know how you hate controls!

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: I am not enthusiastic about controls.

Hon. R. J. Boylen: But you like this one!

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: At the same time, I fail to see where controls to which I have taken exception and to which certain members of this House gave their approval a little while ago, although they are opposed to control in this instance, can be compared with that envisaged in connection with the Bill before the House, which simply provides machinery to meet the requirements of growers of barley in connection with the marketing of their product. I cannot for the life of me see how the other controls can be compared with that applying to the activities of people regarding the collective marketing of their own produce at their own request.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: In an orderly way.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: On the other hand, the measures that I opposed and will continue to oppose implied control in quite a different direction, yet members of this House were prepared for controls such as I refer to. With regard to the statement that the acreage under barley has declined in this State, I point out to Mr. Barker that that applies to two-row barley, which is down 50 per cent. compared with its high-level production figure. I

cannot give the percentage increase regarding six-row barley, but it has been increasing every year for the last three or four years. It is significant that the production of six-row barley is sufficiently attractive for the growers to produce more and more of that type. On the other hand, two-row barley, in connection with which some people are working so assiduously to destroy the Bill and its machinery, is bought solely by those very people.

It is unfortunate that the quantity produced has been declining, and will continue to do so, until the maltsters and brewers, who take all the two-row barley produced in Western Australia, are prepared to face the issue and pay a price that will make two-row barley as attractive as six-row barley. While two-row barley sold last year at 14s. 3d. per bushel, six-row barley was selling at 17s. a bushel. Thus we have the maltsters and others lobbying and condemning this legislative machinery that was provided, not by the present Government or by a Minister drawn from the political party to which I belong, but by Hon. J. T. Tonkin, who was Minister for Agriculture in the Labour Government in 1946. Those people are condemning the Act because they see in it, as the grower does, some protection for the grower.

A statement was also repeated in the House today, which was made on a prior occasion, that two-row barley cannot be stored in bulk. For the information of any members who may have been impressed by that contention, I correct it by saying that last year the Barley Board conducted an experiment in the storing of two-row barley, and it has proved successful. Where the average outturn of malting barley in bags was 93 per cent. the lowest outturn, I understand, in connection with the bulk experiment, which was conducted at Burges Siding, was 90 per cent. Therefore, I hope members will not be influenced by the statement to which I have referred.

Some of us have been informed that quite extravagant statements are being made regarding the increased prices that maltsters and breweries will have to charge for beer if this legislation is continued. I shall deal with that aspect by pointing out to members who may not be otherwise aware of the fact, that in South Australia it is estimated that 35 gallons of beer are produced from one bushel of barley.

Hon. L. A. Logan: And what is the quality?

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: Members know the quality of beer. In Western Australia between 28 and 30 gallons of beer are produced from a bushel of barley.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: That would be when six-row barley is mixed with two-row barley.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: No, that is two-row barley. Thus, if we take one bushel of barley at 15s. for easy reckoning—although last year it cost only 14s. 3½d. in bags, and take into consideration the 30 gallons of beer produced from that bushel, and take it that the growers gave the maltsters the barley for nothing, it would make a difference of only 6d. a gallon on the beer. Does any member suggest seriously that if the growers did give the barley to the maltsters for nothing, the 6d. per gallon would be passed on in the price of beer?

Hon. R. J. Boylen: That would be all right if there was an increase of 6d. and that was the end of it; but so far it has been a case of an increase of 6d. and then another increase of 6d., and so on.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: The price of beer has not gone up as a result of the activities of the Barley Board in Western Australia.

Hon. L. A. Logan: It may have gone up because the price of water has increased!

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: There may be something in that! I do not think anyone would suggest that the price for barley would increase by 15s. No one, not even the most avaricious barley-grower, if there should be such an individual, would suggest that the price should go up by 15s. a bushel. It is quite possible that next season the price may go up from 2s. to 2s. 6d. a bushel, which would represent 1d. per gallon. It is ridiculous to suggest that that increase will mean anything to people who purchase beer over the counter.

As a matter of fact, in the Press today there is a statement that already the breweries are applying for an increase in the price of beer. That is not being done because the price of barley has been increased to encourage the further production of two-row barley. In South Australia, a marketing board operates in this matter, and I understand the applicable legislation has just been renewed. While there have been complaints that the middlemen and the maltsters are out-voted on the Barley Board here, I would remind members that in this State there are three grower-representatives in the board, two elected by the growers themselves and one appointed by the Minister.

In addition, there are two representatives of the brewing and malting trades, and a chairman. I know that on occasions—I think it has happened more than once—the growers have had reason to complain because the chairman voted on certain issues with the other interests, whereas the grower-representatives thought he should have voted with them. In such instances, of course, the proposal, whatever it might be, would be passed in the negative. In South Australia, there

is a different experience in connection with two-row barley production, and there perhaps the middlemen and maltsters do not get any consideration at all.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: So in South Australia, two-row barley production is increasing.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: Perhaps this is why: On the Barley Board there the growers have three representatives, the maltsters one, and then there is the chairman. However, I do not think that is the reason because on Eyre's Peninsula in South Australia, where most of the barley is grown, it is sown as a following crop to wheat whereas in Western Australia barley is grown mostly on lighter land. Particularly is it happening with the six-row barley that it is helping to develop a lot of the new lighter land which has not been successfully developed before. South Australians are able to grow a good malting barley on their wheat country as an immediately following crop, and it is consequently a reasonably cheap crop to grow. Our barley grown in heavy ground is too steeply for the manufacturing processes in the brewing trade and that gives the South Australian barley growers a considerable advantage.

As I have said, six-row barley is helping to develop a lot of our lighter country. A few weeks ago I had an opportunity to see what is happening in the area east of Gnowangerup on a second-class type of mallee country that has been lying idle since time began. There, hundreds of thousands of acres can be cleared ready for the plough at 10s. an acre. It has never been worth while to do that before. But it has been discovered that six-row barley will give seven and eight bags to the acre on fallow land for a first crop on that type of country. That land is not peculiar to the Gnowangerup-Ongerup area.

I understand that through the Esperance country similar results have been experienced from experimental work done there. I also understand—though I do not know the area—that west of the Midland line it is much the same. This development of the six-row barley industry seems to promise tremendous possibilities. The people growing this barley and developing that type of land are the ones who are asking the Government to introduce this legislation. I certainly think it is worth considerably more friendly understanding and support than certain members, at the behest of the interests who market and use barley, seem prepared to give it.

Most of our six-row barley is being exported. A big quantity seems destined to go to Japan where it is being treated and used with rice, the resultant product forming a substitute for rice in the rice-eating countries, owing to the shortage of that commodity and the increasing demand for supplies. It would appear

that under orderly marketing, such as we have through the Marketing Board here and such as exists in South Australia and Victoria, those possibilities can be effectively availed of only if we have organised collective marketing.

Some reference was made to the desire of certain interests to buy in bags. They can always secure barley in bags, but someone has to pay for those bags; and the hostility to bulk-handling seems to me to come from those merchant interests that want to buy barley in bags but do not want to pay the cost. Bulk-handling of barley means a very material saving to the growers, with bags costing as much as 5s. to 5s. 9d. each. That is nearly 2s. a bushel. The people who oppose bulk-handling are in effect saying that the grower who finds two-row barley a doubtful proposition should be prepared to pay another 2s. a bushel in order to bag barley for those who oppose bulk-handling.

If members will consider this matter on its merits, I think they will be prepared to support this legislation introduced by the Government and also to recognise that at this stage of the season, with the barley crops already being harvested and sent to the seaboard, if this legislation does not pass, we will have a condition of utter chaos.

Hon. H. K. Watson: That is ridiculous. The board would simply wind up the pool.

Hon. H. L. ROCHE: If the hon. member had a closer first-hand knowledge of the position, he would realise what a chaotic condition of affairs there would be with no Barley Marketing Board operating and no pool in existence and the growers throwing their barley on the market for the speculators and the merchants to pick up at their own profit and in their own interests. I hope the House will support the second reading.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. Sir Charles Latham—Central—in reply) [5.36]: To those who have assisted me, I say thank you; and to those who have said they intend to oppose the Bill, I will address some remarks which I hope will be convincing enough to make them change their minds. I was amazed to hear Mr. Barker make the statement he did, because I should have thought he would be a champion of organised marketing. I know of no system that would give us a better lead in this regard than unionism. Let us examine what unionism means. I do not think that anybody who knows anything about it will condemn it. It is organised marketing of labour. So if we are going to break down our organised marketing arrangements for produce, are we going to extend it and break down unionism in Australia or in this State?

Hon. R. J. Boylen: They are different types.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: They are not different at all! Let me recall to the hon. member's mind what happened in 1931-32 amongst the dairying people. Mr. Fraser will remember it. At that time the milk producers in this State reached the stage, through lack of organisation, at which they were nearly starved, and they were pushing each other off the land. I have not forgotten that, and believe the effort made on their behalf was the first piece of marketing legislation, outside of trade unionism, introduced in this State. It proved a success, and today there is a supply of milk for which the community is prepared to pay and which gives a reasonable living to those engaged in the industry.

I remember very well that Mr. Fraser was one who did his best to help those people who were undercutting one another to such an extent that milk came down to about 5d. per gallon. I make an appeal to members to recall some of those instances. If it was right to assist the milk producers in that direction, is it not right and wise to extend that principle to all commodities? I will agree with members who say we have no right to extort from people a price that is out of all reason.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: The merchants will do that if they get a chance.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I have not forgotten when wheat was 1s. 6d. per bushel, and some people who today are championing the case against organised marketing did not give very much help to the wheatgrowers at that period. Those who are using their influence against this measure should remember that we are asking the man on the land to produce more, and we ought to give him some encouragement by trying to assure for him a profitable return for his labour. I make that appeal to members who feel justified in declaring that they will not support this legislation. For six years the measure has been on the statute book. It was placed there by a Labour Government and was passed by this House without any opposition. So far as I know, it has never been abused. Yet now, for some unearthly reason, there seems to have come into existence opposition which is unjustifiable.

Hon. H. Hearn: In your opinion.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It is unjustifiable, and I will give facts about it. I will take my time in replying to the debate. There has never been any justifiable opposition to the measure. Barley was not used formerly for the purposes for which it is employed today. For a long time brewers had to import their barley. I acknowledge that in order to ascertain whether it was possible to produce barley here, brewers helped the

growers by providing seed of the quality they wanted and paying a fixed price for the crop.

But originally the only use for barley was for pig feeding. Since cereals have been in short supply throughout the world, however, barley has had an added value and is now being used as a food-stuff for human beings, and it is on that account that its price has increased. Unionism is just a marketing arrangement for labour. I know of no body which has not a protecting organisation. There are the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Mines, the Associated Banks and the British Medical Association.

Hon. H. Hearn: They have no legislation.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: They do not need it.

Hon. L. Craig: One does not have to belong to them.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Nor to our organisation; but it is necessary for a man to belong to a union if he wants to protect his labour.

Hon. H. Hearn: That is not quite true.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, it is.

Hon. H. Hearn: No, there is not compulsory unionism.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: There is a compulsory Employers' Federation.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It is quite unusual for Mr. Hearn to tell me that. There is certainly some sort of organisation in connection with the supply of beer, because it does not matter where one goes one does not get it at a cheap price. There seems to be a well standardised system of distribution. Whatever body of people is concerned, they have an organisation to protect their interests, and we have never opposed that.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: It is not compulsory.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No. In a general way, there has not been compulsory legislation.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: The pooling of oats is going along all right under a voluntary system.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: This legislation has been on the statute book for six years, and all I have attempted to do is to ask that it be continued for another three years. One would have thought, if we are to set the legislation aside at this stage, that members would have said what objections there have been to it in the past, but not one has told us that during the past six years it has deprived the brewers or anyone else of anything. I therefore believe that the information that some members have apparently received in the course of the last fortnight or three weeks has misled them and it is my intention to give the facts and figures for their information.

