

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, November 4, 1952.

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

**ASSENT TO ACTS.**

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor intimated, by message, his assent to the Uranium Mining Act Amendment, Friendly Societies Act Amendment and Hospitals Act Amendment Acts.

**QUESTIONS.****STATES' TAXING POWERS.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—At the Premiers' Conference in July last there was a discussion on the return of income taxation powers to the States, and I understand that a representative committee was appointed to try to devise a scheme for the distribution of powers that would be acceptable to the Commonwealth and State Governments. Since then there have been suggestions in the press that there is not so much enthusiasm for this proposal now as there was in July. Can the Treasurer say whether any practicable scheme has been formulated as a result of the committee's deliberations, and, if not, has he any information to give to the House on this subject?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Under-Treasurer, Mr. Drew, was appointed to represent South Australia, and I fancy that two conferences have now been held. On his return from the first Mr. Drew reported to me that it was obvious at the conference that there was a good deal of difference of opinion amongst the officers as to whether this matter should be proceeded with. Some States obviously were not in a hurry to resume taxing rights and there was considerable doubt how far the Commonwealth Government would be prepared to reduce its scale of taxation to make room for the States to come in. Obviously, if the States are to resume taxation upon income, unless the whole weight of this taxation is to increase enormously, there must be corresponding reductions in Commonwealth collections. A previous committee had stated that the Commonwealth rates would have to come down by between 30 and 33 per cent to enable States to secure reasonable revenue without an overall increase in income tax throughout the Commonwealth, but up to the present no suggestions have been made as to what Commonwealth Government policy is on this matter or by how much it is prepared to vacate the field. I believe no practicable scheme in a form which

could be submitted to the Premiers' Conference has yet been evolved. Mr. Drew was instructed to do everything possible to facilitate in an equitable manner the return of the States' taxing powers.

**SOUTH COAST QUARRY.**

Mr. JENKINS—Last Friday evening three councils incorporated in the South Coast Local Government Association discussed the matter of procuring a quarry and purchasing crushing plant to provide road metal for the South coast. I was told after the meeting that the Government had already purchased a quarry and intended to supply stone to the South coast. Such action would vitally affect the discussions between the three councils. Has the Minister of Local Government a statement to make on this matter?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The honourable member took this matter up with me personally and I assured him that I would go into it with the Commissioner of Highways. Mr. Richmond reports:—

Some geological investigations have been in hand for the purpose of locating suitable stone deposits. The stage has not yet been reached where any decision can be made as to whether or when any quarry would be operating; in any case such material would be required for departmental purposes and would not affect councils' supplies for district roads.

In other words, in Mr. Richmond's opinion no surplus would be available for the purpose mentioned by the honourable member.

**PORT PIRIE OLD FOLKS' HOME.**

Mr. DAVIS—Has the Premier a reply to my question of October 22 regarding the Old Folks' Home in Port Pirie?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government has received a number of reports, both before and after the honourable member put his question concerning this home. It is run by the Methodist Church and is a denominational institution, and it is not the policy of the Government to subsidize religious denominations.

**KITCHENETTES FOR HOSTELS.**

Mr. FRED WALSH—It has been reported that the Rosewater migrant hostel is to be closed and the inmates transferred to hostels at Finsbury and Gepps Cross. Consequently it is now more urgent than ever that the supply of kitchenettes, particularly to the Gepps Cross hostel, should be expedited. I understand that the Minister for Labor and National Service made the statement in reply to a question in the Federal House last week that as a

result of the discussions between the head of his department and the Premier of South Australia, together with officers of the South Australian Housing Trust, proposals had been formulated, a draft of which had been submitted to the Premier for his consideration. Has he yet received that draft, and if so, what are his views?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have had information from two or three sources to the effect that a communication is being prepared for submission to the South Australian Government, but no letter has yet arrived and therefore I am unaware of its contents. I have been informed that it was proposed that the Prime Minister's office should write the letter last Friday. As soon as it arrives I will give the honourable member the information he desires.

