

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Thursday, October 23, 1952.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Dunks) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

**QUESTIONS.****APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRAMWAYS TRUST.**

Mr. MOIR—Can the Premier say when the new trust to manage municipal tramway affairs is likely to be appointed and whether applications will be called from all States of the Commonwealth?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Obviously the Government will have to give very serious consideration to the establishment of this trust. Parliament has only just concluded consideration of the legislation and therefore the matter raised has not yet received any attention from the Government or its advisers. It is provided that the trust will come into operation on proclamation. I am unable to state any definite time, but the Government desires to establish the trust as soon as conveniently possible. The answer to the second question is "No." If we called for applications from all States we would be submerged by a large number of applications, including many from persons with no qualifications. In the selection of a board of this kind it is advisable, if possible, to get a balanced team rather than one comprising only one class—men with administrative experience, financial experience, and so on. For that reason it is not possible or desirable to call for applications. I do not know that the Government has ever adopted such a procedure in appointing such a body.

**WHEAT SILOS AT WALLAROO.**

Mr. McALEES—I have been informed that wheat silos are to be erected at Wallaroo. Can the Premier say whether the Government is seeking contracts overseas for their erection?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The question of the bulk handling of wheat in South Australia has been referred to the Public Works Committee and under the Public Works Standing Committee Act the Government cannot introduce legislation for the expenditure of money on any public work estimated to cost more than £30,000 until a report has been received from the committee. No report on this matter has been received from the committee, so obviously the Government could not go ahead with the project even if it wanted to do so tomorrow. The

Wheat Board has discussed this matter with me on a number of occasions and a member of the board once sent me a communication about it. I believe the board would be prepared to install bulk handling facilities at some of our outports if they could obtain a charter under a scheme that would enable certain deductions to be made to pay for bulk handling, with the installation ultimately becoming the property of the growers using the facilities. My reply to the board has always been that it is not possible for the Government to approve of proposals until some definite scheme has been put forward for consideration. All communications have been forwarded to the Public Works Committee for its information. The Government is not calling for tenders for any bulk handling installations at Wallaroo.

**RADIUM HILL WATER SUPPLY.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—For some time I have been concerned about the necessity for providing an adequate supply of water for Radium Hill. I know the matter has received much attention from the Government and I ask the Premier if any finality has been reached?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—A number of proposals have been examined by the Government. An investigation into local water supplies was not very promising. Fairly large quantities of brackish water are available there, but no appreciable quantities of good water. Secondly, an investigation was made into a proposal to extend the trunk main from Jamestown to Peterborough, thence along the Broken Hill railway line to a place near Olary, and to serve the field from there. That would also enable a supply to Peterborough, where it is much required, and would also give assistance to the railways which, at times, experience a fairly acute water shortage on the Broken Hill line. The cost of this scheme, however, would be very high. The third proposition examined was to take water from Morgan overland to Radium Hill, but this would cost about the same as the extension through Peterborough without having the same advantages. A fourth scheme was to bring water from Broken Hill. This would be much cheaper, but it has the disadvantage that we should have to rely upon a supply from another State. Further, from information not official, but I think fairly accurate, the supply at Broken Hill would not be able to cope with the additional demand. Therefore, the position is that although a large amount of work has been done no decision has been made. On the other hand, experiments undertaken on the field using the brackish water

ally one of our fears that it might be unsuitable for a number of processes. We find that some of the developmental processes can be undertaken successfully with brackish water, and that will account for a good deal of the field's requirements. I know the honourable member's keen interest in the matter and I will see that he is informed, as soon as possible, of any decision the Government makes.

#### SUGAR FOR JAM MAKING.

Mr. TEUSNER—For some years past many country people who make their own jam and preserve their own fruit have been restricted in these operations because of inadequate supplies of sugar, particularly during the fruit season in December and January. Can the Premier say whether sufficient supplies of white sugar will be available during the coming fruit season to enable people to carry out these operations?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The last conference I had with the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd. was entirely satisfactory. The manager informed me that at the time every request for sugar was being readily met and that stocks were ample. I do not expect any difficulty this year in meeting all requirements unless there are industrial hold-ups or shipping problems, nor that any quota will be enforced.

#### WHEAT PRICE LEGISLATION.

Mr. STOTT—Has the Minister of Agriculture noticed that the Western Australian Parliament has re-enacted the wheat price legislation which was passed by all Parliaments except the Western Australian last year, enabling wheat to be lifted at 12s. a bushel for stock feed, and that the Western Australian Act has deleted all provisions as regards the charging of freight by the Australian Wheat Board? Will the Government consider introducing an amending Bill deleting the freight clauses, as Western Australia has done, to encourage wheat-growers to grow more wheat?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I have no information from Western Australia that it has passed any legislation as regards wheat. As a matter of fact, I was talking to the Western Australian Minister this morning and asked him if his Government had put through any fresh legislation and he informed me it had not.

Mr. Stott—It was passed through Parliament.

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—Until I get more information on the matter it is not the intention of the South Australian Government to introduce amending legislation dealing with wheat this session.

#### MURRAY BRIDGE ELECTRIC POWER LINE.

Mr. MOIR—This question is not connected with my constituency, but with that of the member for Murray, Mr. McKenzie, in whose absence I have been requested, on behalf of people of his district, to ask it. Can the Premier say when electric power will be available from Mannum to Murray Bridge, as a number of dairymen contemplate installing new machinery, such as pumps and milking machines and would like to know the position at an early date?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Off-hand, I am not in a position to give the information. I believe that the high-voltage transmission line will be completed to Murray Bridge this year. It will be a direct line to Murray Bridge and will not follow the river. I do not know how long it will take for the link-up to be made, but the trust is anxious to proceed with country extensions, and a special budget of £400,000 for them was recently prepared. I will supply the information direct to the member for Murray so that he will know the position.

#### PLANT STIMULANTS.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the Department of Agriculture has noted the experiments being conducted in the United States of America in connection with antibiotics? It contains terramycin, which stimulates plant growth. Will he refer the matter to the Waite Research Institute so that tests can be made in South Australia on stimulating plant growth?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—My department is always in the closest touch with experiments in agriculture in any part of the world. In regard to this matter, I will ask the Director of Agriculture to give me a report on the latest developments.

#### ELECTRICITY TRUST AND IMPRINT ACT.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Can the Minister of Works say whether the Electricity Trust, being a Government instrumentality, is exempt from the Imprint Act, and, if not, will he see that the trust inserts the name of the printer on the newsletter that it publishes periodically?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—This matter has not come under my notice but, as it has been raised, and is one of law, I will see that the

question goes through the proper channels and bring down a reply at the earliest possible date.

#### KINGSTON PUNT.

Mr. STOTT—Is the Minister aware that because the Kingston punt is closed many of the children from Moorook and Kingston are unable to attend the Glossop high school, thus debarring them from getting high school education, and interfering with their educational standard? Will he consider having some alternative provision made to enable the children to get their high school education? It is quite possible that the river may be high for some time.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will take up the question with the Minister of Education, and bring down a reply at the earliest possible date.

