from existing practices obtaining in Port Hedland with casual labour.

In connection with this clause the Government would be duty bound to get in the corner of the company against the union. I do not think that is fair and I do not think it would tend to increase happy industrial relationships between employers and workers.

The Government amended the Arbitration Act very drastically some years ago and in that Act it will be found that the Government may intervene in any proceeding in the public interest. I think that should suffice.

If the Government thinks that public interests are at stake in any particular negotiation between a company and a union, it can then intervene. If this clause is adopted as it stands and the company finds it necessary to approach the arbitration court, it will have the assistance and the co-operation of the Government against the union.

Whilst members of the Industrial Commission are independent of the Government, I believe—and I am not disparaging them or casting a slur on the members of the Industrial Commission in any way—that in such a case, with the Government spokesman being in the court assisting the employers, that would have a certain amount of influence on the members of the Industrial Commission.

I hope the Minister will have regard for the points raised by the members of the Opposition. I would feel much happier if the Government, or the Minister, could agree with the company to eliminate this clause altogether because there is a certain amount of doubt in my mind as to what will happen if it remains in the Bill.

Schedule put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 9.39 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 1st September, 1966

CONTENTS

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Compliance with Standing Orders

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Mr. President, I would like to ask the Minister for Mines a question without notice.

The PRESIDENT: Does the question deal with a matter which is on the notice paper?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No.

The PRESIDENT: I think that Standing Orders prohibit the asking of a question unless it deals with a matter on the notice paper.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It is in regard to something which was said in the House last evening.

The PRESIDENT: Could the honourable member give notice of the question?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes.

QUESTIONS (4): ON NOTICE

HOUSING

Collier Pine Plantation Area: Use for Project

1. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

   (1) Did a meeting take place on the 16th August, 1966, between officers of the State Housing Commission and delegates from the South Perth City Council concerning the Collier pine plantation area?

   (2) If so, did this meeting discuss the proposed East Manning State Housing Commission project on land adjacent to the Collier pine plantation?

(3) When is it anticipated that the erection of State housing homes will commence on this land?

(4) What is the number of homes envisaged for the area?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) At the discussion, the commission's revised appreciation as to the various methods and types of residential and other development of this land was outlined, so as to obtain South Perth City Council's views as to the likely effect on the council's town planning and development proposals. Further consultative discussion is to be held.

(4) At present it is not possible to estimate the extent and nature of residential development which will be undertaken. These together with timing of development will depend on outcome of further discussion with the council, town planning requirements, possible density of development, and the availability of funds to both the commission and the authorities providing services and facilities.

LAND

Balladonia: Retention for Australians

2. The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON asked the Minister for Mines:

Would the Minister explain why the land at Balladonia should not be held by the Government until such time as it is required by the people of Australia, instead of transferring rights in it now to a company which can subsequently dispose of it to Australian buyers at a profit, and transfer such profits to shareholders in England and the United States of America?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The land at Balladonia is still held by the Government and no decision has been made for its release to a company. Discussions to date regarding the land have only been on the basis of permitting experiments to ascertain whether the area is suitable for economic agricultural development, which, if successful, would be followed by negotiations. Any proposals developed would be submitted for parliamentary approval.

IRRIGATION

New Waroona Dam

3. The Hon. N. McNEILL asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Can he advise whether the new Waroona dam is yet completed?

(2) Is it anticipated that water conserved in the dam this season will be available for irrigation during the 1966-67 summer?

(3) When the dam is fully operative, is it intended that the irrigated area will be—

(a) extended and, or

(b) allocated a greater quantity of water per irrigated acre within the existing area?

(4) Have engineering, soil, or land use surveys been carried out with a view to extending the irrigation area, and if so, with what results?

(5) What is the estimate of increased revenue to the department as a result of the extra water being available?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) The dam is completed except for site clean up, and is storing water.

(2) Yes.

(3) (a) Some minor extensions are under consideration but expansion generally will be within the present district.

(b) The new dam will allow a safe draw of three acre-feet of water for each rated acre irrespective of seasonal conditions. Additional water would be available in good seasons as water sales.

(4) Soil surveys have shown that there is virtually no extra land outside the present district suitable for irrigation.

(5) When the district is fully developed, additional rates of the order of $2,000 are anticipated. Water sales are dependent on seasonal conditions.

4. *This question was postponed.*

CEMETERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and transmitted to the Assembly.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT BILL

Third Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [2.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [2.41 p.m.]: When I spoke in the House yesterday on legislation dealing with housing I did so without any prior knowledge

of what was to appear in the paper this morning. In *The West Australian* of today's date there is an article by Thomas Jenkins referring to a worker named George Barker who has commenced, or who is about to commence building a plastic house in Ardross. The article supports many of the suggestions I made when I spoke last evening. I shall not read the article because it is in the paper for anybody to read, but whoever does so will find it extremely interesting and, from a building point of view, I think we should take considerable interest in the matter and watch closely the building of this house by Mr. Barker.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [2.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan) [2.43 p.m.]: I was under the impression that at the third reading stage the Minister in charge of the Bill would give the House an explanation as to why the Act was to come into operation on a date to be proclaimed.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Your impression was correct.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (South Metropolitan) [2.44 p.m.]: Last evening, when dealing with this Bill at the second reading stage, Mr. Wise made a statement on advice that I had given to him. I would like the House, and particularly the Minister, to understand clearly the position. At no time did Mr. Wise, or myself, claim that the vehicles referred to, and which were being sold or distributed throughout Western Australia, were carrying foot and mouth disease bacteria. The information was given in the Chamber last night to bring to the notice of Parliament, and the departments concerned, what actually happens when vehicles, but not necessarily these vehicles—they could be vehicles from any country in the world—come through the Port of Fremantle.