#### STOCK DISEASE.

Mr. FLETCHER—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of last week regarding the mysterious outbreak of stock disease in Victoria adjacent to the South Australian border?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—I have received the following report from the Acting Chief Inspector of Stock:—

In telephone conversation with Mr. R. J. Talbot, Chief Veterinary Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Victoria on 29/10/52 he advised me that:—

1. The so-called mystery disease was one of the metabolic diseases such as milk fever, grass tetany or acetoanaemia either alone or in combination and as such had been known for many years.

2. The report which I read to him was grossly exaggerated as although the total losses throughout Victoria and particularly the north-east might be considerable during the period in which they occur, viz., July to October, it was rarely that any owner lost more than four or five head.

I add the following comments:—

1. Similar losses occur in South Australia, particularly the South-East and elsewhere, where there is luxuriant grazing and insufficient roughage.

2. There is nothing in the nature of an infectious disease and therefore no possibility of spread to other cattle.

3. It has been recognized for many years that in certain seasons the response of such diseases as milk fever, grass tetany and acetoanaemia to the normal therapeutic measures adopted has not been as satisfactory as desired, but to date there has been no complete explanation as to why this is so.

4. The diseases mentioned above have been the subject of considerable research in various countries and are being investigated by the Victorian Department of Agriculture.

#### EU DUNDA-BARMERA ROAD.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Some time ago the Minister of Local Government said that the Eudunda District Council would take an active part in the development of the Eudunda-Barmera road. I asked whether it would be possible for the Barmera District Council to help as well. I pointed out that the council had some plant and could assist in the work. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have received a reply from the Commissioner of Highways that the type of plant held by the council is too light for heavy construction work, and none of it would be of assistance to the department during the construction of the road with the possible exception of four five-ton Maple Leaf trucks. The tractor and loader could possibly be used, but the department has sufficient loaders for its needs at present. Probably the district council of Barmera would require the four five-ton Maple Leaf trucks for its own use, as no representations have been made by the council to the department to employ any of the plant.

#### USE OF OBSERVATORY.

Mr. HUTCHENS—As the Observatory, whose operation has recently been discontinued, has for about 97 years given service to the public and those services are still required by the press, printers and shipping authorities, and as there is no other establishment yet operating capable of supplying these requirements, will the Minister of Works take up with Cabinet the matter of retaining that part of the Observatory which remains and make it available, with its plant, to the Astronomical Society of Adelaide, which, I understand, is prepared to repair the building and supply services to the public without further cost to the State?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—This matter has been the subject of long negotiations between the Minister of Education and his department and the University. I am not aware of all that is involved in the latest decision, but will take up the matter with my colleague and bring down a reply as early as possible.

#### REDUCED LAMB SLAUGHTERING.

Mr. MICHAEL—It was recently announced in the press that the Meat Workers' Union members at the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs had decided to restrict the overtime they would work. The report of the Abattoirs' officials indicates that this will mean a considerable extension of the lamb season, and at this late stage of the season this would result

in considerable difficulties to producers because of grass seeds and loss of bloom. Has the Minister of Agriculture any information to give on the condition of affairs there, and whether it is possible to get the overtime ban lifted or by any other means to expedite slaughtering?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—The Abattoirs Board is not under the direct control of the Minister of Agriculture, but I will get a report from the board and bring it down.

#### OIL BURNING LOCOMOTIVES.

Mr. STEPHENS—Some time ago I asked the Minister of Railways a question about the use of oil by locomotives on the Port Adelaide line. I have had many complaints from constituents living near the railway line, who say that most of the trouble is caused by goods trains, which use oil much more frequently than the passenger trains. The houses are shaken when trains pass by and this disturbs people at night. Even recently erected houses are showing cracks in their walls. Some time ago the Minister did something to minimize the trouble and I ask him if there is any possibility of having something done now?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Following on complaints of a similar nature on the Henley Beach line the Railways Commissioner caused one of his engineers to confer with the drivers of the trains so as to give them higher technical knowledge to enable them to drive oil-burning locomotives with the minimum of vibration. I think this proved beneficial, but I am afraid there cannot be any guarantee that there will not be more vibrations from using oil than from using coal. I assure the honourable member that neither the department nor the Government likes using oil, because it is much more expensive than coal but because we could not in the past get good steam coal, we have been forced to use oil to maintain services to Port Adelaide and elsewhere irrespective of minor disabilities—and compared with the good it did this was minor. It was the urgent desire of the Government and the department to cut out the use of oil and use coal whenever it was obtainable and fit to be used. I will ask what further, if anything, can be done on the technical side to reduce inconvenience where oil has to be used.