If members believe, as I do, that after hearing all the facts for and against, one should form one's own opinion, I trust they will adopt that attitude with regard to the measure even at this late hour. I admit that the legislation, as introduced by Hon. J. T. Tonkin, when Minister for Agriculture, gave power to register the growers of barley, but for the last three years that provision has been suspended and anyone who has wished to do so has been free to grow barley.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: But that provision still remains in the Act.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes. They have to apply to the Minister, but while I am Minister there will be no registered growers and there is no intention of applying that provision.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Then one important function of the board has disappeared.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, because there is now no necessity to register growers. When the legislation was introduced, there was practically no market for barley and today there is a good overseas market for it. It would be useless to bring about a stage in the production of barley such as that which was reached in the dairying industry in the 1930's when milk was practically given away.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: That was only during the flush period of production.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The board acquires all the barley produced, with the exception of that required by the farmer for seed or any other purpose on his farm, and barley purchased from the board can be sold again by the buyer, but of course he is not a farmer. I intend to quote, in a few moments, the minutes of the last meeting of the board, so that members will see how misleading has been the information that has been distributed to them in recent weeks. Anyone who purchases barley from the board can deal with it in any way, with the written approval of the board—

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Can you guarantee that they will do that in future?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes. I can judge only by the past.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Then why continue the Act?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Because it is a safeguard. On the hon. member's argument, we might just as well say that, as he is not likely to violate the Criminal Code, we should do away with it. Section 20 provides for the registration of growers, subject to the direction of the Minister, but that provision is not now operative. There has been some comment about two-row barley, which for some reason does not seem to have been very attractive to the grower. I believe that the yield of two-row barley in this

State is not as good as that of six-row barley. I might explain that in two-row barley there are two rows in the head and that six-row barley has six rows in the head, so one can imagine how the latter might give a somewhat heavier yield.

I believe two-row barley grows better in certain classes of soil, which are limited in area, but that does not apply to the same extent to six-row barley. The climate of the eastern wheatbelt is not suitable for barley but that of the Great Southern and up along the coast is ideal for the growing of barley which ripens slowly and is therefore of the type required by brewers. I recently visited Esperance and I will appeal to Mr. Cunningham, if he is in his seat, to support the Bill. In that area we saw remarkable crops of barley though I do not think that district will ever be good wheat country. At all events, I believe it will grow the two-row barley that the brewers require, and a further point is that the barley straw is a valuable fodder for sheep, which also do remarkably well in that area.

Hon. L. A. Logan: That is especially so in the case of the two-row barley straw.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes. In the Esperance district I saw barley crops that will yield at least 10 bags to the acre, and the previous week, at Ravensthorpe, I saw, on Mr. Daw's property, a considerable area of barley that I think will yield at least 12 bags to the acre. There was an equally good wheat crop alongside it.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Does he not want to control his own crop?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, and he will put it into the pool. That is what he wants to do and we will not prevent him from doing it.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: He will do that regardless of what happens here.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Then why oppose the Bill? I thought that Mr. Barker would be in favour of it. He came into this House with a great knowledge of the land, having been an officer of the department that I at present control. I know that we looked upon him as one of our leading men who would go out into the country areas and tell the people what to do and how to do it. When I was informed by senior officers of the department that Mr. Barker was a candidate for the North Province, they expressed regret that he was so foolish as to enter politics, seeing that he was doing such useful work where he was. Yet this evening he tells the House that he is going to support outside interests and not the man on the land!

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: I am trying to prove that I have an opinion of my own.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That is nice, so long as it is the right opinion. I have not yet said that it is not, but I will do so later when I recall to his mind some of the things that the hon. member referred to as facts. I will show him that the information he received was distorted. We have heard the statement that two-row barley cannot be obtained in bags if the merchants desire it, but in fact there is nothing to prevent a merchant or anyone else from purchasing barley in bags. I agree with what Mr. Roche said and I can inform the House that the price of the bags is 70s. 1d. per dozen.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Would that be 6s each?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It would be very close to that figure. The hon. member need not try to catch me by exercising his talents as a mathematician. Who will spend 6s. on a bag if he can deliver his grain without going to that expense?

Hon. H. K. Watson: But he passes the price on.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: He gets something back for the bag, but I have sold too many bags of wheat, for which I got very little, and I say that the hon. member, who has not sold any, does not know much about the question. I can remember the time when £2 was deducted because one had put the wheat in bags. That was done by the people who now have a good mouthpiece in this House to protect them. The outside businessman needs no protection as his training has fitted him to protect himself. All we have to do is to protect the man who is feeding the people and who is trying to get something for his industry. The high cost of bags is one reason why we are advocating bulk-handling. Members who were in the House at the time of its introduction will remember the terrific opposition to bulk-handling that became evident in the early days. Even the Railway Department said that the farmer would have to pay 9d per bushel extra to have his wheat carted in bulk.

Then there was the argument raised by the waterside workers at Fremantle. I can remember the A.W.U. and the waterside workers quarrelling over the shaking of the bags, and the farmers had to pay demurrage on their wheat while the argument was being settled. Bulk-handling has never been favourably received because it has taken from the merchant one avenue through which they were obtaining revenue. I do not mind people opposing bulk-handling, but we must protect the men who produce the goods that require bags. Mr. Watson told the House that there is no means of handling barley oversea.

Hon. H. K. Watson: What did the Minister say I said?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Mr. Watson said—

Another point in connection with barley is that if we ship it in bulk it becomes a real problem in the United Kingdom to handle it, and one of the first things to be done there is to rebag it before it is sold and that, of course, adds to the ultimate cost to the purchaser.

The hon. member will admit he made that statement, but these are the facts. The exporting countries that ship their barley in bulk are America, Canada and Denmark and it is received and handled in bulk in the United Kingdom, the Continental countries and Japan. I obtained this information from a source that is very reliable, so there is no need for Mr. Watson to get that idea into his head.

Hon. H. K. Watson: It is conceded that the United Kingdom is a terminal for bulk barley, but what happens then?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: There is no trouble because all the facilities are there; they were present in 1935 when I visited the United Kingdom.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: The Minister is speaking of six-row barley?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I am speaking of barley and in this case the hon. member is right; it is six-row barley, because we are not exporting any two-row barley. Will members appreciate this? Barley, as well as other cereals, is subject to pests. It is easier to keep cereals free of such pests in bulk than it is in bags. Any member who knows the position at Geraldton will remember that when wheat was stacked there in bags waiting for shipment, it was riddled with a black beetle and the people living in Marine Terrace had to keep their doors shut because the beetle was getting into their groceries and other foodstuffs. That has been obviated by the introduction of bulk-handling of wheat and by treating the wheat itself, which keeps it clear and clean. So barley will be protected much more efficiently in bulk than it would be otherwise. A statement was made in this House that barley was no good if it were handled in bulk and that it lost its value for malting.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: It loses its identity.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It does not matter about its identity if it is two-row barley.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: There are various types of two-row barley.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Is the hon. member speaking with authority?

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt: Yes, informed authority.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Two-row barley grown in the wheatbelt would be inferior to that grown on the coast, but none is grown on the coast so therefore there has been no complaint about the quality of barley produced in the last six years. Two-row barley is being produced in the same areas today. At present some bagged barley is being taken by maltsters, who, I understand, have accepted delivery of a few bags that have arrived. On the other hand, some bulk barley is being stored at Swan-st. and the two-row and six-row varieties have to be kept separate. I do not want members to run away with the idea that the people handling this product are not careful, because they have a responsibility not only to the grower but also to the purchasers. The two varieties are therefore kept separate and I have been asked to endeavour to pass this legislation as expeditiously as possible, or, alternatively, to reject it just as quickly.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: It will be the latter.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It is not often the hon. member makes a mistake, but he may be mistaken on this occasion. Even now the hon. member may be sorry that he spoke about barley and if he is, there is nothing better than a repentant sinner. A test was made of two-row barley, 84 tons being placed in bins in December, 1951, and in January, 1952. In August, 1952, 50 bags were taken from store and malted.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: That is 18 months.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No, eight months. Mr. Barrett reported that the malt was of good quality and showed a 98 per cent germination count. I would point out, for members' information, that all barley is germinated for malting purposes. I have a great respect for Mr. Barrett who is a maltster, and I appreciate his knowledge. At the end of October, 1952, a further 50 bags were taken out, and so far no report has been received about them. However, I think if the report had been a bad one, it would have reached us by now. I am satisfied in my own mind that they are quite satisfactory. On the 7th November, 1952, further quantities were taken out and the germination test on that occasion proved to be 100 per cent.

Those tests were made by the officers of the pool with the assistance of the scientific staff, and they showed that bulk-handling of barley did not affect the quality. It is proposed to leave a quantity in store till March and between now and then a fortnightly check will be carried out. Because insufficient two-row barley was produced in Western Australia last year, the balance required was imported from South Australia at 11s. 2d. a bushel plus freight at 4s. 2d. a bushel. The maltsters in this State took delivery

of six per cent. of the six-row barley produced. Since then, the price of barley has increased in South Australia. Some member said that there was no price-control of barley in that State, but that is wrong, because the price is fixed by the South Australian board. Victoria and New South Wales are similarly affected.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: But they have no control in New South Wales.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No, they are the purchasers. They ensure that they get a fair deal. The note that I have here mentions that price-control on barley has been lifted. That is so, but the legislation governing it still exists. If anything unfair were done, would members charge the Government with being irresponsible, and consider that it was unfair and unreasonable if barley prices were recontrolled?

Hon. H. K. Watson: I think you can be reasonably relied upon.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, and in this instance more than reasonably relied upon. If members think that the price will be unreasonable, I will be one who will support price-control, because I know that the farmers and the people handling the product do not desire to have any difference of opinion between them. During the six years this legislation has been in force, there have been no complaints. Mr. Barker was again wrong in another point. His catechism was not too good because even if he thought so, he did not get the proper reply. In fact, there has been an increase in the production of barley. Today it is estimated that there are 4,080 tons of two-row barley available. Last year there was considerably less than that.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: That is what I said.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That tonnage of two-row barley equals 182,000 bushels, an increase of 40,000 bushels over last year's production. That is the estimated figure, and it is pretty right. The latest estimate for six-row barley is 24,000 tons or 1,073,453 bushels as compared with 933,000 bushels last year. Therefore, there is an increase in the production of six-row barley, too. The two-row variety is always kept separate from the six-row because it is of greater value to the maltsters. The Bill aims at doing everything it can to assist the maltsters and, contrary to the feeling that has arisen recently, I think good relationship exists between the two parties handling the product. On behalf of the bulk-handling people and the growers themselves, I want to say that they desire the very best of harmonious relationship. I had a look over the works recently and I was received with the utmost courtesy.

Hon. G. Bennetts: If barley were grown in Esperance, it would have to be bagged there.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It could be grown there and handled in bulk because recently I saw some small steel bins being erected at Esperance. This may be an advantage to the hon. member because there has never been a better champion than he is for increased production in Esperance, and he is being admired in the Esperance district because of his consistency in that direction. I feel sure that if barley is produced in the Esperance area, the hon. gentleman will see that the bins are erected so that these people will receive all that is possible for their product. Therefore, for that reason I feel certain that if the hon. member is not a convert, this information will help him to be one.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: There are some awfully good members in this House tonight.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Quite good, but there are some very bad ones, too, owing to their lack of knowledge. I want to put a stop to this talk about compulsory bulk-handling of barley, because there is no such thing.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: In conclusion, I would like to give members some idea of what barley was marketed last year oversea. The following figures will be of interest to the House:—

Approximately 2,000 tons shipped in bulk to Germany at 21s. 9d. per bushel f.o.b.

Approximately 700 tons of weather-stained barley (that is, barley discoloured on the husk) in bags to the United Kingdom at 17s. 4½d. per bushel, f.o.b.

Approximately 900 tons of barley in bags shipped to Japan at 16s. 10d. per bushel, f.o.b.

The barley sent to the United Kingdom was used for stockfeed, and the barley sent to Germany was used for malting purposes. I think members will know that the Germans make a beer which is a little harsher than ours, which is more refined. They manufacture two kinds of beer. One is what they call tanned beer and the other black beer. I am not sure whether this is because of the colouring or not. It also has a different flavour.