#### TALLOW PRICES.

Mr. STOTT—The Federal Minister for Trade and Customs is reported as saying:—

I am glad to know that the Prices Minister in New South Wales has made the first move to restore the tallow trade to a degree of sanity. I have clearly stated my view in Parliament and elsewhere, but the time had come when justification for the retention of the control of domestic prices of tallow had become very slender if, in fact, it existed at all. In other words, this is an example of a control which had virtually reached the position where it was being retained for control's sake. It is some time since the Agricultural Council and the Tallow Advisory Committee both expressed the view that the decontrol of tallow prices was in the best interests of the livestock, meat and allied industries.

In view of that will the Premier reconsider the answer he gave to the member for Rocky River on Tuesday?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Since giving that reply my Prices Officers have made a complete investigation of the matter and no recommendation has come to me from them that it is desirable to alter the decision of the last Prices Conference, nor do I believe it advisable for States to take separate action upon price control. Where one State does so it disturbs the price fabric for the whole of the Commonwealth. What is the purpose of interstate conferences of Prices Ministers if, conference having reached a decision, a Minister goes home and proceeds to do something exactly opposite without consulting anyone else? A very big black market exists in New South Wales and few steps have been taken to control it. That has been given as a reason for decontrol, but I believe that it is not a

reason. The existence of a black market shows that there is need to regulate prices rather than leave them completely free on a catch-as-catch-can basis. I will be quite happy to reconsider the matter at the next conference, which will take place in the near future, but I am not prepared, on the evidence available to me, to take individual action which I believe would lead to a very substantial price rise.

#### REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER—I lay upon the table a report by the Standing Orders Committee. In so doing I would like to say that the proposed new Standing Orders recommended in the report amount, in substance, to a codification of what has been the unwritten practice of the House for a number of years in regard to the insertion of matter in *Hansard* which has not been read to the House. It will be seen also that the right of any single member to object effectively to such an insertion in *Hansard* in any particular case is retained in the proposed new Standing Orders.

Report ordered to be printed.

#### LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purposes of considering the following resolution:—That it is desirable to introduce a Bill to amend the Land Tax Act 1936-1948.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

In formulating its financial proposals for the current year the Government has been faced with an inescapable increase in expenditure and no equivalent expansion of revenue. As it is most unlikely that loan funds will be forthcoming to finance a deficit the Government is compelled to look for additional sources of revenue. It is particularly necessary to do this in view of the possible reactions of the Commonwealth Grants Commission to any failure by a claimant State to use its available taxation resources to a reasonable extent. The possibility of obtaining additional revenue

from land tax was brought before the Government by the announcement that the Commonwealth proposed to withdraw immediately from this field of taxation. Shortly before the announcement was made, the Commonwealth had increased its assessments and it was estimated that if the Commonwealth tax had been retained, about £400,000 would have been raised from this source in South Australia. Of this sum approximately £100,000 would come from rural areas and £300,000 from urban land. In view of all the circumstances the Government considers it is its duty to increase the State land tax so as to occupy some part of the field vacated by the Commonwealth. A number of alternative methods of doing this have been investigated and after full consideration the Government has decided to increase the present rate of tax on land having an unimproved value in excess of £10,000. It is not proposed to tax these lands as highly as they were taxed by the Commonwealth but the rates proposed are between 60 and 65 per cent of the Federal rates. In addition, the valuations used by the State as the basis of assessment for land tax are not as high as the recent Commonwealth assessments.

It is contemplated that under this Bill about £207,000 of additional revenue will be raised from owners holding land exceeding £10,000 in unimproved value. Since that figure was arrived at the Government has received and examined a number of requests in connection with land tax on school properties. After examining those requests it has decided that they are justified and an additional clause has been inserted in the Bill, therefore the amount of £207,000 is subject to the deduction which these additional concessions will involve. Of the amount of £207,000 approximately £16,000 will come from rural land and about £191,000 from urban land. The number of taxpayers affected by the proposed new rates is estimated at 850, of whom 400 are assessed on rural land and 450 on urban land. The Bill has been drafted solely to impose the new rates of tax and to make an alteration, favourable to taxpayers, with respect to the minimum amount of tax payable on any assessment. It also provides for concessions with regard to school properties. No attempt is being made in this Bill to alter the principles on which the taxable amount of the land of a taxpayer is computed. The rate of tax payable by each taxpayer will continue to be based on the total unimproved value of all his land subject to the minor exceptions now provided for in the Act in the case of joint owners and trustees.

Under the Land Tax Act there are at present three taxes, namely, the land tax, the additional land tax, and the absentee land tax. The land tax is  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the pound on all land. The additional land tax is another  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the pound and is payable on all land of the taxpayer in excess of £5,000 unimproved value. Thus, at present, the maximum rate of tax for any person resident in Australia is  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the pound. Absentees—*i.e.*, persons who have been resident outside Australia for more than a year—pay a further tax equal to 20 per cent of the land tax and additional land tax.

Under this Bill there will be nothing specifically called an additional land tax but there will be in substance a series of additional land taxes on holdings above £5,000. On land between £5,000 and £10,000 the rate will be the same as at present—namely,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. Higher rates will be imposed on land above £10,000. The table in clause 4 indicates what the tax will be in each case. The underlying principle is that the value of a holding in excess of £5,000 will be treated as being made up of a number of separate amounts, each amount being taxed at a separate rate and the rate will increase as the value goes higher. A concrete example may make this clearer. Let us assume a taxpayer holds £34,000 worth of land at unimproved value. Then the tax payable, when analysed, is as follows:—

£		£	s.	d.
5,000	at $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the pound ..	15	12	6
5,000	at $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the pound ..	31	5	0
10,000	at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the pound ..	104	3	4
14,000	at $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the pound ..	177	1	8

£34,000 Total .. £328 2 6

The maximum rate on any land is  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., which is the rate applicable only to that part of a taxpayer's holding which exceeds £80,000 in unimproved value. With regard to the minimum amount of tax, the Act at present provides that, if any tax works out at less than 1s., nevertheless 1s. shall be payable. Having regard to the present purchasing power of money, it is not worth while to bother about collecting such trifling sums. It is proposed in the Bill to fix the minimum tax at 5s., but to provide that if the amount of tax works out at an amount less than 5s., no tax will be collected. In other words, instead of increasing small amounts of tax to bring them up to the minimum the Government intends to remit them to the taxpayer. By reason of this provision the number of land tax accounts sent out to taxpayers each year will be substantially reduced. It is estimated that 40,000 fewer taxpayers

will receive assessments. The amount of tax which the Government will refrain from collecting will be about £6,000, but this will be largely offset by economies in administration. The new rates of tax will apply in the current year as well as in future years.

One other matter is dealt with in this Bill—namely, the exemption of school and college buildings from land tax. It is proposed to grant such an exemption to education institutions carried on otherwise than for private gain. The exemption will be limited to the buildings and grounds actually used as the institution and will not extend to property held as an investment. This provision will exempt private colleges and denominational schools from paying land tax. On examining the matter I found that these institutions were relieved from Commonwealth land tax, but had always been subject to the State tax. Now that the State is encroaching to an extent on a field previously occupied by the Commonwealth, it became necessary to decide whether a case existed for increasing the land tax for these institutions or exempting them. Having considered all the merits, and realizing that these institutions provided a great benefit and were not run for private gain, I came to the conclusion that the House would agree that the Government was justified in exempting them. I thank the Leader of the Opposition and other honourable members for enabling me to bring the Bill forward this afternoon. They will have an opportunity to examine it over the week-end and be ready to speak on it after the Parliamentary visit to Kangaroo Island next week.