#### KANGAROO ISLAND SHIPPING FACILITIES.

Mr. BROOKMAN—Following on the recent Parliamentary visit to Kangaroo Island and because of the obvious great increase in pro-

duction taking place there, can the Premier say when a project for improved harbour and shipping facilities will be ready for reference to the Public Works Committee?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have made some inquiries on this matter since my return and found that the Harbors Board has done a considerable amount of work in preparation of plans, but they are not yet ready for submission to the committee. I have had an assurance, however, that they will be ready before Christmas and I assure the honourable member that Cabinet will take the necessary steps, as soon as they are ready and information is available, to refer the matter to the committee. In addition, since I returned from the island I have made some investigations as to the possibility of better shipping being available and I believe the prospects are most encouraging if better wharf facilities are provided. I am now seeking a definite assurance on that point.

#### GOOLWA-STRATHALBYN ROAD.

Mr. JENKINS—Is it the intention of the Government or the Highways Department to bituminize the road between Goolwa and Strathalbyn and, if so, is it intended that it shall follow the existing route or deviate in order to miss bad turns at Double Bridges Creek and Collett's bridge?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Again on this matter I have had the advantage of a previous conversation with the honourable member, and I took the opportunity of conferring with the Highways Commissioner in regard to the progress that can be expected on this road. The essence of his reply was that portions of the road have been constructed in preparation for the bitumen surface, but owing to weather conditions it was not possible to bring the foundations to a satisfactory standard over the whole road. Deviations would be required at the two bridges mentioned, and until these are completed no bitumen work is proposed. Unfortunately, the present position of the allocation of funds does not enable me to give an optimistic report as to when this work will be undertaken. The Highways Commissioner, when looking at these matters, places first things first and I assure the honourable member that he need have no fear that the proper claims of that area will be overlooked.

#### CROYDON STATION RAILWAY GATES.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Some time ago the Railways Department installed automatic railway gates near Croydon station. They have proved most satisfactory from the point of view of

safety and the saving of time, particularly for pedestrians. There is a special pedestrian gangway which enables pedestrians to cross in safety without transgressing the law. Can the Minister of Railways say whether his department intends at intervals to install further gates along the Port line?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Speaking from memory, 20 of these gates have been imported. They are of a patent type of American manufacture, involving a considerable outlay in capital, which has been approved. I think nearly all the gates have come to hand and they will be installed where the census shows the greatest volume of traffic. I understand from the Treasurer that the present scarcity of dollars prevents any more being obtained.

#### PORT PIRIE WHARF FACILITIES.

Mr. DAVIS—Recently the Port Pirie press reprinted a letter written by the South Australian Minister of Marine to the Federal Minister of Transport regarding conditions on the Port Pirie wharves and stating that information received from a deputation about the facilities for waterside workers working on the wharf and the condition of the winches on the various ships was incorrect. Yesterday I was interviewed by a man who was off work on compensation, having been injured trying to work a winch on a certain boat. Is the Minister of Marine aware that the wooden light poles on the Federal wharf have been condemned as unsafe and that Harbors Board employees have been notified that they are not to climb them to adjust the lights? Further, is he aware of the bad lighting on some wharves, that the men engaged in the loading of boats or trucks at night are working in semi-darkness, and that there are no lights in the shelter shed or drinking conveniences on the B.H.A.S. wharf? If he is not aware of these facts, will he have investigations made to see whether appropriate action can be taken?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I was under the impression that the honourable member was delighted at the number of improvements I offered in my letter. It seems to be a case of "For him that hath much more will be asked." I did not know that anything more was required, but having received further complaints I will have them investigated.

#### INTERSTATE COMPANIES.

The Hon. S. W. JEFFRIES (on notice)—

1. Has the Government received any reports regarding the operation in South Australia of a Victorian company known as S.A. Builders Proprietary Limited?