The barley that was sent to Japan was for human consumption as pressed barley. As Mr. Roche pointed out, that was used as a substitute for rice. It is bleached white and has the appearance of rice except that it is a different shape, and when it is cooked it has not a barley flavour. The Japanese have somehow denaturalised the barley itself and caused it to have a

different flavour. The lower price paid by Japan was due to the time of sale; relatively, it was 3s. 10d. per bushel above London parity at the time of sale.

Barley has been reduced in price this year but nevertheless there is a ready market for it in Japan and already some barley has been sold to that country at a very high figure. Mr. Watson said that there has been bulk barley for a couple of years. That is not right. Last year some barley was bulked but it came from the northern part of the State and the rest of the barley was marketed in bags.

Hon. H. K. Watson: At 70s.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The price of bags has been reduced since then. The hon. member also said—

The board has for the last 10 years had very efficient management yet the trustees of the Wheat Pool are seeking control, and an order has gone forth that the management is to be transferred to the trustees of the Wheat Pool.

This is just conjecture; it has not happened at all. Mr. Watson was misinformed when he made that statement. The position is that the pool people are not interested in it at all. It is the board itself that determines such matters. The hon. member has stated that the board is always loaded against the maltsters and the brewers, but I want to make it clear that that is not the position at all.

There are three members representing the primary producers; two nominated by the growers and one by the Minister, and the board is as it was last year. There is one representative of the maltsters, one of the brewers and the other man is an independent chairman. When there is an equality of votes the motion is not carried, and when it is negatived that is the end of it.

Hon. R. J. Boylen: The chairman has no casting vote.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No, none whatever, and in every instance that has been effective. I have a copy of the last minutes and so that members will not be misled by statements made by others who are misinformed, I will read the two motions—

Mr. Barrett moved that Union Maltings and the Swan Brewery be appointed licensed receivers for six-row barley in bags up to the quantity that they expected to buy—

Hon. H. K. Watson: What is the date of that minute?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That is the last meeting.

Hon. H. K. Watson: Would the Minister answer my query?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It is the last statement prior to that made by the hon. member. The resolution continues—

—and that Co-op Bulk Handling be appointed for any additional quantity of six-row that may be delivered in bags. Mr. Jacoby seconded, and it was carried.

There was another motion as follows:—

Mr. Barrett moved that Co-op Bulk Handling be appointed licensed receivers for all two-row barley delivered in bulk and that Union Maltings and the Swan Brewery be appointed for all two-row barley in bags. Mr. Kelsall seconded that and it was carried. It was resolved that the manager secure permission from the Minister to approach the Crown Solicitor in connection with the drafting of licensed receivers and selling agents agreements.

That will show clearly that the dice is not loaded against these people; it will also show that the feeling is very good. I would like members to weigh the evidence submitted by me and remember that the Bill itself is only a continuing measure of what has been in operation for six years. As far as I know there have never been any complaints.

Hon. H. K. Watson: Would the Minister continue with those minutes which refer to the dumping of the existing management?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: This may be what the hon. member is referring to—

Arrangements for 1952-53 season. Mr. Kelsall said that grower members had that morning had a conference with branch representatives of the barley and oats section of the Farmers' Union and they had been instructed to press for the immediate transfer of the board management to the trustees of the Wheat Pool of W.A. Mr. Kelsall said it was a difficult subject for him to bring forward and he wished it understood that there was no slight or reflection on the present manager who had always carried out his duties very capably and courteously, but the barley growers felt that under the present handling setup it would be advantageous to have the management where the handling and oversea selling arrangements were concentrated. Mr. Kelsall moved that the future management of the board is transferred to the trustees of the Wheat Pool of W.A. Mr. Parkins seconded.

Mr. Barrett said that the future of his company (Union Maltings) was tied up in bagged barley and he objected to the compulsory handling of barley in bulk which would deprive his company of the opportunity of offering for barley in bags and the resultant control over quality. For these reasons he objected to and opposed the motion.

Mr. Parkins said that farmers these days were bulk-minded, but Mr. Barrett said he wanted to compete openly to offer farmers extra remuneration for delivering in bags. Mr. Kelsall said that Mr. Barrett had the wrong idea—there would be no compulsion to deliver in bulk. However, Mr. Barrett said his company wanted the opportunity to offer growers through the board, the additional costs of bagging barley as against bulking, and he felt that this would be denied under the proposed new management.

The chairman said the motion of Mr. Kelsall was a "bombshell" and he would like the opportunity to think the matter over and suggested that Mr. Kelsall withdraw his motion and a meeting could be arranged a fortnight hence when his motion could again be put. Mr. Kelsall said he could not agree to this.

Mr. Jacoby moved as an amendment that the matter be deferred and again be brought forward at a meeting to be arranged in about a fortnight. Mr. Barrett seconded. The amendment was put to the vote and lost. The motion was then put and, as voting was even, the motion was lost.

If that satisfies the hon. member I will be quite prepared to give it to him. I have nothing to hide. I ask members not to be guided by outside influences but to decide on the evidence I have submitted and on the fact that for the last six years barley has been controlled by an excellent management.

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

Ayes	.....	16
Noes	.....	13
Majority for	.....	3

Ayes.

Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. L. A. Logan
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. A. L. Loton
Hon. L. C. Diver	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. C. H. Henning	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. J. McI. Thomson
Hon. Sir Chas. Latham	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. F. R. H. Lavery	Hon. J. Cunningham

(Teller.)

Noes.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker	Hon. E. M. Heenan
Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. J. G. Haislop
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. J. Murray
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. Sir Frank Gibson	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. R. J. Boylen
Hon. H. Hearn	

(Teller.)

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Hon. J. A. Dimmitt in the Chair; the Minister for Agriculture in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Section 41 amended:

Hon. H. K. WATSON: The Bill proposes to continue the operations of the board for another three years. In view of the change-over from bagged to bulk-handling and the serious difficulties that have been mentioned during the discussion, we should provide for a review of this legislation in 12 months' time. Then members would be afforded an opportunity to judge its effect. I move an amendment—

That in line 3 the word "fifty-five" be struck out and the word "fifty-three" inserted in lieu.

Hon. G. FRASER: I rose at the same time as did Mr. Watson, but not with the intention of going so far as he proposes. In my opinion, the board, during the next 12 months, will be on trial. One of the reasons that led me to vote for the second reading was that I wanted to give the board a trial under the new conditions. Members have told us of the difficulties that will arise and it is very hard for one to judge what should be done for the best. Therefore I decided that, as the board was in existence, it should be continued for a period experimentally. The questions to be considered will be those of compulsory bulk-handling, the lack of grading and the figure to which the board will raise the price, and it occurred to me that three years might be too long a period. Will the Minister intimate whether 12 months or two years would be sufficient time to enable us to form an opinion?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: In order to ensure success in farming, the land must be fallowed. A considerable amount of fallowing has been done in expectation of sowing it to barley next year. It is believed that the market for barley will be more profitable than for wheat. There has been a change of Government in the United States of America, which country has been very generous to its growers. We shall know next year whether there is to be an international wheat agreement, and this may influence the quantity of barley to be grown. If it becomes more remunerative to grow barley, farmers will turn their attention to that. Japan will need barley owing to the world shortage of rice. Farmers should be given an opportunity to prepare their land.

I cannot accept Mr. Watson's amendment. Probably more than 12 months will be needed to establish bulk-handling facilities and I want the trial to be a reasonable one. The tests on a preliminary basis have been successful, but it would not be fair to the maltsters or brewers if we said that those tests should determine the future policy. I feel sure that throughout the world less grain will be produced if bulk-handling facilities are not installed. Farmers are clamouring for the bulk-

handling of super, which is a very difficult commodity to handle in that way. However, we have to seek the cheapest means of handling all commodities and the cheapest has always been by bulk. The tests being made in the bulk-handling of barley will be completed about March next and, if members are dissatisfied with this legislation, a measure may be introduced to repeal it.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Who will be responsible for the bulk-handling?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. has been operating for 20 years and the whole of the work has been done by the farmers' organisation. I have bagged barley and I assure members that to stand in the broiling sun sewing new bags is not an easy job. To get men to do this work is very hard. Members are desirous of encouraging farmers to produce more food-stuffs, so let us give them a chance. The best market is the home market, and I repeat that if maltsters and brewers are dissatisfied, steps may be taken to repeal this legislation.

Hon. A. R. JONES: I oppose the amendment. The farming industry is perplexed at the rising costs of super, labour and machinery, and some long-range plan should be adopted. If we are going to curtail the operations of the board to one year, we shall not achieve the object of encouraging increased production and making a contribution of a profitable commodity that can be marketed overseas. We should give this legislation a three-year trial so that farmers will be able to plan their planting.

Hon. L. CRAIG: There is some merit in the amendment. I voted against the second reading because I was not quite satisfied that the bulk-handling of barley would be fair to consumers of the product. I understand that the bulk-handling of grain from all over the State will not be in the best interests of consumers. Buyers of seed in England send to other parts of the country for their requirements. Many racehorse-owners, when they buy oats, have a look at the land on which the oats are growing to get an idea of their quality. I am not satisfied that the mixing of barley grown on the coastal sandplain, with barley grown on the heavier soils of the Midland country, will give an even quality barley that will be acceptable to maltsters.

Hon. N. E. Baxter: You do not suggest many growers buy their seed oats out of the bulk bin?

Hon. L. CRAIG: That is the point, but it is sought here to make the maltsters do it. There is nothing in the Bill to say that they can do it in any other way. Mr. Watson's amendment will ensure that the Bill will come up for review next year.

That is the only merit it has. Barley may have to be procured from a particular area. Under the Act, the Governor has power to exempt any area.

The Minister for Agriculture: No.

Hon. L. CRAIG: The Act says so.

The Minister for Agriculture: Tell me where.

Hon. L. CRAIG: In "Part I, Preliminary". The Minister can advise the Governor to exempt any areas. I hope the Minister will take note of any advice he may receive from buyers of barley. It would be a good thing to review this matter next year, and if it is all right we could then extend the legislation for two or three years. I support the amendment.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I oppose the amendment. Mr. Craig said that bulk barley from the Midlands will be mixed with barley from the coastal plains.

Hon. L. Craig: I said it might.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: So far as the bulk-handling of wheat is concerned, the millers do their utmost to get Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. to deliver wheat from picked sidings in the eastern and northern wheatbelts owing to its high milling qualities. If barley from a particular district is better than other barley for malting, the maltsters will ask for the better barley.

Hon. R. J. Boylen: How can they, under a pooling system?

Hon. L. C. DIVER: Quite simply, because each siding is separate. The grain is not put into a port terminal. I have no doubt that the maltsters will nominate the particular sidings from which to get their requirements.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Do you guarantee the board will give it to them?

Hon. L. C. DIVER: No. All I can say is that the millers are successful in getting their requirements from the localities they specify. As we have agreed to the second reading, it would be a waste of time to allow this measure to remain on the statute-book for only 12 months. It will take three years before any irregularities will become apparent, and before any amendments can be framed to deal with them.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The Act contains nothing at all that deals with bulk-handling. If the Act were struck off the statute-book, the farmer would have the right to handle his barley in his own way. The farmer wants to keep his markets. Is he likely to do what Mr. Craig suggests? He is not. Every bushel of two-row barley has been taken by the maltsters. It is true that the barley will be taken into the siding and loaded into the truck, so that there will be Wongan Hills barley, and so on.

The maltsters will know where it comes from, so the class of soil, that has been raised as a bogey against this provision, is all nonsense. The maltsters do not want the outback barley, and in any case barley does not grow there successfully. There is a natural belt in the State for barley production. This is only, in my opinion, a delaying attitude on the part of Mr. Watson and those supporting him. I want members to trust the farmer the same as the farmer trusts his members. If he wants to save a little money by building up an organisation to handle his goods, why not let him?