The vehicles are unloaded from ships and are usually pushed into a transit shed. From there they could be taken to a bond store and then transferred to the establishment where they are steam-cleaned and disinfected. If they are unloaded at No. 1, 2, or 3 berth North Wharf, and they have to go to the bond store, and from there to the disinfecting yards, the vehicles could travel three to four miles. If they are unloaded at Victoria Quay the vehicles would have to travel a distance of probably a mile and a half or two miles and they are not steam-cleaned or disinfected until after they have travelled along our roads and reached the establishment where this work is done. As a result any disease that could be carried in soil lodged in the cracks of the tyres, or under the mudguards, or on any other part of the vehicle, could be transmitted by means of the soil if it drops off in transit.

This soil could also fall off onto the wharf apron, and in the bond store, or on our roadways. A good deal of stock is handled at Fremantle and the wharf aprons and the railway yards could be places where the stock could come in contact with contaminated soil. The stock are transported by rail to country areas and, as a result, this disease could be transmitted to other areas.

I am not criticising anybody over this matter. I think the person or persons importing these Army-type vehicles is doing the right thing by the department and is complying with the regulations. However, I believe the same principle should be adopted in this case as was adopted by the quarantine department and the Department of Agriculture after the last war. I was responsible for drawing the department's attention to some machinery that was coming into this country from Malaya, or from islands north of Australia. There were some very large snails adhering to this machinery and I mentioned the fact. However, it took several days for the departmental officers to come down to the shed and thoroughly steam-clean and disinfect the machinery so that the snails would not become a pest in this country.

I do not know whether this is a truthful statement, but at the time the officer concerned told me—and Mr. MacKinnon might have some knowledge of this—that these huge snails could devour a cabbage at one sitting!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you think that is what happened to his hair?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We were more interested in devouring the snails.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: My feeling in regard to the matter is that these vehicles should be disinfected. I know it is impossible to steam-clean on the wharf every vehicle that comes into Australia, but I think the tyres should be treated with disinfectant, and underneath the mudguards and the rest of the vehicle it should be spray-fogged prior to being landed. If all precautions are not taken the purpose of the Bill will be defeated.

If vehicles from Italy are permitted to land in Western Australia there could be problems. Italian sausage, and certain other continental foodstuffs, are not permitted to be brought into this country because of the possibility of spreading foot and mouth disease. Vehicles brought here from Italy might have come straight from a cow paddock in Italy, for instance, and

could be the cause of spreading foot and mouth disease by reason of their being driven on our local roads without being steam-cleaned or disinfected at the wharf-site.

However, I think this matter should be kept in its proper perspective. I am not claiming that the two people who are importing these vehicles are not complying with the regulations, or that the vehicles are unsafe because of the possibility that they might be the means of spreading disease. But I would like the Minister, if possible—and I know that cannot be done at this stage—to tell the House what action is taken by the quarantine department and the Department of Agriculture in this respect, and if we can be assured that in future vehicles will be disinfected on the deck of the ship or on the apron of the wharf prior to being driven over our roads.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [2.49 p.m.]: I am informed that all second-hand motor vehicles and secondhand equipment used for earth-moving purposes, treatment plant trucks, etc., are inspected by quarantine officers at ports of entry, and if any soil, plants, residue, dirt, etc., are found the vehicles are required to be steam-cleaned and the interiors thoroughly cleansed to remove all forms of possible contamination. This is done under supervision. The procedure commenced at Fremantle has now been adopted, I understand, at all Australian ports. On occasions new vehicles are ordered into quarantine for cleaning. Beyond that I have no information. I do not know exactly where this cleaning takes place, but apparently the honourable member thinks it takes place some distance from the ship—

The Hon. R. Thompson: It does.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: —and, as a result, the vehicle has to travel from the ship to the point of cleaning; and this may be a possible danger zone.

I will have this matter investigated with a view to ascertaining what is done on these occasions. In respect of the proclamation, I am told that the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act deals mainly with the matter of compensation in the establishment of a fund for this purpose. There is ample provision in the Stock Diseases Act to enable immediate action to be taken in the event of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

So we apparently have a combination of the two: the Stock Diseases Act immediately taking action in the event of there being the necessity to do so, and the proclamation of the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act for the purpose of giving compensation. Accordingly there is no necessity to proclaim the Act until the occasion arises.

As the Minister for Agriculture said when he introduced the Bill in another place, I hope there may never be cause for it to be proclaimed.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

BILLS (2): THIRD READING

1. Potato Growing Industry Trust Fund Act Amendment Bill.
   Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and passed.
2. Poisons Act Amendment Bill.
   Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health), and transmitted to the Assembly.

WUNDOWIE WORKS MANAGEMENT AND FOUNDRY AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [2.53 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has been passed in another place and its purpose is to ratify an agreement under which Wundowie remains as a Government-owned instrumentality managed by A.N.I. Australia Pty. Limited, which will also establish a foundry there.

The agreement is divided into five main parts and is rather complex, as it contains conditions which clarify the company's position in both the management of the existing industry and the establishment of the foundry, while protecting the interests of the State.

The preliminary section is self explanatory and requires no further elucidation. The purpose of part two is to establish A.N.I. as manager of the industry, now financially reorganised with a better chance of future profitable operation. The period of management initially will be for 10 years, subject in some respects to the Minister, though, naturally not in the every-day running of the concern.

Paragraph (c) of clause 4(1) grants to the management company the right to fix prices for the industry's products, subject to a fixed minimum. This is desirable because the management company in its own right will be a substantial purchaser of Wundowie's products.

Clause 5 sets out the method of calculating the management fee payable to A.N.I. The basis of this calculation is that the company is entitled to a fee of $35,000 per annum, reducible by $7,000 each year thereafter. The company is entitled, in addition, to 20 per cent. of improvement in trading results beyond the adjusted trading results of the year 1965-66, but regardless of any improvement in profitability attributable to write off of capital, reduction of depreciation, and interest charges, etc.

the minimum fee payable is $15,000 in any year. It is tied directly to the results achieved within the industry, as distinct from the foundry, under A.N.I. management.