2. If so, will such reports be available to members?

3. If no reports have been received is it the intention of the Government to have inquiries made with a view to protecting South Australians from being misled by interstate companies adopting names which suggest that they are South Australian companies?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The replies are:—

1. and 2. No report or complaint has been received by the Registrar of Companies regarding S.A. Builders Proprietary Limited. This company was incorporated in Victoria on March 24, 1950, and was registered in South Australia on July 18, 1950, under Part XII. of the Companies Act, 1934-1939.

3. Every company which is registered under Part XII (Companies incorporated outside South Australia carrying on business within South Australia) must, according to section 360 (iii) of the Act, "cause the name of the company and of the country in which the company is incorporated—

(a) to be affixed on every place where it carries on business; and

(b) to be stated in legible characters in all billheads, letter paper, notices, advertisements, and other official publication of the company."

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE: HON. SIR ROBERT NICHOLLS.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD moved—

That a further week's leave of absence be granted to the honourable member for Young (the Hon. Sir Robert D. Nicholls, Speaker) on account of absence from the State on Commonwealth Parliamentary Association business.

Motion carried.

#### BUDGET DEBATE.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from October 28. Page 1109.)

Legislative Council, £8,314.

Mr. RICHES (Stuart)—I join with other speakers in congratulating the Treasurer on the introduction of his 14th Budget. We on this side believe that one who can hold the confidence of his supporters as long as Mr. Playford has must have qualifications, and his is a record of which he may well be proud. He has presented almost as good a Budget this year as could have been presented had a really good Government been

in office. As far as I have been able to determine from an examination of the allocation of the moneys available, it seems that, with a few exceptions to which I shall refer later, they have been fairly apportioned. The whole State must agree with the Treasurer in deploring the circumstances under which some cheese-paring has had to be done this year, and I regret that such a number of our citizens will feel the effects of that action. I am distressed by the fact that in times of difficulty our children, who in these enlightened days should receive first consideration, are the first to suffer. A glance through past Budgets will show that in stringent times one of the first lines cut is "Education." This year one of the first steps taken by this Government as a result of financial stringency was its announcement that no concrete or brick schools would be erected this year but that temporary buildings would be erected in many parts. In that way we are imposing on our children the effect of the financial stringency we are experiencing instead of the financial stability we hoped would be a lasting condition in this State. I notice there is a determined attitude on the part of the Government to reject claims for grants and subsidies to organizations working in the interests of the less fortunate sections of the community. Later I will examine some of the excuses offered for the repeated refusals to give recognition to those services, which I believe are vital to the State and which I think the people would wish the Government to support.

In his Budget Speech the Treasurer made a plea for the return of taxation powers to the States, and attacked uniform taxation. I take this opportunity to express my belief that uniform taxation is one of the finest things introduced, and has worked out well for the people of this State. In my opinion it is the most important single factor which has affected the living standard of South Australia and put it on a basis comparable with that operating in the eastern States. In these days when our desire should be to draw the people of Australia closer together we should attempt to arrive at a basis of taxation whereby an Australian in one State will have the same standard of living as an Australian in another State. It is invidious that people living in the various States, divided by an imaginary line, should also be divided by different standards of living and services. I shall examine one of the reasons the

Treasurer advanced in his claim for a return to the States of their right to levy income taxation. In the first place he said:—

The return of taxation powers to the State could only be satisfactory if the extent of field returned to the State is reasonable and adequate. During the last pre-war years, for instance, the income tax field in South Australia was shared in the proportions of 72 per cent to the State and 28 per cent to the Commonwealth. During the last financial year, however, the Commonwealth returned to this State only about 19 per cent of the taxation levied on South Australians.

It would appear that he is asking that South Australia should receive a larger share of the income tax. Then in the very next paragraph he admitted that a war had intervened and that all the expenditure associated with war and defence rested with the Commonwealth. Although he does not claim that we should be on exactly the same basis as we were before the war, he asks that a larger proportion be returned to the State. In the very next paragraph he said:—

The return of income tax to the State would only be acceptable provided the Commonwealth reduced its demands on the income tax field sufficiently to permit this Parliament to decide who it would tax, how they would be taxed, and how much they would be taxed, and this without increasing taxation to the individual. If the Treasurer stands on that, there will be no return of taxing powers to the States.