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: That is so, but why compel him to?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: We are not.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: You are compelling him to sell to the pool.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Because it is a cheaper method. There has been a compulsory pooling system for wheat for a long time, and no complaints.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: What about oats?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: There is nothing compulsory in connection with oats.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Because we put it out.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes. This is the first year it has started, and it will be proved pretty conclusively that the farmer wants it, because very little oats will go to any of the merchants. There is no reason why I should put up a case for the farmer, but I must try to put members right when I feel they are wrong. Would anyone like to start a business with a one-year lease? The hon. member can introduce a Bill next year to amend the Act, if he so desires.

Pressure has been put on me to make alterations, but members are not helping me. It looks as though I am not satisfying the farmer or the people representing the merchants. I have tried to hold the scales evenly. I ask members to accept my word that they can repeal or amend the Act next year if they can get majority support. I hope the Bill will not be amended. This Chamber is supposed to be the property-owners' House, but the other place, the people's House, said that this was a very good measure which had served the people well.

Hon. R. J. Boylen: It said that about the franchise, too.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I ask the Committee not to alter the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Members are requested to confine their remarks to the amendment, which is simply to alter the word "fifty-five" to "fifty-three".

Hon. C. W. D. BARKER: I support the amendment. Mr. Watson did not mean that in 12 months' time the Bill would be brought forward and thrown out, but that it would be given a trial for 12 months and then brought forward so that we could have a look at it. There may be some loopholes that we could deal with, and we might be able to help the farmer. I agree with Mr. Diver that one year is not enough time to try out a plan like this. If it is continued for only one year, we may be able to help the farmer when the continuing measure is brought forward.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You can do that by voting for the three-year period.

Hon. C. W. D. BARKER: Let us give it a trial for twelve months. A full crop will have been delivered and the administration will have been tried out. It may require some alterations and Mr. Watson's amendment will enable us to correct them.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I have listened to the debate very carefully. If 75 per cent. of what Sir Charles has said proves to be true and the amendment is carried, I will support him when the continuing measure is brought forward next session, and I will support a longer term, if it is necessary.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: So will I.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN: However, the only way is to give this matter a twelve months' trial and, like Mr. Craig and others, I think there is a good deal of merit in the proposition put forward by Mr. Watson. After all, we owe an obligation to both the parties that are vitally involved in this measure.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: The Minister asked, "Will the farmer farm his land unless he is sure that the board will operate for three years?" I do not know whether he will or not, but he has done so for the past few years on the basis of an annual continuation of the legislation.

The Minister for Agriculture: It was for three years before.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Very well. If it is extended for another three years, it will mean that this legislation will become permanent because at the end of the three years we will be asked to agree to another continuance measure on the basis that so much money has been expended, not in duplicating the bins at the various sidings but in triplicating them. It is necessary to have a bin for the six-row and a bin for the two-row barley because the grain cannot be put into the same bin.

The Minister for Agriculture: Is that so? They are doing it now.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Then that is the trouble; they are mixed in bulk-handling.

The Minister for Agriculture: Nothing of the sort. They have divided the bin at South Fremantle into two sections by putting in a barrier; it is one bin.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: But it has to go into the bin at the siding.

Hon. A. L. Loton: No, it does not.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Then I must congratulate the Minister for Railways upon the fact that he is able to get trucks to the siding to meet the farmer when he comes in with his load of two-row and six-row barley. It is a marvellous performance; it can be put straight into the trucks! Of course, it must be put into bulk bins before it is loaded into the trucks. Why not make this measure permanent instead of making it for three years only? If there is some doubt about it, the amendment should be carried.

The Minister for Agriculture: Farmers have to fallow their land.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: And that will have to be done at the end of three years. There is a possibility that this Bill may go out at the end of the three-year period.

The Minister for Agriculture: They have had two three-year periods and they had confidence in Parliament passing this measure.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: Some of them had a lot of confidence in Parliament passing the oat Bill. Farmers knew that there was a risk of this Bill going out and they have farmed their land accordingly. The Minister suggested that it is just as easy to repeal this legislation as it is to extend it. If we carry the amendment and the Government wants the measure continued for a further period, a continuance measure will have to be brought forward. But that will not be the case if a member wants to repeal it. If this measure is carried in its present form, we can rest assured that it will be permanent.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Farmers have spent hundreds of pounds in buying super, oil and fuel in order to sow a barley crop. Up to date they have had confidence in the board and in the Government to continue the operations of the board. But if farmers listened to the debate which has taken place on this measure, they would not have much confidence. No farmer can operate if he is able to plan for only 12 months ahead; he must plan for at least three years ahead. If this board goes out of existence, the farmer will have lost the protection of those in whom he has confidence and who have done the right thing by him.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: The question is simply whether the Barley Board shall continue to function after a certain date. The existence of the board has no bearing on whether a farmer will or will not grow

barley. Farmers grew two-row and six-row barley in 1939 and marketed it without the aid of the Barley Board. If the board went out of existence tomorrow, the farmers would still continue to grow the product. As the Act stands, it shall cease on the 9th December, 1952, and that date is right in the middle of the season. One would have thought that the Minister, with his knowledge of these matters, would have arranged for a better date than that.

The Minister for Agriculture: The season closes at the end of November.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: The Minister said that if this legislation were defeated, the board would cease to exist at a time when shipping and delivery were taking place and chaos would result.

The Minister for Agriculture: This is not the 9th December.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: The Minister suggested that the 9th December would be in the middle of the delivery season. I would be prepared, instead of making the date the 31st December, 1953, to make it the 30th April or the 31st March, 1954.

The Minister for Agriculture: That would be worse still.

Hon. H. K. WATSON: Then, as this is a new system, I think we should look at it in 12 months' time.

Hon. A. R. JONES: I think some members are under a misapprehension. I think it is necessary to have a three-year period and I would like to submit my experience in regard to the growing of linseed. There was a shortage of linseed during the war years and we were asked to grow a linseed crop. The Agricultural Department fostered the crop and the Government of the day took the whole of the proceeds, marketed the crop for the farmers and guaranteed a reasonable return per acre. It took us some time to learn the best method of cropping so as to secure profitable returns. Last year when the Government wiped its hands of the linseed crop, that commodity was not grown any more because there was no possible chance of orderly marketing. If the crop had been grown, it would have been handled only by the merchants who would have taken it at their own price.

For my part, I believe the time will come when linseed will again be in demand and crops will be grown. In answer to the contentions raised by those who believe that a multiplicity of bins will be needed at sidings, I would point out that the barley season is practically ended before the wheat season commences. Today the handling of barley has been practically completed and wheat receivals at sidings will not commence for another week or so. Therefore there will be no need for a multiplicity of bins within the next few years. There might be that

necessity when, as we hope, barley will be grown in greater quantities and has to be stored at sidings waiting transport to terminal ports for loading on to ships.

Hon. H. K. Watson: Will all the barley be sold by the end of December?

Hon. A. R. JONES: I doubt it. I think Mr. Watson raised quite a good point when he referred to the date when the season would end, and I think the Minister should take some note of his remarks.

The Minister for Agriculture: Two ships have already been ordered for barley.

Hon. A. R. JONES: I think the Minister should look into the point that has been raised. I can speak only for the northern parts where the harvesting of barley is just about completed. I do not know the position in the southern districts. However, that is beside the point. Farmers need a three-year period so that they can plan ahead, knowing that their produce will be marketed in an orderly way. Until they have some assurance in that respect, they will not be prepared to spend thousands of pounds on the purchase of seed and super and machinery, opening up new areas and fallowing the ground.

Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I oppose the amendment because there is no doubt in my mind that it is not possible for a farmer to prepare his ground for producing next season's barley crop before the amendment, if agreed to, will take effect. It might be possible for established farmers to do so, but what about the man who has only just started in the industry? Evidently some of those who have spoken this evening do not know much about farming. There is a movement in the southern areas for the planting of much larger areas to barley, and the growers will be encouraged if they know they have the support of this Chamber. If we are to terminate this legislation next year, we have wasted our time in discussing the Bill. I know a little about handling cereals on the railways for at one time I was working at sidings for Westralian Farmers Ltd. long before bulk-handling was instituted. I know the difficulties under which farmers labour. They always look to planning ahead and if an amendment were to be carried it should provide for at least two years ahead. To my mind the amendment is not a genuine one.

Point of Order.

Hon. H. K. Watson: On a point of order!

The Chairman: Will Mr. Lavery please resume his seat.

Hon. H. K. Watson: I take exception to the statement by Mr. Lavery that my amendment is not genuine.

The Chairman: Will Mr. Lavery make an apology to Mr. Watson for the statement he made?

Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Do I have to apologise?

The Chairman: No. The hon member can withdraw the remark.

Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I withdraw it, and I certainly hope I will never say anything in this House for which I shall have to apologise.

The Chairman: The hon. member will please resume his remarks.

Debate Resumed.

Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I feel that the amendment represents an attempt to nullify the value of the Bill, and I certainly oppose it.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:

Ayes	....	....	....	11
Noes	....	....	....	17

Majority against 6

Ayes.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker	Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. J. Murray
Hon. L. Craig	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. H. Hearn	Hon. R. J. Boylen
Hon. E. M. Heenan	(Teller.)

Noes.

Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. L. A. Logan
Hon. J. Cunningham	Hon. A. L. Loton
Hon. L. C. Diver	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. G. Fraser	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. Sir Frank Gibson	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. C. H. Henning	Hon. J. McI. Thomson
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. Sir Chas. Latham	Hon. E. M. Davies
Hon. F. R. H. Lavery	(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—NATIVE ADMINISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 13th November.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
(Hon. C. H. Simpson—Midland) [8.45]: In a very noteworthy and eloquent contribution to the debate on this Bill, Mr. Craig rightly pointed out that the measure was of tremendous importance not only to the natives themselves, but to the remainder of the community as well, as it would not only affect the lives of many thousands of natives by a sudden and drastic change, but must also of necessity have a profound effect on their relationship with the white people amongst whom they live. It brings into the picture, too, the relationship of tribal natives, of full-bloods, to caste natives and the rest of the community of which they are part

Concurrently with the introduction of this Bill, the spotlight of publicity has been focussed on the question of the native problem generally. Quite a number of members have contributed to the debate, and I think they have summed up in their minds the attitude they will take towards this question. It is, as some members have pointed out, a matter of very grave responsibility to decide such a question, but I feel sure they will bring to the subject very serious consideration of the effects which may flow from the decision they make.

It was pointed out by Mr. Strickland that the Bill furnishes a new definition of the word "natives," and will automatically confer citizenship on all natives not of full blood. I think that in a question such as this, the matter of the Government's attitude is one which should be fully understood. Questions are naturally being asked, such as: What has the Government done in trying to solve our native problem? Is what it has done, or tried to do, enough? What plans has it for the future and should those plans be modified or changed?

A little later I propose to tell the House the story of what the Government has done, and it is a very good story, a story of which we, as a Government, and the whole State can be justly proud. I will explain the policy that has been adopted over the past few years, the attention we have given to try to better the lot of the natives; the steps we have taken to give them privileges and to ensure sympathetic administration and to improve their lot so far as housing is concerned; the attention to education; the rights the native has in regard to taking up land and cultivating it; and what we have tried to do in the solution of a problem which concerns my department, the question of mining and the set up as it exists in the Pilbara district, and what we have tried to do to preserve the interests of the natives in that particular matter.

In supporting the Bill, Mr. Barker pointed out that its passage would mean that many of the natives who are now in institutions and missions will be removed from the care of the Commissioner. It would affect those in Alvan House, or at least quite a number of them, and certainly all those not of full blood and those that are in missions who are not full-bloods. Mr. Logan rightly pointed out that we were not determined to withhold citizenship from natives, but we did claim that there was an obligation on a native to prove himself worthy of citizenship before rights were granted to him. Mr. Roche spoke on much the same lines.

