

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, August 15, 1951.

The SPEAKER (Hon. Sir Robert Nicholls) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

NAIRNE PYRITES DEPOSITS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—In this morning's press there is reported a statement by the Premier at Canberra yesterday about the projected plan for the development of the pyrites deposits at Nairne. I notice that the Wallaroo-Mount Lyell Fertilizer Ltd., Adelaide Chemical Co. Limited, Cresco Fertilizers Ltd., and the Broken Hill Pty. Ltd., are interested with the Government in the development of these deposits, and that each of the companies has agreed to subscribe £50,000, making a total of £200,000. The Premier further stated that the total cost of the development would be about £1,000,000. Can the Minister of Lands say whether we are to understand from that, and the reference to the favourable report of the Industries Development Committee, that the Government will find the balance of the money required, about £300,000, for the development of this worthwhile enterprise?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I did not see the report referred to, but I understand that the position as stated by the Premier is correct. However, I will get a report and let the honourable member know the exact position.

AMPLIFYING SYSTEM IN TRAMS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—On the Glenelg tram route there is not at present sufficient indication of tram stops. The area traversed is being developed and there are a number of new people in the district. Will the Minister of Works take up with the general manager of the Tramways Trust the matter of having an amplifying system installed in the trams, and perhaps in buses? The information might be conveyed through such a system by the motorman.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—As the honourable member is aware, the Tramways Trust is not under immediate Ministerial control, but I have frequently acted as liaison officer between the Government and the trust. I will be glad to take up the matter with the general manager to see if what is suggested can be done, and if the result is likely to be commensurate with the cost, and then report as soon as I get a reply.

FREE MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Mr. DUNKS—Can the Minister of Works representing the Minister of Health say whether the Commonwealth Government's scheme for the distribution of free milk to school children will extend to private as well as State schools?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I cannot answer that of my own knowledge, but I will obtain a report from the Minister of Education. I hope to let the honourable member have the information tomorrow.

PORT PIRIE BRICK SUPPLY.

Mr. DAVIS—Yesterday in reply to my question regarding the Port Pirie brick supply the Acting Leader of the Government said that there was power under the Building Materials Act to direct supplies of building bricks to a particular contractor, and that he was making further inquiries to ascertain whether that action should be recommended. Has the Minister any further information on this matter?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have a report from the Director of Building Materials, which reads as follows:—

Recently Mr. C. L. Davis, M.P., asked a question in Parliament about the refusal of the Port Pirie Brick Works to supply bricks to a particular Port Pirie house building contractor. I submitted a report on the 6th inst. and concluded by saying that further inquiries were being made to ascertain whether action should be taken to direct supplies of building bricks. Further inquiries have now been made and neither the War Service Homes Commission nor the South Australian Housing Trust are very perturbed about the position; consequently further action is not recommended at this juncture.

ROAD WORKS IN NORTH-WEST PASTORAL AREAS.

Mr. RICHES—Last year a deputation waited on the Minister of Works regarding certain road work in north-west pastoral areas. The Minister has been good enough to call for a report, and the last intimation received from him was that his department was awaiting the arrival of heavy equipment from overseas. As a good many months have gone by since that report was made, and a good many years since work was done on the roads in these areas, can the Minister say whether he has received any further advice regarding the availability of that equipment? If he has not, will he ascertain when it is likely to arrive?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The first consignment of big plant was to arrive in March this year and the second in September, but,

despite urgent representations, we have received none yet. We are pressing to our utmost capacity for delivery, but overseas supplies are difficult to obtain, especially those involving steel and engine power.

Mr. Riches—Isn't it possible to borrow plant from Woomera?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—We have not prosecuted that course, but I do not think there would be much chance of that. It is not a question of funds, as these have been allocated for work in these districts. Only the non-delivery of the plant is holding it up.

LOADING OF WHEAT.

Mr. McALEES—Has the Minister representing the Premier a reply to my question of yesterday regarding the carting of wheat from Paskeville to Port Adelaide, more than 100 miles away, when it could have been loaded 14 or 15 miles away at Wallaroo, where labour and facilities are available to handle it? This takes work away from the people at Wallaroo and is considered by them to be an injustice.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have not had an opportunity to get a report for the honourable member, but as he has raised it again as a matter of urgency I will endeavour to have it for him tomorrow.

SHORTAGE OF REFINED SUGAR.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Last week I asked the Premier a question relating to the price of sugar and inquired regarding the possibility of a differential price being granted where consumers had to accept unrefined sugar owing to the shortage of refined. He promised to get me a report. Has it yet come to hand?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have received the following report from the Prices Commissioner:—

Investigation by the Prices Department has disclosed that retail storekeepers are making every effort to allocate available supplies of refined sugar to their customers in an equitable manner. The small difference in the cost of refined and raw sugar is considered insufficient to warrant any variation in the retail price of the two varieties. All sugar is the property of the Queensland Government until it is delivered *ex* refineries. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company Ltd. has no ownership and only processes the sugar, receiving payment for such services.

WATER SUPPLY FOR MURRAY LANDS.

Mr. McKENZIE—When the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline was being advocated people were of opinion that farmers on the route would get first call on the water. Can the Minister of Works say whether this will be so?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—There is plenty of water in the Murray for all, but there arises the question of distribution. The first thing necessary is to lay the big main and from that will be laid the subsidiary mains.

Mr. McKenzie—Who will get the water first?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The pumping station must be erected before anyone can get water. We will then proceed with the subsidiary mains to supply other areas, including later the hills district. Obviously the main has been designed to carry enough water to contribute to a number of districts.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: HON. T. PLAYFORD.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS moved—

That one month's leave of absence be granted to the honourable member for Gumeracha (Hon. T. Playford) on account of absence from the State on urgent public business.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption of the Address in Reply.

(Continued from August 14. Page 338.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Goodwood)—I join with other members in expressing pleasure at the proposed visit of the Royal Family to this country next year. I hope the King's health will continue to improve and enable him to make the visit. I congratulate the member for Flinders on his speech in moving the motion. On the opening day of this session I had the pleasure of accompanying him, with the Premier, to introduce him to the Speaker, and I have confirmed the opinion I formed then that he would become a valuable member of this House and worthily represent the district of Flinders, although naturally I would have liked to see the Labor candidate, whom I assisted in the election campaign, successful. Yesterday the member for Eyre referred to the hours worked by public servants. I understood him to say that their hours should be 40 a week, in common with workers in industry. I regret that some members think the hours of public servants, who have rendered a particularly fine service to this State, should be increased. At present they are working 37½ a week, their normal working times being from 8.45 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays with three-quarters of an hour for lunch. During the war public servants voluntarily extended their hours to 41

a week. Their duties commenced at 8.45 a.m. and finished at 5.6 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, with three-quarters of an hour for lunch, and they worked on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. When we had a 48-hour week in industry the Public Service hours were from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, with an hour for lunch, and from 9 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturdays, or a total working week of 38 hours. Whereas the working week in industry has been reduced to 40, since July 1 the hours of work of the public servant have been reduced by only one-half hour, and therefore he has not shared *pro rata* with other industries in the reduction of working hours. Consequently there is no reason why he should be asked to work longer than from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., with an hour for lunch. Certain educational standards are required of applicants desirous of entering the Public Service, and as that tradition has been handed down over many years I fail to see why the Public Service should not have benefited when the 40-hour week was adopted in industry. Is it Mr. Christian's desire to secure a greater volume of work from public servants, is he merely endeavouring to fall into line with the Commonwealth Government's ideas or is he advancing the suggestion of longer hours as a means of stopping inflation? Let us examine what is happening in respect of the Public Works Standing Committee, of which he is chairman. It is not long since its secretary was a part-time officer, who was also Director of the Government Reporting Department. Now the committee has a full time secretary (of which I do not complain), and in addition it has been found necessary to appoint an assistant to him. I can only imagine that it is because of pressure of work. If that is the reason I have no complaint regarding this appointment, but I do complain of any attempt to extend the hours of industry in another section of the community. The present is an inopportune time to seek an extension of hours.

Mr. Heaslip—Do you think the time is approaching when there should be a reduction in hours?

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I am prepared to abide by the decision of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. If I knew that industry could obtain its requirements of certain materials I would be one of the first to advocate a further reduction in the standard working week.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Will that get us out of our difficulties?

Mr. Christian—Why work at all?

Mr. FRANK WALSH—If we could so organize society that we would not have to work, why work? In his opening remarks the member for Flinders spoke of the desirability of establishing young farmers' clubs, which he described as an important feature of our rural life. Will the syllabus of these clubs embrace civic pride and social and economic studies which might have application to the country? Older residents in the country towns erected institutes, public halls and the like which appeared to be a necessity from a civic point of view, but all that is lost today. That might be equally applied to the metropolitan area. I have noticed, when travelling through the country, that many of these buildings are substantial and are the finest possible examples of the craft of stonecutting. Today, however, there is a positive lack of interest in and a deliberate neglect of these fine buildings which play an important part in civic affairs. Metropolitan residents might say that country people require better amenities. Is it not possible to cultivate civic pride in our country towns and make them more attractive by providing for social entertainment? There is ample opportunity for young farmer clubs to become civic-minded. Already in some country towns there is a civic pride, but in other country towns, and in some parts of the metropolitan area, there is a lack of it. The following is an extract from a lecture given at the University of Adelaide on April 29, 1951, by P. H. Karmel, Professor of Economics, the subject being, "The Australian Economy from Federation to Jubilee and Beyond":—

The main feature of this development has, of course, been the growth of secondary industries. In 1901, 17 per cent of Australian breadwinners were engaged in secondary production as against 33 per cent in primary production. By 1947 the figure was 27 per cent as against 18 per cent. This 27 per cent is a somewhat higher percentage than in the United States.