Mr. O'Halloran—That is perfectly obvious.

Mr. RICHES—He asks that South Australia should have increased amounts returned to it from the taxation field, and yet he wants this to be done without any increase in taxation on the individual. That could only come about by the Commonwealth accepting less. If the Treasurer believes the Commonwealth is taking too large a share of taxation, why doesn't he say so and approach it without interfering with uniform taxation? We all believe that South Australia is entitled to a fair return from the taxation pool, but any insistence upon the right of the State to tax itself will inevitably lead to increased taxation on the individual, and members of my Party would resist that as vigorously as possible. The Treasurer also said:—

A second matter of very serious concern respecting Commonwealth-State financial relations is the operation of the public borrowing clauses of the Financial Agreement. One of the most important designs of the Financial Agreement was to end competitive public borrowing upon both local and overseas markets, and to take common action to avoid loss of public confidence, competitive raising of interest rates, and disorderly approaches to the available markets. It would seem that the unsatisfactory

features which existed a generation ago, and which the Financial Agreement was designed to avoid, have returned in a somewhat different form. Latterly there has been an extraordinarily widespread approach to the loan market, particularly in the eastern States, by what are known as semi-governmental authorities. These are in the main public utilities which are given, by Statute, the right to borrow money, often under State Government guarantee. They include electric, water, harbour, and local government authorities.

With the Treasurer I deplore the competition on the loan market for funds, and deplore the necessity for the semi-governmental bodies who are charged with the responsibility of carrying out developmental work and essential services being forced on to the loan market in competition with the Loan Council. Recently on a visit to Sydney I was taken out to the Warragamba Dam and was amazed at the work being undertaken by the Sydney Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board. It was said that the dam would impound four times as much water as was contained in Sydney Harbour, and when completed would assure an adequate supply of water to Sydney until the year 2,000 and overcome the periodical droughts and water shortages by which that city was being hampered in its development. I formed the greatest admiration for the vision displayed in that undertaking. I was told it would be the largest water storage of any city in the world. I was proud of the work being done by Australian engineers and workers, but I was told that the continuance of the undertaking depended on the whim of the investing public. The rate of progress made this year will depend on whether those who have funds in their control will make them available through the loan market. The authority has to approach the Australian investing public in competition with others. If the public believe they will get a greater return from investing in the shares of chocolate or beer manufacturing concerns for instance, this work may be held up. When I went to Victoria I found that many works had been discontinued, although they were necessary for the development of the country. They seemed to me to be works comparable with those carried out by the Tennessee Valley Authority in America. I cannot see any difficulty in the way of the Commonwealth Bank making credit available for urgent developmental undertakings. If it were a work of war there would be no difficulty, but when they are works of construction and development rather than destruction surely it is sound for the central bank to issue credit, thereby

relieving the authorities from the necessity to go on the loan market in competition with the Loan Council and forcing up interest rates.

I was pleased to read that before a recent by-election the Premier expounded these views. When he wants to appeal for votes he is capable of voicing sound financial sentiments, but I should like to see him put them before us in some more concrete form. I should also like him to express those same opinions in places where they count. There is no need for these big constructing authorities to go on the loan market, but they are forced to do so now by the financial policy deliberately imposed on this country by the Federal Government. I deplore the need for their having to compete on the loan market, and we must examine the causes. I express my gratitude to the Government and the departments responsible for arranging for Parliamentarians to inspect the developmental work taking place on Kangaroo Island. These are thrilling times, and I live in a district in which we see some of the most thrilling development that Australia has ever known. It is a great thrill to see a power station growing out of the sea, to see blast furnaces being erected and in operation, even to go to Woomera and see the development there, the growth of a village, and the fostering of community life. We read with enthusiasm of what is taking place at Radium Hill and we look forward to the day when our power problems will be solved as a result of the industrial use of uranium, but the thrill of seeing scrub land turned into pasture, of seeing two blades of grass grow where one or none grew before, of seeing waste land being converted to grow food—surely that is the greatest thrill. I hope none of this development will be held up through any lack of funds or pessimism on the part of the Government or lending authorities resulting in credit not being made available for productive purposes. The contribution that our land can make by the production of foodstuffs for export to many parts of the world is a safer and better contribution towards world peace than by producing atomic bombs. All members were impressed with the need for the provision of transport and other services on Kangaroo Island so as to supplement the work now being undertaken. I am sure the House will stand behind the member for the district in the advocacy he will undoubtedly bring before Parliament for the provision of essential services. Works associated with development and food production need not be held up in this country through any shortage of funds.