In dealing with my own attitude towards the question, I may say that I have taken a fairly keen interest in it over the last 30 or 40 years. By the accident of location, I have been thrown

into contact, at times fairly intimately, with various native peoples. I had experience of the aborigines in this country nearly 40 years ago. I worked with the Kaffirs in Africa and I had quite a lot of experience of the African-born Hindus. At the Front, I came into contact with Chinese coolies who formed a labour battalion which was attached to the unit with which I was placed. Returning over the years, I have seen quite a bit of the natives who lived around the country towns and on stations. I was able to form a very good idea of the mentality and character of natives and to note exactly the method of treatment meted out to them by their employers.

Hon. G. Bennetts: It was not too good many years ago.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: In all cases where I had experience, it was extremely good. I know that on the stations the pastoralists realised the value of the natives and treated them very well indeed. They looked after them. They not only had to care for those actually working for them, but in most cases their families as well, their uncles and aunts as well as their wives and children.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: But they would not part with them.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I do not follow what the hon. member means.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: They would rather have them remain on the stations than go to a mission.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: That may be so, but I think that they accepted it as an obligation, if a native was working for them, to make necessary provision for his family; and they did so. I have known pastoralists go 150 to 200 miles with the sick baby of a native mother, in order to get medical attention for it.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: They have to, under the Act.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: Very often where a sickness is not very acute in the case of white people, they give them some medicine and they manage to cure themselves on the station. But there was no hesitation on the part of pastoralists in carrying out this duty, whether it was an obligation or not. They did it as a matter of concern for the native people. In some of the Press publicity upon which the spotlight of public attention has been focussed recently, there have been some helpful contributions, and many that were not. There were two articles that started things off. One was headed, "Not Slaves, Not Citizens." Another was "Rotten Treatment of Natives." I would like to know who was the author of those two articles. They were written by somebody of pretty high literary attainments.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: My word she is!

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I do not know whether it was a he or a she. That is what I would like to know. An author who can quote Shakespeare and can refer to philosophers like John Stuart Mill—

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Should have citizenship rights!

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT:—and George Bernard Shaw, is someone we would like to see or know. We would like to have that person on a public platform. I agree with Mr. Strickland that a person with those attainments is entitled to full citizenship, and I am quite sure that if an application were made, there would be no difficulty in having full citizenship rights conferred. The term "native" has been referred to as one which to those who contributed towards the correspondence, appears to imply some sort of slur. I do not agree. Most of us are natives of Australia and are proud of it, and the term "native" can be one to be proud of. In any event, I do not see what other term could be applied that could be readily understood. We might call these people "old Australians" because they are definitely older than we, but until people got used to that term they would wonder what we meant.

The question of citizenship rights being referred to as a dog license is rather a stupid piece of reasoning. Most of us at one time or other have to apply for some sort of license if we want a special privilege. I have a gold pass which is a sort of license to travel on the railways, but I have to proffer that if I attempt to enter the wicket of the central railway station. If we want to drive a car we have to get a license, and also if we want to have a wireless.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: And if we want to get married.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: Yes.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: But we do not have to produce a license to stay in the city.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: This is a rather complicated and complex question. As there must of necessity be some exemptions, I do not see how those charged with the job of extending or withholding the privilege, could tell who was who unless there was some form of badge or recognition to enable them to make the distinction. I am entitled to travel on railway trains, or to go on them, but I would not expect anyone who did not know me to allow me to do so unless I produced my gold pass, which is my passport to travel. The native in possession of citizenship rights is not asked to produce his identification where he is known. It is,

in a measure, a protection to him and something of which he might reasonably be proud.

However, I am rather getting away from the point I wanted to make and that was to give some indication of what the Government has done in its attempt to improve the lot of the natives and establish a system under which it is believed they will benefit and gradually arrive at the stage where they will be emancipated from their primitive condition and take their full place in the community, enjoying the same privileges as we have, in a common way of life. I have here a statement from the Minister for Native Affairs of which I think it is necessary for this House to have some cognisance. This is the statement:—

Mr. F. E. A. Bateman, R.M., was commissioned in July, 1947, to make a survey of native affairs throughout the State for the purpose of informing the Government of the position in respect to native affairs generally, to make recommendations and improvements as were necessary and especially to report on policy and administration. An extensive survey covering the whole State was made. Mr. Bateman's report was submitted to the Government and many of the recommendations have since been put into effect.

The administration of the department necessitated the appointment of a commissioner, following the death of Mr. F. I. Bray, and Mr. S. G. Middleton was appointed to administer the department. Many innovations, including some of the recommendations made by Mr. Bateman, were introduced, one of the most important being that which provided for decentralised administration. Previously there had been only four inspectors to carry out the department's field activities over the whole State. Under the present administration, the State is divided into eight districts, each under the charge of a field officer, whose duty it is to administer the Native Administration Act within the area of his responsibility. With this establishment it is possible for a field officer effectively to patrol his district and learn and understand the problems peculiar to it, and therefore make for closer personal contact with the native population. It was necessary to appoint a number of senior field officers to take charge of the major districts and as there were no experienced or qualified officers in Western Australia, the services of experienced officers from outside the State were secured. These officers have been responsible for training the junior field officers, mainly from this State, in their new welfare duties. The cadet system recommended by Mr Bateman was also put into effect.

Many natives in this State are domiciled in institutions which are either departmentally controlled or are denominational missions. Departmental institutions, in the main, have been established for a particular purpose. Moola Bulla native station, for example, was set up in 1910 to arrest the spread of cattle killing by natives in search of food; Moore River and Carrolup native settlements were sanctuaries for the aged and infirm, and for those suffering from disease. Missions, on the other hand, functioned mainly for the evangelisation and succour of the natives of a district, but in later years those in the closer settled areas have been concentrating, also, on the welfare and education of children. Missions in Western Australia are authorised to operate under permit by the Minister for Native Affairs, and are subject to the Native Administration Act and regulations.

Because of natural development and the social and economic advancement of natives generally, the original special need to establish some of the departmental institutions no longer exists, and these have been closed down or handed over to mission bodies to conduct on lines most suited to present-day conditions.

Whilst the evangelisation of natives is the primary function of religious organisations in the field of missionary activity, all have realised that the teaching of Christianity must go hand in hand with the physical welfare and educational advancement of their charges. Owing to the self-dedicatory nature of their work, missionaries have a valuable contribution to make towards native welfare, and this is recognised by the Government in its encouragement and financial support of missions. Financial assistance has taken the form of grants-in-aid and subsidisation on an inmate basis. The per capita payments were raised from 3s. to 4s. per week in 1948. In addition, the department supplies an issue of blankets and clothing on a nominal scale to all missions. Rising costs forced missions to press for an increased subsidy, and the subsidy rate was increased from 4s. per week to 12s. 6d. per week for the "A" grade missions, 10s. 6d. per week for "B" grade missions and 9s. 6d. for a "C" grade missions, from the 1st July last year. This measure largely eased the missions' financial burdens, but still higher rising costs again forced the missions to approach the Government with a request for equal subsidisation with white children, and this is at the moment receiving consideration. The system of decentralisation provides for greater supervision of inmates in mis-

sions, and this phase of administration is reacting most favourably, especially on those natives who, on discharge from missions, are now being steered into suitable and educational establishments or remunerative employment.

The number of missions in the State has increased to twenty-three, and several other mission bodies are desirous of entering into the mission field. The cost of subsidising them is largely offset by the saving effected by the closure of the unsuitable departmental institutions. Moola Bulla native station is still retained as a departmental institution and is the centre for education and occupational training for a large number of young natives in the East Kimberleys. La Grange Bay still remains a feeding depot for the desert nomads from the east, but its transfer to a mission authority is under consideration. Cosmo Newbery native station, east of Laverton, is still retained as a departmental institution for the purpose of providing a rehabilitation centre for juvenile delinquents.

Alvan House has been set up in the metropolitan area as a home for specially selected teenage girls who, by proof of their ability, are being trained and fitted for more advanced occupations such as teachers, nurses, typists, etc. McDonald House at West Perth is a home where boys who show above average intelligence are given their opportunity to attain higher scholastic training.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Are they castes, or full-bloods?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I think they are all castes; I know that was the intention. To continue—

The Native Girls' Hostel at East Perth is being reorganised as a centre for transient welfare and medical cases.

Since this Government assumed office in 1947 substantial assistance has been rendered to missions as the progressively increasing departmental votes will show.

It may of interest to members to know that the Government has done a considerable amount of work in the interests of our native population. The Moore River native settlement is a case in point. Before the Government took action to hand that settlement over to the Methodist Overseas Mission, conditions at the settlement were deplorable. The area was a dumping ground for native criminals and diseased types, who were thrown into contact with young native girls, who grew up in a degrading environment until such time as they were able to accept employment out-

side, and their outlook on life was naturally affected by the conditions they had to undergo at an impressionable age.

The settlement was reorganised and the children were transferred to various missions. The area was cleaned up and diseased natives were transferred to centres where they could receive attention and treatment. The Native Affairs Department arranged for able-bodied natives to find employment. The Methodist Overseas Mission took charge of the area and caters chiefly for children. The station is known as the Mogumber Methodist Mission, and is supervised by a man of wide experience with natives in Papua and elsewhere.

Missions generally are doing splendid work and I have personally inspected the missions at Norseman, Carnarvon, New Norcia, and Beagle Bay near Tardun. The major missions have been assisted by increasing the grant-in-aid from 4s. per week to 12s. 6d. per week per child, with a supply of clothing and blankets and the provision of medical and dental facilities. The increased cost to the Government is estimated at over £30,000 for the year 1951-52. With regard to assistance to missions, the following figures may be of interest—

	£
Actual expenditure 1947-48	3,415
Actual expenditure 1948-49	6,386
Actual expenditure 1949-50	15,929
Actual expenditure 1950-51	23,979
Actual expenditure 1951-52	45,906
Estimated expenditure for current year	59,596

This is assistance to native missions, but the total expenditure of the department on native administration welfare generally is shown by the following table:—

	£
1947-48	83,784
1948-49	105,102
1949-50	139,008
1950-51	162,882
1951-52	158,304
Estimate for 1952-53	167,079

Grants-in-aid to missions for buildings, plant and equipment are made on a £ for £ basis, and the Education Department either provides teachers for native schools or undertakes the cost of subsidising mission teachers in lieu.

Efforts of the past two years have been concentrated on developing the policy from protection and control into one essentially of welfare, where the missions are exercising their positive influence in the moral and

spiritual training of the younger natives, and where the departmental institutions' main functions are either for amelioration or for advanced occupational and educational training.

Decentralised administration effects a closer co-ordination of departmental and private activities, with the result that the ultimate assimilation of the hybrid descendants or the original Australian inhabitants will be advanced. The change of policy introduced by the new administration since its inception in 1949, provided for the replacement of a system of "dole and control" by one that emphasises opportunity and uplift, and this will, in time, necessitate amendments to existing legislation. The present Government recognises the need for physical, moral and spiritual assistance and guidance. This aims at instilling into the natives the first principles of self-help and self-reliance. The present time is a period of transition and it is envisaged that laws will require to be made to deal progressively with the changes which must occur as opportunities for education and vocational training raise standards. Side by side with these advances in practical education and preparation for full citizenship is the need to educate public opinion so that the white section of the population will be prepared to assist in the task of progressively assimilating these people into a common way of life. This process will take time and the Government believes that hasty action is inadvisable and may be harmful. The effects of existing Government policy are already evident in the awakening of natives themselves to the advantages which they may look forward to, as they themselves, become more fitted to assume the responsibilities as well as enjoy the privileges of full citizenship.

Amendments to existing legislation may provide for a probationary period, after the present statutory citizenship rights have been granted, to a further stage, which, when reached, would invest the native with full citizenship rights which could not be revoked, and would give automatic entitlement to all privileges now enjoyed by whites. This is not as easy as it sounds and, in practice, might confer little benefit.

In the meantime there would be need to maintain the statutory authority of the Native Welfare Department to provide for the care and welfare of such natives as require service much as the Child Welfare and Public Health Departments now function with respect to indigent whites.

