Hon. A. H. Panton: You will be like the rest of them when you get there.

Mr. LESLIE: I believe that the best Government, and the best form of government, is that which is closest to the people, and that is why I want to see the powers of local governing authorities left with them as far as possible so long as they are going to do the job in the interests of the people that they, in their turn, represent. Many members of road boards forget that they represent hundreds of people who are living under the conditions that they, as road board members, lay down. I say again that the best form of government we can have is that which is closest to the people. It is, therefore, extremely unlikely that I would ever be an advocate of a uniform law. We could not have it with the differing conditions that exist. One could very nearly say that we require one law for the wheatbelt and another for the Great Southern area. But we can arrive at a happy medium in our local sphere, and that is what this Bill hopes to achieve. I shall support the second reading.

Possibly when we get to the Committee stage I will have quite a number of amendment to deal with, in accordance with requests from local governing bodies I represent, in an attempt to bring about a correstion of some of the undesirable features that exist. I only hope that any views I might submit in that direction will be in accord with the views of the majority of members, but I have my doubts about that. I might put'up an amendment that is wanted by only half-a-dozen of the road boards and not by the others. I treat the Bill as a non-Party measure and the suggestion of the member for Northam is acceptable to me. If he thinks some good will come of it, I am happy about that, though I have my

On motion by Mr. Needham, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.25 p.m.

## Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 5th July, 1949.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

#### QUESTIONS.

#### FREMANTLE HARBOUR.

As to Proposed Railway Deviation.

Hon. G. FRASER asked the Chief Secretary:

Owing to the lack of definite information in the Tydeman report, will the Minister obtain the following information:—

- (1) The exact point the proposed deviation will leave the main Perth-Fremantle railway line at North Fremantle?
- (2) What route the new line will take through North Fremantle to the proposed new bridge?
- (3) At what position the proposed new bridge will finish at East Fremantle; and
- (4) What route the new line will follow till it again links up with the present Perth-Fremantle railway?

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (for the Chief Secretary) replied:

Until surveys are completed, no more definite information can be given than that shown in Appendix 23 of Colonel Tydeman's report.

#### RAILWAYS.

As to Employees' Homes, Salmon Gums.

Hon. G. BENNETTS asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is the Premier aware that the reply to my question regarding the fettlers' residences at Salmon Gums was misleading and that only two homes have been erected in the past three years and by the previous Government, not three as indicated? In this reply he stated, "and it cannot be said that the need for providing houses has been overlooked at that centre." The only accommodation provided by the present Government consists of two 8 x 10 calico tents?
- (2) Is he aware that these deplorable conditions prevail—
  - (a) The home occupied by ganger Chandler is four-roomed, two rooms 12 x 10, the other two rooms 12 x 12. Living in the home are Mr. Chandler, wife and eight children, the ages being boys 18, 12 and 3, and girls 10, 7 and 5, and twins of 14.
  - (b) The house that Mr. Frost is living in with his wife and seven children, their ages being girls 14, 8, 6 and 3, and the boys 12, 11 and 7, contains two rooms 12 x 9 with kitchen 12 x 12—three rooms in all.
  - (c) Mr. and Mrs. Wincup with two children, their ages being 6 and 3 respectively, are living in two calico tents, 8 x 10, and are using the single men's kitchen for cooking and eating their meals?
- (3) In view of the conditions as stated, and having in mind that railway men are essential and hard to obtain in outback districts, will the Premier give early consideration to the provision of extra accommodation to help maintain a better standard of living, and a much more healthy one at that?

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (for the Chief Secretary) replied:

- (1) No. Three houses have been provided by the Railway Department during the past three years at Salmon Gums, i.e., two ereeted and one purchased.
- (2) (a) An enclosed sleepout is being provided.

- (b) A recent application for two extra detached rooms has been received and is now under consideration.
- (c) According to departmental records, the tenancy of cottage No. 919, which is a converted school building from Red Lake, is in the name of Mr. Wincup.
  - (3) Answered by No. 2.