The Leader of the Opposition said that the Government had made no real approach towards solving our land problems, and that it had not indicated any intention to introduce legislation to prevent the drift from the country to the city. When the young farmer clubs are set up the points I have mentioned should not be forgotten. I now turn to the dairy industry and it would appear that it is a real political football. Up to the present I have not been impressed by suggestions by Government members towards assisting this

important industry. Mr. Dunn said there must be an increased price for those engaged in dairy production. Mr. Heaslip said he would be pleased to support any increase in the butter price, and referred to the tragic position brought about by the slaughter of livestock which should have been retained for dairy production. Professor Karmel also said:—

The economic impact of mass migration can, perhaps, best be illustrated with reference to the effect on primary production. If we achieve our target of 11,000,000 in 1960 and if we are to maintain the increase in our standard of living and our level of exports, then we must increase our production of pig meats by 78 per cent, mutton by 58 per cent, beef by 40 per cent, milk by 37 per cent, sugar by 28 per cent, lamb by 23 per cent, wool by 11 per cent, and wheat by 7 per cent—all by 1960. Sobering thought and a challenge indeed. These increases are not impossible, but unless we face up to them and plan for them our standard of living will inevitably suffer.

We must not reduce production in one direction in order to increase it in another. It is a national problem and we must take notice of the warnings which are issued in the interests of the community. We must have a planned economy. I have not seen anywhere that either the Commonwealth Government or the State Government has adopted a long-range plan in the interests of primary production. The Government should consider these matters, which are too important to be glossed over. The member for Victoria said that dairy farmers had to depend on their families to care for their herds, and that dairymen could change over to sheep almost overnight so as to get greater returns for less work. The State Government contributes two-fifths of the cost of soldier settlement and the Commonwealth three-fifths on losses on valuation. This Parliament has set up a Land Settlement Committee to investigate and report on matters referred to it. That committee reported that certain land in the district of Victoria should be set aside for dairying, a recommendation which neither the member for Victoria nor any other member criticized. An inquiry should be made why that land has been used for other purposes.

Mr. McLachlan—Do you believe in regimentation?

Mr. FRANK WALSH—It is not a matter of regimentation, but rather of following Professor Karmel's suggestion that the economy of this country should be planned. A commonsense approach should be made to this problem.

If a settler has been allotted a block of land for dairying but later sells his herd and goes in for sheep, he has broken his contract and that land should be re-allotted to a person prepared to go on to it as a dairy farmer.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Would you peg every worker to his job?

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I have said nothing about pegging. I am dealing with soldier settlement.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—You advocated pegging the soldier settler.

Mr. McLachlan—He fought for his freedom and you now deny it to him.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I resent that interjection, for I have never said anything against a person who helped defend this country.

Mr. McLachlan—I will not withdraw the remark.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I am not asking for a withdrawal. The soldier settlement scheme aims at guaranteeing a livelihood to selected applicants. In accepting their blocks as dairy farmers those applicants put themselves under an obligation to this State and to the Commonwealth. If some of them have later gone in for sheep, let us at least be fair and alter the terms of the contract under the scheme. In view of the financial assistance the settler receives has he the right to say what he will do with his land?

Mr. Shannon—Do you propose that the Commonwealth shall direct State policy?

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I have already indicated my attitude and I will not repeat it for the honourable member. The Commonwealth Government set up a Joint Industry Advisory Committee to ascertain the true cost of production. The five-year agreement was being repudiated by the Commonwealth Government, as the butter stabilization scheme had only until next June to run. The object of the committee was to recommend a subsidy which would at least guarantee the cost of production. During the last two years we have had a Commonwealth Government which has never attempted to alter the position. Some time ago I attended a meeting of producers at Macclesfield and was surprised to learn afterwards that a certain dairyman desired to state a case of the actual cost of production. His children were attending school and the hours they were employed milking the cows were included in the costs, as also were the hours of labour given by the wife. I was told that when the position was investigated the dairyman could not substantiate the evidence

he had submitted. One wonders where the actual cost of production comes in. There has been much criticism during this debate concerning the Advisory Committee taking evidence only once in 12 months, compared with evidence being considered quarterly in the fixation of the basic wage. Those strongest in their condemnation have a Government in Canberra of their own colour, but I have heard of no alterations that they propose.

On the opening day of this session I raised matters associated with the dairying industry, but have not since heard from Government members how they would approach this vital problem. On that occasion I said:—

There should be a complete investigation by Commonwealth and State Governments into the economics of the industry to bring it more into line with the wool industry.

There has been no comment by members opposite on the practicability of that suggestion. I also said:—

In areas where cream or butter production is a part time occupation, generally carried on by the farmer's wife, the income so derived should not be considered as earnings of the farmer for taxation purposes.

I believe that matter is too late for investigation, as many herds have already been sold and their milk is not available for butter-making. Members opposite have made no mention of that. I also said:—

There should be an immediate investigation into the price paid to dairy farmers for processed milk. Information should be obtained about the cost of this processing and the profits derived by the manufacturers.

I have heard no criticism of or reply to that statement.

Mr. Whittle—Get in touch with the Premier of New South Wales. He knows all the answers.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I do not recall the honourable member making one contribution toward a solution of the problems confronting the dairying industry. He had much to say about something he knows little about, namely, the Workmen's Compensation Act. I am informed that dairymen who are controlled by the Metropolitan Milk Board and produce milk for human consumption receive 2s. 5½d. a gallon, but the unlicensed dairyman who sends milk to one of the factories receives only 1s. 3½d. a gallon. It is not very flattering to members opposite that they cannot even suggest a solution to the problem. In the *Government Gazette* last week appeared a list of milk prices fixed by the Prices Commissioner. The price of a glass of plain milk containing

not less than 9oz. was fixed at 4½d. at the counter and 5½d. if served at a table. Those vendors are getting 6s. 6d. a gallon for milk for which the producers get only 2s. 5½d.

Mr. Moir—Those prices were fixed by the Prices Department, not by the Milk Board.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—That is so. The remarks of the member for Mount Gambier should be carefully considered because he represents a district in which much cheese is made. The smaller cheese factories are paying 3s. 1½d. a lb. for butterfat.

Mr. Fletcher—Where are they paying that?

Mr. Whittle—Where did you get those figures?

Mr. FRANK WALSH—The butter manufacturer can purchase butterfat at 2½d. a lb. less than the cheese manufacturer when bought as cream. I do not know why there should be any differentiation. What is the Farmers' Union doing about the price of milk for manufacture into various products? Is it prepared to assist the co-operative dairies and ask for a further increase in the price of cheese, or is it more concerned about keeping the small man out of business and concentrating on the manufacture of condensed or powdered milk? Until an investigation is made into the dairying industry on the lines I outlined on the opening day of the session we shall not get very far. This was one of my main objects in moving a certain resolution last session. This matter is just as important now and as long as we have large wholesalers who are content and able to process milk into condensed or powdered milk the major profits in the industry must go to them. The secretary of a certain co-operative dairy organization would be fully competent to make a proper investigation into the amounts that should be paid to the dairymen. I referred to the necessity of bringing dairy employees under the provisions of the Industrial Code, and this has been the only criticism levelled against my remarks about the dairying industry. I disagree with the arguments of the member for Victoria. Dairying is not merely a family business. Until there is an award so as to induce additional labour into the industry and a guaranteed return to the producer we cannot overcome the problems associated with this industry. Fair returns should be offered to both the producer and the employee.

In speaking of inflation members referred to essential and unessential goods. The Premier suggested that some industries were unessential. I believe that every industry is necessary, but

admit that while there is a shortage of materials and labour some industries are more important to the economy of this country than others. During shortages we should not have every industry competing for labour needed in the manufacture of basic materials, particularly those required in housing. Assuming that luxury industries are able to offer higher wages than those engaged in essential production, if a worker were paid £15 a week in a luxury industry the man engaged in the basic industries may receive only £12 a week. It may be possible, by some form of taxation, to induce 1,000 workers in unessential industries to transfer to essential production. What is the natural corollary? We immediately take out a circulation each week £3,000 that was going into the pay envelopes of those people. Much has been said in this debate of the need for longer hours in industry and greater production of goods. Some members have said that they have been able to buy almost any kind of luxury goods, and I am of the opinion that there is a need for more labour at least in the basic industries. I do not intend to go into the pros and cons of the building industry for there may be a more appropriate opportunity to deal with that, but I am convinced that machinery is playing a very important part in production. Only today I visited the Islington workshops in company with other members and saw the men engaged on the construction of rolling stock for the South Australian Railways. I was impressed by the labour-saving devices installed there and I would think that there has been a considerable improvement even since my previous visit. On the question of the consumption of raw materials I asked one of the responsible officers whether they were using more than in, say, 1939, and he said that the demand was up by from about 7½ per cent to 10 per cent. Although the number of employees was about the same, and they were working eight hours a week less, the machinery in use enabled more materials to be used. That has been the general experience throughout industry and something that often escapes notice. At one time it was customary to dig trenches for water services by pick and shovel, but to overcome the lack of manpower in these days the District Engineer for the Metropolitan Area, whose headquarters are at Kent Town, introduced mobile trenching machines. I congratulate him on this, for without them the water supply position in the metropolitan area would have been very bad.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—We had those machines as far back as 1928.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Even before that machines were used, but they were not the mobile type introduced recently; the obsolete machines may be seen at the Thebarton sewers depot. The Commonwealth Government proposes to dispense with the services of 10,000 Commonwealth public servants. I do not know whether it is intended to divert them to essential industries. We were told by the present Federal Treasurer that he would reduce taxation by 25 per cent. We are still looking for that reduction and I am afraid we will strain our eyes in doing so; there is a far greater likelihood of increases. In addition, telephone rentals and call charges, and postage rates have been increased considerably. The latest proposal is to raise the loan rate by one-half per cent. I would like to know if that additional rate will apply to future loans to home builders, or on advances already made for that purpose. If that is the proposal it will impose grave hardships on the Australian community, and those who have borrowed the full £2,000 have by deepest sympathy. In his speech on the Address in Reply the member for Unley said:—

Practically every building in the city of Adelaide was built with lime cement, yet in these modern times we do not seem able to use lime as a cement. However, many people in the country are still building houses with lime which stand up as long as houses built with cement. Many stone-fronted houses are being erected, but cement concrete is being used to hold the stones together instead of lime concrete.