It should be within the capacity of the Australian Governments who control, in the final analysis, the financial policy of this country to bring into being this production that we all desire and recognize to be essential.

Many members have spoken on railway problems and finances. They have referred to the losses the department shows in its financial statements, but I have always held that the railways, like water, electric light, health, and education services, are an essential part of our way of life. They are the bloodstream of the community: the State could not exist without them. If we wish to assess their value to South Australia we must include many more items than those now shown on the credit side of their financial statements. Among the items which must be placed on the credit side of any balance-sheet of our railways is the productive capacity of the land through which it passes, and in this connection I quote from a statement written for me by a man who was well-known in the north-west of this State, not for the purpose of advocating the provision of railway services but to give an idea of the benefits to be derived from the maintenance of these essential services. Forty years ago the Pines and Mungappie leases comprising more than 300 square miles, fenced and sub-divided into 10 or 12 paddocks and within the Arcoona new subdivision of the huge Lake Torrens vermin-fenced district, watered by five wells all equipped with windmills and two with steam engines in addition to the windmills, new tanks and troughing at each well, five dams and several good waterholes, 1,500 sheep, 280 cattle, 50 horses and mules, 17 camels, station stores, tools, plant, and sundries, was sold for £4,200. That was about two or three years before the survey of the Trans-continental railway line. Shortly prior to that time this man was offered any half of Wilgena, comprising 2,990 square miles, for £1,100, and Coondambo, comprising 843 square miles, with 5,000 sheep, 40 horses, 30 cattle, 35 camels, station stores, and plant for £7,200. With the advent of the railway Coondambo was sold at public auction for £38,500 and Wirraminna for £22,500, both without stock, stores, or plant. Over the period during which those properties appreciated in value there were no substantial variations in the value of money or the price of wool, and the whole of that increase in the productive value of the land could be attributed directly to the advent of the railway line. As long as our railways are essential in servicing the community at large more factors must be taken into account when

considering the credit side of the railway's balance-sheet than are shown in the Auditor-General's report. This State could not live without its railways, and all members know their importance in times of war. We also know how Berlin suffered during its blockade a few years ago.

Mr. Macgillivray—It is suggested not that the railways be abolished but that they be used on work for which they are more suited.

Mr. RICHES—I agree with that and do not suggest that the railway is the only means of transport, but road transport cannot meet the need which is being met in many cases by the railways. We cannot ask the railways to carry much of its heavy traffic at concession rates and then complain at the end of the year because the financial return from the freights carried does not equal the sum spent.

Mr. Macgillivray—Are we justified in subsidizing the railways by £5,000,000 or £6,000,000 a year when by using sea or road transport we could perhaps reduce the subsidy to £2,000,000?

Mr. RICHES—The railways must meet a certain interest burden and the matter must be examined very carefully before a curtailment of traffic is suggested on a line showing a loss because the State might incur a larger loss if such a service were curtailed. I do not profess to be an expert on railway management, but I have a fair regard for those in charge of the Railways Department and consider that as far as possible they are doing a good job, although there seems to be a tendency to concentrate on through traffic to the exclusion of services to some remote areas. This tendency is shared by all railway systems, provision being made for the best rolling stock to be used on interstate lines while facilities are lacking on lines necessary for the development of some outback areas. Yesterday I was intensely interested to inspect the luxury train imported by the Commonwealth Railways Department from Germany for therein I saw workmanship that I had not expected to see anywhere. The train contains a lounge car, the woodwork of which is French polished to a perfection which I had not previously seen even on a grand piano. It contains scenes of Germany, including one of the late Kaiser's residence. These pictures cannot be erased because they have been ingrained by the most splendid workmanship in wooden panels. I do not know that anything equalling their quality has even been done in Australia.

