

ANNUAL INSPECTORS' CONFERENCE

The 1958 Conference was held in the conference room of the State Government Insurance Office building on February 12, 13 and 14. The Superintendent (Mr. A.J. Fraser) presided and all members of the field staff attended. In the absence of the Minister for Fisheries (Mr. L.F. Kelly) in the eastern States, the Conference was officially opened by Mr. K.J. Townsing, Public Service Commissioner.

In welcoming Mr. Townsing to the Conference, Mr. Fraser congratulated him on his appointment at a comparatively young age to the responsible position of head of the Public Service in Western Australia. It augered well for the future of the Service, Mr. Fraser said, that the Government was prepared to place high responsibility on young men of proven ability. He wished Mr. Townsing every success.

Mr. Townsing, during his address, referred to the benefits derived by the officers and the Department, from conferences of this nature. He said that two of the most important objectives of the Conference were the discussion of local problems and the opportunity to learn and teach for the mutual benefit of all concerned. He drew attention to the important part that inspectors could play in public relations and in gaining respect for the Public Service which they represented. Mr. Townsing also referred to the harmonious relationship which has existed in recent years between the Public Service Commissioner's Office and the Civil Service Association. In formally declaring the Conference open, Mr. Townsing said he felt sure that it would be successful and that all the members would enjoy the social activities that had been arranged.

Mr. Fraser extended a welcome to Inspector S. Stokoe, Assistant Inspectors K. Brooks, E.I. Forster and D. Kavanagh and Cadet Inspectors R. Emery and D. Smith, who were attending their first Conference.

During the Conference informative addresses were given by Dr. D.L. Serventy, Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O., and Dr. W.D.L. Ride, Director, W.A. Museum.

Dr. Serventy spoke on a variety of unusual occurrences to illustrate the important part that inspectors could play by reporting anything out of the ordinary, whether it related directly to their work or not. He alluded to reports from various inspectors which had later proven to be of scientific worth. Dr. Serventy suggested that inspectors should take care to record as much as they possibly could of present conditions and events as, by doing this, they could establish evidence which could prove of inestimable value in later years and which might not be obtainable from any other source.

Dr. Ride's address was titled "Evolution of Today's Fish". He traced the evolution of the vertebrate marine life from its origin some 600 million years or more ago in the Paleozoic Era up to the present time. His talk was supplemented with a display of fossils and specimens with which he illustrated evolutionary trends and changes of structure resulting from specialization.