#### BUILDING TRADES.

As to Long Service Leave.

Hon. G. FRASER asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What is the basis of payment of long service leave to a building tradesman?
- (2) Is the person concerned entitled to a multiplication of his usual weekly wage, or are deductions made from the usual weekly wage?

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (for the Chief Secretary) replied:

- (1) Government building tradesmen employed by the Principal Architect under the Private Building Contractors' Award receive by concession long service leave in accordance with the conditions applying to all Government wages employees.
- (2) Any allowances such as lost time, etc., outside 'the margin for skill are not paid whilst on long service leave.

#### HOUSING.

As to Homes at White Gum Valley.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Are the figures supplied by the State Housing Commission concerning the construction of small unit homes at White Gum Valley correct, namely—under construction, expansible 4, duplex 6?
- (2) If so, will be give the name of the street, or streets, and lot numbers where these houses are being erected?

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (for the Chief Secretary) replied:

(1) It is regretted the figures supplied direct to Hon. E. M. Davies were not correct. They should have read: Expansible units, 3; duplex units, 4.

(2) Four duplex units are being erected on Lots 1780, 1781, and 1782 Darling-street, one expansible house on Lot 1784 Darling-street, two expansible houses in Robinson-street, on Lots 1769 and 1772.

An expansible house had been planned for Lot 1778 Darling-street, but owing to ground levels being unsuitable for this type, a small four-roomed type has been substituted.

#### HOSPITALS.

As to Auxiliary Power Plant, Fremantle.

Hon. E. M. DAVIES asked the Chief Secretary:

In view of the delay by the Public Works Department in installing the auxiliary power plant purchased by the Fremantle Public Hospital last January at a cost of £3,000, will be give an assurance that power will be available to this institution?

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (for the Chief Secretary) replied:

There has been no delay in the installation of this 80 h.p. plant which was not available for testing and delivery until the 3rd June, 1949. Immediate steps were taken to procure the materials for permanent foundations and housing, and it is expected that the machine will be installed about the 8th July, 1949. In the meantime, the hospital is being fully supplied with light and power by the Fremantle Tramway Board.

### BILL—TUBERCULOSIS (COMMON-WEALTH AND STATE ARRANGEMENT).

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 29th June.

HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [2.25]: There can be no doubt that an arrangement between the Commonwealth and State whereby tuberculosis can be attacked as a public enemy is necessary, and a suitable agreement is to be applauded. One must not, however, run away with the idea that because some arrangement has been made, or some agreement has been entered into, it must naturally be accepted as the proper basis.

On looking through this agreement, I find there are certain features upon which I desire considerably more information before I can bring myself to the stage of agreeing that it should become valid. If we turn to the schedule, which is the main part of the Bill, we find that the Commonwealth has agreed to reimburse to the State such of the expenditure by the State as is mentioned in the second clause of the schedule as shall be approved by the Commonwealth Minister for Health. In paragraph (a) of the clause it is provided that all capital expenditure after the first day of July, 1948, shall be reimbursed to the State.

There is no suggestion as to the method of administration. One realises that because a referendum resulted in giving the control of health matters in general to the Commonwealth, it would be possible for it to take over health departments, hospitals and the like; but I think the Commonwealth Government has enough foresight to see that an arrangement with the States, whereby they act more or less as the administrative authorities for the Commonwealth is probably the wiser one.

But surely we should have in this measure something more than its present loose phraseology; because it would appear that if the capital expenditure on buildings is to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth, then the Commonwealth itself may say, "There shall be a common design for all hospitals or for sanatoria and other places in which to treat the sick if we are to give you revenue with which to build." would not be wise because, as has been pointed out time after time in this Chamber, the conditions in Western Australia vary so much that the State itself is the best medium to decide what is desirable in any part of the State. I would like to see this clause explained by the Minister to a much greater extent, and would be happy if we could receive from him an assurance that the Commonwealth would adopt an advisory role rather than an administrative one, and allow to the States a certain measure of autonomy in the control of such places as sanatoria and clinics.