His statement needs correction, as we have never used lime for cement. Lime, however, is used as lime mortar in home construction and there is nothing to prevent people, who excavate to a depth sufficient to carry the weight of a building, from using it for making a lime concrete mixture. Lime is normally used today for mixing mortar. Foundations built with a lime concrete mixture, should not be higher than ground level. As chairman of the Industries Development Committee Mr. Dunnage should be able to put the position correctly. Lime is used as a mortar and cement concrete for foundations, lintels and other purposes, whereas cement compo is used as a mortar, sand and cement being mixed together to make it. The manufacture of cement bricks and blocks is causing anxiety. It is the present practice to use stone and lime for home building and I cannot see its being discarded. Dealing with the

housing position the member for Torrens said:—

We should make manpower and materials go as far as possible. I entirely agree with the Premier that it is desirable for people to own their own houses and live in them, but if we can build six houses for rental—three pairs—in the same time and with the same manpower as it takes to build four single-unit houses for sale, I believe it is our duty to build homes for rental. I want to see a curtailment in the use of materials for houses for purchase today so that more houses can be built for rental purposes.

I agree with the honourable member about saving materials, but I would like to know if he has the Government's assurance that certain instructions were issued to the Housing Trust because of the capital cost involved. I would appreciate his using his influence with the Government to get it to issue instructions to the Housing Trust to build more homes for letting rather than for sale and not ask the public to carry the increased capital cost, which is rapidly mounting every day.

Police patrol in my electorate has come under notice. Police officers there are doing a particularly good job with the limited means of transport at their disposal. They are expected to conduct investigations into the activities of an increasing number of people who drive motor vehicles while under the influence of liquor. Recently five persons apprehended in the Edwardstown area were prosecuted in the Glenelg Police Court for this offence. The officer in charge at Edwardstown has to carry out his duties on a push cycle, with the help of one assistant, but the area is far too large for him and his assistant to properly police. The Edwardstown area is mostly residential, with the exception of certain parts used for industrial activities. The police should be supplied with up-to-date mobile vehicles, such as motor cars or motor cycles. Three police stations are located in my electorate and I understand that all the officers are overworked. They are called upon to work very long hours because of their antiquated means of transport.

Serious educational difficulties exist in my district. The Education Department should have a zoning system. I have sought the erection of more schools in the district and am pleased to learn that land has been acquired and one school erected. Another is under construction and an infant school is being built. The most recent building opened by the Education Department is a school known as the South Road school, with an enrolment of 293, of which 160 are infants.

Grade VII. has 17 scholars which does not tend to a balanced school. There should be twice as many children in Grade VII. to assist the teachers with the many tasks which have to be performed at a school of that size. The Education Department has been generous in certain parts of my electorate by making school buildings available at week-ends for religious purposes. This has enabled children from the Black Forest and Colonel Light Gardens schools to get religious instruction close to their homes, but they have to travel some distance to get their schooling. The zoning of school children is an important matter and should receive every consideration.

Many speakers in this debate have referred to the forthcoming referendum. Some hope that it will be carried, but I join with the Leader of the Opposition in hoping that it will be defeated. My opposition to Communism is well known. The Commonwealth proposals represent a deliberate attack on the trades union movement. Under them it would be possible for a union authorizing a strike to be fined £500, and for the secretary of the union to be fined £200 and to be imprisoned for 12 months. The members of the union who participated in the strike could be fined £50 each. When Mr. Jeffries was speaking in the debate I asked him if he knew whether the most recent strike in South Australia was caused by Communistic influence, but he did not seem to know what caused the trouble. We should not lightly say that the carrying of the referendum is necessary in the interests of Australia. We should give the matter more thought. The recent strike in South Australia took place at Hardy's wine cellars. Under the Commonwealth proposals the union secretary could have been fined £200 and imprisoned for 12 months for causing the strike, but it was not a stoppage of work in order to get increased wages or better working conditions; it was a strike on a moral issue. Members of the Liquor Trade Employees Union decided that they would not work any longer with females in the industry. They felt that the females should no longer do the labelling work, but because of the influence of a country winery it was insisted that the females continue to do it. All strikes in industry are not inspired by Communists. Other matters cause strikes. It can be said that the judges of the High Court were unanimous in their view that there is ample provision in the Commonwealth Constitution to deal with Communist activities. Only one Government did not take things

lying down, and that was the Chifley Government. In connection with the production of coal, the trade union movement stood behind Mr. Chifley and told him to put men into the open cut mines. The Transport Union said it would see that the coal was delivered to consumers. Since it has been in office the present Commonwealth Government has done nothing to prevent Communist activity. Because its legislation to deal with Communism was declared invalid by the High Court, which said that other powers could be used to deal with it, the Commonwealth now wants a referendum carried to have the Constitution altered. The Leader of the Opposition has issued a warning that once something is written into the Constitution another referendum must be carried before it can be taken out. We have sufficient power in the Constitution to deal with subversive activities by Communists, and I hope the referendum will be defeated.

Mr. Christian had much to say about the principle of one-man one-job, and he accused the Labor Party of insisting too greatly on that principle. The view of the Labor Party is that if a man has a full-time job and wants to engage in a part-time job it is in order provided that the part-time work does not deprive another man of full-time work. I believe the departmental practice in effecting telephone repairs is to send out a gang of specialists who carry out not one but many jobs. Not every motor driver can be expected to be an efficient overhead wireman or underground cableman. Each gang must have a competent driver and I understand that his promotion is awarded on good conduct and efficient driving. An assistant must accompany a linesman, particularly where work must be performed at some distance above the ground. The member for Eyre referred to the variety of jobs carried out by a farm worker. Graziers employ workers who are members of the Australian Workers Union and who are covered by an award of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. Not all the workers in a woolshed are shearers.

Mr. Heaslip—Do you say a woolshed can be run on the "one-man one-job" principle?

Mr. O'Halloran—The shearer does not draft sheep, nor the presser do the cooking.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Other men besides shearers, such as those engaged in mustering sheep, pressing wool, and classing wool, are employed on a pastoral property. Even if a farm labourer could not be employed on the one job all the year round, a court award covering rural workers could fix certain margins for the skills required on certain types

of work. Hay pitching would probably not carry as great a margin as stacking hay. The various agricultural occupations would be graded under an award.

Mr. Christian—That was tried during World War II. but did not work.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—A war-time Government guaranteed a return to the producer, who in turn guaranteed a wage to his employee. Probably that scheme failed because conditions became akin to those operating in the dairying industry today. The Labor Party has always advocated for the primary producer a guaranteed price and for his employee a living wage not less than the basic wage. I support the motion.

Address in Reply adopted.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION BILLS.

The Hon. C. S. Hineks, for the Hon. T. PLAYFORD, moved—

That the House of Assembly request the concurrence of the Legislative Council in the appointment for the present session of a Joint Committee to which all Consolidation Bills shall stand referred, in accordance with Joint Standing Order No. 18, and to which any further question relating thereto may at any time be sent by either House for report.

That, in the event of the Joint Committee being appointed, the House of Assembly be represented thereon by three members, two of whom shall form the quorum of the Assembly members necessary to be present at all sittings of the committee.

That a message be sent to the Legislative Council transmitting the foregoing resolutions.

That Messrs. O'Halloran, Pearson, and Teusner be representatives of the Assembly on the said committee.

Motion carried.

PARLIAMENTARY DRAFTSMAN.

The Hon. C. S. Hineks, for the Hon. T. PLAYFORD, moved—

That Standing Order No. 85 be so far suspended for the remainder of the session as to enable the Parliamentary Draftsman and his assistant to be accommodated with seats in the Chamber on the right-hand side of the Speaker.

Motion carried.

LOAN ESTIMATES.

Grand total, £41,166,000.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 9. Page 298.)

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Frome—Leader of the Opposition)—The Loan Estimates for this year totalled the huge amount of £41,166,000. It appears that the Premier has succumbed to

the prevailing fashion of dealing in astronomical figures. This total is nearly twice as much as that provided last year. Since uniform taxation was adopted both loan and revenue expenditure has sky-rocketed. It might be well if we considered the increase of loan expenditure over the past 10 years. In 1940-41 a total of £2,286,000 was provided; in 1941-42, £2,500,000; in 1942-43, £2,475,000; in 1943-44, £2,518,000; 1944-45, £3,132,000; 1945-46, £5,206,000; 1946-47, £4,720,000; 1947-48, £7,485,000; 1948-49, £11,500,000; 1949-50, £14,000,000; 1950-51, £21,000,000; 1951-52, £41,000,000.