Mr. Fred Walsh—They might as well have put in pictures of Japan.

Mr. RICHES—We may question how popular the pictures in the lounge car will be and how returned soldiers will react to the German wording beneath them, but the train is the last word in luxury travel. The train will be reserved for interstate travellers, and I doubt whether travellers between South Australian towns will be allowed on the train. Although the departments seem to suffer no shortage of money with which to provide modern facilities for through traffic, the greatest difficulty is experienced in obtaining any improvement on those lines which are developing the country and which give service to our own people.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Would you say that the Adelaide-Port Pirie train is not a good one?

Mr. RICHES—It cannot be compared with the Adelaide-Melbourne express.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—It has a cafeteria car and first class accommodation.

Mr. RICHES—It has a cafeteria car on some days only. The train imported from Germany makes the Adelaide-Port Pirie train as outdated as if it had been built at the beginning of the century.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—We cannot afford such luxury on an intra-state train.

Mr. RICHES—That is my point. I do not consider myself to be in a position to criticize our railway experts, but I question whether the department is adopting the right policy.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Why give Australian experts credit for the new train, for this country had nothing to do with its production?

Mr. RICHES—Australian officers designed it.

Mr. Fred Walsh—With pictures of Germany!

Mr. RICHES—It was built in Germany, but Australian railwaymen gave to the German contractors details of the type of train required, and those contractors have built the most luxurious train in the world.

Mr. Fred Walsh—British railway authorities would not go outside England to buy a luxury train.

Mr. RICHES—I believe the train used by the Royal Family on the South African tour was built by the same contractors. The master of the ship which brought the new train to Australia has seen trains all over the world and he said that there was none to equal this one. There was a day when the whole of the rolling stock for the Transcontinental line was built at Port Augusta, and I would like to think that Australia is capable of the job of building her own rolling stock. I give all credit

to the South Australian Railways Department for the fact that the very modern rolling stock on the Adelaide-Melbourne express was made from our own designs by men in our own State. That fact should afford South Australians much satisfaction and pride for there is good workmanship shown in that train, but it does not detract from the admiration to be felt for the workmanship, equipment, details and facilities provided in this wonderful train which has been imported from Germany for service on the Transcontinental line.

There are one or two matters which do not appear in the Budget to which I have been looking forward for some time, and as long as I am permitted to address this House I will urge that where services are being rendered to the community at large by people of goodwill they should be recognized, encouraged, and subsidized by the Government. I regret that after all the agitation and representation over a number of years, the Government still resolutely refuses to grant any subsidy to the Flying Doctor Service. It is based at Ceduna and it renders a very valuable service to the whole of my district. I feel that the Government is not recognizing the wishes of the people of that district by refusing a subsidy. Again, I ask that some independent authority inquire into the service, and then it will be found that the people of the State are right behind it and anxious that it should be subsidized. I have spoken to people in all parts of the State and without exception they believe that the Government should support it. One excuse after another has been given. Associated with this service is the maintenance of several hospitals and hostels. I give the Government credit that, after a long period of negotiation, it now assists the hospitals, but it in no way financially encourages the operations of the Flying Doctor Service. The first reason given was that it was operated by a denominational body. When it was demonstrated to the Government by deputation, letter and statistics that it was in no way a denominational work, grants were obtained for the hospitals, but still no grant is forthcoming for the Flying Doctor Service. There have been several discussions in this Parliament on the matter, and as a result of the last discussion I submitted a resolution that in the opinion of this House the service should be assisted, but withdrew it on the Treasurer's assurance that if there were some kind of affiliation between this Flying Doctor Service and the general flying doctor services

of Australia and if applications were made through the other service, then the matter would be considered. I believe that the member for Burra will remember addressing himself to that debate and stating that there was some affiliation between the two organizations. I want him to know that they are two distinctly separate organizations rendering a totally different type of service, and it is not reasonable nor fair to insist that one organization in its approach to the Government for recognition should have to apply through a totally different organization. The Government does not insist upon that in other matters. It recognizes other institutions, particularly in the metropolitan area, and does not, for instance, insist on the National Fitness Council applying through the St. John Ambulance for its grant. I am at a loss to understand why the Government so persistently refuses to recognize the services rendered by those interested in the Flying Doctor Service who maintain that service as a work of sacrifice. I hope that further consideration will be given to the representations for assistance.