It is only natural that the person who pays the money will ask for some control; but surely there should be some board or authority on which the Commonwealth and the State, and probably outside

interests, could be represented and which should have a say as to what type of buildings should be erected and where. second feature of this schedule which interests me is paragraph (b) of the second clause. It is a long and complicated paragraph, but what it means in effect is that the basis of the Commonwealth's increased payments for maintenance shall be that amount which is in excess of all annual payments to the end of the 30th June, 1948, and that any expenditure on maintenance after the 30th January, 1948, shall be a Commonwealth responsibility; provided, of course, that the Commonwealth authority has agreed to the expenditure.

On the surface this may sound very well and generous, but we must look a little deeper into it. By the time the 30th June, 1948, arrived, this State had shown considerable initiative in the control of tuberculosis, and had incurred a considerable amount of expenditure. Is it that all the other States were equally alive to the danger and spent, in proportion, the same amount? If not, the State which undertook work prior to the 30th June, 1948, is not going to receive, proportionately, its full share of reimbursement from the Commonwealth. I suggest that the date to be inserted in this clause should be the 30th June, 1945, rather than the 30th June, 1948. That is because in 1945 no State in Australia had had time, after the war, to develop any initiative in the control of tuberculosis. The result would be that all would then start on an even basis of remuneration from the Commonwealth.

As an example of this, I point out that the chest clinic in Perth was opened on the 7th May, 1948. The result of the clause in the agreement will be that not one penny piece of the maintenance of that clinic, from the 7th May to the end of June, nor, in fact, any maintenance or cost of the preliminary work of the inauguration of the clinic, will be met by the Commonwealth Government. We will, therefore, for ever afterwards have to pay annually the sum which we had been paying up to the 30th June, 1948, for the maintenance of that clinic. If the Commonwealth Government really desires to assist us in the control of tuberculosis, I suggest it should go right back to the days before this became a national problem-or before the national attack on the disease was initiated—and pay for the whole of the maintenance cost of the new campaign.

I seriously say to the House that we should amend this by altering the words "one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight" to "one thousand nine hundred and forty-five." Before I mention further matters about the chest clinic in this regard, there is another clause in the agreement which I would like the Minister to explain. The English is so involved that I can only surmise what is meant. I ask members to turn to page 3 and read the fourth clause of the agreement which provides—

The amount of any gift, donation or bequest received in any financial year by the State or by any institution mentioned in paragraph (b) of clause 2 of this Arrangement, upon the maintenance of which any part of the net maintenance expenditure during that year has been incurred shall also be taken into account in arriving at the amount of the net maintenance expenditure.

The only thing I can surmise is this: Suppose some body of people decided to give to the tuberculosis authorities within the State, a home or a colony for the care or treatment of the tuberculous sick, and then left the State to maintain it, the State, in putting up a claim for reimbursement at the end of the year to the Commonwealth, would be called upon to take into account the amount of the donations it had re-If that be the purpose, I would ceived. ask that the clause be deleted from the agreement. Nothing should be done to prevent public benefactions for the care of the sick.

I would remind the Minister in charge of this agreement that up to date, in this world, very little has been granted to the public, in the way of medical benefactions, through State medicine. Nor has any real advance in the treatment of the sick been made as the result of State medicine. But tremendous advances have been made in the science of medicine through institutions which were the result of private benefac-English-speaking tions in the Nothing that we can do should alter the viewpoint that we desire public benefactions for all those organisations and institutions that have at beart the care of the sick. If I am wrong in my reading of the clause, I would be delighted to hear what the explanation of the involved wording is. If, however, it is the intention that the

amount of any gift shall only ease the burden on the Commonwealth, in the year in which it is given, then we might ask the Minister to review the agreement with the Commonwealth Minister for Health.