I am aware that in the first five years of the period mentioned our loan work activities were necessarily circumscribed by the war, and expenditure had to be kept to an irreducible minimum. This represents a staggering increase compared with an average of between £2,000,000 and £3,000,000 loan expenditure which obtained for many years prior to the war in 1939. Before passing this item the committee should subject it to careful scrutiny. At a cursory glance I think most members will believe that the works provided for are in the main necessary, but whether they should all be provided for this year is a debatable point. It must be realized that each addition to our loan indebtedness increases the interest bill. A recent suggestion supposed to have emanated from Commonwealth Treasury circles was that in order to borrow the necessary money to meet the loan needs of the States and the Commonwealth a substantial increase in interest rates will have to be offered. That will have the effect of increasing our interest bill. Like some other things under the Financial Agreement, that is partly a Commonwealth responsibility. It does not become necessary for our State to impose new taxation to meet the interest on money borrowed for developmental projects, such as many of those mentioned in these Estimates. We must keep in mind that our loan indebtedness is increasing by leaps and bounds and interest rates may be increased possibly at the rate they increased following World War I. I referred to this aspect when speaking on the Address in Reply, so will not deal with it fully now.

The merit of the Labor Party's policy of financing developmental works by the use of national credit has not been disproved. Our experience during the war was that by the judicious use of Treasury bills, which is a form of national credit, we not only stopped interest rates from increasing but actually

brought about a substantial reduction, which is a testimony to the efficacy of that policy. I suggest that if we continue with this astronomical loan programme and at the same time reverse the financial policy of the Commonwealth, permitting interest rates to rise, then there will be a sorry day of reckoning for Australian taxpayers in the not distant future. We in South Australia cannot hope to escape our share of that difficulty. We should examine more closely the proposal my Party has espoused for so long, and which was partially used during the war, and apply it in connection with our loan works if we are ever to bring about the proper and orderly development of the country and provide the amenities necessary, some of which are mentioned in these Estimates. If we are to provide these amenities at the price the productive capacity of the country can afford, then we shall have to adopt the policy of the Labor Party and use national credit for these undertakings.

The Treasurer gave much information last week when presenting the Loan Estimates, but it was not as complete in many respects as I should have liked. In fact, it was remarkable for the amount of comparatively minor details given on certain loan works, and for the almost complete absence of a statement of the position in respect of major loan undertakings. For instance, it would have been most useful for the Committee to know exactly what loan works were completed last year, or how much of any work was completed for the amount of money voted on last year's Estimates. I know the Treasurer has referred to the wisdom of having a reservoir of works so that men and plant could be shifted from one job to another as difficulties of supplies arise preventing a certain job from being proceeded with. However, that is not an economical way to carry out public works if a number are started and brought to a certain stage of completion. Half a dozen may have been half completed, involving all the material, effort and money expended in bringing them to their present stage. They are not producing anything or serving anyone and will not return any revenue until completed. On all aspects of this nature we should have had more information, but apparently we shall have to wait until the revenue Estimates are before us. I suggest that in future we should be told how far any works approved in the Loan programme have progressed and what progress is expected as a result of the expenditure proposed in the current Estimates.

Another aspect beyond our control, but one we can speculate on, is how far the Loan Council will reduce the amounts submitted in the Loan Estimates—that is if they are reduced. I noticed in this afternoon's press there is a suggestion that the States' Loan programmes may have to be seriously curtailed to enable the Commonwealth to develop an ambitious programme. Whether that is so or not remains to be seen, but we shall probably have to face up to some reduction in the amount provided in this year's Loan Estimates. It appears to me that the Estimates may have been introduced with the object of getting them approved by this Parliament so that a *fait accompli* could be presented to the Loan Council before the actual division is made of the amount considered to be readily available for loan expenditure during the current financial year.

Mr. Shannon—Is it customary for this House always to keep in step with the Loan Council?

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I do not think so, but it is obvious that we put our Treasurer in a better position to bargain with the Loan Council if he can show that he has already submitted the Government's programme to Parliament and secured approval of the expenditure. I am not complaining about that, because we must view it from a South Australian viewpoint, as I know that Treasurers of the other States have the habit of looking at the position from the viewpoint of their States. Our Treasurer should be commended for seeing that we get out of the pool the amount to which we are entitled and which we can reasonably spend. However, that does not dispose of my argument that we should know more of what is being done with the loan money voted. The Treasurer's explanation was in these terms:—

A reservoir of approved works is desirable so that if, owing to shortages of materials of one kind or another, it is impossible to proceed with one essential work, some other essential work can be proceeded with for which materials are available.

The Treasurer also said:—

When presenting the Loan Estimates last year, providing for an expenditure of £21,000,000, I said that I did not expect that this programme would be carried out, but I did expect that the expenditure would exceed the amount of £14,000,000 provided for in 1949. The actual expenditure for 1950-51 was slightly in excess of £20,500,000. Members therefore can see that the programme which, at the time it was framed, appeared to be incapable of accomplishment, although not actually carried out in works, was nearly expended in money.

That brings into relief the point I have been making. Last year we provided for a certain volume of works, but they were not all carried out. However, the State expended on a lesser volume of works almost as much money as was intended to cover the full programme. Any public work costing more than £30,000 must be submitted for inquiry and report to the Public Works Committee before an appropriation for it can be introduced in the House. The committee is a very competent body and has always been so. Over the years it has saved the State probably hundreds of thousands of pounds by its investigations, but once the committee has reported to Parliament its responsibility ends and there is no body to continue an examination into works which have been approved and for which money has been appropriated. The Government should seriously consider appointing a public accounts committee to see that the cost of approved works is kept within the estimated costs submitted to the Public Works Committee. Such a committee would be the means of furnishing the information I require now, namely, how much of the physical work approved under the Loan Estimates last year was carried out as a result of the expenditure of almost the total sum we provided.

The Treasurer said that many of the proposed works outlined in the Loan Estimates were for the purpose of combating inflation. Although I support the appropriation of money to carry out the works listed I fail to see that most of them are intended to combat inflation, for it is obvious that they will increase competition for men and materials, not only in the home market but in the overseas market. Long-range capital expenditure does not immediately increase productive capacity. For instance, the Port Adelaide harbour scheme is necessary and has been well designed, but how will it affect the turn-round of ships in the near future? It may be better to postpone that scheme until supplies of materials and manpower are more readily available and at present content ourselves with temporary repairs to some of the berths.

Mr. Shannon—The Harbors Board is doing that.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—It may be, but we should concentrate more on that aspect now rather than on the development of the bigger scheme. We must consider what works are essential and what are the most essential. Expenditure on the Port Augusta power house will not be reproductive until 1953 or 1954, but I do not think anyone would say that this

project is not essential because it is obvious that we must increase the supply of electric energy to meet growing demands. At the same time, the immediate effect of the expenditure on the power station will be inflationary rather than anti-inflationary. Despite the fact that some members opposite have again proclaimed during the Address in Reply debate their abhorrence of socialism, a great amount of the money provided in this year's Loan Estimates is for schemes of a socialistic nature. A huge amount is provided for the Electricity Trust and large sums for the Forestry and Railway Departments, the latter being a long-established institution but nevertheless is run on the basis of socialistic principles. Again, a considerable amount is provided for the Mines Department. I agree that large sums should be appropriated for these departments, but I deplore the hypocrisy of members opposite who have abused me and others on this side of the House because we believe in the principles of community effort and ownership, but at the same time they support a Government with a loan programme, about 50 per cent of which is devoted to socialistic enterprises. We should only consider whether or not schemes should be carried out. The Opposition has wholeheartedly supported such programmes in the past because they are in accordance with the principles we believe in and which we know are in the best interests of the community.

I am not happy about the way the accounts of the Forestry Department are presented to Parliament. There should be a proper apportionment of this department's expenditure to Loan Fund and the amount derived from the sale of timber, the revenue of the department, should be taken into the Treasury as earnings and used to meet the interest and sinking fund of the department, rather than the present method under which all the returns are credited to the fund and all expenditure is debited to the loan account. The accounts of this department should be placed on the same basis as those of the Railways Department. Housing occupies a prominent place in the Loan Estimates. The sum of £5,150,000 is proposed for the Housing Trust for war-time and post-war housing and a further £1,105,000 for temporary and emergency housing accommodation, a total of about £6,200,000. Housing activities have occupied a prominent part in the political shop window for some years past, but unfortunately the housing shortage is more acute than ever. Until all our people are

adequately housed much misery and suffering will have to be endured by those living under bad conditions. It might have been a better proposition to embark on the emergency housing programme sooner than we did. I have considerable sympathy with the view of the member for Torrens that we should temporarily abandon the policy of helping people to build their own adequate houses in order to make materials available to build a greater number of houses for rental. The emergency housing programme was started about 12 months ago and is bringing good results. I am pleased that the Loan Estimates provide over £1,000,000 for the continuation of that programme this year.

A considerable sum is provided for the Railways Department. Some of us had the pleasure this morning of visiting the Islington workshops and seeing the type of work on which some of this money is being expended. I think all members who made the visit were pleased with what they saw and very satisfied with the results accruing from the expenditure of loan money such as we are providing in these Estimates for the development of our railway services by the provision of new locomotive power and rolling stock. I note that the bulk of the proposed expenditure on rolling stock this year, as was the case last year, and indeed has been the case for several years past, is for the 5ft. 3in. gauge system. Again I make a plea on behalf of the forgotten people who use the 3ft. 6in. gauge railways—and there is a big mileage of that gauge in South Australia. When I visited Eyre Peninsula not long ago I found that the capacity of the 3ft. 6in. system there was insufficient to transport the wheat and barley in desperate need of transference to the seaboard for shipment to other States and overseas. The result was that road transport had to be availed of at enormously increased cost. We have the same state of affairs in the northern division which serves practically the whole of my electorate. The Broken Hill mining companies have large quantities of ore ready for transhipment to Port Pirie, but because of the shortage of rolling stock it cannot be removed and they are continually making efforts to have more rolling stock provided so that they can take advantage of the present high metal prices. I have been told authoritatively that the old mine dumps at Broken Hill contain a huge quantity of mineral which, if it could be sent down now for treatment, would yield a profit of about £9 a ton; as there are

10,000,000 tons in the dumps, about £90,000,000 could be added to our national income if we could dispose of this asset now. Of course, if the price of metal drops only a small fraction we will not be able to dispose of it at a profit. I know that the Minister's reply hitherto has been that we must wait until the broadening of the South-Eastern gauge is completed, when the narrow gauge rolling stock in use there will be transferred to the Eyre Peninsula and northern systems. I have seen something of the South-Eastern rolling stock and I think the bulk of it would be better transported to the scrap heap when it is no longer needed down there.

