

liquor, and I will deal with this one first. The Crown Solicitor (whose officers conduct practically all prosecutions for driving under the influence of liquor) has recently recommended that blood tests should be taken as a general practice. Power to do this already exists in section 81 of the Police Offences Act. The making of the tests, however, involves some practical difficulties, particularly in the metropolitan area. Under the existing law when a person is arrested without warrant on a charge of committing an offence he must be taken to the nearest police station, i.e., the station nearest to the place of arrest. Any medical examination of the arrested person must be conducted while he is in custody at the station. But it is not practicable to have arrangements for taking blood samples at every police station. The work needs considerable care and equipment and must be carried out by a medical officer. The solution of the problem, so far as the metropolitan area is concerned, is to bring all persons arrested within this area to the City Watchhouse. This would facilitate the taking of blood samples and also the general medical examination of the arrested persons by the police medical officer.

As things are at present, the services of the police medical officer are often required at several police stations in the metropolitan area in one evening and frequently at more than one station at the same time. In order to get over these difficulties, the Bill provides that where a person is arrested at a place not more than 15 miles from the G.P.O. at Adelaide on suspicion of having driven under the influence of liquor he may be taken either to the nearest police station or to the City Watchhouse. His rights to be admitted to bail and brought promptly before a court will not be affected. This matter is dealt with in Clause 5.

Clause 3 deals with the offence of being unlawfully on premises. This offence at present consists of being on premises or structures falling within certain defined classes, either for an unlawful purpose or without lawful excuse. It is an offence with a long history and in the past it has never applied to unfenced areas of land. However, in recent years many houses have been built on unfenced blocks and the police have found it necessary that they should have power to deal with persons who enter the yards or gardens of these houses for criminal or improper purposes. For this reason it is proposed in this Bill to extend the offence of being unlawfully on premises so that it will apply to any area of land, whether enclosed or

fenced or not, which forms the yard, garden or curtilage of any building.

Clause 4 deals with the regulation of traffic. Under the Police Offences Act the Commissioner of Police has power to give directions for regulating traffic and maintaining order on special occasions when streets and public places are unusually crowded. Section 59 of the Act also provides that the Commissioner may delegate this power to any inspector of police. As there are now senior officers of police who do not hold the rank of inspector, that is to say, the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendents, it is proposed by this Bill to empower the Commissioner of Police to delegate his powers under section 59 of the Act to any member of the Force whose rank is not lower than that of inspector.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON secured the adjournment of the debate.

FRUIT FLY (COMPENSATION) BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Section 54 of the Brands Act provides for the keeping of registers of the various kinds of brands and marks to which the Act relates. Section 55 provides that the Registrar of Brands, at the end of every quarter, must publish in the *Government Gazette* a statement setting out the brands and marks which have been registered, transferred or cancelled during the quarter. In addition, the section provides for the publication at intervals of two years of brands directories containing particulars of all registered brands. It has, in practice, been found impracticable to publish these brands directories. The Government Printer, for several years past, has been unable to divert sufficient men to the work and the cost of keeping up the directories would be over £5,000 per annum. Furthermore, a directory becomes out of date very quickly and needs to be supplemented by the statement of changes in brands, etc., published in the *Gazette* every quarter.

It is considered, therefore, that the provisions of the Act requiring the compilation of the brands directory should be repealed, and this is accordingly provided for by the Bill. However, it is realized that the public should be able to obtain without delay information as to registered brands and the Bill provides that,

if information is required as to any brand whether the request is made by letter, telephone or otherwise, the information is to be supplied by the Registrar. In addition, the Bill contains evidentiary provisions under which the certificate of the Registrar as to whether a brand is or is not registered and as to extracts from any of the registers, is to be *prima facie* evidence of the fact stated in the certificate.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON secured the adjournment of the debate.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2).

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 15. Page 1042.)

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON (Northern)—In supporting the second reading of this Bill, I would like to say in passing that I feel it a great privilege to be domiciled in this State, where the Government is on a sound basis. The development and progress that has taken place over the last decade should give rise to great pleasure. Secondary industries have been developed in the metropolitan area, and the expansion in growth of the State is something of which I feel proud. In addition to the metropolitan development, industries have been established as far south as Mount Gambier, Leigh Creek in the north, Thevenard in the west and Radium Hill in the north-east.