Clause 8 requires a little explanation, as it will be remembered that last session members were informed it would be necessary to write-off the industry's capital by approximately $2,200,000. This write off leaves the capital of the industry at $800,000 and this amount will be credited to capital account No. 1. This sum will be adjusted by the losses for the years ended the 30th June, 1965 and 1966, and by the decreased amounts of interest and depreciation which will be charged for those years. Also added to the amount will be the total cash paid by the State to the industry subsequent to the 30th June, 1964, for approved items of capital equipment. This date has relation to the time of the initial discussion of the takeover of the industry by A.N.I., which was during the 1965 financial year. All discussions were based on the financial year ended the 30th June, 1964.

The adjustments will result in capital account No. 1 being credited with $1,300,000 approximately. The exact amount will be known when the 1965-66 accounts have been finally determined.

A second account, industry provision account No. 1, is credited with the amount of the loss being accepted by the State, again as at the 30th June, 1964. This account will be adjusted by the amount of depreciation which is in excess of 4/15th of the depreciation calculated by the prime cost method for the years 1965 and 1966.

The industry's books will contain a third account—the Government loan account. The balance of this account will, in effect, represent the balance between current assets and current liabilities. This will be a debt due to the State and will bear interest at bank rate.

Members are invited to peruse clause 9 which provides for the State to leave profits, if any, in the Government loan account. The reason for this restriction is to preserve liquidity within the industry. It may be desirable that I emphasise that reference which I make to the "industry" means the Wundowie charcoal iron industry as we now know it, and not the foundry to be established by A.N.I.

One of the problems facing the industry in past years is in relation to the amount of cash required to maintain stocks and service markets overseas. This will be an increasing problem in the future, as experience has shown that if we are to maintain and possibly expand our markets in Europe and elsewhere we will have to be prepared to establish a stock of specification pig iron in Europe, and possibly send consignment stocks to other parts of the world where there is a sale for specification pig iron.

It is contemplated in clause 11 that A.N.I. may make loans to the industry. This would be a preliminary to the exercising of the option to purchase.

Part three deals with the establishment of the foundry by A.N.I. adjacent to the existing industry. This plant will cost a minimum of $600,000. It will be of modern design and its operation will be, as far as practicable, mechanised. Current estimates are that a much more substantial investment will be made. The initial design and layout of the foundry will permit a throughput of 6,000 tons per annum with an expectancy of the major portion of production being sold outside this State.

Wundowie owns some items of minor foundry equipment at present and, under the provisions of clause 18, these will be sold to the company.

Clause 21 is important in that it deals with the price the company will pay for hot metal. The metal to be used for castings produced for sale within the State will be at the same price as that ruling for Wundowie pig iron less cost of cartage and pigging. This is to prevent A.N.I.'s foundry obtaining an undue advantage over foundries established in the metropolitan area and already supplying a service to the purchasers of castings.

Sales outside the State are expected to provide a major outlet for hot metal for castings and the price will be $34 per ton adjusted from time to time having regard to alteration of railway freights and the ruling price of pig iron. B.H.P. recently increased its price of pig iron by $4 per ton. This increase affects the price of hot metal referred to, so it becomes $38 per ton. This figure was fixed to give a net return for some of our overseas export sales better than we currently, and in the future, can expect.

The State is entitled, under subclause (b) (ii) of clause 21, to 25 per cent. of the foundry net profit before income tax. This equals 40 per cent. of the profits after tax.

A formula provides for an adjustment if A.N.I.'s investment in the foundry exceeds $600,000. Any such adjustment, however, would not reduce the share of profits below that which we were enjoying prior to the investment in the foundry by A.N.I. being increased.

The State is protected under the provisions of clause 24 if A.N.I.'s demand for hot metal reaches the stage where the industry is to forego some of its premium sales. This clause also provides that the company will continue to supply the local foundrymen with pig iron.

Clauses 27 and 28 deal with the provision of additional houses at Wundowie. This is considered a necessity if workers for the new foundry are to be encouraged to a decentralised undertaking such as this. The clauses set out the terms under which houses will be built by the State Housing

Commission from funds outside the Housing Commission's normal allocation. This will be achieved by permitting the industry to borrow money for housing purposes. The State's allocation under the Loan Council formula will not be affected, providing the sum raised in any one year does not exceed $200,000.

Part IV grants to the company an option to purchase the industry and an option for the State to purchase the foundry. Should the company exercise its option to purchase the industry, the return to the State in total must be at least $800,000 regardless of any losses incurred by the industry in the meantime. Part IV covers the general provisions of the agreement.

Clause 36 refers to the completion of an agreement with the industrial unions protecting the services of the employees at Wundowie prior to their engagement by the company. This agreement has been negotiated with the approval of the Trades and Labour Council.

Clause 37 protects the payroll tax rebates to which the industry is normally entitled for export performance.

Parliament gave the Government virtually complete authority last year to negotiate an agreement in respect of the industry, except for an outright sale. The Government has interpreted this to mean that an option to purchase should, for all practical purposes, be treated as a potential outright sale. Therefore, the agreement was negotiated on the basis it would need to be ratified by Parliament.

There was, however, the question of the interim period so as to lose no time in the preparatory work for the establishment of the diversified and expanded industry. This is in the interests of the Wundowie community as well as in the interests of the industry itself. It is because of this the agreement was drawn up on the basis of a transition period from the 1st July, and pending ratification. This is within the powers granted by Parliament. There is provision in part one of the agreement for the formation of a management company. This was done on the 24th June when a company known as A.N.I. (Wundowie Management) Pty. Limited was registered for the purposes set out in the agreement.

When ratification transpires and the legislation is proclaimed, this transition period will have no further significance and the management will be undertaken by A.N.I. Australia Pty. Limited.

When summarising his remarks in another place, the Minister representing the Minister for Industrial Development pointed out that, firstly, Wundowie Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry had little prospect of continuance as a viable industry without a major reorganisation and diversification.

Secondly, the Government did not want to see the industry and the township disappear, but could not see its way clear to provide the additional funds from badly needed loan funds necessary to provide this reorganisation and diversification.