The provision of new locomotives has long been a sore point with me. I live in the town of Peterborough, which is a big loco. depot, and when I come south of Terowie and frequently see new broad gauge engines in commission, I look at the poor old "T" class engines that abound in the Peterborough division and realize that the newest of them was delivered in 1918 and that some were delivered in the 1890's, and I wonder whether we are getting the consideration to which we are entitled.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—We have 10 new narrow gauge engines on order.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I know that 10 new Garratts are on order, but only in about the last three months. Can the Minister say when they are likely to be delivered?

The Hon. M. McIntosh—They were at quite short order of delivery.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—I am pleased to know that for they are urgently needed. More attention ought to be given to the requirements of the narrow gauge systems in the provision of rolling stock because, unfortunately, it appears that the high hopes we entertained a couple of years ago as the result of the very satisfactory agreement which the Minister of Railways was able to make with the then Federal Minister for Transport, for the unification of gauges in South Australia, have been dashed to the ground somewhat, and now some of us wonder whether we will live long enough to see even the beginning of that work. It is not the fault of this Government, but of the present Federal Government, because there has been a change of Commonwealth Government since the agreement was signed and it does not reflect credit on the Menzies-Fadden Government that this very necessary work should be one of the first of the developmental schemes to be jettisoned.

Mr. Clarke—Is it not true that New South Wales did not come into the agreement?

Mr. O'HALLORAN—That does not make a scrap of difference; the agreement was between South Australia and the Commonwealth.

Mr. Clarke—But it was dependent upon agreement by the other States.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—It was an agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the South Australian Government and it was ratified by both Parliaments. The conversion of the northern gauge line from 3ft. 6in. to 4ft. 8½in. is not dependent on anything except the acquisition by New South Wales of the Silverton Tramway, and New South Wales has indicated its willingness to do that. In my view we could proceed with the work now despite the fact that the Commonwealth Government is inclined not to be co-operative, for we have an agreement which it would have to repudiate if it desired to stop the work. When things are a little more propitious I hope we will begin, whether the Commonwealth is sympathetic or not. As regards the ultimate conversion of our 5ft. 3in. gauge lines the honourable member is correct, as that depends on Victoria coming into the agreement. The Lower Broughton floodwater scheme has become a hardy annual for it has been on the Loan Estimates for at least 10 years. If anyone ever develops sufficient enthusiasm to carry out the scheme I suggest it will cost considerably more than £7,000. I have, on other occasions, mentioned the amenities that ought to be provided for the people of South Australia, but a very considerable amount of this proposed expenditure is to provide amenities which have become necessary as the result of the unfortunate drift of population to the metropolitan area. It appears that this will continue *ad infinitum* because, if we have to continue to spend money, use materials, and find manpower to provide those amenities we shall never get around to providing those things in the country which are essential if we are to stop the drift of people to the city.

A considerable sum is provided for an extension of the Adelaide sewers. I have noticed in recent months that deeper consideration is being given to a proposal advanced by the member for Stanley over a number of years and which I have supported, to use the residue resulting from the treatment of sewage to better purposes. Members will recall the suggestion made by Sir Stanton Hicks in this regard, and the Government should consider

this aspect so that this very valuable source of humus which our soils so badly need shall not be allowed to go to waste. The substantial amount of £625,000 is provided for the Municipal Tramways Trust and I think this is one of the items which might easily have been postponed until the inquiry into the finances and general control of the trust had been completed. I believe that the trust, as we know it, will eventually have to be disbanded and the undertaking taken over by the State and run on lines similar to the railways. A transport commission or some other form of control could be established. On general principles the control should be in the hands of a body representing technical experts in a particular form of transport, the business community and the workers who man the transport. Although the Government is providing £625,000 for the trust it does not know what the report of the committee of enquiry will be. It is evident that we will have to completely change our metropolitan transport system. Trams could serve the more densely populated routes and trolley buses the lighter ones, whilst feeder services should suffice on the lightest routes. Except on long runs, where full loads are carried, we will have to forget trams running along streets and dodging round corners. We should not vote £625,000 to the trust when these transport matters are under investigation.

The sum of £320,000 is provided for the Mines Department for new plant, machinery and other equipment, the bulk of which, I understand, is to be spent in developing the uranium deposit at Olary, in my electorate. I commend the Government for this developmental work, which should be further extended. In today's press we learn officially about something we have known for a long time. In order to meet our sulphur deficiency and maintain adequate superphosphate supplies, the Government, in partnership with private enterprise, following investigation by the Mines Department, will assist in establishing a pyrites mining venture at Nairne. I think about £1,000,000 will be spent on this project, £200,000 of which will be provided by private enterprise, the balance being guaranteed by the Government. I agree with both the Nairne and the Olary proposals. The Premier will leave soon for America in an effort to secure, amongst other things, 6,000 miles of copper cable for the Electricity Trust. Copper cable is required by others. A proposal at Peterborough is to convert electric power from

direct to alternating current, but the work is held up because of the lack of copper cable. If we can develop pyrites at Nairne and uranium at Olary we might consider the greater development of some of our copper mines. Experts suggest further tests of the old fields at Moonta and Wallaroo Mines. There are also deposits at Kapunda and Burra, as well as at a number of smaller shows, some of which were worked extensively under primitive conditions in the 1860's and 1870's, but when the calamitous fall in the price of copper occurred they closed and many have not since re-opened. The Mines Department should investigate those workings. Going on information contained in earlier reports a dozen or more of the fields are worthy of investigation. Had this been done it probably would have been unnecessary for the Premier to visit the U.S.A. for 6,000 miles of cable. The fields could be worked by a co-operative company in the same way as at Nairne—between the Government and private enterprise. Copper cable will be required in increasing quantities in the years ahead. The demand will be enormous following on the trust's effort to serve as many country centres as possible with electricity.

Mr. Riches—There is a copper deposit about 27 miles from Leigh Creek.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—That envisages the use of Leigh Creek coal for treating low grade ores. At present if anybody wants to develop a copper show he must send the ore to Cockle Creek in New South Wales for treatment.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Years ago a company was formed in the north to treat copper, using Leigh Creek coal.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Yes, the Tasmanian Copper Co. was formed at the Mountain of Light, near Copley, and smelters were constructed, but the furnaces were never lit. I understand that ore smelting was carried out in a pilot plant and showed much promise. Two important industries—the mining and smelting of copper—could be established immediately. The Government is providing £11,550,000 as a loan to the Electricity Trust. It is also providing £742,000 for development at Leigh Creek coalfield which is under the trust's control.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—The £742,000 is a gift.

Mr. Clarke—The accounts are kept separate.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—The Treasurer could have informed members whether the £742,000 is recoverable, and in what form, and when it can be expected to be recovered. It is a huge sum. By whatever test is applied the Loan

Estimates have reached astronomical proportions, even allowing for the inflationary trend and assuming that the purchasing power of money is only one-quarter of what it was—which it is not. In order to supply water to the field the proposal now is to construct a reservoir at Aroona Gorge. The trust's undertakings are excluded from the provisions of the Public Works Standing Committee's Act and are not subject to inquiry by it. A history surrounds the provision of water for the Leigh Creek field. It was at first proposed to obtain it from the old Sliding Rock mine, which so far has proved to be sufficient. The Premier said he had found an ideal spot for a reservoir and a reference was sent to the Public Works Committee, which was urged to make a rapid inquiry. The project was recommended by the Engineering and Water Supply Department and, although it made reservations, the Mines Department tentatively recommended the site. If the committee had not been as keen as it always is, it would have been justified in accepting the evidence on the suitability of the site, but having some knowledge of ground structures, and having inspected the country, it decided that it was a risky site as a holding proposition, and it instructed the Mines Department to make further investigations. The result was that the site was condemned entirely, and an expenditure of about £70,000 at the then rate of exchange was saved. The Aroona Gorge is in a different section of the Flinders Range from the Leigh Creek site I have referred to. When I first entered Parliament I remember the members for Burra Burra, Port Pirie and Newcastle fighting for a better water supply for Port Augusta and Port Pirie, and for a water supply for Peterborough and Jamestown. Intensive investigations were made into proposed sites at Mount Remarkable and Spring Creek, but they were condemned by the Government Geologist of the day because the ground was not suitable for holding water in dams. A number of shafts were put down to test the ground and eventually the department was forced to admit that the Government Geologist was right in condemning the sites. He said that there was no holding ground in the Flinders Range area because the country had not been properly consolidated, yet we are to spend £750,000 in building a dam at Aroona Gorge. There should have been an inquiry into that matter by the Public Works Committee. The sooner we amend the Act under which the Electricity Trust operates to provide that works outside

the generation and distribution of electricity should be inquired into by the Public Works Committee the better it will be for the State.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The Baroota reservoir has leaked badly, but it has proved successful. The site was condemned, but if that had been accepted we would have lost millions of gallons of water.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—It has been a valuable reservoir because we have been able to divert the leaking water into the Port Pirie mains. That cannot be done at Aroona Gorge. The new method of constructing earthen dams might alter the position. An inquiry should be made by a responsible Minister to see if the Aroona Gorge proposition is as good as has been suggested. Even if the Aroona Gorge dam will hold water, how often will it be filled in the lifetime of the ordinary man? We know how scarce rain is in the area and how great is the evaporation. We know that the Umberumberka reservoir, which is in a similar type of country but holds water, will silt up and become useless in about 50 years. We have a coalfield at Leigh Creek which will be available for many years, and there is the possibility of establishing a smelting industry, so we should provide for a second pipeline to bring water from the River Murray to Leigh Creek, and at the same time supply Jamestown, Peterborough, and Terowie. We should not spend money which may ultimately prove to have been wasted. We should tap a known permanent source of supply.

