New Minister for Agriculture
The Hon. Lionel Francis Kelly, M.L.A., who became Minister for Lands and Agriculture in December, 1957, brings to his new post a wide knowledge of rural Western Australia and a wealth of experience in important Ministerial positions.

Formerly Minister for Mines, Industrial Development, and Fisheries, Mr. Kelly has now taken over the Lands and Agriculture portfolios relinquished by Mr. E. K. Hoar when he left for London as Agent-General for Western Australia. He had previously deputised for Mr. Hoar and has had personal experience of farming and stock-raising.

Born in Perth in 1896, Mr. Kelly was educated at Christian Brothers' College and managed a sheep station in the Gascoyne from 1915 to 1927. Between 1927 and 1944 he was storekeeping at Bullfinch and manager of the Sterling Gold Mines. He was one of the first men to raise sheep in the Bullfinch district and was Chairman of the Yilgarn Road Board from 1933 to 1941.

His Parliamentary career commenced in 1941 when he was elected to the Legislative Assembly as member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie. Later, with a change of electoral boundaries, he became member for Merredin-Yilgarn.

He achieved Cabinet rank in 1953 and as Minister for Mines and Industrial Development played a prominent role in the search for oil in Western Australia.

During a Government-sponsored visit to the United States of America in 1956, Mr. Kelly proved a worthy ambassador for his native State and made first-hand studies of the oil-drilling industry which should prove particularly valuable if oil is found in payable quantities in Western Australia.

Although Mr. Kelly has now relinquished the Mines and Industrial Development portfolios he still retains that of Fisheries in addition to Lands and Agriculture.
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