Thirdly, the ideal solution would have been to transfer the industry to private ownership of a company with a strong capital structure and able to diversify and expand.

Fourthly, the form of the agreement now before the House is considered to be the next best thing to an outright sale. The industry remains in State ownership and a modern foundry—which will be a tied customer for the industry's pig iron—will be established without cost to the Government.

If I could be given a moment, I want to check a figure I gave. I think I referred to a figure of $800,000. If I referred to it as £800,000 I was wrong as it should read $800,000. If I have made a mistake I would like to clarify it and advise the House at a later date.

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

LESLIE SOLAR SALT INDUSTRY AGREEMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

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

WOOD DISTILLATION AND CHARCOAL IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [3.9 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has been passed in another place and is complementary to the Bill to ratify the agreement between the Government and A.N.I. Australia Pty. Limited of the 24th June, 1966.

There are several clauses to which I should make particular reference in an explanatory manner. Clause 6 amends section 5 to permit diversification into products of the furnace other than iron and steel which may be required by the foundry. The industry is permitted, at the present time, to produce only charcoal iron and steel. We would be shortsighted if we did not widen this clause to permit the production of other metallised products which logically could be processed by the foundry, or which could enable the foundry to diversify.

Clause 7 amends section 11 to permit the reconstitution of the board of management from the present five members to three members, two of whom will be nominated by the company. It is consid-

ered essential, if the company is to be responsible to and subject to the Minister for the management of the industry, that it control the board of management.

There is contained in the remaining sections machinery for appointment of substitute members of the board of management should A.N.I. cease to be managers. Provision is made also to change the name of the industry to Wundowie charcoal iron industry.

A passing reference to clause 8 amending section 18 would not be out of place. This clause provides for the borrowing of money by the industry, primarily to enable workers' houses to be built as required. By raising these funds through the industry, we will be able to build these houses in addition to the normal housing programme.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan.

PERTH MEDICAL CENTRE BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (Lower West—Minister for Health) [3.12 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This very important Bill, as the title implies, is a Bill for an Act to enable a medical centre to be established at Hollywood by reserving certain lands and constituting a body corporate for the development, management, and control of such lands, and for incidental and other purposes.

It is an important Bill because of the impact it will have on the future of medicine in Western Australia. It represents a significant development of an enlightened policy in our health and hospital services.

The passing of the Bill will enable the Government and the University to embark on a collaborative programme of extending and creating first-class facilities for diagnosis and treatment, not only of the physically and mentally ill, but also of patients in need of rehabilitation, day care, long-term care, etc. It will enable also the extension of teaching facilities not only for doctors and medical students, but also for nurses and other ancillary workers, and the extension of research in all areas related to diseases and patient care.

The concept of the proposed centre, and the coming together of all branches of the medical profession, with the full co-operation of the Government and the University, is probably unique in this country and will, of certainty, be of great benefit to medicine in general. Our existing hospital system is a tremendous, expensive, and expanding enterprise. This must necessarily be so.

Existing legislation providing for the health and hospital services of our State has served the community well. Insofar as our hospitals are concerned, the present Act, namely the Hospitals Act, 1927-55, replaced a pioneer law passed originally in 1894. It is a long cry since then.

The long title of the Hospitals Act describes it as an Act to amend the law relating to public hospitals and to provide for the establishment, maintenance, and management of such institutions, and for other relevant purposes. This Act, in itself, is concerned in the main with our hospital system.

The legislation I now introduce dramatically emphasises the progress which has been made over the last decade or so, by which the preventive as well as the curative aspect of our health services has progressed.

It may well be said that the proposal for the establishment of the medical centre as is set out in this Bill, gives living expression to the enterprise and research of experts in all fields of health and medicine.

Apart from this aspect, it would be hard to believe that the generation of ideas for the establishment of the proposed complex at Hollywood started a decade or so ago, but it was not until 1964 that my predecessor in office, The Hon. Ross Hutchinson, was able to give the "all clear" to a firm plan of development, having in mind the general progress which had been made in the upgrading of our hospital services throughout the State.

In 1964 discussions on the planning of the centre began in earnest. This followed the appointment of a committee, known as the Medical Centre Joint Planning Committee, consisting of representatives of the Department of Public Health, the University, and the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. They have been able to co-opt as necessary.

The members who were appointed to that committee were—

University representatives:

Deputy Vice Chancellor—Professor C. J. B. Clews.

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine —Professor E. G. Saint—now Professor R. E. J. ten Seldam.

Mr. L. Le Souef.

University's Consultant Architect —Professor G. Stephenson.

Departmental representatives:

Commissioner of Public Health—Dr. W. S. Davidson.

Under Secretary, Medical Department—Mr. J. J. Devereux.

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital:

Physician Superintendent—Dr. H. R. Elphick.

Then followed the sending overseas of an investigating committee of three, comprising Dr. H. J. Rowe, Assistant Principal

Medical Officer of the Medical Department, Professor E. G. Saint of the University Medical School, and Mr. M. Fairbrother, an architect of the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department. They undertook a detailed study of architectural and hospital engineering developments in Israel, Denmark, Britain, and the United States of America, and made other inquiries into all aspects concerned with a centre of this nature.

Mr. President, thanks to your co-operation, a model of the proposed Perth medical centre is on display in the foyer. At some time, perhaps, there will be the opportunity for me to explain some aspects of this to the members of this House.

This model has been made in such a way that parts can be removed to show the Radiotherapy Institute, the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and the other buildings that exist at the present time. Other buildings clip into position.

In this model the roadways which, up to date, have been completed are shown but the present road which runs between the institute and the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital is not shown. In time, of course, this road will have to go.

This model is not actually drawn to an architectural plan. It is, in the main, diagrammatic and it is intended to show the possible development of this site which, in concept, will be followed. I thank you, Sir, for your co-operation in allowing this model to be displayed. It may help members to envisage how the completed work will appear.