The Hon. S. W. Jeffries—Do you suggest a new pipeline?

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Yes. The present line will be used to capacity very soon. The new line should not be built alongside the present one. There should be another route to serve new country and provide a defence safeguard. I am concerned about the small consideration the district of Frome is getting in these Loan Estimates. I am particularly concerned about the provision of a water supply for Peterborough and Terowie. Today's *News* contains a report that water will be pumped from the Bird in Hand mine to provide an immediate supply in connection with the development of the Nairne pyrites deposits, and that later there will be a connection with the River Murray pipeline. This work is necessary, but we should give every consideration to providing water for the railways in the north. Their work is as important as the development of the Nairne pyrites deposits. If the railways break down, as they nearly did last year,

through a lack of suitable water, the position of the State will become difficult. More provision should have been made in the Loan Estimates for a supply of water to Peterborough and Terowie. Last summer the railways experienced much difficulty in getting water and had to spend money in carting it. On August 7 this year, in reply to my question, the Minister of Railways said that for the 12 months ended June 30, 1951, 12,474,000 gallons of water were carted from Burra to Terowie, 6,000,000 gallons from Gladstone to Peterborough, and 700,000 gallons from Gladstone to Jamestown. This makes a total of 19,174,000 gallons of water carted to meet railway requirements, which could have been avoided if a scheme recommended by the Public Works Committee three years ago had been adopted. The Minister told me that the cost of the water sent from Burra to Terowie was £1,455, Gladstone to Peterborough £300, and Gladstone to Jamestown £35. He also said that the cartage to Terowie cost £7,826, pumping at Hanson and Terowie £1,143, cartage Gladstone to Jamestown and Gladstone to Peterborough £11,607. This totalled £22,366, which would have paid the interest on the cost of a water scheme to the towns over a considerable period. There is a likelihood of that expenditure being repeated in the next 12 months, because there have been no appreciable intakes so far this year at the reservoirs supplying the towns. At present they are not one-quarter full. Because of new methods of land husbandry in the areas concerned insufficient suitable ground is being left to allow water to run off it. The catchment area for the Yongala reservoir, which was formerly good hard ground and provided a run-off, has been nearly all planted with lucerne, and there will be no run-off in the future. The better methods of land husbandry have diminished the prospect of those reservoirs ever filling again. This position should be faced by the Minister of Works and his Government.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The pipes on order are sufficiently large to enable that continuation to be made. That is a very substantial contribution.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—It would be more substantial if they were being laid. Approval for the work beyond Jamestown should be given so that the job can be completed once a start is made. I support most of this expenditure, because I believe that, while it does not measure up entirely to the high standards the Premier has set with regard to countering inflation, it represents expenditure necessary

for the proper and orderly development of the State, including some items which are designed to give amenities to country people, which are necessary if the State is to be properly developed.

Mr. CLARKE (Burnside)—To me the stupendous sum of over £41,000,000 in the Loan Estimates is somewhat breath-taking, yet Parliament and the South Australian public apparently take it as a matter of course that such a vast sum should be approved as Loan expenditure. It is evidence of the confidence of the people in the Playford Administration that the announcement of this sum causes scarcely a ripple of public reaction. Last year provision was made for £21,000,000. We should analyse some of the elements which must be taken into account in framing a Loan programme and consider its economic consequences over a long term. What is the reason for this ready acceptance of this vast programme? South Australia is in the third stage of its development. The first covered roughly the period from 1836 to 1900 and was a pioneering and "settling in" period, which witnessed only the dawn of the machine age as we know it today. During the second period between 1900 and the end of the depression, the State's activities were regarded as almost entirely of a primary producing nature. The standards of rural living then achieved were more or less accepted. The problems of country water supplies, the need for electricity, the expansion of our educational and health amenities were only just beginning to be appreciated. One of the first steps which made a major change in our economy was the wise policy of the Butler Government which sought to balance our economy by attracting secondary industries to this State, by reducing company taxation which in other States continued to be extremely high, thereby inducing companies to come to this State which otherwise may have been daunted by difficulties which existed here but not elsewhere. Up to the end of the depression competition for labour between rural and secondary industries was not very apparent. The development of the mechanization of primary industries prior to the end of World War II. to some extent offset the flow of labour to the city occasioned by the expansion of secondary production.

We are now entering on a third phase—an attempt to establish on a permanent basis a sound secondary industrial economy with the background of a prosperous primary-producing community. In order to achieve a balanced

economy certain fundamental things have to be done, such as the supply of water and electricity to country districts, the construction of roads, and the provision of educational facilities. In passing I wish to refer to only one specific item on the Estimates and ask, is any review ever made of the salaries in the Woods and Forests Department chargeable to Loan expenditure? It seems to me that those officers listed on page 5 of the Loan Estimates can scarcely all be employed on developmental projects and that some would be employed on the ordinary work of the department, such as the milling and marketing of timber. In looking at the overall Loan programme we must ask ourselves whether a net gain or loss to the State will result from it and whether it will increase the State's production and the well-being of the people. The extent of Loan expenditure must necessarily be determined by the Government, which has all the facts before it. When should Loan expenditure on such a scale as this be provided? Classical economists take the view that Governmental expenditure should be low in times of bounty and high in times of depression, so that any leeway of private investment may be made up by Government investment and employment kept at a fairly regular level. It is true that, if that doctrine had been accepted during the thirties a number of useful Government works could have been undertaken; but that view was not widely held then, and Parliament cannot legislate ahead of public opinion.

Mr. Christian—Money was very tight in those days.

Mr. CLARKE—Yes, and another factor may have been that in the period immediately prior to the depression Loan expenditure had been heavy. In 1927 it was £11,700,000 and £12,000,000 in 1928. In fact, the Loan expenditure of 1928 was more than half of that passed last year.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—And the purchasing power of that sum was far greater then than it is today.

Mr. CLARKE—Yes. Even had there been in this House a strong body of opinion supporting an increase of Loan expenditure in times of depression, public opinion certainly did not support that policy.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Public opinion was strongly against it.

Mr. CLARKE—Yes, because the fundamentals of governmental financial policy were not properly understood. It would have been extremely difficult to maintain the expen-

diture of £12,000,000 in the depression years in the face of that public opinion. Had it been done it would have been a good thing; but the money was not available. As a contrast, the problem in the last two years has been how to spend effectively the money raised. This year the Premier has indicated that he does not think all the works listed in this programme will be achieved. There is now the tremendous pressure of pent-up savings in the hands of the public, which are waiting to be spent. Much of these are held on current account with the banks and in other times would have been used on Government loans, house properties, mortgages, and gilt-edged securities.

The problem this year is three-fold. The necessity for a vast number of works to supply basic needs, such as water, electricity, education, roads, sewerage, and housing, has been recognized. Secondly, difficulty has been experienced in attracting, into Government loans, money from people who are holding it at call, because of a rate of interest which is unduly low in comparison with industrial and commercial returns. Life assurance companies which were formerly the largest and still are heavy subscribers to Commonwealth loans, must now look for more remunerative investments over which to spread their funds. In the interests of their business they must keep up their bonuses, which is extremely difficult in view of the low return on gilt-edged securities, in order to meet the damaging effect of inflation on the maturity values of policies. Thirdly, difficulty is experienced in completing works even though money be available. Does Loan expenditure of itself tend to increase inflation? It may certainly do so if it competes with the fundamental requirements of industry. Two factors which are apparently pulling in opposite directions are the need for developmental expenditure and the need to restrain expenditure in the mad rush of "too much money chasing too few goods." We all recognize this and one may expect to find that the Loan Council will decide to cut the programme. Its reasons will probably be that the loan market will not support the full programme, and that expenditure above the minimum of essential works could add to inflation. I understand that all the works programmes of the Commonwealth and the States have been examined by the Commonwealth Co-ordinator of Works and little has been found in the way of unnecessary projects. It is possible for people to examine their

own expenditure and come to the same conclusion as the Co-ordinator of Works, namely, that it is quite proper for them to spend their money on something which appears to them highly desirable and necessary, even though it may in itself add to the inflationary pressure. It is sometimes said that Governments should spend their moneys with the same care as taxpayers take in spending their money. I hope, and after examining the Loan Estimates, I would be justified in believing, that the Government might be spending with greater care than some of the people who have easy money to spend. Truly vast sums have been unwisely spent by the people, which they accept as proper and in which they have a completely free choice. If their action is not anti-social it is certainly not productive of economic good.

Government spending and private spending are different in several ways. Private spending should be determined by income. Public expenditure determines the funds required, whether from taxation or loans. The taxpayer can, within fairly wide limits, make a choice in spending his resources if he has any left after meeting cost of living and taxation. Governments cannot make a choice so easily. They are torn between the conflicting claims of the present and the well-being of the future. Were loan expenditure to be cut down and constructional development in basic things such as hospitals, schools, roads, railways, harbours and power houses curtailed there would be an outcry from the very people who, in the same breath, had said that the Government was spending too much. What then should be the limits which determine Loan expenditure? There are clearly many competing claims for recognition. The first is the policy of the Government to plan for the future. For instance, New South Wales has not planned for adequate power supplies, and it may be said that South Australia did not look far enough ahead in its water conservation plans. The second point to recognize is the competing claims for recognition from organized groups for expenditure on facilities to handle goods and for improved wharves for the more expeditious handling of ships. Thirdly, there is the question of meeting the ordinary demands of increased population and the demands imposed by rising standards of living and increased expectation of life. The ordinary critic cannot know the weight of these demands, and this makes the responsibility of those who frame our Loan Estimates even greater.