In order to refresh the memories of members I will read the summary of points from the Minister's minute. It is as follows:—

1. Mr. Bateman appointed to make report.

2. Mr. Middleton appointed Commissioner of Native Affairs.

3. State divided into eight districts and field staff increased.
1951:

4. Payments to missions increased from 3s. and 4s. to 12s. 6d. "A" grade, 10s. 6d. "B" grade, and 9s. 6d. "C" grade, with clothing, blankets, medical and dental facilities.

5. Number of missions increased to 23 with prospects of additional establishments being set up.

6. Expenditure on department increased from £83,784 in 1947-8 to £167,000 (estimated) for present year. More than double. Assistance to missions 1947-48 £3,415, to £59,600 (estimated) in current year—more than 17 times previous rate.

7. Alvan House set up for special training of girls. McDonald House for boys. East Perth Hostel reorganised.

8. Moore River settlement cleaned up and handed to Methodist Mission.

9. Adoption of policy of welfare with emphasis on opportunity and uplift—rather than "dole and control."

In other spheres of departmental activity the matter of native welfare has received constant and serious consideration. The Health Department has done a great deal. The housing of natives has also received attention. Further the native has been helped to acquire land for cultivation.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Where have they had houses built?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I will refer to that later. This is the report I have received from the Minister for Education—

The policy of the Education Department with regard to the education of native children is directed towards their ultimate assimilation by the white population. In this work close collaboration is maintained at all times with the Department of Native Affairs.

The great majority of native children who can attend school are educated in the normal Government schools under the same conditions that apply to white children. Where for some reason natives are segregated as, for example, in missions or institutions controlled by the Department of Native Affairs, they are educated in special schools established for the purpose. This is in line with

departmental policy with regard to white children living in orphanages or other similar institutions.

The Education Department is prepared, when required, to give substantial assistance to such special schools by providing staff furniture and certain items of equipment. At present, there are six such special schools with an aggregate attendance of 243 children, but their number will be increased to eight in 1953.

The teachers in these schools have all volunteered for the work, and have been appointed because of their particular interest in the native people and their problems. A special curriculum has been prepared for use in these schools, but this is in the nature of an experiment for the time being and will be modified as more is learned of the needs and abilities of the native child.

One of the superintendents has been specially appointed to take charge of native education in order to secure uniformity of policy and administration. Besides possessing wide experience in native education in this State, the new superintendent recently visited New Zealand to make a study of Maori education, the better to equip himself for his new duties.

Approximately one thousand native children attend the ordinary Government schools, where they are educated under precisely the same conditions as white children. The Education Act makes no distinctions as regards colour. There have been instances in the past where parents have objected to the presence of native children in schools, but such cases are now extremely rare and are practically confined to objections as to cleanliness and not engendered by racial prejudice.

Under departmental regulations children are required to attend school in a clean condition and this is applied to native children equally with whites. Native children also can enjoy the same privileges as white children with regard to scholarships bursaries, etc.

I was asked by Mr. Strickland to supply particulars of housing. I have here a report from the Minister for Housing which reads—

The State Housing Commission has made arrangements to provide for the housing of a limited number of natives in this year's building programme. The Department of Native Affairs has sponsored certain native families by name. Two of these families are having houses built for them under the State Housing Act

on their own land at York and approval letters have been sent to the natives concerned.

At Port Hedland tenders have just been called for the erection of four houses and these are to be made available also to natives sponsored by the Department of Native Affairs.

Included in the list of sponsored applicants from the Department of Native Affairs are four families which have been listed for consideration in the allocation of Commonwealth-State rental homes in country districts. Under the State Housing Act seven families have been sponsored—six for country centres and one for the metropolitan area. As stated above, two are proceeding under the State Housing Act at York.

When it comes to the question of natives or families of mixed blood who are in possession of citizenship rights, these families are treated in the same way as all other applicants for assistance under the several schemes administered by the State Housing Commission. It is quite competent for any of these families to be considered either for Commonwealth State rental homes or State Housing Act homes. In fact, in recent weeks a Commonwealth-State rental home has been made available to a family of mixed blood in the metropolitan area and another family in the Fremantle district is being assisted under the State Housing Act.

It would not be possible to say how many natives or persons of mixed blood who are in possession of citizenship rights have applied to this Commission for housing assistance since their applications are listed in the ordinary way, together with other applications.

I asked the Minister for Lands what would be the position of natives in applying for areas of land and I received this reply—

A native with citizenship rights can select land on an equal footing with whites.

A native under the Native Affairs Department can be granted land in accordance with Section 9 of the Land Act.

If such a native desires land, the Native Affairs Department is asked as to his suitability, and, provided he is suitable, a native reserve is declared under Section 9 of the Land Act, and no rental is charged.

Should the native walk off the land, the Native Affairs Department is asked whether it still desires the land to be retained as a native reserve before any action is taken towards cancellation.

It was my problem, as Minister for Mines, to study a question which had arisen regarding the large concentration of natives in the Pilbara district. When an application for a number of leases was received, the conditions were somewhat unusual and, after Cabinet discussion, it was decided to appoint a Royal Commission consisting of Sir Ross McDonald and Mr. F. E. A. Bateman, Resident Magistrate, to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the whole of that question and to furnish a report. At this juncture I might explain that Sir Ross McDonald is well known for his humane attitude towards our native population and Mr. Bateman has, on three occasions, furnished reports on our native conditions.

So I do not think we could have obtained two more competent and sympathetic men to undertake this task. As the report furnished by them shows an interesting sidelight on the natives and their mentality, I propose to read to the House an extract from the report, which lies on the Table of the House, but which I do not suppose many members have read, and so have a record of their decision in "Hansard."

Hon. H. C. Strickland: That refers to full-bloods.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: No, quite a number are not.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: I think one is.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: I think the hon. member will get a clearer idea when he has heard the report which reads—

The central fact around which this inquiry extends is the emergence in the Marble Bar district of an organised group of nearly 700 natives, almost all of the full blood. The group has seriously affected employment in the pastoral industry of the Pilbara district. It is estimated that the natives left on the stations in the district now number no more than 245, approximately.

It is claimed by or on behalf of the group that it is a co-operative movement. It is under the leadership of D. W. McLeod. The work of the group, so far, has been mainly directed to the exploitation of the surface minerals in the area.

A group of this kind and of this magnitude is a new development in the history of our native population. It has emerged as a result of a number of facts and motives. It is to some extent a reaching out of the natives towards a higher status and greater economic independence—the expression of racial aspiration towards improved social, civic and economic levels.

As will be shown, there are difficulties inherent in the movement but it is essential that it should be approached with an understanding of the human values and interests involved.

The assimilation of the native, particularly the full blood, into some more stable and assured place in the social and economic fabric of our population must be a matter of some time. Developments such as the Marble Bar group, are part of the transitional experience of our native population. They are to be viewed in perspective and as elements in the historical processes of the race. It depends on the attitude to be adopted towards such manifestations of native action and ideas whether they can be guided towards progress and advancement. It is for these reasons that we have felt the subject of our inquiry justifies some examination of the events which have led up to the present position at Marble Bar, and some analysis of the motives and factors which are involved.

The economy of the pastoral industry has been largely dependent on native labour, both in the field and for domestic purposes. Native labour continues to be of material value to stations in the Pilbara and other districts of the North-West and can be said to be of vital importance to the pastoral industry in the Kimberleys.

In 1945 unrest developed among the natives employed on station properties in the Pilbara district. A considerable proportion of the natives left their station employment. Claims were made by or on behalf of these natives for better wages and conditions, and allegations put forward that existing wages and conditions were unsatisfactory.

D. W. McLeod, then at Port Hedland, was the spokesman and leader of the affected natives. Arising out of this disruption of employment in the pastoral industry in that district, a number of prosecutions and some convictions took place. In 1946 McLeod was convicted of an offence against Section 47 of the Native Administration Act for having counselled certain natives to persuade other natives to leave their lawful service without the consent of a protector of aborigines, and of having himself attempted to persuade natives to leave their lawful service. Fines totalling £50, together with £46 18s. 6d. costs, were imposed on McLeod. He was subsequently charged and convicted of an offence against the Native Administration Act, Section 39, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment, but this conviction was quashed on appeal. During the proceedings against him McLeod

acknowledged that he was a member of the Communist Party. In his evidence before us McLeod said, "I was previously a member of the Communist Party. I resigned four or five years ago."

Although the great majority of the natives in the North-West and Kimberleys have been engaged in station employment, a few followed occupations in the district towns and ports and for the last 50 years some natives have always or nearly always been occupied in surface mining for tin in the Marble Bar district. In consequence of the considerable proportion of natives, from 1945 onwards, who left their work on the stations in the Pilbara district, the numbers employed at Marble Bar in surface mining for tin increased and in 1948 there were probably natives to the approximate number of 200 men, women and children, subsisting by prospecting for tin at Moolyella about 10 miles from Marble Bar. A fair proportion of the natives who had left their employment in the Pilbara district returned gradually to the stations in 1947, 1948 and 1949, but it became apparent that the natives had ceased to have the same attachment to the pastoral industry that had previously existed.

There became engendered in the minds of a number of natives a feeling of suspicion that their wages and conditions had been and still were less favourable than those to which they were entitled, and this distrust has led to a certain prejudice in the minds of some natives against station employment. It has to be accepted that the disruption of the pastoral industry in the Pilbara district in 1946-1947 had an effect on the native mentality different from that that could arise from any cessation of work by white workers. The so-called "strike" was a new phenomenon and experience in the lives of natives. To some extent what they were doing was, we believe, imperfectly understood and the general attitude of a number of the natives towards an employment which they had followed for so many years became distorted. We believe, however, that the great majority of the natives have now no such serious antipathy to station work as would prevent their return to that employment.

It is probable also that in 1946-1947 some natives left their station employment as a result of a degree of intimidation. This intimidation was not necessarily a matter of physical force, but there were certain native leaders in the strike movement and

we believe it is probable that some natives felt that if they declined to join in the movement they might be exposed to reprisals from these leaders. It appears that at the end of 1949 the natives employed in the tin mining industry at Moolyella had increased to about 300 men, women and children. According to McLeod there were at this time also about 200 men, women and children at the 12-Mile Camp at Port Hedland, but almost all of the 12-Mile natives went back to station work.

McLeod, at the end of 1949, assumed the leadership or control of a group of natives in the mining industry in the Marble Bar district. He commenced with 25 natives, including women and children, who had joined him from Moolyella. They entered on a prospecting campaign for tin and other minerals in the district and produced some quantities of tin, tantalite, columbite and gold. The group increased to 75 men, women and children before many weeks had passed, and there was apparently a continual influx to the group from the Moolyella natives. By August, 1950, the group had grown to about 200 souls. There were also steady accretions to the group from station natives and a considerable addition to the group took place from June, 1951, when large numbers of natives withdrew from station employment.

According to McLeod, his group, in March, 1952, had grown to approximately 600, made up of 260 men, 220 women and 120 children, these numbers being estimated. Our estimate is that 281 men, 273 women and 109 children, numbering 663 in all, made up the group at the beginning of May, 1952. The majority of the women worked in the industry and of the group apparently about half would be actual workers engaged in prospecting and mining for various metals found in the area. The group, in March, 1952, was divided into 13 parties or camps each operating in a separate locality, but moving from time to time as may be desirable for prospecting and mining purposes. The main congregation in the group is at Cooke's Creek, about 70 miles south of Marble Bar, and about 18 miles from Nullagine. In the Cooke's Creek area there were approximately 164 natives.

It has been said, and we think with some justification, that in such an industry as mining the co-operative principle is one that can appeal to and be comparatively well understood by natives. Their tribal mode

of living rested largely on a communal basis. In our opinion, a group of natives of economic proportions might be able successfully to carry on mining operations on some basis of co-operative effort.

It has been suggested to us that a proportion of the natives in the group originally joined the group as a result of some degree of pressure or undue influence and that some natives remain in the group in consequence of the same motives. We think that during the so-called strike movement in the district between 1945 and 1947, there was an apprehension on the part of some natives that if they did not join the strike they might be subject to reprisals from the leaders of the strike movement. We have given considerable thought to the reasons why the natives originally joined the group, particularly the reasons for their continuance with the group. While we are of the opinion that in the case of a proportion of the natives, whether large or small it be impossible to determine, they joined the group originally against their real wishes, we feel that other motives have affected the minds of many natives.