Included in the model is the present repatriation hospital. Members will be able to see this landmark and it will help them to orientate their position.

On the return from the overseas visit, the conceptional planning of this centre proceeded and some fundamental principles involved in the centre are—

(a) First and most importantly, that the facilities of the hospital complex should be available to all sections of the community and the medical profession.

(b) That the centre should provide a comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic service for a population likely to number 250,000.

(c) That emphasis should be placed on the provision of smoothly-operating and efficient outpatient diagnostic services sparing the load on inpatient facilities.

(d) That hospital buildings, communications and services should be designed in accordance with requirements of both patients and staff. Areas of the hospital are clearly designated, for acute care, for the care of moderately ill but bedridden patients, and for patients in need of rehabilitative and occupational activities.

(e) That adequate facilities for both the acute and long-term care of elderly patients should be provided.

(f) That the centre should be designed to permit future expansion of the medical school and of the public health laboratories.

(g) That laboratory buildings should be designed to permit easy subsequent modification of function and expansion.

The plan and model provides for the accommodation of the following facilities and interrelated institutions:—

(a) A 600-700 bed general hospital with a full range of diagnostic and outpatient facilities.

(b) A radiotherapy institute, augmented in size.

(c) Government public health laboratories.

(d) A re-located medical school, with departments of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, pathology, and microbiology.

(e) A large nurses' training school.

(f) Quarters for resident nurses and doctors.

(g) Parking facilities for patients, their relatives and staff.

The orientation of buildings permits easy access for patients and visitors by public transport from all quarters of the metropolitan area. Areas have been earmarked on the site for a dental school, future hospital expansion, and a private hospital wing, should any such private hospital be interested. Hospital building is planned to take place to the north of the existing Sir Charles Gairdner block, whilst laboratory building will feature on the southern end of the site.

Hospital building will include—

(a) New emergency and diagnostic X-ray departments.

(b) An augmented operating theatre block.

(c) A separate low-level outpatient polyclinic lying near to the eastern access road.

(d) A new 240-bed block lying to the north and parallel with the existing Sir Charles Gairdner wing, for intensive and high density nursing care.

(e) A series of low-level blocks of attractive styling lying further to the north, for the care of patients requiring rehabilitation. These wards will be related to a physiotherapy department, and to a day centre for ambulant patients.

The medical school buildings will include a library, lecture theatres, staff offices, and teaching and research laboratories, articu-

lating with both the southern pole of the hospital and the public health laboratories.

Building is planned on a phased basis. The urgent need is for the new public health laboratories and for low-level beds to relieve the heavy load on existing hospital beds. If these facilities are provided, the "heavy" building will proceed over the next decade in a stepwise manner.

The concept of a "centre"—the idea of a common purpose uniting professional and community, Government and University interests—has dominated thought in planning, leading to what is believed to be the most efficient set-up of its kind for such an important role in medicine. As I have indicated, the plan permits phased growth and development, in relation to the availability of funds from two sources—Government and University. Thus the building of the public health laboratories, low-level psychiatric and rehabilitative beds—which will include University facilities—may commence early in 1968, to be followed by emergency department and polyclinic building, and later, other bed accommodation. Into this programme doubtless the medical school buildings will be integrated.

The earliest stage at which building will commence on the site will be concerned with a nurses' training school to be started in the second half of this financial year. Every effort is being made to start on extra ward accommodation within the next 12 months. However, as will be observed by members as they pass through this area, work on the site has started by the realignment of roads close to the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and, indeed, near the University. This work may be described as preliminary to the major project, which, when it gets under way, will involve the closing of University Avenue, which cuts through the centre and runs alongside the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

On present calculations, it is estimated that the expenditure involved will be approximately $33,000,000, of which $8,000,000 will be found by the University. The programme which develops will depend on the availability of loan funds. The total concept is expected to spread over a period of 12 to 15 years.

Dealing with the Bill itself, I have already indicated that the long title refers to the proposal to establish a medical centre by reserving certain lands and constituting a body corporate for the development, management and control of the reserve. In the first place, the Bill sets out that it will come into operation on a date to be fixed by proclamation.

There is the usual definitions clause, which indicates that the term "medical centre" includes the aggregate of any medical school, hospital, and other place whatsoever built on the reserve wherein any form of diagnostic, therepeutic, or rehabilitative treatment of patients is performed or given, or medical education and research carried out and all clinics, dispensaries, outpatients departments, services, offices, and undertakings maintained on the reserve in connection with, or incidental to, any such medical school, hospital, or place.

The term "medical education" includes the instruction of medical and dental students, nurses and students of any services ancillary to medical or dental treatment. It will be noted that the word "includes" is used rather than the word "means", thus implying that the terms "medical centre" and "medical education" are not restrictive but can cover anything that can be described by those particular terms.

The Bill then goes on to say that the land described in part I of the schedule, which in the main, is owned by the University, shall be revested in Her Majesty as of Her former estate, and on the necessary publication of an Order-in-Council, all land subjected to this particular clause shall be removed from the operation of the Transfer of Land Act. It is then reserved for the purpose of establishing and maintaining thereon a medical centre and is classified as an "A"-class reserve and shall be known as the Perth medical centre reserve. It is thereby given the standing of a Class "A" reserve and this, as will be known to members, cannot be altered unless by Act of Parliament. The total area involved is approximately 70 acres.

The Bill further proposes that there shall be a trust, known as the Perth medical centre trust, consisting of five members whose functions shall be to undertake the development, control, and management of the reserve. I stress the word "reserve." One of these members will be a person appointed by the Governor on the nomination of the Minister and the Senate of the University, to hold office during the Governor's pleasure. The Bill proposes that this person will become the chairman. The other four members will comprise two nominees by the Minister to hold office during the Governor's pleasure; and two persons appointed by the Senate of the University to hold office during its pleasure.

There is provision that the trust—

(a) shall be a body corporate, with perpetual succession;

(b) shall have a common seal;

(c) will be capable, subject to clause 13 of this Bill of acquiring, holding, and disposing of real and personal property, and of suing and being sued in its corporate name.