Loan expenditure should not be carried beyond the point where the additional taxation necessary for interest and sinking fund, and the effect of depriving persons of spending their own money which they have put into loans, counterbalances the net economic good. In other words, public expenditure should increase production directly and produce real well-being and tend toward the raising of the real standards of living. These effects may not be immediately apparent, but they must be inherent in the Loan programme in a long view. The private member must have this outlook well established in mind when reviewing loan expenditure. We have a right to believe that these Estimates have been framed with those points in view. If that is so, then we must accept them. The Loan Council will have the problem of deciding whether the market can support the programmes of the Commonwealth and the States, assuming that they have been framed on the same basis as that of South Australia. It would appear likely that two results will be apparent in a short time. One is that the rate of interest on new Commonwealth loans will be increased, with a consequential upward movement of interest rates generally, and secondly, the tremendous movement of private investment capital towards industry will slacken. Interest rates have been kept too low for too long. This has had a very damaging effect upon real thrift as opposed to speculative investment and luxury spending. It has penalized a worthy section who have endeavoured to provide for their old age by investment in gilt-edged securities, insurance, savings bank deposits and mortgages. These people, together with landlords, have made a very big contribution to our economy in holding some brake on inflation so that in Australia we have not yet experienced inflation as severe as some other countries. One would like to be able to make some constructive proposal on the Loan Estimates as to where, if possible, economies could be practised, where perhaps some project should take priority over another or where there should be some other method of approach. As I said earlier, that is a task quite beyond the ability of a private member. It is accepted that the control of the purse is the essence of government and while the House and the people of the State have confidence in the Government, one may, as I now do, support the Loan Estimates.

Mr. QUIRKE (Stanley)—I always listen with great interest to the member for Burnside. I do not think any member, with the possible exception of the Leader of the Opposition, takes such meticulous care in the preparation of the matter he places before the House. Therefore, he is well worth listening to, not that we necessarily agree with him. I compliment him on his speech. Evidently with him it is a labour of love, but I am afraid that as things go today it is love's labour lost. I believe the honourable member could very easily compile what could become a textbook on orthodox economics, but no-one takes any notice of orthodox economics today and, if they did, Governments in particular would possibly end in disaster as all the Governments did which took notice of the current brand of economics during the depression. I was interested to hear from the honourable member that, at the time of the depression, had we embarked upon the capital expenditure necessary for some of the works being undertaken today, undoubtedly we would have completed them at a much lower figure, but the money was not available then. That is orthodox and the type of orthodoxy I disagree with. There was just as much money in 1933 as in 1939. It was not available, but who withheld it? There is not the slightest doubt that had the war broken out in 1933 instead of 1939 precisely the same amount of money would have been available then as in 1939. The depression was deliberately implemented by orthodox economists. Our people listened to them and not only the Governments but the people they governed suffered dire tribulation. Any Government which listens to the same tribe will end in just as great a disaster as our predecessors of 1933. In my humble opinion it is on the way. It is the price we must pay for expansion. We must build up a heavy load of debt. That is the only way we can expand the amenities of the country. For the States, which no longer control income tax, the only source of revenue for public works is from loans. In that way everything we build becomes an incubus which hangs around our necks in perpetuity because we cannot pay for the loans raised. Our Australian loan bills are mounting higher and higher every year and at the moment amount to about £2,700,000,000 and will be increased by about another £500,000,000 next year. We have sinking funds, but they are a farce. I accept the Loan programme because I have to accept existing conditions, but not the

argument that it is necessary to go into debt to finance public works. This is a universal practice but the time is perhaps not far distant when we will have to get away from this stupidity and construct big pipe lines and other major works so that they are assets unencumbered by a debt. This can be done and would not increase the inflationary trend.

Mr. Whittle—Could we build houses under such a scheme?

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes, particularly if they were all built by the State. The Housing Trust could be financed that way.

Mr. Whittle—Who would pay for it?

Mr. QUIRKE—The honourable member knows it can be done, but will not admit it. He always says "Where will you find the money?" Where did we find the money to fight the war?

Mr. Whittle—We got it from the people by floating loans.

Mr. QUIRKE—I expected such an answer from the honourable member. This has all been explained to him before, and he pretends he does not know how it can be done. I understand there will be an increase in the amount that the State Bank can advance for home building from £1,500 to £1,750, but that is not sufficient. The Housing Trust is building homes for sale in Clare, but not many are prepared to buy them. More houses are being built for sale at Clare than there are applicants. The biggest demand in country towns is for rental houses. Returned soldiers from the first World War could not save enough money before the depression to purchase a home. Only six years after the depression came the second World War. Whatever savings those men had have been eaten away by increasing costs. Those men today are between 55 and 60 years of age and are in no position to buy a house because they could not pay off a mortgage in their remaining years. There are thousands of such men in our country towns. The policy of the trust is to build mostly purchase houses in country towns except in industrial centres such as Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Peterborough and Whyalla. In considering the money to be allocated to the Housing Trust we should bear those points in mind, because the people to whom I have referred have served this State very well. Most of them have reared families and now

find themselves badly housed. The trust should build more houses for rental in country towns, although I do not disagree with the principle of everybody owning his own home. Not many people have found that the sum of £1,500 which can be obtained under the Advances for Homes Act is sufficient. The cost of an average home is between £2,200 and £2,600, and the purchaser has to find the amount over £1,500. The sum that can be advanced should be comparable with advances allowed under the War Service Homes Scheme, namely, £2,000. I understand that the Commonwealth Government will soon increase this amount. Even if this State raises the limit to £1,750 we will still be £250 short of the present limit under the War Service Homes Scheme.

It is proposed to spend a considerable sum on "Adelaide Sewers." I must again draw attention to the enormous waste resulting from our water-borne disposal of sewage. One day we will deeply regret it. Authorities like Sir Stanton Hicks have supported everything I have said in the House previously on this subject. He has put his views before the Royal College of Surgeons in Melbourne and his address called "Food, Soil, and Life" can be obtained from our library. No member can call himself educated until he has read it. The wise treatment and use of sewage is practised in many countries now, particularly in Scandinavia. England now recognizes the necessity to employ sewage matter to the best advantage. The Halifax Street rubbish destructor is a reproach to civilization. At least £150,000 is wasted by the city council every year. That refuse, in combination with the sludge from a proper sewage treatment system, could make a priceless fertilizer, yet we continue with an obsolete and objectionable method. This country is badly in need of more fertilizers. All that we return to the soil today is superphosphate imported from Nauru and Ocean Island and the whole of our well-being depends on it. If we did not receive superphosphate from those places our production would fall below the standard on which we could adequately feed our people. We have flogged the life out of millions of acres, yet we persist in wasting excellent fertilizers available from our sewerage systems. We should sell as fertilizers the top 15in. of soil on our sewage farms, as this would be of colossal value. We could then install modern sewage treatment works, instead of continuing with our present obso-

lete method of disposal. I could show members photostats I have received from countries using modern methods. However, I do not propose to vote against the Loan Estimates because we carry on with out-of-date methods.

Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. QUIRKE—Prior to the tea adjournment I was discussing sewage disposal and referred to photostats that I had taken of relevant works on the subject, written in England. I have obtained those photostats and I propose to read extracts to prove my point that the economic disposal of sewage, to the general betterment of agriculture and horticulture, could be accomplished on a payable basis and is being so dealt with in England and other countries. The extracts are taken from a paper published in England under the title of *Surveyor and Municipal and County Engineer*. It is one of those papers that is published chiefly for the benefit of clerks of councils, and these articles are illuminating indeed. The first describes the proposal as first mooted in 1936 and the second, published four years later, gives the results of the putting into practice of the use of sewage sludge in compost to form a complete fertilizer. The proposal shows how very easily the scheme could be applied to the utilization of our own refuse, which is today burnt and destroyed in the Halifax Street rubbish destructor. The first extract is:—

After the fullest investigation and mature consideration the Leatherhead Council have decided to adopt the Maidenhead process, and the scheme as will be operated is briefly as follows:—

House refuse, as collected, will be fed into a rotary screen which may have two meshes, the ashes separated thereby being available for sale or used locally by the council in road works, etc. The tailings or screened refuse will be conveyed by a picking belt to the crusher. Bottles, metals (not tins), rags, cardboard, and clean paper being picked off the belt. The refuse will then be pulverized with a consequent reduction in bulk of approximately one-third. The crushed refuse will then be conveyed past the magnetic separator which extracts the crushed tins.

The method of reducing the bulk of tins is considered most satisfactory, ensuring easier handling and economy in storage space, without attracting rats or flies. The paper will be baled ready for sale, and it is anticipated that most of the other salvaged materials will be readily disposed of.

The crushed organic refuse will then be used for de-watering and digesting sewage sludge; beds or bays will be made of this material on the site of the existing sludge

beds, and on to this material will be poured the sludge in a similar manner as if the sludge was being discharged on to the orthodox drying areas; screenings can also be dealt with. Within two days these beds will be turned over by hand or machine, with the result that the mixture will generate a temperature up to 170°F. The evaporation of the wet sludge, from observations made, is intensive and continuous, two turns of the mixture resulting in the complete evaporation of the water, and at this stage aerobic digestion takes place. Within 14 days, if required, the mixture or compost can be opened up and fresh and additional sludge applied and the process repeated.

