

qualifications (if any) and list his duties in order of their importance. Officers may set down their interpretation of their duties and need not necessarily adhere to the official list, a copy of which will be sent with the duty statement. In his circular instruction, however, the Public Service Commissioner emphasised that officers must confine themselves to factual statements without adding general observations. It should be noted that the duties performed and the qualifications possessed relate to the position as it obtained at January 1, 1963.

All three copies of the forms are to be returned to Head Office on or before February 1, 1963. The third copy, after being completed at Head Office will be returned to the officer for his retention.

#### DEPARTMENT ACQUIRES BUILDING AT FREMANTLE

A large, general purpose building in Queen Victoria Street, Fremantle, has been acquired by the Department as a workshop and to house research equipment and specimens. The one-time site of the firm, Plant Production Ltd., the main building comprises a workshop with two offices, a storeroom and toilet at one end, while adjoined are lunch and shower rooms. With the occupation of this extensive building, problems in the storage of our now considerable research gear, equipment and specimens, will be mitigated.

#### MURCHISON RIVER RESERVE AGAIN ATTACKED

In 1954 we were pleased to report that an area of 358,000 acres near the Murchison River had been set aside as a reserve for the conservation of flora and fauna. The area concerned included some of the best wild-flower country in the State and seemed to promise to preserve in perpetuity some of our most interesting sand plain fauna. Since its inception, however, the reserve has been the target for attempts to alienate the whole or parts of it.

Defending the reserve in 1955, the then Minister for Fisheries, Mr L.F. Kelly, pointed out to the local authority the benefits to the State which the reserve was likely to provide in the years to come. His statement was acclaimed here and overseas as an exposition of sound conservation principles which gave cogent reasons for the establishment and maintenance of wild-

life reserves. The opponents of the reserve were unrelenting in their fight to reduce or abolish this fauna sanctuary, however, and in 1957 the Government decided to divide the reserve into two areas, one to remain as a flora reserve and the other as a flora and fauna reserve. This decision appeared to placate, at least temporarily, the forces requesting its abolition although several applications for alienation of parts of it were made from time to time. The most recent serious attempt to reduce the reserve was made in May, last year, when the Northampton Shire Council submitted to the Premier a request that a substantial portion of the sanctuary be thrown open for agricultural development. This time, however, the defence of the reserve was not limited to professional conservationists, for an appreciation of the need for reserves has grown in recent years and local residents pointed out its value to the preservation of wildflowers. On the recommendation of the Lands Department, the Premier has agreed to the setting up of a committee which will inspect the reserve and make a recommendation in regard to its future. The Director, as Chief Warden of Fauna, is a member of the committee which will be led by the Lands Department's Divisional Surveyor (Central), Mr J.F. Morgan. Other members are Mr R.D. Royce, Botanist, and Mr C.F.H. Jenkins, Government Entomologist, of the Department of Agriculture; Dr D.L. Serventy, Principal Research Officer, Division of Wildlife Survey, C.S.I.R.O.; and Dr W.D.L. Ride, Director of the Western Australian Museum.