

then presented Mr. Brownfield with a surf rod and reel and said that he was very sorry that the Public Service was such that a man very frequently had to leave the department in which he was most interested, and his services most valuable, before he could secure promotion. He wished him every success in his new Department.

In response, Mr. Brownfield said that the years he had spent in the Fisheries Department were perhaps the happiest of his whole official career. He thought that the Department, although it had already achieved much, had bigger things ahead of it, and he was sure that with the sympathy of the present Minister, more would be achieved. He thanked all members of the staff for what he described as a beautiful present, and said that he would make very good use of it.

ANNUAL INSPECTORS' CONFERENCE

The 11th Annual Conference of Inspectors of the Fisheries Department was opened on November 17 by the Minister of Fisheries, the Hon. L.F. Kelly, M.L.A.

In opening the conference, the Minister said -

"Mr. Fraser and gentlemen; I can assure you that it gives me a tremendous amount of pleasure to have the opportunity of meeting so many of you here at the one time. As Mr. Fraser has remarked, I have met quite a few of you in your individual centres. Many of you I have missed, and some of you I knew before coming to the Department at all. I realise that a gathering such as this must have a very great bearing on the current and future activities of the Department. You people are the eyes and ears of the Department, and it is largely from your activities and the degree of interest you take in your job that we are able to obtain and keep a clear picture of movements within the industry. I appreciate very fully the importance of the work that you as individual inspectors are doing, and I think it is absolutely essential that accuracy be regarded as the essence of your reports. I feel that there is no

room in the fishing industry for haphazard thinking and reporting on the part of the fisheries inspectors. If there are some details you are not certain about, I think our position would be enhanced if those details were not submitted, rather than that you submit some that could not be substantiated. The work you do is reflected in the decisions of the head of the Department, and so it does not, to my mind, leave room for anything haphazard. I would also make the point that, seeing that your reports are destined to become very important to the Department, they must be very thorough.

"I have had the opportunity of reading through the report of the last annual conference and I found a tremendous amount of interest, and got a lot of satisfaction, out of some of your deliberations. This conference, I notice by the agenda, you are going to deal with some very important matters. I notice too that among the subjects you dealt with at your last conference there were some in respect of which decisions were deferred for further consideration on this occasion. I see you are going to deal with matters connected with the Abrolhos Islands crayfishery, and with the difficult problem of white crayfish. These are two very important items, and our decision in regard to both will have a tremendously far-reaching effect on the industry. I feel that you as officers of the Fisheries Department are very fortunate in that you are associated with an expanding industry. What you and the Department have done in the past years, combined with what you are planning to do in the future, can have a very real effect on the economy of this State. I am very happy to have had the opportunity of coming here today and I am looking forward to receiving the report of this conference. I wish you every success in the coming deliberations. I hope that you will have a very successful week. I take this opportunity of wishing you success in your jobs. I congratulate you on this type of conference, because I feel it is an excellent opportunity for the younger inspectors particularly to meet men of more seasoned experience. It must have a very beneficial effect on those younger men. I thank you for the opportunity of coming here this morning and it is a very pleasing duty that I perform in officially opening your conference."

A vote of thanks to the Minister moved by Mr. A. J. Bateman was carried by acclamation.

It is not proposed to report here the discussions which took place at the Conference, as they will be published separately at a later date. Mention should, however, be made of the films shown by Mr. W. Moore of the Nor'-West Whaling Co. Pty. Ltd., of his firm's whaling operations at Point Cloates over a number of years. The films were watched with considerable interest by all Inspectors and visitors and were most instructive to those officers who had never had an opportunity of visiting the Point Cloates Whaling Station. Following the screening, Mr. K. Godfrey, of C.S.I.R.O., showed a number of "stills" depicting the operations of m.v. "Lancelin" this year.

On Friday afternoon, November 20, a cricket match between officers of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Fisheries and the Fisheries Department took place at Hardy Park, Belmont. The captain of the Department's team, Mr. J. E. Munro, won the toss from Mr. R. S. Spencer, C.S.I.R.O. captain, and sent Mr. Spencer's team in to bat. Each side batted 15 men and every member of both teams bowled at least one over. C.S.I.R.O. were dismissed for 90 runs, the bowling average being secured by J. E. Munro. The Fisheries Department then batted and amassed a total of 136 runs, the highest scorer being I. Bartholomew with 16 (retired). K. Godfrey took the C.S.I.R.O. bowling average. Included in the Department's team was the Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Kelly.

That same evening, at the Como residence of Mr. L. G. Smith, Technical Officer, a social evening was held at which the Inspectors and their wives, C.S.I.R.O. officers and their wives and office staff and their friends were present. A most enjoyable evening was had by all who attended.

FISHERMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Fishermen's Advisory Committee, consisting of Messrs. A. J. Fraser (Chairman), O. J. Benson, N.K. Swarbrick and J. C. J. Gregory (fishermen's representatives) and Roland Smith, representing non-professional fishermen, held a series of meetings at Geraldton between November 10 and 12.