Mr. O'HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### BUDGET DEBATE.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from October 22. Page 1050.)

Legislative Council, £8,314.

Mr. JOHN CLARK (Gawler)—In presenting this Budget I believe the Treasurer did a comparatively good job. Although there has been a considerable curtailment of loan funds, we realize that the Treasurer himself can be held partly responsible because the Federal Government, which is so anxious to curtail loan funds, is one he has always been particularly keen to support. He is to be congratulated on presenting his fourteenth Budget, or possibly sympathized with. We on this side of the House are inclined to

think that this represents too many Budgets in succession for one man to bring down. An old saying goes that hope springeth eternal in the human breast, and we, of course, hope to end the succession of the Premier's Budgets next year. I should again like to draw attention to certain matters affecting my district, for I believe it is my duty to do so. In the main they affect, in varying degree, not only my district but other parts of the State. As a newcomer to this House, I have always thought that the debate on the Budget enabled members to spread themselves and talk on everything under the sun and that therefore it was not of much account, but from the speeches so far I realize that there is much value in the Budget debate. We have been treated to some excellent speeches, including those of the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and the member for Burnside, whose specialized knowledge enabled him to give us something worthy of close attention. The member for Flinders and the member for Hindmarsh, as well as many others, brought forward many important points for consideration, but I did not agree with many of the remarks made by the member for Burra. His mention of a labour pool was bad politics and unsound economics. The bad politics was purely his business, but unsound economics concern all of us. He spoke of "that grand and noble foundation" that was left by the Menzies Government during the war for the Curtin Government to build upon. History shows that that grand foundation was a very crumbling affair and full of cracks. The honourable member should read the Federal *Hansard* reports of that time. He could then refresh his memory on the notorious Menzies-Fadden brawl—and I use "brawl" advisedly, because the dictionary says it means "to quarrel noisily and indecently." The following statement appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of July 26, 1943:—

This stab in the back makes another betrayal in the series for which Mr. Menzies has become notorious.

There will be no prize for guessing who said those words. It was certainly not Dr. Evatt or Mr. Ward.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—I could quote something that Mr. Ward said about the late Mr. Curtin.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Those words were uttered by Mr. Fadden, yet the member for Burra referred to the happy Government that passed over the Treasury benches with everything in such excellent condition for Mr. Curtin

to try to fight a war! On many occasions we have been told during the session that first things must come first. That, of course, is a truism. We know there is a shortage of loan money. Loans have been undersubscribed, but this has been mainly due to lack of confidence. No-one is anxious to put his hand in his pocket and lend money to someone he does not trust. It is partly true that the people of Australia should be taught to realize that it is their duty to subscribe to public loans, not only because they are a good investment, but also because it is their duty to support those things that will eventually support them, but our loans will never be fully subscribed while there is little confidence in the persons attempting to borrow the money. I should like to know who decides what are the first things that must come first, and how the decisions are made? Before commenting on the South Para reservoir project I shall quote from the Department of Mines Bulletin No. 24. Many students of geology and other people seek the bulletins issued by this department. Though they are neglected by many people, they contain a great deal of interesting and valuable information. Referring to the geology of the South Para dam project the bulletin states:—

In 1902 a small diversion weir was erected across the South Para river, and water led by a tunnel to the Barossa reservoir (capacity 993,000,000gall.); and later, in 1916, the Warren reservoir (capacity 1,401,000gall.) was completed by the construction of a dam impounding the upper waters of the South Para. The Warren and Barossa reservoirs supply many important towns and areas of farmlands in the lower northern and mid-northern agricultural districts. All of the resources of the South Para river had not yet been fully exploited, however, and following renewed proposals to augment city and country supplies from this source, further field investigations were inaugurated in 1940. The comparative drought years of 1943-1945, and the rapidly expanding consumption requirements of the industrial and suburban areas of the City of Adelaide during that period, soon rather sharply focused the attention of South Australia's citizens, departmental authorities, and Government alike, upon the obvious necessity for increasing the State's available water supplies at an early date.

This resulted in an acceleration of the programme of field investigations, and the submission to the Public Works Standing Committee of plans for the construction of a dam and reservoir to impound some 10,000,000,000 gallons of water at a site on the South Para River between the existing works of the Warren reservoir and the Barossa diversion weir. This project, anticipated to involve a capital expenditure of over £1,500,000 will, if proceeded with, provide the largest capacity reservoir yet built in the State.

The report shows that the construction of the South Para reservoir is a most important work, which would benefit the State, and I hope that funds will soon be available to continue it.

Mr. O'Halloran—Has the scheme been completely discontinued?

Mr. JOHN CLARK—No, work has only been suspended.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Only to the extent that we had to proceed with first things first, and the first was considered to be the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline. I regret that we did not proceed with the work on the South Para reservoir.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—It is most unfortunate that this hold-up has occurred. I am trying to stress that the curtailment of loan money is particularly unfortunate. Another work which is urgently required in my district—and the Minister of Local Government has heard from me about it—is the widening of Gawler Road, for which purpose land has been bought on either side. This road carries very heavy traffic, particularly on certain occasions. Apart from that there is a great deal of regular traffic and the edges of the bitumen are becoming cracked and dangerous. Only a few weeks ago I was driving along Gawler Road with a friend and we both remarked how unsafe the edges of the bitumen were becoming. I regret that this work should be held up and hope it will not be necessary to wait until a series of fatal accidents occur before anything is done. There is also the question of a sewerage scheme for Gawler and district. On July 23, 1947, the Minister of Works, the Hon. M. McIntosh, replying to a question by the former member for Gawler, Mr. L. S. Duncan, said:—

From every point of view I should say Gawler would be entitled to be amongst the first towns to be sewered. It is one of the oldest and most important towns in the State. It has an adequate water supply and I hope will be amongst the first to be sewered.

That was five years ago and the people are still waiting. I know that in these times of stress five years is a comparatively short time.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—I still hope that the scheme will be commenced shortly and I hope to open the work.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—The residents are still patiently, but not very patiently, waiting for it. A certain amount of difficulty has arisen in the district because of this work not being proceeded with, and the council is in a quandary over it. Gawler has what is considered a not very satisfactory pan system, except in the newer houses, and the council is anxious

to discontinue it, but does not know how to go about it. Apart from the council, residents are in difficulties. Some have considered installing septic tanks, but have not done so, hoping that a form of sewerage will shortly be installed. Moreover, industries are deterred from coming to Gawler because of the lack of a proper water and sanitary system. It has been strongly suggested to me that a deliberate attempt is being made to keep industries in what is popularly believed to be their proper place—the city. It has even been suggested that this has something to do with the infamous gerrymander of electorates that we hear so much about.

