

ulation following the opening up of 6 million acres of adjacent land, the maintenance of a stable fishery at Bremer Bay is of some importance.

#### OPENING OF WILSON'S INLET BAR

Immediately after his return from the public meeting at Denmark reported in last month's Bulletin, the Minister (Mr. Kelly) made representations to the Minister for Works (Mr. Tonkin) concerning the serious threat to the future of the Inlet through its being sealed off from the sea for such long periods. Mr. Kelly has now informed the Denmark Road Board that the Public Works Department has listed for consideration either the dredging of a channel through the bar or some other appropriate action to ease the position. Mr. Tonkin has stated that this work will be considered in the light of the total funds available and its relative importance.

#### AUSTRALIAN WHALING PROSPECTS

All around Australia quotas for this season's catch remain the same as for last year, and all stations expect that they will have taken their quota by early September. On the east coast activities in the Moreton Bay area began on May 31, while at Byron Bay in northern N.S.W., a new company is expected to be in operation this month and has been allowed an initial quota of 120 whales.

At Point Cloates the 3 chasers "Point Cloates", "Haeremai Star" and "Vigilant" arrived on June 13 and the first whale was taken at 7.15 next morning. The Cheynes Beach Company took their first whale on June 1.

The whole of the Australian output of whale oil has been sold forward, the principal buyers being Holland and Germany at an undisclosed price. The current world price of whale oil is about £E86 per ton which compares favourably with the £E75 paid last season. A market for baleen, which for some time has only been a waste product, has now been found in Belgium, and its sale should add considerably to the company's receipts.

It is understood that the Australian Whaling Commission at their Carnarvon site recently installed a spray drier for converting solubles into stock feed. It is expected that this plant will achieve considerable economies in production and at the same time raise the protein content of the product.

Assistant Inspector V.J. Sinclair, stationed at Point Cloates, reports that some important additions and improvements have been made to the Nor'West Whaling Company's station and its equipment since the last whaling season. Included among these is a new hauling ramp which was found necessary as the supports of the old one had been damaged by the teredo worm. The flensing deck has also received extensive repairs. Additions made to the plant, to avoid the shortage of storage space encountered last season, include another Grax Flash Tank, a new Grax pump, a second mincer and super decanter together with a new water separator. Additional plant is also being set up for the handling and packing of baleen. Ten tons of baleen were exported by the Company last year and it is hoped that the entire production will be exported this season.