The appealing features of this process are that weed seeds and noxious germ life are destroyed without nuisance, and the final product is a manure in a convenient form which on analysis contains more nitrogen, phosphates, potash, and lime than an equal weight of stable manure, having the same physical properties.

Mr. Christian—I think there has been a more successful example in Scotland.

Mr. QUIRKE—Probably, but what I am quoting from now is the original proposal. The results, four years later, I shall read directly. The article continues:—

If not disposed of, but left to stand, it decreases considerably in bulk and eventually reverts to mother earth without causing any nuisance or attracting flies or rats. It can be easily operated all the year round on ordinary soil.

The report upon the results, four years later, is very illuminating. I do not propose to read all of it, but any member interested may have these photostat copies for perusal. The author, after describing an alternative method, then describes the method ultimately adopted, as follows:—

The pulverized house refuse was laid over the whole of one of the areas, of which there were six. These were constructed of concrete and originally formed the base of the old sludge drying beds. The material was laid to a depth of 9in., with a small wall of matured material put up at the entrance to the bed. Sludge was then run on to the prepared bed through flexible pipes to a depth of one foot and allowed to stand for two days. On the third day the material was removed by means of a Chaseside shovel to a small dump alongside the beds, where it was allowed to stand for approximately 10 days. During this period fermentation took place and the temperature slowly rose to 160°F, or over. The compost was then again turned before being transferred to the stock heap to mature, and the temperature then rose again after the third day.

The article then goes on to explain what took place, and the interesting feature is that the suggestion that weed seeds would be killed was confirmed; the heat generated during the

process of fermentation is sufficient to kill both weed seeds and pathogenic bacteria. The usual tomato plants associated with sewage disposal works are non-existent. Rats and flies are not attracted to the compost. Then follows the tabulation of results:—

It has proved a very useful material for dressing heavy soils and will be extensively used when times return to normal with a consequent easing of the present labour situation. The separation of vegetable matter from the dustbin in the interests of pig feeding has naturally reduced the bulk of this material available for composting with sludge. This has not materially affected the value of the compost, but has led to a slight retarding in the process of fermentation. Since the inception of the scheme in 1936 no difficulty has been experienced in getting rid of the compost. At first local sales to ratepayers were small, amounting to approximately 100 tons per annum, the balance being sold to farmers and market gardeners in large quantities. The public require educating to a new scheme of this nature; in addition, the material has to come, very definitely, up to expectations. A satisfied user is the best advertisement and local sales have now risen to approximately 300 tons a year; what is more, repeat orders are now the rule and not the exception. Sales locally are made through the council acting as agents; outside the area by one of the best known firms of horticultural seedsmen in this country, with headquarter at Reading. This firm would not likely stake its world-wide reputation on a useless commodity, a fact considered by the author to be of the greatest significance. The financial aspect of the scheme regarding sales cannot for obvious reasons be disclosed, but from the council's point of view they are highly satisfactory when compared with the alternative methods originally in operation.

The author in his "Conclusions" remarks:—

The author has received no official assistance or encouragement from the officials dealing with the disposal of such waste matter at the various Ministries.

He was the world's greatest optimist ever to expect that he would. These things have to be forced upon such gentry, and it is only by the conclusive proof of results obtained that one can every hope to impress upon the official mind the benefits of a scheme such as this. As the member for Eyre has reminded me, excellent results have been obtained elsewhere, but it does not need to be an experiment carried out by a district or urban council; anybody can test the qualities of this operation in his own backyard without offence to anyone. I have been using this method for the disposal of household waste for the past six to eight years. Clare is a very cold place and vegetable production falls off in the winter, but

in my small backyard garden I can produce right through the summer practically the full year's requirements of my household of vegetables that keep in the ground, such as carrots, parsnips and the pumpkin family, and I use no other form of manure than these organic composts and what little stable manure can be obtained. I seldom, if ever, use stable manure in its original form. I use it for activating the vegetable waste in the compost heap, applying it to the garden. What is capable of being done in my backyard is well known in Clare and is being followed by numerous gardeners with the same results that I have obtained. If we applied the practice to the wastes of our capitals the benefits that would accrue would be inestimable. It is not to be expected that such a project can be put into operation and be beneficial straight away. The value of the material cannot be assessed from a monetary point of view or from mineral values, but takes its place with nitrogen, potash, and so on.

It is recognized that there are obscured values in compost which are in no way related to the mineral content of the material. Anybody who understands the photo-synthesis that takes place in the plant and the conversion of carbon into sugar and cellulose will understand that it is not a process that is based entirely on the mineral constituents of plant life. Into the structure comes solar energy—the rays of the sun—in conjunction with the green chlorophyll of the leaves in the laboratory which transforms and transmutes materials into different forms. It has been proved that plants which are divorced from organic substances and are grown entirely on mineral values are likely to be faulty in their use as stock food. I ask the Government to consider the facts presented, because I firmly believe that some diseases which afflict humanity, such as poliomyelitis, will ultimately be traced to have their origin in faulty plant nutrition.

In order that members may become familiar with my argument let me repeat some of the things I said previously. I do so because of what was said by Sir Edward Mellamy, former secretary of the British Medical Research Council, who recently visited South Australia. He said, "We do not yet know where the polio virus comes from nor how it enters the body." There are other notable men such as Mr. J. E. R. McDonagh, F.R.C.S.,

and Professor Hagedoorn, who were not backward in saying what they considered the virus was. Mr. McDonagh said that the virus comes from an over-expanded protein and if portion is broken off, the broken off piece is a virus. Professor Hagedoorn, world-famous geneticist, said:—

What is the difference between a virus and one of the normal constituents of the cells? I am convinced this difference is one of degree only.

He goes on to say that it will probably be proved that a virus, which is a protein element, has its origin in plant life and that it probably has ill-effects because of what might be called an incomplete form of protein. These things go back to the condition of affairs which we know to be this—that without organic material in the soil we can have an incomplete protein in the plants which will lead to malnutrition both in animals and humans. If these factors are correct and accepted by men of eminent authority, it is up to the authorities here to prove them either right or wrong. There is too much at stake to neglect the advice and opinions from scientific people of such standing.

I turn now to hospitals. Some time ago I was forced to the conclusion that one of the difficulties confronting hospitalization in South Australia is over-centralization. We have in Adelaide practically only one Government-controlled hospital of any magnitude—the Royal Adelaide Hospital. It is proposed to build another hospital at Woodville. A far better scheme than building mammoth centralized hospitals is to erect hospitals in out-lying suburbs to serve definite sections of the metropolitan area and get away from those which, because of their magnitude, become so unwieldy in operation. It can be proved, from a strategic point of view and the general welfare of the people in times of war, that concentrated hospitalization in an area is both wrong and dangerous.

Mr. Pattinson—I will take one for the south-western suburbs.

Mr. QUIRKE—Doubtless the honourable member will. The authorities should apply themselves to the question of erecting hospitals in different suburbs instead of centralizing them. Education necessarily means school buildings. The Education Department is doing its best, but I do not know whether there is any programme in relation to buildings, other

than the temporary wooden structures which today serve their purpose, but because of their very nature must have a limited life. They are extremely costly in upkeep; they have to be painted from the hips of the roof to the bottom wall plates and painted at frequent intervals. We have central schools, of which the Clare high school is a good example, a beautiful stone structure made unsightly today by the addition of temporary wooden structures on the south side. They detract from the fine architectural features of the original school. Apparently it is hopeless to expect anything except temporary wooden structures in future. But what of the future? Surely we do not expect to continue in this way for all time. We should be able to plan ahead for the replacement of these wooden structures. It would be gratifying to the people of South Australia to have tangible evidence that plans for replacement were in operation. Education is a tremendous problem everywhere. It is a problem in the country because of the shortage of teachers and the closing of small schools. Young children are conveyed to the bigger towns, around which are springing up wooden structures. There are arguments in favour of large schools, but those in favour of the small schools outweigh them. In small schools, with individual teachers, there can be given to the children an individual education based on their aptitude to absorb. No teacher on earth can give individual instruction to all children in a class of 40 to 60. Those who are slow in absorbing knowledge lag behind the others. I was formerly of opinion that with wider contacts it would be better for the children to be in the larger schools, but after seeing them in operation I have changed my mind. It is a tragedy that so many of the small schools, with individual application to individual children by a conscientious teacher, are being destroyed, perhaps of necessity, owing to existing conditions. These Estimates are the product of a system which does not work, never has and never will, but whilst we have it, and there is no immediate prospect of changing it, we must operate it to the best advantage. I am not alarmed at the amount involved. If we are to progress under our system we must run into debt and if these Estimates are a sign of progress we must get into debt as a penalty, and the penalty is that we are adding £41,000,000 to the incubus which hangs around the necks of our people.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands) moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself in a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1934-1949.

Motion carried. Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

LAND SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands) moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Settlement Act, 1944-1949.

Motion carried. Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands) moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Payment of Members of Parliament Act, 1948.

Motion carried. Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

SURPLUS REVENUE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands) obtained leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Surplus Revenue Act, 1938.

SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH (Minister of Works) moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—“That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Supreme Court Act, 1935-1947.”

Motion carried. Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

**PUBLIC WORKS STANDING COMMITTEE
ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

The Hon. M. McINTOSH (Minister of Works) moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—“That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Works Standing Committee Act, 1927-1935.”

Motion carried. Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH (Minister of Works) moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—“That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Police Act, 1936-1946.”

Motion carried. Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

AUDIT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS (Minister of Agriculture) moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—“That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Audit Act, 1921-1949.”

Motion carried. Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

LOANS TO PRODUCERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS, having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Loans to Producers Act, 1927-1946.

Read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 8.30 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, August 16, at 2 p.m.