Another matter connected, not only with my district, but with others, is the amount of contributions to the Fire Brigades Board. The amount contributed, both by the insurance companies and by the Government is insufficient. According to the Estimates the Government's grant has been increased from £30,000 last year to £33,120 this year, Gawler's share being more than £1,100. We have an excellent fire brigade in Gawler and desire to keep it, but there are times when the expenses of councils and corporations become so high that they wonder how they can keep going. The same applies to the hospital. The contributions from the Gawler corporation are a little under £1,100. It is an excellent and well-conducted hospital and we are proud of it, but the council finds that the two utilities take one-quarter of its income. There is also a severe drain on the surrounding councils that have to contribute. Public works, which the councils are anxious to carry out, are necessarily curtailed because of the need to divert so much money to these very worthy causes. The contributions by the Government should be greater. The councils cannot plan a long term policy and are able to do things only in bits and pieces, major works remaining untouched. Members know that ratepayers are not able to know very much about what a council is doing; they can see more easily what is not done. In view of my former occupation it ill becomes me to pick holes in the administration of the Education Department, but I quote the following from the Treasurer's Budget speech:—

The experience in this State in both education and hospital costs is not an isolated one, but follows the pattern common to all Australian States. Despite this huge increase in costs expenditure per head of population in this State is still below the average of the three eastern States and is, in fact, well below the average Australian "per head" costs.

From a purely practical point of view that is something of which we can be proud, but for the ultimate good of the future citizen of the State it is something of which we should be ashamed. Figures for last year show that only Queensland had a lower per capita cost in connection with education than South Australia. We should hang our heads over this matter. Nobody can over-estimate the importance of education. Recently at a conference of Chancellors of Universities held in Canberra, Professor Roberts described the Australian university as "the cheapest bargain counter in the world." In the *Advertiser* of October 21 there is the following report:—

Professor Roberts urged increased financial support from the State and Commonwealth Governments to enable universities to obtain a comparable level of teaching and research with British Universities.

The standard of education in this State is very high indeed. I know something about it from several different angles. We are fortunate in having such splendid officers and service in the department is a happy one, but more expenditure would pay dividends. They would be more than dividends of pounds, shillings and pence. There would be an ultimate advantage to our future citizens. Because of the big influx of country people to the city and the need to build better and larger schools other things must suffer. Recently I had a long talk with a friend who is keenly interested in education. He visited New Zealand and investigated the educational system there. I do not deary our educational system, which I believe to be excellent, but it would be able to do more with the good material we have if more money were available. The following is an extract from the 1951 report of the Minister of Education in New Zealand:—

Education is, and must be, an expanding service. If life becomes more complex there is a need for more highly trained people to grapple with its complexities.

Nothing can be truer than that. The report also says that education costs money, and lots of it. We will all agree with that. The report also stated:—

Few would say, however, that we can measure our educational activities solely by what we pay for them. It is not possible to express human and spiritual values in the cold terms of a profit and loss account. This does not mean that we can or should ignore the factor of cost. We would have little to show or to boast about if it were not for the material contributions of that army of taxpayers whose labours have provided the savings upon which we have been able to draw so heavily and so continuously for our needs.

Another portion of the report said:—

We do experiment in education. Why shouldn't we and just what would happen if we didn't? We have to make sure, however, that it is the child and not the experiment that fills the centre of our mental stage. The child is the objective for whose well-being the experiment is conducted; he is not just the raw material with which the experiment is carried out. I am sure that our teachers see and observe this truth. I am satisfied that they accept and perform their task as a trust: they perform a special service for us which we are not qualified to perform for ourselves, and they do it not so much for the material rewards that we offer them, but because they love children and they see their profession as a fine and noble calling.

There are one or two other things in this report from which we could learn something. The first is that the average per capita cost of education in New Zealand last year was £3 more than ours, and I understand that it is greater this year. Of course, there is a great difference between the value of our money and New Zealand money. Secondly, they have really free books. We sometimes suffer from the idea that we have free books in South Australia, and to some extent we do in the high schools, with the allowance that is made, but in the primary schools practically everything is paid for, except by those unlucky individuals who have to get free books and for whom I have every sympathy. I have had an opportunity to see a number of the New Zealand text books, and they are indeed beautiful. A thing which struck me particularly was that they have specially printed books for children with weak eyesight. These books are roughly three times the size of a normal book and weak sighted children are able to read them without difficulty. It is an experiment I have not seen tried anywhere else and I do not know just what the result is, but they have been carrying it on for some time, so apparently they have found it to be a success. We have some good books in South Australia, too, but unfortunately children have to purchase them.

At the moment a committee in the Education Department—of which I am a member—is working collating and setting up a new series of reading books which I believe will be the most beautiful books in Australia. New Zealand's expenditure last year, for about eight months only, was £79,667 on free books. Another interesting thing with which I was struck is that every school of any size—I regret that I cannot define it more precisely—has a special dental attendant attached to it.

Of course we have a dental service in the Education Department, but it is not provided specifically for the various schools. They have a most interesting plan for their buildings. When a new school is to be built they plan not only the building but the whole of the equipment, and this is provided before the schools are occupied. Their plans are very elaborate; not exactly blue prints, but partly in colours, in which everything that is to go into the school, as well as the rooms and so forth, are planned in detail and everything is paid for by the department. We are not quite so happy here. When a head teacher goes into a new school he is not in the happy position of having many of the things he wants, but in New Zealand they plan everything as I have said, as well as their physical training fields, gymnasiums, trees, and gardens.

Mr. Stephens—And they have swimming pools.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—I believe that is correct, and they have rooms that can be converted into outdoor rooms in a few minutes. I can give a few figures to show the value of the equipment supplied by the department. They relate to the full financial year 1951:—

	£
Visual education . . . . .	39,891
Text books . . . . .	79,667
Teachers' aids . . . . .	29,970
Arts and crafts materials . . . . .	69,160
School libraries . . . . .	44,412

Some of our teachers, I know, would find that difficult to believe. Those figures are very interesting, as they leave little to be done by school committees or high school councils and should give us food for thought. I am not reflecting upon the Education Department, but I do make a plea for an increase in our educational grant; a plea for these amenities freely given and paid for outright, and not a pound for pound basis. Apropos of this I quote from a very brief letter sent to me by a great friend and helper of the Gawler high school. It is rather illuminating and illustrates the point I was making that so many things must be left undone because of the shortage of funds—at least that is the reason given. The letter is as follows:—

Would you be so kind as to assist us in this matter. Since June, 1949, we have been trying to get improvements to the girls' cloakroom. The existing room is roughly 15ft. x 14ft. and has to serve as a rest room, cloakroom and changing room for 97 girls. The proposed alterations were as follows:—(1) Replacing present asphalt floor by a board

floor; (2) building in dwarf walls and allowance for under-floor in both cloakroom and rest room; (3) lining of cloakroom and rest room walls with masonite or similar wall board; (4) four hand-basins to be installed in place of present troughs; (5) a restroom to be built on to cloakroom so that a sick girl has some privacy and quietness. As a number of girls come to school by bus, and would be unable to return home if they became ill after arriving at school, the rest room is essential.

That can be understood, particularly with girls of high school age.

Adequate cloakroom facilities are also necessary, as bus girls have to spend lunch hour at school. A tender was obtained in 1949. Probably that tender is now out-of-date.

That tender was for £372 and obviously would be out of date. With a bigger grant of money work of this nature could be done, and no doubt other members could present lists of work that should be done but cannot. I said earlier that hope springs eternal, and I hope the matters I have referred to will receive some consideration, that the Treasurer's confidence in the future of this State will be upheld—it is a great State and worthy of the best we can give it—and that next year after the State elections the Opposition will be able to provide that best.

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide)—This is the last Budget to be introduced by the Treasurer during the currency of this Parliament—I shall have the unanimous agreement of Government supporters on that statement, at least—and it will be the last Budget the present Treasurer will present for some time.