There then follows in the Bill various clauses concerned with quorums, procedure to be followed in the event of vacancies arising, matters concerned with leave of

absence, and formalities relating to the calling of meetings of the trust. These are all dealt with in clauses 8 to 12 of the Bill.

In clause 13 there is reference to the functions of the trust and, as I have already indicated, these are concerned with the development, control, and management of the reserve. It should be here noted that these functions are not concerned with the management of the medical centre itself—as, for instance, the management of the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital or the Radiotherapy Institute. These will continue to operate in co-operation with the trust under their respective boards of management, and under their relevant Acts; that is, the Hospitals Act and the Cancer Council of Western Australia Act. It could well be that in time these managements will merge.

By this clause the trust is empowered, with the approval of the Governor, to borrow moneys on such terms and conditions as the Treasurer approves, and the Treasurer is authorised to guarantee, on such terms and conditions as he thinks fit, the repayment of any money borrowed by the trust under this particular clause.

The trust is also empowered to employ in developing, controlling, and managing the reserve, any sum provided for those purposes by Parliament, and any funds arising from profits, fees, penalties, or otherwise coming into the hands of the trust in the course of developing, controlling, and managing the reserve.

There is an important provision in this clause which says that the trust shall not sell or, without the consent of the Governor, lease, mortgage, charge, or otherwise deal with any land forming part of the reserve, but may, with such consent, from time to time, lease for a term not exceeding 99 years, mortgage, charge, or grant easements over or under any part of the reserve.

There is power also for the trust to accept any gift or bequest, and apply the proceeds in such manner as the trust thinks fit towards the improvement of the medical centre or the extension of the objects for which it is established. There are powers also to employ officers as may be deemed necessary.

There is provision also for the submission to the Minister of reports and financial statements regarding the operations of the trust, copies of which shall be forwarded also to the Senate of the University.

It is required also that the trust shall furnish to the Minister for presentation to each House of Parliament an annual report regarding its operations. A copy of this shall also be forwarded to the Senate of the University. There is the necessary safeguard with regard to auditing of financial statements by the Auditor-General.

There is an important provision in the Bill which sets out that each hospital established on the reserve, declared to be a teaching hospital, shall have a managing body. This body will be appointed under the Hospitals Act. There is also a provision in the Bill that not less than one-fifth of its members shall be persons nominated by the Senate of the University; furthermore, that such teaching hospital shall have a committee, known as the appointments committee, which shall be charged with the duty of nominating persons for appointment by the managing body of the hospital to its medical staff. It is here emphasised that the managing body is the final arbiter in this decision, and that the appointments committee nominates the persons for appointment.

The appointments committee will consist of seven members, three of whom shall be persons appointed by the managing body of the teaching hospital, and three by the Senate of the University, one at least of whom shall be a member of the faculty of medicine at the University of Western Australia. The remaining member will be the chairman of the managing body of the hospital. It is proposed that the period of their appointment shall be for three years.

There is provision that the Parks and Reserves Act, 1895, does not apply. This is designed to indicate that the Bill, in itself, provides for an Act of its own particular significance and importance—as a Class "A" reserve to be controlled in special circumstances within the powers mentioned in this particular Bill.

There are the usual powers for the making of by-laws, keeping of accounts, the conduct of persons frequenting the reserve, and with regard to trespass and the regulation of traffic.

These provisions explain in general the proposals in this Bill. The Bill, in itself, is small in size but substantial in importance. It opens up a concept of medicine which, as far as I can gather, has not yet been attempted elsewhere in the Commonwealth. It is a long-term arrangement and will need considerable sums to bring it to fruition. It follows a lengthy period of research by many dedicated professional men and others too numerous to mention.

Its proposals are soundly based on advice received from all parts of the world. Some of this has been written advice, but, as I indicated previously, the Government has not been satisfied with this. It sent its experts overseas to observe what is being done elsewhere, believing that it is embarking upon a venture which will influence medicine in Western Australia—if not the whole of the Commonwealth—for many years to come.

Moreover, it will, I believe, set the pattern for further medical centres as may be necessary in the metropolitan area and the country, and it may well be that the concept of regional hospitals in our main

country towns will gradually evolve into regional medical centres.

Debate adjourned until Thursday, the 8th September, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition).

MAIN ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West —Minister for Local Government) [3.35 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This measure contains amendments affecting three separate areas of the Main Roads Act and I shall explain each in the order in which it appears in the Bill.

The training and employment of cadets is restricted under the Act to civil engineering. Consequently, there is no means of employing or training cadets in any other professional category. On the other hand, many different types of fully qualified professional people are employed by the department, and this restriction in the employment and training of cadets presents a particular difficulty in the department in obtaining sufficient numbers of candidates for carrying out the ever-growing work of the Main Roads Department.

There is an amendment, therefore, contained in this Bill which is designed to enable the department to train cadets in various fields. When this can be implemented, it will help to overcome the shortage of trained professional men in the first instance. There will be the further advantage in that it will provide more opportunities for young people to obtain an education which, perhaps, because of financial limitations, they would otherwise be unable to obtain. We need highly trained men desperately in this State, in the engineering and related fields particularly; so this amendment to the Act will benefit not only those prospective students who take up cadetships, but also the department and the State as a whole.

The second main feature of the Bill is the intention to give the Commissioner of Main Roads certain powers to carry out road works on any road in the metropolitan area, provided that such works are financed from the department's share of traffic-fee funds. This is almost identical with the provision which existed previously in the Act as subsection (4) of section 34. Section 34 contained a number of redundant financial provisions, and the entire section was repealed when an amendment was made to the Traffic Act by Act No. 67 of 1964.

The new section proposed in this Bill is almost identical with the subsection then struck out. Although the commissioner has continued to provide finance for traffic-fee roads under the authority of section 14 of the Traffic Act, some doubt has been expressed as to the commissioner's powers to carry out road works under this section. To place the matter beyond doubt, it is considered desirable that the authority be specifically stated in the Main Roads Act, as was formerly the case before the relevant section to which I have referred was repealed.