There is one difficulty I foresee in this arrangement-and I have no desire in what I am now going to say, to offend anyone, or to try to lay blame at anybody's door -and that is to visualise what is likely to happen unless the organisations set up under the agreement remain strictly to their purpose. There has always been a division of ideas as to what is meant by "chest diseases." Tuberculosis is not the only disease of the chest. Therefore if we name a clinic for the control of tuberculosis a "chest clinic" we will at once become involved in a number of diseases other than tuberculosis.

I draw the attention of the Minister to the clause in which it is specifically pointed out that the Bill is one to enable an agreement to be executed between the State and the Commonwealth respecting a campaign to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis. Any expansion into other realms of chest diseases might quite well find the State in disagreement with the Commonwealth Government in regard to cost, either of capital buildings or of maintenance on capital buildings. It must be remembered that in the chest it is possible to have diseases other than tuberculosis; and the heart is also there. If a clinic becomes established as a chest clinic, it is possible that before long it will be called upon to give free diagnostic service for all diseases that can he more or less said to exist between the walls of the chest.

That is not the intention of the Bill nor, I think, is it the intention of the clinic. The term "chest clinic" has been introduced rather as a general term because of the fact that tuberculosis itself has had a stigma, and the public has always regarded the disease itself with horror. The result is that the term "chest clinic" has superseded the old term "tuberculosis dispensary." There is a danger that before long the chest clinic could well become a diagnostic centre and go on expanding, because if we once decide that it should give diagnoses of heart conditions, we will have to provide an electrocardiograph and possibly other facilities for the diagnosis of heart diseases. That in turn would involve the clinic with the rest of the profession and many patients, and might lead to situations that would be undesirable.

I would like an assurance from the Minister that in the conduct of the clinic the provisions of the measure will be strictly adhered to. While I would not insist that the clinic should not be called a chest clinic should he called а tuberculous clinic, I would like to see it adopt the same attitude as that of the Crown Law Department which, when it makes a statement in writing-or in print if necessary-to a person attending, states that advice is given in a certain regard only. In other words, the clinic would give advice only in cases of tuberculosis. In relation to any other condition that came under notice as the result of examination, the clinic could give full details to the patient's own doctor or, if the patient so desired, to the Royal Perth Hospital.

It is not wise to have men, specialising in one branch of medicine, expanding their work unduly into avenues where advice should be given by specialists skilled in regard to other maladies. I am speaking from the point of view of protecting the patient, much more than from that of preventing the growth of a diagnostic clinic. I believe that the intentions of the Bill and the work of the clinic would be simplified by strict adherence to the suggestion I have made; that no information should be given by the clinic except in respect of tuberculosis. It must be realised that the agreement between the State and the Commonwealth is based purely on the control of the scourge of tuberculosis; and on entering into the agreement, the State should be careful to see that it adheres to the terms laid down and does not involve itself in any way that would lead to an alteration of the conditions.

I would like the Minister, in closing the debate, to reassure the House that the State will not be allowed to suffer as the result of the provisions of the agreement and that he will consider altering the date to 1945 and taking that request to the Commonwealth Minister. It is not essential that the Bill be passed immediately. It could be delayed to enable further discussions with the Commonwealth Minister for Health to be held. On page 4 we find the following—

It is a condition of this Arrangement that the State shall, before the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and fifty, enact and bring into force legislation to give effect to this Arrangement.

It is therefore possible for an altered agreement to be entered into between the State and the Commonwealth Government before the session ends. I applaud any action taken by the combined Governments to remove tuberculosis from our midst. It is one of the scourges of the white man and the efforts of the various bodies concerned with its eradication will meet with the wholehearted approval of all those who are engaged in this work. I believe they have a duty to perform, firstly, in seeing to it that the arrangement between the Commonwealth and the State is an equitable one and, secondly, that any measures introduced are solely for the control of the disease.

On motion by Hon, L. A. Logan, debate adjourned.

