

subject matter I have raised the attention that its importance warrants. If that is done the Government will have acted not only in the interests of Victorian people but also in the interests of people in other parts of the world who are clamouring for our foodstuffs.

Mr. IRELAND (Mernda).—My contribution to the debate on this measure will be brief. As the honorable member for Evelyn mentioned, I, together with the honorable member for Carlton, have the honour to be a Commissioner on the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. The purpose of this Bill is to correct an injustice which has been done to residents of the Healesville and Upper Yarra shires in particular. The principal Act was passed in 1927 and was to be operative for a period of ten years. Since then re-enactments have been presented annually. It is important that the Bill should be passed, as the shires concerned are in financial straits and require this assistance. They have almost two years' contributions coming to them.

I shall refer briefly to the cordial relations that exist between the shires and the Board, particularly the shire of Whittlesea, which is in the Mernda electorate. The other municipalities concerned have no direct representation on the Board and I think that is a matter which should receive the consideration of the Government in the near future. Representation on the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works for the other municipalities concerned should be considered. In addition to the amounts previously agreed upon to be paid to the shires of Werribee and Corio there is to be an extra amount of £800 paid to Werribee and £50 to Corio. There is also a stipulation that both shires will receive the equivalent in rates for property occupied by the Board's employees because those properties will be rateable and return rate revenue to the shires. It has been agreed that, where the Board takes any land by acquisition or private treaty, it will pay to the councils the equivalent of what they will lose in rates. I commend the Bill because I think it will remedy an injustice to the shires of Healesville and Upper Yarra.

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg).—I wish to comment on the remarks of the honorable member for Mernda, who is a new member. Portion of the Shire of Broadmeadows is in my electorate and the greater portion is in the electorate of the honorable member. Some years ago I made representations to the then Government on behalf of the Broadmeadows Shire Council, of which I am a member, supporting the request of the residents of Wallan that they should be provided with a water supply. I understand that there was some connection with the Kilmore Water Trust, but certain commitments involved could not be borne by some of the residents of Wallan and the result was that Wallan did not obtain its water supply. I remind the honorable member for Mernda that the people of Wallan still want consideration given to their claim for a water supply. The cost of the scheme would not be large. I shall discuss this matter with the honorable member in the hope that we can prevail on the Government to assist the residents of Wallan to obtain their water supply.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Clauses 1 to 3 were agreed to.

Clause 4 was verbally amended and, as amended, adopted, as were the remaining clauses.

The Bill was reported to the House with an amendment, and passed through its remaining stages.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The debate (adjourned from December 2) on the motion of Mr. Mitchell (Benambra) for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech was resumed.

Mr. CAIN (Northcote).—I have the call to resume the debate. However, the Government and honorable members will realize that since much of the legislation mentioned in the Speech has already been passed, nothing would be gained by my discussing the legislative programme set forth in the Speech. Therefore, I have no objection to the motion being agreed to forthwith.