I express pleasure at the growth that has taken place in my own electorate in the last decade, particularly at Leigh Creek, Radium Hill, and the larger towns in the north. From 1947 to the last census, the population at Port Augusta increased from 4,566 to 6,985, Port Lincoln from 4,935 to 6,104, Port Pirie from 12,812 to 14,818 and Whyalla from 7,871 to 8,615. Peterborough has increased from 3,065 to 3,670. I believe that when the reticulation of water is completed at Peterborough we will see a still greater expansion there.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Have you the figures for Quorn?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—Quorn is down by 100 on the last census. I point out in that connection that only on the 5th of this month the Attorney-General on behalf of the Premier opened a barytes plant there which will employ 25 men, and that will make up for some of the migration that has occurred. I believe the development which has taken place is putting our economy on a much sounder basis. We are now facing a difficult year in the primary industries but I believe that the expansion in secondary industries will cushion that blow to some extent.

I was pleased to read only this morning that a co-operative cannery is to be established at Berri. I understand that is linked with a co-operative company in Victoria which has had considerable experience and has the technical know-how in this type of operation. I feel that this cannery will be established on a sound business basis and I look forward with pleasure to its establishment.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—How will that affect supplies to the fruit preservers in Adelaide?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—I have been led to believe that there will be sufficient for both. What is more, a better product will be produced; it will be more attractive and I believe more of our tinned fruits will be consumed in this State to the advantage of the fruit growing industry. The processing of the fruit at the source of production will enable it to be canned in better condition than it would be if it had to be carried for long distances.

This year the Government is budgeting for a deficit of £520,000. In 1956-57 the deficit amounted to £49,000 against an estimated deficit of £853,000. That was a very pleasant result, and I will be happy if the present year shows an equally good result. However, by the way the season is shaping I feel that deficit will be greater than the estimate. With our alarming increase in expenditure it is pleasing to know that revenue has kept pace to some extent with expenditure, but in most cases this has been brought about by increased charges, plus an amount of £1,683,000 from the Commonwealth by way of special grants. As a responsible body we should realize that there is a limit beyond which we cannot go in this connection. The sum of £53,785,000 is required for normal departmental provision. Increases in various departments have occurred during the year. In the case of the Police Department the increase amounted to £199,000; the Sheriff and Gaols Department £57,000; Hospitals Department, £397,000; Children's Welfare and Public Relief, £47,000; Department of Public Health, £39,000; and grants and subsidies to various medical and health services, £55,000. That amounts to a total of £794,000.

While we are very grateful indeed for these services which no-one can say we could do without, we must realize that the economy is drifting to some extent. The additional cost of wages and salaries is having quite a bearing upon our economy. With regard to the increase

to exempt these people they could very easily be forced into a lot of things that I think are quite unnecessary as far as ordinary river fishermen are concerned.

It is my intention to move an amendment to new section 67f. Some of us have had experience of another Act where just as loose a provision was inserted and it was used some years afterwards and caused a good deal of inconvenience and monetary loss to a number of people in connection with the wharves on the river. I do not think any loophole should be left; it should be closed if possible, and the Bill should exempt those people who derive their livelihood from fishing on the River Murray.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—"Enactment of Divisions XA-XB of Part IV of principal Act."

The Hon. C. R. STORY—I move—

At the end of new section 67f to add:—"not being a vessel used solely on the River Murray or on any tributary, anabranch or lake connected therewith."

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

BUSH FIRES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE (Minister of Local Government)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill makes a number of amendments to the Bush Fires Act. Under various sections of the Act councils are given power to issue permits to burn under circumstances which differ from the conditions laid down in the particular section. These provisions were enacted in 1955, the purpose being to give some elasticity to the provisions of the Act which was previously lacking.

Clause 2, Sir, provides that a council may, for the purpose of issuing the permits, appoint a committee consisting of two or more of the council members, and that it may delegate to the committee the power to grant these permits. Section 13a provides that a Minister may, on a day he is satisfied is one of extreme fire hazard, broadcast a prohibition of the lighting of fires in the open, and at present there is no power to exempt anybody from the prohibition. The prohibition may extend to the whole State or any specified part of the State. Clause 3, Sir, provides a method for obtaining exemption from section 13a and a means whereby a person

may light a fire on a prohibited day. However, great care has been taken in framing the clause to see that such permit will only be issued by qualified people and subject to an appropriate examination of the particular circumstances.

It is proposed by the clause that the council may, with the approval in writing of the Minister, appoint persons as authorised persons for the purposes of the section. The Minister will not give his approval unless he is satisfied that it is in the public interests so to do, and that the councils of all the adjoining areas agree to the appointment of these authorised persons. A permit may be issued jointly by two authorised persons and is to be in writing in the form prescribed by regulation and subject to both the conditions set out in that form and to such other conditions as the authorised person deems necessary. The permit is not to be issued in respect of any day of any period, during which, pursuant to section 4 or section 7, the lighting of fires is prohibited.