Mr. Shannon—What will be your portfolio?

Mr. LAWN—The honourable member is only the rump of his Party this year and will not be here next year. This Parliament was elected in March, 1950, and is nearing the completion of its three-year term and I propose to submit some unemployment figures which will be of interest to those we represent. The member for Burra would not know about employment because he has not done a day's work in his life, but he charged the Opposition with not having a policy for unemployment. We do not believe in unemployment and do not need such a policy but we have a policy for full employment. The Liberal Party did not have a policy for unemployment when I was unemployed for three years from 1930 to 1933 and had to walk the streets. Unemployment is being forced upon the people by the Liberal Party in the Federal Parliament. On April 28, 1950, there were 375 males and 106 females unemployed, a total of 481; on April 27, 1951, 304 males and 139 females, a total of 443

unemployed; on February 25, 1952, a total of 1,613 unemployed with four persons receiving unemployment benefits; on July 25, 1952, a total of 2,146 unemployed with 315 receiving relief, and on Aug 29, 2,115 males and 591 females, a total of 2,706 were unemployed and 878 were receiving unemployment benefits on August 30; on September 26, 2,010 males and 518 females, a total of 2,528 were unemployed and 954 were receiving relief. From July 25 to August 30 there was an increase of 178.3 per cent in the number receiving unemployment benefits and during that period the Government, through the Minister of Agriculture, asked members of the Commercial Travellers Association who travel throughout the length and breadth of the State, to preach and talk of prosperity. At that stage the figures were alarming, but the Government knew there would be an election next year and did not want the figures to increase for fear of the effect on the election results. During the same period there was an increase of 26 per cent in the number of unemployed. Apparently a number of those unemployed are endeavouring to live on their savings before applying for benefits from the social services fund. From February 25 to August 29 there was an increase of 67.7 per cent in the number of unemployed. Whichever way we examine the figures it is obvious that the numbers are increasing to an alarming extent. The Prime Minister, in attempting to decri all mention of unemployment, suggested that the figures of those registered as unemployed are not a good guide and that the only guide is the figures of those receiving unemployment relief. I do not agree with that view, but accepting it for the moment, he also said that the number receiving unemployment relief only represented eight per thousand of the workable population of the Commonwealth. If the Australian average is eight per thousand the number receiving relief in South Australia equals 11 per thousand. Those figures cannot be refuted for they were supplied by the Director of the Commonwealth Employment Bureau in this State. The other figures I have mentioned were supplied by the Premier who in this House recently said that for the four weeks ended September 26 the number of unemployed in this State had increased by 8.6 per cent. It remains to be seen what increase will take place between now and Christmas. This country has experienced periods of both unemployment and full employment. Australians know from experience that even under the present capitalist system there is no need to maintain a pool of unemployed.

Under the Menzies-Fadden Government we have seen a big swing against the Liberal Party and former blue ribbon Liberal seats have been won for the first time by Labor candidates. Only this month the Federal seat of Flinders was won by a Labor candidate as a result of a 10 per cent swing in the votes.

Mr. Shannon—What about Stirling?

Mr. LAWN—The Labor Party did not contest that but let two Liberal candidates fight it out, therefore it cannot be cited as a criterion.

Mr. Shannon—The Playford man won.

Mr. LAWN—Does the honourable member believe that because an endorsed Liberal candidate beat an unendorsed Liberal it was a victory for the Liberal Party? He should wait until Prospect, Glenelg, Norwood, Torrens, Onkaparinga, Gouger and one or two other districts are won by Labor in the next year's State election. Unley is a foregone conclusion, and I have recently met a number of people who have told me who will be the next member for that district.

Mr. Shannon—That broken-down doctor.

Mr. LAWN—He is no broken-down doctor as the honourable member will realize if he meets him in the House next year, but I do not think the honourable member will be here unless he is in the gallery listening to the doctor address the House. It appears that the financial policy of the Liberal Government is based on the continual borrowing of money. In introducing his Budget the Premier said that the public debt of the State as at June 30, 1950, 1951, and 1952, and the increases from year to year were:—

	£	£
		Increase.
1950 . . . . .	133,175,000	8,455,000
1951 . . . . .	148,388,000	15,213,000
1952 . . . . .	173,436,000	25,048,000

This year South Australians are to be called upon to bear an increased interest burden. Members opposite believe in the R.I.P. policy by which they make their living from rent, interest, and profit and would not know what a hard day's work was. Some of them do not even acquire their profit in a legal way, and at least one member opposite did not come by his property in a legal manner. He did not sweat to turn all his pennies and shillings into pounds, as members opposite are constantly telling the workers to do. Earlier this session I referred to the interest burden which must be carried by all Australians and showed how both the public debt and the interest burden were reduced under the wise leadership of

the Curtin and Chifley Governments, but since the return of the Menzies-Fadden Government Australia's public debt and interest commitments have increased. It appears that history will repeat itself and that within the next 12 months we will experience conditions similar to those of the early 1930's if the Liberal Government at Canberra perseveres with its present policy.

Mr. Tapping—Has it got one?

Mr. LAWN—It has never had a proper policy but has drifted and muddled along until the country is in the throes of an economic crisis and on the verge of strangulation. In previous crises the Liberal Party has either been slung out or has been conveniently defeated thus ensuring that it would not be returned to the Treasury benches and that the Labor Party would be. The Labor Party has been entrusted to get Australia out of a mess more than once, and the 1929-30 economic crisis and the second world war are two such periods that come readily to mind. With regard to the interest burden members need to look no further than the information given by the Treasurer as recently as October 14 with regard to Tramways Trust finance. It makes interesting reading. The Treasurer advised me that the tramways had repaid to the Treasury principal amounting to £1,644,506, that the amount still owing was £5,393,927, making the total advanced £7,038,433. He also advised me that the trust had paid the Treasury during that period interest amounting to £5,206,868. The Labor Party believes in the utilization of national credit when required and that all public works could be financed from this source. Had that policy been adopted the trust would have been in a most happy position today. There would have been no deficit, tram fares would not be so high and possibly the trust would have had a surplus of £5,250,000.

Mr. Macgillivray—It is a pity the Labor Party did not put that policy into operation when it was in power.

Mr. LAWN—I do not know that there was the same need at that time. We were not then developing our public works and fuel and power resources as has been done in the post-war period. Today we find the States sacking thousands of their workers. It is on such occasions that the national credit of the country should be used. The Premier has copied Labor's policy on more than one occasion. I remind the House of the support given to the Leigh Creek project by the Commonwealth Labor Government.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Have you heard what was said about Leigh Creek by your Party in and out of this House? If notice had been taken of it Leigh Creek would never have been started.

Mr. LAWN—The success of that field is due to the support of the Opposition in this House and by a Commonwealth Labor Government. This same wholehearted support also applied to the operations of the Electricity Trust. If it had not been for the Labor members of the Legislative Council, it would never have been established. The Bill providing for the taking over of the private company was thrown out on the first occasion on the casting vote of the President, a Liberal Party member. Another measure was introduced and still with the support of the Labor Party was carried. Mr. Hawker the other night criticized my Party's policy and then proceeded to support it. He mentioned that some towns in France, larger than Gawler, were lighted by kerosene lamps. Many returned men I have spoken to would like to know what towns he was referring to. He advocated that water and electric power and other amenities should be available to country residents. That has been my Party's policy for many years, and in the Federal sphere my Party has set out to give country residents the benefit of the telephone; but that is socialization.