These other motives which have been present in the minds of many natives and which have induced them to join the group and remain with it are several. Some have been attracted by the prospect of an improved legal and social status, and we are prepared to believe that, directly or indirectly, there has been some propaganda suggesting that membership of the group would secure or assist this objective. We believe that none of the natives of this group have yet qualified for citizenship rights. This means that they are subject to the restrictions of the Native Administration Act as to alcoholic liquors, and in other directions.

Other inducements to adhere to the group have been the idea that they will be working for themselves and not for employers, with the possibility of financial returns better than they would receive from station employment, the improved social status to be derived from the fact they will be working their own co-operative, the novelty of a new kind of occupation, the social satisfaction and companionship of being a member of a much larger group than would be possible on a station and the broad general impulse to share in and support a movement which might be regarded as a new and forward step in the development of opportunity for the native population. A few natives who have been members of the group have

left it, but it is to be noted that such natives have been those of more than usual independence of mind and strength of character.

We believe that some natives probably still adhere to the group from a fear that their retirement from the group would be regarded by other natives as something of a deserting or betrayal of loyalty, and because they would be apprehensive that they would incur the illwill and possibly some reprisals on the part of the other members of the group. We think that there are some native members of the group who, having positions of some power and authority, might be prepared to use any influence they could to prevent the group being weakened and their own position affected in status by retirements from the group and its consequent reduction in numbers and importance. On the other hand, we think that many and probably most of the natives adhere to the group voluntarily and particularly from a sense of loyalty to a movement which they feel is significant in their racial development and prospects. It is to be noted that a number are natives engaged in surface mining quite independently of the group and apparently without pressure from the group.

We have arrived at the conclusion that, while some natives may adhere to the group, possibly against their will, by reason of some apprehension of the illwill of their fellow natives if they should leave, many natives, on the other hand, adhere voluntarily to the group for other reasons, the principal of which we have already mentioned. It has seemed to us to be desirable in the interest of the natives that every effort should be made to ensure that the natives understand they are entitled to complete freedom of choice as to whether they stay with the group or leave it for some other employment. Our recommendations include, therefore, the appointment in the Marble Bar district of an officer of the department, one of whose chief functions will be to ensure to the fullest possible extent that the natives feel and, in fact, are free to determine how and where they shall work.

The group at present appears to be maintaining a reasonably good record of general health. The ration scale of the group, although limited in some respects and liable to some dislocation through transport and other exigencies, appears to have been not inadequate. We have already shown that the group has so far not been able to pay wages.

Doctor Linley Hensell has advised us that provided adequate sanitary and other health measures are observed, there is no reason to apprehend that natives would be more accessible to the occupational diseases of mining than are white workers.

The growth of native labour in the mining industry at Marble Bar has been at the expense of the labour supply of the pastoral industry of the district. We have been informed by pastoralists and believe that this denudation of their labour force has resulted and will result in reduced production. From a general view of the State's economy, it has been suggested to us that the loss of production in the pastoral industry, by reason of this transfer of native labour, would exceed any gain from such labour in the production of minerals. The stations in the district are meeting serious difficulties from the lack of native labour both in the field and domestically. In the case of domestic work, the lack of the assistance of female natives is causing very real hardship. It is not easy and frequently not very satisfactory to secure adequate white labour to replace the services that had been performed by the natives on the stations.

During the last five or six years in particular, the stations in the district have materially improved the wages and conditions of their native employees. At present stations pay wages up to £5 per week plus keep for the employee, his wife and family, in the case of male employees, and up to 50s. per week with keep in the case of female natives employed as domestics. On a number of stations, improvements in the housing of native employees have been made and there have been advances in the provision of amenities.

The native is a free agent as much as a white person in the choice of his employment, subject only to certain protective clauses of the Native Administration Act to ensure that the native's employment is not injurious to his interests. The revolutionary transition from station employment to mining employment, which has taken place over the last two or three years, has been too abnormal and too radical to be a healthy development. There are practically only two avenues of employment for natives in the Pilbara district. One is in the mining industry and the other is in the pastoral industry. It would be to the distinct prejudice of the natives if the pastoral industry were forced by lack of native labour to turn to the permanent employment of white labour to do what had previously been

done by natives. Work on the stations has been and should remain an opportunity in native employment at least as important to the natives as work of any other kind. It would be in the interests of the natives, as well as the industry, if the unbalanced proportion of the native population now engaged in the mining industry at Marble Bar was corrected and a substantial proportion of those natives were to return to employment on stations.

The pastoral industry of the district is at present in the position of a competitor for the native labour available. Under our recommendations, the department should endeavour to ensure that natives fully understand their right to engage either in pastoral or mining or any other employment as they prefer. If the wages and conditions offered by pastoralists are as attractive as those obtainable in the mining industry, then it should be within the power of the pastoralists, either individually or through their organisation, to ensure that the attractions which pastoral employment may present as compared to mining employment are given adequate publicity among the natives. Neither the Government nor the department has power to direct natives to the pastoral industry or the mining industry, and it could not be suggested that any such power of direction could be justified.

I will recapitulate briefly a few points that arise out of that. They are as follows:—

1. The Government instituted an inquiry to ensure that native rights and interests were preserved and safeguarded and to ensure the avoidance of exploitation.

2. The Commissioners expressed the view that the assimilation of the native—especially of full-bloods—into the social and economic fabric of our community, must be a matter of some time.

3. The strike in 1945 had an unsettling effect on the natives in the North West. McLeod—then a confessed communist—was the strike leader. He professes to have since resigned from the Communist Party.

4. McLeod, in 1949, assumed the leadership of a large group of natives in the Pilbara district which had grown to 663 in 1952. These depended on prospecting for their subsistence. The Commissioners state that the group has not so far been able to pay wages. There appears to exist in the minds of most of the natives a fear of intimidation and reprisals if they leave the group and return to their former station employment.

5. The pastoralists have suffered because of the exodus of native labour from their holdings.

6. The Commissioner's recommendations presumed a continuance of protection from the Native Affairs Department. The passing of the Bill now before us would deny that protection to all but full-bloods.

7. The recommendations of the Commissioners are now in process of being given effect to.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: That is not in the report.

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: This deals with the report, and they are my own comments. I have recited those extracts at length because I think they are pertinent to the Bill and because they show that the Government has exercised every possible care in the preservation of the interests and welfare of the natives and because they also show that there is a native psychology which it will take time to fashion into the mould that we think is necessary for them to be entirely assimilated into our population. I want to refer to two matters which do not seem to have received much prominence in the spate of correspondence that has appeared in the Press. One is the value to the country of the native as a constituent part of its economic life.

Most of the letters that have appeared in the Press, I should say, have been written by city people. The letters that have been sent from the country have not been nearly so numerous, nor have they emphasised the facts regarding the real status of the native or his value in the country. I think it can be accepted that the native, by and large, whether caste or full-blood, is very much better constituted to endure the rigours of the climate, particularly in the east and north, than is the white man, and in moulding him into our way of life and giving him all the rights, as we may do in time, he will have a great contribution to make to our economy and to the building up of the State.

I am of opinion that this is a matter in which we must hasten slowly and that we must act carefully as we go along and endeavour as far as possible to do our part thoroughly. I consider that the attainment of citizenship rights should be regarded by the native aspiring to that status as something of value, something that should be prized, something worth while working for, and we should try to instil into his mind that he must be imbued with the principle of self-help instead of being encouraged to look to the Government to do everything for him.

Another angle that has not been mentioned so far as I am aware is the concern of the police if this measure be passed. They realise that, with so many

natives simultaneously attaining full citizenship rights, many problems would be created for them. I cannot speak officially as I have had no report from the department, but I have many friends in the Force with whom I have discussed native affairs over the years, and they have recently expressed great concern lest we travel too fast and too far along the road of assimilating these natives into the community. Some of these men have said that if the Bill becomes law and if this mass-conferring of citizenship rights becomes an established fact, it may be necessary to go so far as doubling the Police Force. Whether that is correct, I do not know.

We are all ready to admit that we owe an obligation to the natives, but we should feel our way carefully as we go and try to train them to be respected members of the community to enjoy equal rights with the whites. But this cannot be done all at once. It will take time. I consider the Government has proved by its record that it has proceeded further and faster in the short time it has been in office than has any previous Government. The important question is not legislation so much as sympathetic administration. I do not think that any administration could have been more sympathetic or more considerate than is that of the department at the present time.

I am of opinion that the Bill is premature and that we would be wise to allow matters to remain as they are and be content to progress naturally. I regret having occupied so much of the time of the House, but the matters I have mentioned are pertinent to the Bill and will give members some idea of the attitude of the Government, what it has done, and what it intends to do. I submit these points for the consideration of members and oppose the second reading of the Bill.

HON. G. BENNETTS (South-East) [9.50]: Over the years I have had considerable dealings with natives and am of opinion that they constitute one of the biggest problems confronting us. I am afraid that if we acted along the lines proposed in the Bill—that is, without amending it—we might be the means of a number of these people leaving the missions. That is the statement made to me by a mission worker in my district.

The local doctor at Norseman took one of these native girls at the age of 16 and employed her as housekeeper. A couple of months later, the doctor's wife had to enter hospital for confinement, and the girl took charge of the home and did all the work quite as well as a white woman could have done it. Recently the doctor went to South Africa but, before leaving, arranged for the girl to take charge of the two children who were staying with his wife's people in Melbourne, and she carried out

the duties just as well as the mother could have done. That girl attends Sunday school and all the functions at Norseman and is regarded as a good citizen, which goes to show that if we can get these natives at a tender age, whether they be full-bloods or caste, they can be trained, provided the right teachers are available and, in my opinion, the missions are doing the job 100 per cent.

I may mention the Rev. Mr. Sharpe, of the Kalgoorlie Gospel Mission, who has had land granted to him and intends to build a hospital. The site has been prepared at Kurrawang and the hospital is to be staffed by two triple-certificated nurses who, I understand, are already here and acting as attendants to the native people.

Reference was made by the Minister to the natives in the North-West. In the early part of 1911, I went to the North-West and accepted a job as cook to a team droving cattle from Yandayarra Station to Cue. There were three whites and three native boys. Of the natives, two were full-bloods and one about a quarter-caste, but they were mere boys. As far as food was concerned, my instructions were to give them bully-beef and damper. We carried a supply of twist tobacco, which, with their tucker, represented their wages. Those boys, in my opinion, were slaves.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: And you were the slave master.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: Anyone with a knowledge of droving will understand the setup. I used to reach the camping ground early in the afternoon in order to prepare the meal and assist in settling the cattle in the new camp. I used to take my turn with one of the boys who could not tell the time and I had to mark it on the watch for him. After a native boy had done his two hours, he was not game to call the drover and so would do a double shift. Then in the morning when he got on his horse, he would probably fall asleep. If caught sleeping in the saddle, he was thrashed with a stockwhip.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: You should have stopped it.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: When I got my beast for meat, it had to be cut into 2lb. pieces, salted and put into bags. The boys would be given the head and would hold a little corroboree. They would pick the meat off the head much as a dog would. At other times they were given only bully-beef and damper. My instructions were to give them nothing more, though at times I was able to give them kangaroo.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Did you give them citizenship rights?

Hon. G. BENNETTS: When I first went there, I felt that I was working under slave conditions and that led to my joining

a union, and I have been a unionist ever since. I have walked 90 miles and carried my swag because I would not work under the conditions that were prevailing.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: Did you get citizenship rights?

Hon. G. BENNETTS: Many people believe that the natives are incapable of being taught. On one of my trips I met two native boys—full-bloods—with teams of 12 horses carting supplies 120 miles to a station. Natives would not be capable of taking charge of teams in that way unless they were able to learn. I received a little help along the road in the way of food; I had to get food from them to carry me on.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: On a point of order, has this anything to do with the Bill?

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member must keep to the point.