The permit is also not to be issued unless the authorised person is satisfied that it will be unlikely that the applicant could satisfactorily burn on any other day. The permit will be issued for the burning of scrub or the burning off of newly cleared land. The permits are to be made out in quadruplicate and one copy is to be supplied to the holder of the permit, one to the clerk of the council, one to the nearest member of the police force, and one to the Minister, and the authorised person issuing the permit is to inform the clerk of the council and the nearest member of the police force by telephone or orally of the issue of the permit as soon as practicable after the issue of the permit.

Section 21a which was enacted in 1955 provides, Sir, that a council may require certain precautions against fire to be taken by the owners of sawmills. Clause 4 extends the section by providing that, in addition to providing these facilities, the owner must maintain them. It also provides that the council may specify the quantity of water to be continuously available at the sawmill, where tanks are to be placed, and the number, types and positions of the outlets and water mains from the tanks.

Section 29 deals with the appointment of fire control officers and subsection (1a) deals with a case of a council whose boundary abuts that of the council of another State. It provides that each of the two councils may appoint, as fire control officers, officers of the other councils so that if a fire crosses the State

boundary a fire control officer from either council can continue in charge of the operations. In some cases the controlling bush fire authority in the other State is not a council but another type of statutory body, such as shire councils in Victoria. Obviously there should be power to make the same reciprocal arrangements with such a body with the council, and clause 5, by paragraphs (a) and (b), makes provision accordingly.

Subsection (6b) of section 29 imposes on councils the duty of insuring fire control officers who do not receive any payment for acting as such and are therefore not eligible for workmen's compensation in the event of their being injured in the course of their duty. At present the Act provides for insurance up to £500 in the case of death or total incapacity, and that on partial incapacity an amount of not less than £2 per week is to be payable during such partial incapacity for a period of at least six months. As regards specific injuries, the section follows the table of compensation for specific injuries shown in the first column in section 26 of the Workmen's Compensation Act with a limit of £500.

Clause 5 provides that where the fire control officer in his normal vocation would be eligible for workmen's compensation if he were injured in the course of his ordinary employment, the council is to insure him for the payments which would ordinarily be made under the Workmen's Compensation Act with respect to his ordinary employment. If he is not a person who would be so eligible, he is to be insured for the amounts set out in the subsection, and clause 5 increases from £500 to £1,000 the amount to be payable on death or total incapacity and from £2 to £10 the amount payable on partial incapacity. In addition, Sir, the amount of compensation which may be payable for specific injuries is increased from £500 to £1,000.

Clause 6 provides that all voluntary fire fighting organizations formed for the purpose of combating bush fires outside the parts of the State to which the Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1944, applies, are to be registered with the Minister. At the present time, there is no register of such organizations, although it is obvious that it is desirable that there should be a central register and that the Minister should be kept supplied with up-to-date information as to various matters such as particulars of members, equipment, and so on. Clause 6 therefore provides accordingly.

In commending the Bill to members I point out that the clause referring to exemption from the general prohibition on burning appears

somewhat involved. Speaking from a practical knowledge of this problem, I would rather have the clause more difficult to evade than prohibitions loosened up. I believe the menace of fire increases year by year. The reason that the verbiage is so involved is to make sure that there are no loopholes left and that there is no indiscriminate burning.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern)—I support the Bill because it deals with a very important matter. The Bill delegates certain matters to district councils, and from its members a council can appoint persons who have the authority to grant permits on days when a fire ban has been broadcast. This request originates from many people who have cleared large areas of scrub land. When they are able to burn land which they have rolled or logged it often happens that a fire ban has been announced by the Minister and they are not allowed to light a fire on that day. Very strong requests have come not only from Eyre Peninsula but from other parts of the State in which there is virgin country. The State needs increased production and it is necessary that we intensify our production on this land, much of which is situated in good rainfall areas. People who have been prepared to clear this land have become despondent because of the total prohibition. The Minister has now consented, subject to very rigid conditions, to give relief in this matter. New section 13b (2) states:—

The council may, with the approval in writing of the Minister appoint any persons as authorized persons for the purpose of this section. The Minister shall not give any such approval unless he is satisfied that it is in the public interest so to do and that the councils of all areas adjoining the area of the council making the appointment agree thereto. Any such approval may be withdrawn by the Minister at any time.

I point out that the Minister has full authority to withdraw the approval even if it has been granted by the authorized committee. New section 13b also provides:—

(3) Every such permit shall be issued jointly by two authorized persons and shall be in writing in the form prescribed by regulation and be subject to such conditions as are set out in that form and may be granted subject to such other conditions, additional to those prescribed by this Act, as the authorized persons deem necessary.

(4) No permit shall be issued in respect of any day within any period during which, pursuant to section 4 or section 7, the lighting of fires is prohibited.

No authority is issued without careful consideration. I hope the Council will accept the