Members opposite do not know the meaning of nationalization and socialization. Nationalization means nothing but a change of ownership. The Adelaide Electric Supply Company belonged to private investors, but in taking it over the Government nationalized it. Apart from the change of ownership, nationalization means nothing to the workers. A worker employed by the Electricity Trust or by any other nationalized concern could be just as badly off or even worse off than under private enterprise. If various projects were to be nationalized their employees would certainly be worse off if people like the member for Burra were running the Government. Having nationalized a project, we socialize it and make it function in the interests of the people. The Government nationalized the Adelaide Electric Supply Company in accordance with the Labor Party's policy and then socialized it by making advances to enable it to provide lighting and power to people in the country. The member for Burra wants these services, and that is socialization. If the Government owned a line of shipping and then inconvenienced the people who used it, as private enterprise does, the public would not benefit

from nationalization: but it is the giving of service to the people that is socialization. That is where the advantage of my Party's policy lies. One of the most important examples of socialization in South Australia is the Leigh Creek coalfield. The Treasurer told the House recently that by using coal from this field the Electricity Trust was able to reduce its charges to consumers. The price of coal to private industry has also been reduced.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—This was due to good management and not to the system. In New South Wales Government-operated mines lost money.

Mr. LAWN—I thought members of the Liberal Party always said that the system of Government ownership and nationalization was rotten?

The Hon. M. McIntosh—It has been proved so in New South Wales.

Mr. LAWN—I thought that members of the Liberal Party always contended that all instances of socialization and nationalization were rotten, but here we have the Minister saying in effect that the Prime Minister and the Federal Treasurer should leave office because they cannot manage a nationalized concern; but we have in South Australia a Government—a one-man show—which can manage such concerns. In the Federal sphere we have Mr. Menzies saying that G.O.R., T.A.A., A.W.A. and the Commonwealth shipping line are no good and that the Government will have to get rid of them. If we are to accept the Minister of Works' criticism that the success of a nationalized scheme was due to the management, and not the system, then in the Federal sphere the position must be due to the mismanagement of Mr. Menzies and Sir Arthur Fadden.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—I referred to New South Wales.

Mr. LAWN—In effect the Minister said the Commonwealth. As regards State ownership he said it was not the system, but the management which resulted in success. In the case of South Australia it is evidently good management, but I suppose the Minister says that in New South Wales it is mismanagement. To follow his argument to its logical conclusion, it is also mismanagement in the Federal sphere. It would appear that the Liberal Party in all States engages in mud slinging at the other States. Here we have the Minister of Works criticizing the New South Wales Government, and the McDonald

Government in Victoria is having a shot at the Playford Government. Some of this mud slinging may be justified.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—They have not a Liberal Government in Victoria.

Mr. LAWN—I am sure members will be pleased to read in the *News* this afternoon that Victoria is about to have a new Premier. We hope that Victoria will benefit thereby. My colleagues and I have often referred to the gerrymandering of electorates in this State. It is only by that gerrymander that members opposite have been able to retain their seats. There has recently been turmoil in the Victorian Parliament. No-confidence motions were moved, suggestions of bribery were made, and finally there was a refusal of Supply, but the Government could not blame the Opposition for that because it refused Supply a few years ago when it was in Opposition. When speaking on the no-confidence motion recently the then Premier, Mr. McDonald, said:—

When there is talk of an undemocratic electoral system here, look at South Australia and ask the reason why.

During the same debate Mr. Galvin, who I believe was Deputy Leader of the Opposition, said, "What about South Australia? Have a look at Tom Playford." There must have been many other references to the gerrymander in this State. It is evident that the gerrymander in South Australia is always brought to the front when electoral matters are being discussed in other Parliaments. The Victorian press has complained about the gerrymander in both South Australia and Victoria. Just before and just after our State elections in March, 1950, the *Melbourne Herald* and the *Adelaide News*, both owned by the same company, criticized the gerrymander in both States. In view of the results of by-elections in the Federal sphere, one would have thought that the Menzies-Fadden Government would either resign or decide to hold an election for all Senate seats next year, but apparently the Prime Minister wants to shake hands with the Queen, or bow to her, still as Prime Minister of Australia. I suppose the Liberal and Country Party here wish to continue our electoral system in the slender hope, as a drowning man clutches a straw, that Tom Playford will be able to bow to the Queen as Premier of this State. Some people believe it would not be right for a Labor Prime Minister or Premier to welcome the Queen. The electoral systems in Victoria and South Australia stink in the nostrils of a democrat. What has happened in Victoria will happen at some time here.

Members opposite would show some decency if they gave this House an opportunity of discussing our electoral system with the object of giving the people an opportunity to govern, for by the gerrymander they have taken from the people that principle of the British Parliamentary institution. Abraham Lincoln said that democracy means government of the people, by the people, for the people. At present only the privileged few have the right to govern in South Australia.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—But you say that next year, on the same franchise, your Party will win the elections.

Mr. LAWN—Yes, but only the rotten policy of the Liberal and Country Party in both the Federal and State spheres will enable us to do so. There will be an avalanche in the Federal sphere, but the gerrymander will prevent an avalanche in South Australia. However, I believe there will be a sufficient swing to push the present State Government out.

Mr. Frank Walsh—Would you ask the Minister if there is any farmer in his district who upholds Labor's policy and who would contest his seat?

Mr. LAWN—Any man has that opportunity, and there is no doubt that some members opposite will be missing in the new Parliament. My Party hopes that it will occupy the Treasury benches, and I assure the Minister that if that happens we shall give the people the opportunity to govern. It is evident that members of the Liberal Party do not always practise what they preach. I believe that the Governments of all States in the early days proclaimed areas outside the capital cities where people could take up land. The law prescribed that they were not permitted to take up land outside those areas, but even in those days there were, in the Liberal Party, lawbreakers who went outside the prescribed areas and became squatters. That is how the term "squatter" came into existence. When the Governments considered taking action against them they organized to return Governments that would make a grant of the land to them. The member for Burra did not purchase the property that he now claims to be his. It was inherited from his ancestors who got the land in the way I have described.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Every acre of land in South Australia was sold.

Mr. LAWN—It was not. A man of high standing gave me my information.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—No one in South Australia got land by squatting on it.

Mr. LAWN—The Minister does not know what he is talking about. The member for Burra said that if a person wants something he has to pay for it. The Minister should read the history of this State and he will find that what I have said is correct. He should read *Hansard*.

Mr. Whittle—It all depends where the information comes from.

Mr. LAWN—The South Australian *Hansard* reports make interesting reading, not only in regard to land grants that the Party of members opposite has given to its supporters, but also in regard to electoral reform over the years.

Mr. Whittle—Someone may read your speech in 10 years and quote your remarks.

Mr. LAWN—I hope someone will. As a result of what I am saying more people in years to come may have the right to vote effectively and we shall have a more democratic Parliament. It is only through the agitation of people like me that the people have ever got the rights they now enjoy. In about 1893 some of the working class of this State waited on a Liberal Premier and asked that some labour legislation be passed, namely legislation to fix a standard working week, to guarantee a minimum wage, payment for public holidays, and compensation for accidents occurring during employment.