The third main feature of this measure has been designed to prevent any structures being placed on areas which are part of an access road, without the prior consent of the Commissioner of Main Roads. It is at present possible that expensive services may be placed over or under these access ways, and when structural alterations have to be made these services would have to be pulled down at very high cost. Since the commissioner is in a position to know whether any alterations are likely to be made to an access way or access road, and what such alterations are likely to be, it is most desirable that his approval be given before such services are commenced, thus obviating costly future alterations.

It is to be provided, therefore, that where any organisation erects a structure over or under such an access road without the commissioner's prior approval, the commissioner will be empowered to order the removal of the structure and, if it is not removed, the commissioner may then remove it himself at cost to the organisation which erected it.

Minor amendments contained in the Bill bring the interpretation of "local authority" into line with the Local Government Act of 1960, and also provide the complementary adjustment needed to dovetail the major changes regarding cadets.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan.

PAINTERS' REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West— Minister for Local Government) [3.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. President, you, and most of the members present, will recall that, when the Painters' Registration Bill was introduced in 1961, it was presented as a measure designed to ensure that whenever a registered painter was employed for a job of work by a member of the public, that person would know he was obtaining the services of an artisan qualified to carry out painting work. In this regard, we have the assurance that all persons, who carry out this type of work to a greater value than $100, must be registered under the Act by the Painters' Registration Board, and those registered must, of course, satisfy the board as to their competency as painters.

It has been noticed recently that some unregistered painters have been designating themselves as "registered painters." As a consequence, prospective employers lack the assurance intended to be provided by the legislation that the person he might employ for his painting job is proven competent to do the work in a satisfactory manner.

It is apparent also that, as the Act stands, there is no statutory means of preventing a person from calling himself a registered painter, even though he is not registered under the Painters' Registration Act. This Bill is designed specifically to prevent anyone from holding himself out to be a registered painter when, in fact, he is not so registered and, upon its passing into an Act, the general public will have a greater assurance as to the type of artisan to be employed.

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

BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 30th August.

THE HON. S. T. J. THOMPSON (Lower Central) [3.42 p.m.]: This Bill contains amendments which are in addition to the few which previously have been made to the Brands Act, 1904. In the main, the measure does two things. First of all, it further regulates the size of the brand, and in a later clause it provides that all unshorn sheep shall be branded. This will include lambs under the age of six months, and is the only real alteration to the original Act.

I thought I would go back and see what happened in 1904 in order to ascertain the reason for the original Act. I found that in 1902 there was an attempt made to bring in a Brands Act. A Select Committee was appointed and in 1904 a Bill was introduced by the Colonial Secretary (The Hon. G. Taylor). In giving his reasons for the introduction of the measure he said this—

> To show the necessity for passing the present measure, I may point to the great increase in this State in the number of sheep, horses, and cattle, for whereas in 1885 the number of horses in Western Australia was 34,392, the number of cattle was 70,408, and the number of sheep was 1,702,719; the increase since that date has been great, for in 1893 we had 82,747 horses, 49,717 head of cattle, and 2,600,633 sheep.

It is quite evident that there was no clover disease among sheep in those days because their numbers increased rapidly in a period of eight years. What intrigued me more than anything else was that one of the reasons given for the introduction of the measure was that this State should be in conformity with the Eastern States in this regard. I thought it was only in recent years that we adopted this practice! However, even in 1904 there was a desire to be in conformity with the Eastern States.

The main feature of that Bill—as you, Sir, Mr. Willmott, and older members will realise—was that it abolished the three-letter system of branding and introduced two letters and a numeral. I find there was very little discussion on the measure as to reasons for its introduction. The main discussion was in connection with the size of the brand and the effect it would have after being placed on the side of a vealer or a cow. Members wondered what size a three-inch brand on a young beast would finish up after the beast grew.

Mr. Taylor said that whilst he realised we did not have the duffing problems that faced the other States he thought the passing of the Bill would be advantageous to Western Australia. I think the reasons given in those days for the introduction of that Bill would stand good today in regard to these amendments, as we are experiencing a rapid increase in the number of stock.

In addition to the registration of brands, today we also have a registered earmark; and there is a growing use of tags for age marking. Therefore a third method of identification is available, because it is possible to put one's name on the tags. One can have a registered brand, a registered earmark, and can place one's name on the tag. Admittedly, there are a few casualties in regard to these tags when shearing takes place, but the method is becoming increasingly popular and I think it will only be a short time before all sheep will be tagged.

Sheep stealing has not been controlled in Western Australia despite the different methods of identification. Every year a considerable number of sheep is being reported as stolen despite the fact that we have all these means of identification; and very few of the sheep are ever traced. I do not expect the amendments contained in this measure will overcome this difficulty.

The first amendment, which regulates the size of the brand, is perhaps to try to ensure that we have a more legible brand by not using smaller figures, which some farmers seem prone to use. It is interesting to note that originally the material used for the brand was a tar-base substance which lasted effectively and withstood the weather for a long period. However, this material had an unfortunate disadvantage in that it could not be scoured from the fleece and resulted in a tremendous loss to farmers. Eventually it was banned.

The new fluid which has been evolved has the advantage that it can be readily

scoured from the wool, but unfortunately it is more subject to weather erosion.

Sitting suspended from 3.48 to 4.2 p.m.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: Before the afternoon tea suspension I was dealing with the branding fluid which is now used. Having covered that point I will return to the Bill before us. The important points are in clause 2, which further regulates the size of the brands. Clauses 3 to 7 merely convert shillings and pence into dollars and cents.

