

certainly frighten away the large schools of salmon which hitherto had "rested up" in these waters. Mr Hutchinson also pointed out that alternative areas attractive for tourist purposes were available at beaches comparatively unimportant to the fishing industry. He said that if the cannery were closed down it must have serious effects on the economy of Albany. The Minister's representations are being considered by the Premier, as Minister for Tourists, by the Minister for Lands, the Minister for Town Planning and the Minister for Industrial Development. We await the final decision with keen interest.

FREMANTLE CO OPERATIVE AT JURIEB BAY

On September 26, Senior Inspector A.K. Melson represented the Department in a party of several interests which inspected the impressive facilities being provided for the crayfishing industry by the Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative at Jurieb Bay. Mr Melson said that, including himself, there were fourteen persons in the party, which consisted of representatives of the Harbour & Light Department, banks, oil companies, crayfish buyers and the Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative. The party saw the eight completed huts, which will house processing staff, and were shown over the main processing shed. This is a building of approximately 62 ft. x 72 ft., which is now nearing completion. A concrete floor and one large generator have been installed, and it was expected by the contractor that the plant would be operating by November 3, the date for which the official opening is scheduled. Mr Melson also noted that the jetty being built by an oil company was about 135 ft. long at the time of the visit, approximately half its intended length.

BAN ON IMPORT OF EXOTICS QUESTIONED

In the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, September 14, the Hon. William Hegney, Member for Mt. Hawthorn, asked the Minister for Fisheries a number of questions in relation to the ban on the import of exotic birds which was reported in the April-May issue of this Bulletin. The Hon. Mr Hegney asked -

- (1) Is it proposed to impose a ban on foreign fauna throughout the State?
- (2) If the reply to question (1) is yes, will he state the reasons?
- (3) Does he know if other States in Australia have imposed a ban?

- (4) Have known aviculturists been communicated with recently in regard to this matter?
- (5) If the reply to question (4) is yes, will he state the nature of such communication.

The following replies were given by the Minister-

- (1) Following discussions between the Agriculture Protection Board and the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee it has been agreed not to allow the importation of certain birds into the State.
- (2) It is a world-wide belief that the introduction of exotic fauna of any kind into any country is undesirable. The introduced kinds, if at liberty, can virtually in all cases exist only at the expense, either directly or indirectly, of native species, as witness the fox, rabbit, goldfinch, etc. Furthermore it is practically impossible to control them. Many introduced birds are, or could become, grain feeders and as such are inimical to agriculture. True, while these birds are caged no damage can be done, but in the case of the goldfinch, for example, the large colonies now common in the wild state in the metropolitan and near-metropolitan area are the progeny of escaped or liberated aviary birds.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) There have been two communications. One was sent by the Fisheries Department to all licensed aviculturists warning that undesirable exotic birds are likely soon to be declared vermin by the Agriculture Protection Board, and suggesting that trading in and breeding of the species concerned cease. The other was sent by the Agriculture Protection Board to organisations interested in aviculture, and to prominent bird-dealers, saying that a meeting would in due course be called to discuss the whole question.

Subsequently, on September 26, Mr C.J. Jamieson, M.L.A., Member for Beeloo, asked a further fourteen questions on the same broad subject. In reply the Minister gave the detailed information asked for. In the course of his reply

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he indicated that he was not prepared at this stage to consider the appointment of a representative of the Avicultural Society on the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, which Mr Jamieson had sought. To do this would necessitate an amendment of the Act.