Hon. G. BENNETTS: I am endeavouring to point out how the natives are of value. They are capable of being taught just as is a white person, provided they are given a chance. The trouble is that, right from childhood, they have been kept down by the whites. However, they have done many good deeds in this country and it is our duty to do something for them. I do not say that this applies to all of them. We must move slowly and see that these people receive the proper upbringing. We cannot give everybody citizenship rights because many of them could not be brought into line with our mode of life. The administration has done a wonderful job, but we must move slowly. I support Mr. Strickland. We must do something better than we have to assist the natives.

HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [10.1]: This is not a measure on which one should remain silent because it looks as though the public is hanging on the words of many of us in regard to our attitude to the Bill. Some will criticise and some will praise, so it will not be possible to please both sides. I do not think that anything we do by legislation will ultimately lead to what we are aiming at. I believe that what will happen will occur solely through growing public opinion. I do not countenance for one moment a sudden liberation into citizenship of a large number of half-caste people. I fear the consequences of such an act.

The possession of citizenship rights may not be all that these people desire. It might turn out to be exactly the opposite. I recall that in the United States, where the negro has citizenship rights, he has not been very keen on exercising them. I learned of the fact that while these people were entitled to vote, they were not prepared to do so. In order to see that they were not prepared to vote, certain white people had banded themselves into what

they called vigilance groups, and the situation was not pretty. This could quite easily happen in areas where the half-caste population approximated the population of the white people. I understand there are isolated districts in the State where that could happen.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: No.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am assured there are, and the situation could prove ugly and difficult. The position could best be met by looking to some form of employment for these people. If we looked at it from economic standards, it would help us much more quickly than the free granting of citizenship rights. A lot of the correspondence in the newspapers appears to have come from various types of people, some who know a considerable amount about natives and some who know nothing at all, and some who write purely from sentiment and emotion. I admit I do not know much about the native population except that I have travelled widely in this State and have taken a keen interest in the problems that arise in the districts I have visited.

What has appalled me is the absence of stable employment for so many of these people in some parts of the State. I can remember visiting Mullewa earlier in the century, and then I can recall visiting the same town after the natives had been granted child endowment. I was astounded at the difference in them, and to see the number of them wandering round the town, living in poor conditions with almost a total absence of employment. I believe we could do a great deal for these people if we found out the avenues of service they are best fitted for in our ordinary community life. This is the manner in which America is attempting to answer its negro problem. We find that quite a number of domestics in hotels are negroes, and they are a very fine type of people. They have learned that work and they do it satisfactorily. It is work we are finding it extremely difficult to cope with because of the lack of white people desiring to do it. We have seen in America the negro fill the role of car attendant on distant journeys.

Some of these men that I met in my travels around the United States were most lovable creatures. I remember on one occasion I boarded a train, and the negro conductor learned that I came from Australia, and he asked me whether I was seeing everything that was worth visiting. When I told him I was likely to miss Niagara Falls he sat down alongside me and pulled out rolls of timetables. He completely readjusted my journey so that I was able to spend a full day at Niagara and still fulfil my allotted tasks. We have seen negroes in America fill the posts of lift attendants and door attendants, and they have fitted into this work extremely well.

It seems to me that the negro question in America will be answered by giving these people the jobs for which they are best fitted. The problem in the North did not seem to be anything like that in the south where what is known as the poor white trash and the negro compete for the same jobs. I realise that it is apparently simple to train some full-bloods and a number of half-castes to a certain stage, but beyond that it becomes difficult. I think we have broken down in carrying their education into a rehabilitation scheme, shall I call it?

I would place before the Government the suggestion that progress could be made very rapidly were we to set up a continuing inquiry as to what forms of occupation these people could be trained for without altering the economy of our own people. I believe it could be done satisfactorily to both parties, the white and the black. I am convinced there are jobs these people could do both in the metropolitan area and in the country districts. Then would come the time when we could say to those who had learned to fit themselves into the economy of the country, "You deserve citizenship," and they would be proud of it. There is an avenue through which progress could be made.

Hon. L. C. DIVER (Central) [10.10]: I also feel that this is a subject on which all members should declare themselves because it is a vexed matter. It hits at the very foundation of what we, as the white people, term freedom. Where, under the measure, it is proposed to mete out citizenship to these native peoples, freedom comes into it. The white people have to comply with certain laws and regulations to fulfil citizenship, but let us look first of all at how long it has taken the white people to reach the present stage of citizenship. It would be about 700 years since the first parliamentary system came into vogue. It is only about 130 years since our forefathers from the Old Country had adult franchise, and it is only since 1918 that British women have had the franchise.

Hon. E. M. Heenan: The majority have not got it yet for this House.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: It was only in 1903 that women of Western Australia gained citizenship rights.

Hon. E. M. Davies: That is nearly 50 years ago.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: Yes, but it is somewhat different from the period of 700 years or more since the beginning of parliamentary systems. It is only since the Eureka Stockade that adult male franchise was gained in Australia. In this time there has been agitation from many honourable men and women for improvements in our social system. It has been a slow and arduous process for our forbears to get our

society to the stage it has reached today. We have to comply with certain laws to make our society work, but we are pleased because our society stands for freedom. It is proposed now that citizenship shall be bestowed upon these natives, and if it were, would many of them place the same interpretation on the word "freedom" as we do? I do not think so.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Many of them would.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: No. Any man who has spent 40 or 50 years in country life knows that a white person, in his lifetime, gains an affection for the soil. What must have taken place over the centuries with these black people before they were crossed with the whites? That is where the great conflict, as I see it, takes place. It is in the genetical setup of the people with whom we are dealing. They have been nomads for centuries and are used to living a life without any ties whatsoever. They yearn for the open spaces. Anyone who has studied genetics at all knows the term "they have knit up," and where the "knit" has been all right, we find that very few of the people of the first and second cross can be assimilated into our race. I am speaking in animal terms now, but it all comes back to Dame Nature. I have it on good authority that many of these native people, when this subject has been mentioned to them have said, "Leave us alone. We are quite happy."

Hon. H. C. Strickland: They can be left alone under the Bill.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: If this Bill is passed we will inflict something upon them, and until such time as their children and their children's children can be educated into our way of life, so that citizenship can be held out to them as something to be treasured, something to be gained and something to be looked up to, we should continue as we are now.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Do you not know any who could qualify?

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I do.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: Then why deny it to them?

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I do not deny it to them. But as the Minister has already explained, and I agree with his remarks, while it is perhaps distasteful that these people should have to apply for licenses, as it were, it is one of the anomalies of the situation, and we must face up to it.

Hon. L. A. Logan: What about conditions in America?

Hon. L. C. DIVER: Yes. If a member were to go to America by boat or plane he would have to go down the gangway set aside for foreigners. Even though a person is white, if he has not American citizenship he has to go down the foreigners' gangplank.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: You are not under British rule there.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: That may be so, but we cannot rush into this thing. I am sympathetically disposed towards the native people—that is, the decent ones—but there are a lot of them who do not want to live our way of life.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: They have never had a chance.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I will recite a little story of what happened this year; it is a typical case of how these natives act. A schoolmaster rang up a parson and said, "We have a native boy here who has been picked to go to the metropolitan area to play football, but our trouble is that we cannot get accommodation for him. Can you help us?" The reverend gentleman said, "Yes, I will attend to that." In due course they were able to arrange for accommodation and they had to scrub the boy and fit him out with clothes and boots, and then put him on the train. He came to the metropolitan area where he behaved himself and had a good time. He returned home and some weeks later the boy's father met the parson at a trots meeting. He thanked the parson for what he had done for his boy and then said, "Excuse me, I am in a hurry. I must put £90 on such and such a horse in this race." That is one of the problems that we have to face. These people are handling as much money for three or four months of the year as a lot of members in this Chamber.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: They earn it.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I do not deny that, but they have not been educated on how to spend it.

Hon. G. Fraser: There are a lot of white people who put more than £90 on a horse.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: But they do not live under the same conditions as some of these natives.

Hon. H. Hearn: Is Mr. Fraser speaking from experience?

Hon. G. Fraser: No.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: These people earn big money and what do they do with it? Most of their child endowment money is spent at gambling and they buy packs of cards at the newsagents.

Hon. L. A. Logan: And they use a couple of pennies too.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: Yes. The gambling instinct is in them.

Hon. E. M. Davies: Where did they learn it?

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I do not know. Perhaps the hon member could tell me.

Hon. E. M. Davies: I am surprised that you do not know.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I do not know from whom they inherited it. However, the hon. member is trying to sidetrack me. It is of no use members twitting me because the gambling instinct is one of the bad traits of our natives.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: You say that you have had them for 40 years.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: And during that time we have tried to do a lot for them. If the hon. member visits the mission at Kellerberrin, he will find that there are facilities to educate the youngsters. The Education Department has provided a school and the local road board has provided showers and other conveniences for the natives. But I will defy the hon. member to find one native there. Apparently it was too much like control because they had gone away to other places where people are not so fussy.

Hon. G. Fraser: A number of English children would not go to school if it were not compulsory.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: The hon member may have something there, but I understood it was compulsory for these children to attend school.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: So it is.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: In my district, many years ago, the native camps were situated next to the rubbish dump, but the road board picked out another site for them and declared it a reserve. Water was laid on and facilities were provided—but the natives left. They would rather go picking up dead wool or shear sheep and earn from £5 to £7 a day.

Hon. R. J. Boylen: How many people pay £5 or £7 a day?

Hon. L. C. DIVER: Surely the hon. member knows better than that! They get paid award rates.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: They must be worth it.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I do not deny that, but the union organisers would not allow them to be paid below award rates.

Hon. R. J. Boylen: Not many people pay them those wages.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: Members know better than that. If these people shear 100 sheep a day, and the award rate is £10 a hundred, they get paid that figure.

Hon. H. C. Strickland: It is 10s. a month in the Kimberleys.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I am speaking of my own district. But as Dr. Hislop mentioned, these people are such nomads that it is difficult to keep them in continuous employment.

Hon. R. J. Boylen: Give them good conditions.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: They are given good conditions. The facilities are there if they like to work constantly and they can earn from £45 to £50 a week during shearing time. When the price of wool was high, some of them turned round and said, "No, we will not shear; we would rather pick up dead wool because we get a lot more money that way." But look at the conditions under which they live. I do not want to decry these people, but we must look at the realities of the situation. I have seen some of them with bundles of notes; some of the bundles too big for a person to hold in his hand.

Hon. R. J. Boylen: I have never seen that.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: I have seen it in the country areas. But these same people will go into their little tin shacks at night—some of the shacks will not keep out the wind or rain—and the dogs go in and sleep alongside them.

Hon. E. M. Davies: The dogs keep them warm.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: There is no necessity for it. I know of one case where a native and his son were employed and they were getting £17 a week. They were living in a home that had been occupied by white people, and although these men were employed for several months, the local storekeeper demanded cash on delivery for his goods. When those men walked out of the job, they were broke. We have to educate these people.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Of course we do.

Hon. L. C. DIVER: And we cannot do that by concentrating on the old people. We have to train the younger generation, and I urge the Minister to make sure that the native children are allowed the same sum of money per head per annum as the white children in our institutions. What the Minister had to say as regards housing is quite correct and that is the only way to tackle the problem. But to give these people citizenship rights at this stage is just too foolish for words.

Let history not say that in trying to solve a problem of today we created a tragedy for tomorrow

On motion by Hon. H. C. Strickland, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.28 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 25th November, 1952.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke and Press Statement.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I wish to make a statement, Mr. Speaker, by way of personal explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: The Adult Education Board of Western Australia is sponsoring the forthcoming Festival of Perth. One of the plays to be presented during the festival is entitled "Dark of the Moon." The member for West Perth allowed me an opportunity to read a copy of the play on Thursday last and gave me his opinion about it beforehand, which opinion was very scathing. I sent him back the book with a note in which I stated my opinion, which was that, to my mind, there were some tough spots in the play but, generally speaking, I did not consider it to be too bad. In the "Sunday Times" of last Sunday there is quite