Mr. Whittle—Who was the Premier? There was no Liberal and Country League then.

Mr. LAWN—No, but that Premier represented the same class as members opposite, and the same brand of Government was making free land grants. The Premier told the deputation, "If you want that legislation passed put some of your own working people into Parliament." They accepted the challenge. The Liberal and Country League has never been interested in the welfare of the workers.

Mr. Whittle—What rot!

Mr. LAWN—Your Party even brought slaves from England to work on the land in this colony and others, to work for those to whom free land grants were given. They were deported to this country merely for shooting a rabbit or stealing a loaf of bread because they were starving.

Mr. Whittle—No convicts were ever sent to South Australia.

Mr. LAWN—So you don't like it.

The CHAIRMAN—Order! The honourable member must not say "you" when referring to honourable members.

Mr. LAWN—Members opposite have a cheek to sit in Parliament. They are only here as a result of the gerrymander. We on this side will continue to agitate until we obtain a democracy in South Australia. If it were not so tragic it would make one smile to read so frequently in the press that Great Britain is doing, and has done, a great deal towards giving uncivilized countries in certain parts of the world a democracy. I have read in the press what Great Britain claims to be doing to educate people and give them home rule. I have always been taught that charity begins at home and before we tell other countries what they should do we should apply that principle to ourselves. There is practically just as big a dictatorship in South Australia as in Russia.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—Who is the Leader of the Opposition in Russia?

Mr. LAWN—I do not know, but the honourable member should; he knows more about dictatorships than I do. The question of land reform is beyond Government supporters who are still rocking in their cradles. In the past they have always been on the side which has later been proved to be wrong. It is not necessary to read *Hansard* to discover that. They have always opposed progress in the industrial field. Although the Premier and his supporters dislike the 40-hour week he told me that the Government would not support the application by employers in the Commonwealth Arbitration Court for a return to a 44-hour week because it was unreasonable and took away a right which the workers had won. The Premier also said that the Government would not support a request for a suspension of the quarterly wage adjustment as that would leave the workers out on a limb and was unfair. The progress which the Government has accomplished is not due to its own efforts but to the achievements of the workers. When we have asked for certain things Government supporters have always said, "This is not the time." Members of the Labor Party are told the same thing every time they try to get a vote for the people for the Legislative Council. One day we will have an electoral system giving everyone of 21 years and over the right to vote for both Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Geoffrey Clarke—Why do the people in New South Wales tolerate a non-elective Legislative Council?

Mr. LAWN—I do not believe in that system. All people 21 years of age and over in New South Wales have the right to vote for Legislative Assembly members, which gives a true reflection of the people's wishes.

Mr. McALEES (Wallaroo)—I have listened to some most enlightening and instructive speeches during this debate. I have nothing to thank the Premier for in the Budget as he has overlooked one of the most important districts in the State—Wallaroo. Only a certain amount has been provided on the Estimates for hospitals at Wallaroo. With the exception of the Minister of Education I have no need to thank any Ministers for visiting the district. In saying recently that no Minister had visited the district I must apologize to the Minister of Lands as I have discovered that only a week before the last elections he visited there and worked hard in the interests of my opponent. When it is remembered what has been taken out of the Wallaroo district better treatment should be meted out to it.

Notwithstanding that the railways are rendering a service to the people they still show a deficit. In some respects they are mis-managed. When a new line was laid to Wallaroo the former Railways Commissioner, Mr. Webb, built a roundhouse capable of sheltering large locomotives. It has since been demolished and I have been informed that it is still lying on the grass at Taillem Bend. The Minister of Railways told me that he would see that part of the roundhouse was left, but nothing remains except a small toolhouse which can shelter only light engines. The big type engines are left out in the open. When I finish using a wheelbarrow at my home I put it away in the shed. The enginedrivers and firemen take a pride in their engines and have pet names for them, particularly when bad coal is used. A shed was to be built in which to store wood, but wood is still stacked in the open. I have invited the Minister of Railways to come to Wallaroo, but apparently it is too far from Adelaide. If he did pay a visit to the district I might be able to convince him more easily than I can in this place. Six months ago the Premier said he would visit Wallaroo, where he would have been welcomed by the residents. He also told the mayor that he would come, but no date was fixed. We had arranged for the band to play and the carpet to be laid out, but the Premier is still coming. There has been a lot of talk about the establishment of a new factory at Wallaroo. The premises were a gift by the Commonwealth Government on condition that an industry was established to employ about 200 men, but all the valuable material has been taken from the premises. The boilers were sent to Leigh Creek. People in the north have benefited from them, but no benefit has

come to the people at Wallaroo through the establishment of that industry. The time is coming when people in my district will protest strongly against the treatment meted out to them.

Last night I was interested in Mr. Davis' remarks about Port Pirie. *The Recorder*, the local paper, reports that £47,000 is to be spent on the Port Pirie wharves, but the river at Port Pirie is only a gutter compared with the waterfront at Wallaroo. There is no better outport in Australia. Large sums of money are to be spent at Port Adelaide, but Wallaroo, a natural port, is overlooked. It is the cheapest place in the State to work ships. At Port Pirie ships have to be towed up the river and then sent elsewhere to be topped with cargo. Ships can be loaded fully at Wallaroo and they can come in and out on their own power. No dredge or tug is needed, only a pilot.

Mr. Macgillivray—Is there enough loading to keep the ships working?

Mr. McALEES—Two hundred men are employed. The acid industry is to be transferred to Adelaide. The Premier told me that the men employed in it would be able to find work on the jetty loading wheat, yet we hear much talk about the bulk handling of wheat. If that happens, what are the 200 men to do? These are the things the "great" South Australian Government is doing. Insufficient money is spent on education in South Australia. The people of my district appreciate the visits by the Minister of Education. The primary school at Kadina needs attention. At Moonta the school, as the result of an earthquake recently, had one of the main walls badly shaken. It is now to be re-built. Education is one of the greatest needs in this world. No one appreciates its value more than people who have had very little education, and I am one of them. Education does not make the man, but it helps a great deal. The boys and girls at school today will be the men and women of tomorrow and we must do all we can to educate them. I have great confidence in them, and the Government should provide every opportunity for their education to be improved. Then if they fail the Government cannot be blamed.

There has been talk about meat works being established in South Australia. Port Augusta and Port Pirie have been suggested as possible sites, but there could be no better place than Wallaroo. I do not want to take anything away from Port Pirie, but I do not want to see the Port Pirie people overworked. The town

is already over-industrialized, whereas Wallaroo, 60 miles nearer Adelaide, is neglected. I know that what I am saying is falling on deaf ears in this place, but people outside will be able to read in *Hansard* what I have said. Two years ago in this place I gave the Housing Trust all the praise I could for building houses at Wallaroo, but soon afterwards the trust ceased its activities there. Apparently it does not pay to give too much praise. At the time I thought the trust was doing a grand job, but it looks as though the trust thought from my praise that it was doing too good a job, so it stopped work at Wallaroo. I went to the Premier and the trust and I was told that houses would be built only as they were required. I found that 50 applications had been received, but since that time very little work has been done. I could say a lot more, but I will leave it at that.