Clause 8 is the other clause which has some meaning, as far as the farmers are concerned, in that it makes provision that all shorn sheep must be branded. This means that lambs under the age of six months, if shorn, must now be branded. This is a good provision, and whilst it will not overcome the difficulty of duffing, it will perhaps help to keep some of the stock with their original owners.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Upper West) [4.3 p.m.]: I rise to support this Bill. The fact that we now have to brand sheep with a brand of a definite size is important, because in the past farmers used varying sizes. This Bill will make the brands uniform. I am a little disappointed that the Bill does not go further to provide that different groups of farmers shall use different coloured dyes. I notice in my district that all my neighbours have a blue brand. If the farmers in each area were grouped and used a different colour from neighbouring areas, it would make the checking of brands much easier.

In the past, when the tar brand was used, the brand had to be pulled out of the wool after shearing because it would not scour out. Today, with the "si-ro-mark" branding, the brand can be scoured out. Many farmers feel that if they can sell their wool without the brand on it, they get a better price. Other farmers, of course, will pluck out the brand-marked wool and put it aside. When those farmers send their wool to the market they let the agent know that the wool is free of branding fluid. This probably does not apply so much nowadays because the brand does scour out easily. In any case, before the wool is scoured it is reclassed.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: What happens to the wool which is plucked? Is that scoured?

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: That wool is scoured by a special process. It is easier to do it that way than have the brand-marked wool in with all the rest of the wool.

The Brands Act provides for age marking of sheep. A clean ear was for 1965; one notch mark in the left ear shows that the sheep was born in 1966; two notches in the front of the left ear will indicate 1967; and three notches will show the sheep to be born in 1968; and so on until we get to the next two years when the marks will be on the back of the left ear. A ewe would receive one mark annually until it was six years old.

Mr. Syd. Thompson did mention the ear tags, and here again I think this would bring branding more up to date. It was mentioned that a farmer could earmark his sheep and use a different coloured tag to show the year of the drop. Actually, this is very important today with good sheep husbandry. If a farmer can run sheep in different paddocks, according to their age, he gets much better results. The fact that the flock is running right, under good management, means that the farmer will get more from it.

It is a well-known fact that sheep need better feed from lambing until they become two-tooth sheep; and they would then be one year old. That is, they need better feeding than older sheep—four-tooth, six-tooth, or full-mouth sheep. If we had different coloured ear tags for each year of the six years in the life of a sheep, one could run the sheep in different flocks and put the younger sheep on the better pasture, with the rest of the sheep perhaps on the poorer pasture. When sheep get past the full mouth, and the teeth start to break, they need to be brought back to the better pasture in order to ensure that they live longer and remain good breeders.

So I think the branding should go a step further and instead of the age markings, tags could be used to denote the varying ages of the sheep. Most farmers already do this, but it is not laid down in the Act.

With reference to the stealing of sheep, or sheep straying on to other properties, it would be of great help if one could go into a flock of sheep and pick out one's name tag. I know that in our district ear tagging has become more general and one has a better chance of getting one's sheep back when they have strayed. Although the ear tagging is used by most property owners, it would be better to have a provision in the Act for age marking rather than the existing earmarking system. One could have up to five punch marks on the ear of a sheep to denote its age. It would be better to have one brand mark and apply the ear tag.

However, I do support the Bill and I hope that the next time an amendment is made the latest developments in the farming industry will be included.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [4.11 p.m.]: The only comment that I should make in reply, in addition to thanking Mr. Syd Thompson and Mr. Heitman for their support of the Bill, is in relation to the colour of the brands. I am of the opinion that the farmer has his own colour for the sheep brand.

The Hon. J. Heitman: No; the colour is allocated to the farmer.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will leave that with those who have a greater knowledge of it than I have. Perhaps privately I can show members something which is in my possession which might discount that statement, unless I have read it incorrectly.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Section 11 amended—

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: In case there is some confusion regarding age earmarking, which Mr. Heitman referred to, this is entirely voluntary. The farmer has a registered earmark which is different from the age mark. The age mark is put on a different part of the ear. The earmark we have been using has now been replaced by a system of tags and the farmers are advocating a uniform system for a period of six years. The use of the age earmark is voluntary and that mark is entirely different and independent from the registered earmark.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3 to 12 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

EVIDENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 31st August.

THE HON. E. M. HEENAN (Lower North) [4.16 p.m.]: The Minister, in the course of his introductory remarks, mentioned that the best proof of what is contained in a document is the production of the original document itself; and the Evidence Act has always insisted that this be done, subject of course to exceptions in certain special cases.

The Bill now before us proposes to liberalise the fairly stringent procedure of the past and, if adopted, will have the effect of making it easier, and probably less bothersome and expensive, to obtain proof regarding documents, and their contents, by the production of photostat copies thereof.

There are necessary safeguards in the Bill to provide against error or abuse. For instance, the copies have to be certified in a way which should ensure that they are genuine copies of the original and, furthermore, a court, or a person acting judicially, can insist on the production of the original, if deemed necessary.

All-in-all the Bill appears to me to be a step to bring about innovations in the law of evidence in keeping with the times, and also in keeping with modern developments of technology.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

DEBT COLLECTORS LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 31st August.

THE HON. E. M. HEENAN (Lower North) [4.23 p.m.]: I am pleased to support this Bill. Earlier in the year my attention was drawn to the main matter with which it deals by certain solicitors who indicated that an amendment along the lines of this Bill was worth while.

The main purpose of the Bill is to make it unnecessary for testimonials to be submitted each year when licenses are renewed. When a person applies for a license in the first instance he has to submit, with his application, three testimonials by reputable people. These testimonials are investigated by the police and, furthermore, the background and character of the applicant are also the subject of police investigation and report.

Licenses are granted for 12 months only and any application for a renewal can, of course, be opposed. However, if there is no opposition, and if the magistrate is satisfied, it seems unnecessary that a further set of testimonials be filed each year. The purpose of the Bill is to avoid that state of affairs. It does not apply in the Land Agents Act and I agree it seems redundant and unnecessary in this Act.

The other amendment is to clear up some slight doubt which exists in connection with appeals from a magistrate's decision, and I have no objections to that amendment, either.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

House adjourned at 4.28 p.m.