

the sheathing. I can assure hon. members that everything possible was done, as the examination went forward, to ascertain the true condition of the vessel.

Eventually a decision had to be made whether to put good money into an unsound hull to an extent that might ultimately reach 50 per cent of the cost of a completely new vessel, or not. At that stage there appeared on the horizon another suitable vessel, and it was felt that with the experience gained in the case of the "Halimah" we would not be again let down. This other vessel was also an army craft, but one that had been in Australian and Western Australian waters, and of which we had some prior knowledge.

It was found that a decision which would bring about the entire scrapping of the "Halimah" and selling it at a recoup value would allow a saving of approximately £4,000 or £5,000 on the estimate of the vessel. With the sale of the engines and the costly equipment of the "Halimah", the cost of the repairs was greatly offset. The "Limi-cola" should be in the water from two to 2½ months prior to the date the "Halimah" would have been, if these setbacks had not been encountered.

Unfortunately, I had to face up to the fact, for once in my life, that a second-hand purchase had let me down. Even now, however, I consider that the fisheries industry, with the aid of this new ship, fully equipped, will mean a great deal to fisheries research in this State.

#### INTERSTATE FAUNA AUTHORITIES CONFERENCE

As previously advised the Superintendent (Mr. Fraser) attended the biennial conference of Interstate Fauna Authorities held in Sydney from November 17 to 21, 1958. With the exception of Queensland all States were represented. Also in attendance was an officer of the Northern Territory Administration and a team (including the officer-in-charge) from the Wildlife Survey Section, C.S.I.R.O.

The conference was under the chairmanship of the Chief Guardian of Fauna, N.S.W., Mr. Allen Strom. It was

officially opened by the Chief Secretary for N.S.W. (Hon. C.A. Kelly, M.L.A.), and the opening ceremony was televised.

The agenda was a lengthy one. Subject headings for the discussions were Research, Education and Publicity, Registration and Licensing, Management, Wild Ducks, Interstate Co-ordination, Bird Banding, Collection of Specimens and States' Authority in Lands held by the Commonwealth. A verbatim report is to be published, and any officer desiring to read the report may borrow it from Head Office.

Features of the conference were a complimentary dinner tendered to delegates by the Government of N.S.W. at the Hotel Metropole, Sydney, and an excursion to the Barren Falls Nature Reserve near Kiama, on the nearer south coast of New South Wales.