# BILL—MARKETING OF EGGS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

HONORARY MINISTER FOR THE AGRICULTURE (Hon. G. B. Wood-East) [2.45] in moving the second reading said: The object of this amending Bill is to correct certain anomalies and to give to the Egg Marketing Board powers that were not considered necessary or that were overlooked when the Act was passed in 1945. The first amendment deals with permits and was extracted from the National Security (Egg Industry) Regulations. It will be obvious that the amendment is desirable. An anomaly exists at present as Subsection (3) (b) of Section 23 requires holders of purchasing permits-storekeepers, for instance—to comply with the conditions such permits, while there is no provision for producers with selling permits to comply with the conditions of those permits. It is essential for the board to have power to enforce the observance of conditions for the better marketing of eggs, as many instances have arisen of producers not marketing in the correct manner, and in such cases no action could be taken.

Hon. E. H. Gray: Do they know that?

The HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: They probably do. Under the provisions of Subsection (1) of

Section 32, the board is required to make payments to producers on the "basis of ne". proceeds of sale of all eggs delivered to and sold by the board." This means that only direct and indirect expenses and administration costs can be deducted from the proceeds of sales, and that the balance must be paid to producers. The section does no: allow the board to retain any funds for the purpose of buying land on which to erect premises so as to enable efficient handling of the product, to the greater benefit of the industry, by reducing costs. At present the premises occupied are being rented. There is no return for this and it is a charge on the industry. The board is enpowered to borrow money, but it is doubtful whether finance could be arranged for the purchase of assets without security.

The assets which the board has at present were purchased out of funds derived under its agency with the Controller of Egg Supplies, under the National Security (Egg Industry) Regulations, who controlled all the eggs in Australia before this came into being. It made big profits, and those profits were handed over to the State That is what these boards have been working on up till now; but naturally that money will not last indefinitely, and more power will have to be given to the board to use that money. This was remuneration for handling the eggs on behalf of authority, Commonwealth arrangement ceased on the 31st December, 1947. Since then the board has been operating under the Marketing of Eggs Act and paying producers on the basis of "net proceeds" of sale without being able to accumulate funds to expand the industry.

When the money received from the Conmonwealth Controller has been exhausted in the purchase of assets, it is doubtful whether the board could use the producers' funds to erect buildings which, because of increased production, are very necessary to allow of a more efficient handling of the product. By this amendment any reasonable balance remaining in the pool account could be utilised to provide extensions to enable the board successfully to operate and market eggs to the best advantage so as to increase the return to producers. At present the board is working under difficult conditions, and representations have been made to the Housing Commission for permission

erect other buildings. If we are to set up these boards, we must give them proper facilities to store, candle and do all the other things necessary in the marketing of eggs.

Another amendment is the addition of Subsection (5), which will empower the board to require holders of permits, both buyer and seller, to contribute towards the cost of administering the board's affairs. That refers to people who have permits to deal outside the board, and I think all mentbers will agree that that is desirable. There are many cases where the owner of a product is permitted to operate outside the board. We considered one instance last week in the marketing of potatoes where sellers of seed potatoes were allowed to deal outside the board and they were dodging the payment of a small levy to the Potato Trust Fund. This amendment is something on the same lines. Subsection (2) of the proposed new section provides for deductions being made for expenses incurred in or about the marketing of eggs and administration costs from the proceeds of the sale of "eggs delivered to the board." But there is no provision enabling contributions to be made by producers who operate under a selling permit and those who market with purchasing permit holders as these eggs are not delivered to the board. That is a similar position to what obtained in the potato industry.

Administration costs include the granting and controlling of permits, and it is reasonable that these producers should contribute towards the cost of maintaining a section of the board's staff which, if there were no permits issued, would not be necessary. To this extent producers who support the board's organisation by marketing eggs at its grading floors, contribute towards administration costs for producers who, in the main, market eggs direct to consumers, thus avoiding normal marketing charges. That, I consider, is a reasonable amendment. In other words, the non-permit holder pays for the upkeep of staff required to supervise permit holders and this, it is claimed, is not equitable.