I hope some notice will be taken of my remarks about shipping possibilities at Wallaroo. I was told that the old grain distillery would soon be used as a factory, but when that will be I do not know. The Premier said the factory would be in operation last December. Then he said that power would be available next December, when the factory would start. I have heard since that some of the machinery is still in England. Wallaroo had a priority over Port Pirie in the matter of machinery, but Port Pirie got machinery three months ago. What has Port Pirie got that Wallaroo hasn't? I want Ministers to come and see where Wallaroo is. The Minister of Education does visit Moonta occasionally and sometimes Paskeville and Bute or Kadina, but he does not get to Wallaroo. I hope that the Minister of Agriculture will not overlook Wallaroo when the site for the much-talked of meatworks is under consideration.

The Hon. Sir George Jenkins—Wallaroo will never be overlooked by its present representative.

Mr. McALEES—I thank you. It has been said that there will be a lot of new Ministers next year; there is nothing like a change, and when some of the unfortunate members opposite lose their seats any of us now on this side will be only too pleased to ask them into the lounge to have a cup of tea.

The Hon. Sir George Jenkins—The honourable member is irrational. A few moments ago he wanted me to establish meatworks and now he is talking about another Minister.

Mr. McALEES—Although there is much more that could be said I have spoken at greater length than I intended. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. GOLDNEY (Gouger)—Owing to financial stringency many of the public works planned by both our own and the Commonwealth Government have had to be curtailed to some extent and the preparation of this Budget was no doubt very difficult for the Treasurer. However, taking all things into consideration, the Estimates are very reasonable and satisfactory. Although much criticism has been levelled against the railways in respect of the losses sustained during the last few years, and of the increased freights and fares, I know that the working expenses of the railways have increased enormously and they cannot carry on with any degree of efficiency unless they have more revenue. Therefore, I think that while prices for primary produce are high not many primary producers will complain about the higher freight rates. Similarly there have been tremendous increases in the cost of local government expenditure which has necessitated the levying of higher rates, but I think the same principle applies and ratepayers must realize that the district councils are faced with ever-mounting costs and must have more revenue if they are to give adequate services to the communities they serve. A good deal has been said about our highways, but most members will recall the state of some of our roads not very far from the city in the 1920's; I have in mind, for example, the Port Wakefield road just beyond the overway bridge which, at that time, was merely a series of potholes. Since then the type of traffic has changed. At that time, although a considerable number of motors was in use there were still many horse teams. Horses have now almost disappeared from our roads and farms, and with the growth of motor transport improved roads have become necessary. Generally speaking, our main roads are in much better condition than they were 20 or 25 years ago, and I think this applies to a great extent to district roads, at least in the settled areas, although district councils are sometimes heavily criticized in this matter. The increase in the cost of work and the machinery necessary to construct and maintain modern roads is enormous and heavier rates have therefore become unavoidable.

Great progress has been made in agriculture and although it has been pointed out in this debate that the acreage under wheat has decreased, on the other hand the stock-carrying capacity of our lands has grown considerably. Many of our wheat lands, which some years ago were being over-cropped and becoming wheat-sick have very largely, by reason of the

high price of wool, been used for stock raising, and I believe that if the price of wheat keeps up there will be a return to wheatgrowing. An offset against the reduction of the wheat acreage has been an increase in the acreage of barley. The yield of barley, particularly in South Australia and Victoria, has increased materially in the last few years and the overseas demand for it has been so strong that it has been quite easy to dispose of the whole of our exportable surplus. A significant feature about exported barley is that much of it has gone to provide food for human consumption.

Mr. O'Halloran—Have you any figures as to the quantity used in that way?

Mr. GOLDNEY—No, but I understand that the whole of the barley exported to Japan—and the quantity is not inconsiderable—has been used for human consumption. During this and other debates there have sometimes been clashes between city and country interests and I think this is wrong. It should be obvious that it is impossible for a rural community to exist without markets for its produce, or for a city to exist without foodstuffs to feed the people, and it is a great pity that there should be this clash of interests.

Mr. O'Halloran—Have you ever thought about making the city vote worth the same as the country vote?

Mr. GOLDNEY—I am not going to be drawn to touch on electoral reform, as I do not think that is within the scope of the Estimates. It has been said that the standard of our education is not as high as it should be, but I remind members that in less than half of my lifetime there have been tremendous advances in the facilities given to young children to receive education.

Mr. Stephens—We have stopped and let other parts of the world get ahead of us.

Mr. GOLDNEY—I cannot agree with that. I think South Australia has kept well abreast of the times and is certainly providing many amenities for the school-going population not provided some years ago. We have free books—

Mr. Stephens—Only free for those prepared to parade their poverty.

Mr. GOLDNEY—We provide school bus services, and they are very costly. I have no objection to that because I think it right that we should provide this facility for people living beyond the centres of population.

Our population has increased and the Education Department has found it difficult to provide accommodation for additional students, but it has maintained a high standard of education.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### SALE OF GOODS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its object is to abolish the draft allowance on sheep skins. The effect of the draft allowance is that in computing the amount payable by the buyer for each hundredweight of sheep skins sold he is allowed a deduction equal to the price of one pound. The deduction is an old trade custom of obscure origin. It is believed that it was allowed to protect buyers from short weight brought about by the use of inaccurate scales. A draft allowance used to be made in the same way on sales of wool, but was abolished by legislation in all States of Australia and in New Zealand in 1938. It was thought at that time by woolgrowers that with improvements in scales there was no justification for the practise and that the allowance amounted to a gift to wool buyers.

The Stockowners' Association of South Australia has made strong representations to the Government that legislation should also be passed abolishing the draft allowance on sheepskins. It urges that there is the same justification for abolishing this draft allowance as for abolishing the draft allowance on wool. It states that the employment by the Government of an inspector of weights and measures ensures the accuracy of scales and calculates that the value of the draft allowance on sheepskins sold at the Adelaide auctions amounts to £6,000 per annum. The question of the draft allowance on sheepskins, listed at the request of Western Australia, was considered by the Australian Agricultural Council at its 37th meeting in July of this year. The council adopted the report and recommendation of the Standing Committee on Agriculture which was as follows:—

The Standing Committee reports that following consideration by the Agricultural Council in 1938 the States passed legislation prohibiting a draft allowance on wool. The question of similar action to abolish the draft allowance on sheepskins was considered by the Agricultural Council in 1940 but, in view of the war-time appraisements schemes for sheepskins and hides, was not pursued at that time. However,

the matter has since been raised again by the Australian Woolgrowers' Council in a letter to the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture.

The Standing Committee submits, for consideration by the Agricultural Council, that there is no justification for the continuance of the draft allowance on sheepskins, which has already been abolished in most other countries. The committee recommends, therefore, that action be taken by all State Governments to introduce legislation prohibiting a draft allowance on sheepskins.

The Government has decided to accede to the request of the Stockowners' Association for the abolition of the draft allowance on sheepskins and accordingly introduces this Bill to amend the Sale of Goods Act. Clause 3 enacts a new section, which is in substantially

the same form as that which abolished the draft allowance on wool. Its effect is to avoid any express or implied term in a contract of sale of sheepskins providing for a draft allowance and provides for abolition to come into effect by proclamation. This will enable the Government to postpone abolition while it sees what action is taken by other States and, if it is desirable, to give effect to abolition at the same time as elsewhere.

Mr. HUTCHENS secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.8 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 28, at 2 p.m.