Another small amendment refers to what might have been a typographical error. The board is authorised to inspect any records or accounts relating to eggs and Subsection (2), paragraph (c), now states ".... eggs or to premises." It is obvious that it is meant that the accounts and records relate to eggs and not to premises, so the word "inspect" is inserted and this will then read, ".... to inspect any records or accounts relating to eggs or to inspect premises on which eggs are produced, stored, ...." I feel sure that that is an obvious error and the amendment will clear up the position. Although these amendments are not of great importance in the general set-up of the marketing of eggs, I consider them desirable and for some reason or other they were omitted from the original Marketing of Eggs Act. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

. On motion by Hon. E. H. Gray, debate adjourned.

### BILL—WHEAT POOL ACT AMENDMENT (No. 3).

Second Reading.

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. G. B. Wood-East) [2.55] in moving the second reading said: This Bill, although small, is quite important. It sets out to do something in connection with the marketing of oats. Country members, I think, will be particularly glad that this measure is before the House. The Bill sets out to make provision for an f.a.q. standard for oats. Over the years there has been a gentleman's agreement that dates back to 1925 under which the f.a.g. standard was an inefficient one set up by the Agricultural Department, although there has been no official standard.

While a standard has been set by the Commerce Department as regards oats for oversea, there is no official standard for trading between farmer and merchant or between farmer and farmer or between farmer and corporation; and so the Bill sets out to declare a standard that has been approved by the Agricultural Department and this, in my opinion, is highly desirable. Clause 3, in dealing with the f.a.q. standard of oats, states—

- (a) the oats shall be bright and sound and free from musty, smutty or other objectionable smell;
- (b) the oats shall have a natural bushel weight of not less than thirty-seven lbs;

Wheat has a natural bushel weight as well. Unlike wheat, it is quite impossible to take samples of oats throughout the State, and

thus fix an f.a.q. standard. At the moment, a large number of people are not very happy about the fixing of an f.a.q. standard for oats, and that is the reason for the Bill. The clause then goes on to state—

(c) not less than fourteen per centum of the whole shall be prime oats, that is oats held on a two mm. sieve;

(d) not less than seventy-six per centum of the whole shall be grade oats, that is oats

held on a 1.5 mm. sieve;

(e) not more than a total of ten per centum of the whole shall comprise tailing or screening oats (that is oats passing through a 1.5 mm. sieve) and foreign matter.

Sometimes one buys oats which are supposed to be f.a.q. standard but they are really only screenings, and one cannot do anything about it. I bought oats last year and I would have been ashamed to have grown them myself. Yet they were sold as f.a.q. standard! Having no official standard, I could not do anything about it and I had to buy them. The clause then states—

Provided that not more than four per centum of such ten per centum shall be foreign matter (foreign matter includes other cereals, oat husks and the like, weed seeds or uncultivated oats);

(f) not more than one-twentieth per centum of the whole, by weight, or five seeds per hundred grammes of the whole shall be speargrass.

I have bought oats in the past from the Great Southern and about 25 per cent. has been speargrass.

Hon. L. A. Logan: Not at Popanyinning.

HONORARY MINISTER AGRICULTURE: No, they came from below Popanyinning. Therefore I think it highly desirable that we should set up an f.a.q. standard. Oats are now grown more plentifully for sale than they were in the past owing to high oversea prices. year we had a voluntary pool operating, and a great deal of oats went oversea last year. Probably, the exports oversea will increase compared with a year or so ago, and more oats will be sold. Personally, I am not keen about sending oats out of the country; I would sooner see them being used as fodder for sheep. However, the fact remains that oats have been sold, and I am certain that country members will agree with me when I say that this Bill is highly necessary. move-

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. L. Loton, debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT-SPECIAL

THE HONORARY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. G. B. Wood---

East): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.15 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.1 p.m.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.3) p.m., and read prayers.