The Government has adopted a similar attitude in relation to grants to ambulance services and to the Kindergarten Union. Such a policy penalizes people in the country. In his Budget Speech the Treasurer referred to the Government's desire to assist outlying communities, but if the Budget is examined it will be found over and over again that it appears to be the Government's accepted policy that country organizations shall not be recognized except through metropolitan organizations. I will show how this inflicts hardship in many cases and that often organizations in close proximity to the metropolitan area can obtain Government financial assistance, whereas people endeavouring to do the same kind of work in the country are unable to get any assistance. I refer to the work of the free kindergarten. In last week's *Mail* we were told there were 35 country and city organizations wanting to start kindergartens, but were unable to do so because of a shortage of trained teachers. People in the country who desire to set up a pre-school kindergarten cannot obtain any financial assistance from the Government unless it is through the Kindergarten Union. I believe the union has stated that it cannot grant affiliation to any organization unless it has a fully qualified teacher. The result is that city organizations are able to obtain the services of qualified teachers and become affiliated with the Kindergarten Union and can thereby get Government help immediately; but country organizations

which can obtain the services of interested people to carry on until such time as a qualified teacher is available are cut off completely from all forms of Government assistance. That is a disability which should be recognized—and is a disability which I doubt this Parliament ever intended should be applied. It is desirable that kindergartens should be supervised by fully qualified personnel, but I question whether honourable members would agree in these days that because it is impossible to obtain the services of fully qualified teachers country organizations should be completely denied any form of Government financial assistance. For instance, people at Woomera have established a kindergarten and are doing a fine work. It is being managed by one of the women residents, but its work is not recognized by the Government and it cannot obtain a brass farthing. All the expenses are met by the local people, whereas kindergartens in the metropolitan area are subsidized by the Government to the extent of thousands of pounds, as indicated by the Budget.

A similar situation arises in the treatment of the ambulance services. I do not desire to draw a line between country and city. I have always sought to avoid that. I pay a tribute to the work of the St. John Council, which was given the task of amalgamating the ambulance services in the metropolitan area, but there are other services in the country which the council has not yet had an opportunity to consider because of its many duties and these services also need financial assistance. I know it is easy to direct such services to increase their fees. I am associated with the ambulance at Port Augusta which picks up patients anywhere within a 200 mile radius and conveys them to Adelaide if necessary or to any hospital in the district, for which the charge is one shilling a mile. When this ambulance approached the St. John Council last year, as instructed by the Government, and asked for a subsidy it was told that the charge was too low and that the first step should be to increase it. It was also told that the charge in the metropolitan area was 2s. 6d. a mile, which means that if our organization ceased to function and a Port Augusta resident contracted poliomyelitis the cost to be transported to Adelaide would be £50, whereas our charge would be £20; but in case of sickness, £20 is £20. The people find the charge very heavy indeed. I think that the organization which can give this service to the community over such a wide area deserves recognition and support from the Government and should be subsidized just as surely as any other

ambulance service in the State; but we are told that the Government cannot recognize us and that we must put our application through the St. John Council. We did that and asked it to sponsor our application for a special subsidy. We did not want to interfere with the St. John grant, recognizing the fine job that it was doing in the metropolitan area, but it was not prepared to do that. I give the council full credit for the work it is doing. So once more we are left out; no money is available for the maintenance of this service in my district and I protest most strenuously. Surely, it ought to be the desire of the Government to encourage this kind of work. Like other communities we could sit down and not worry about ambulance services, but if the Government had any thought for the well-being of the people it ought to encourage self-help. How many times have we heard members here laud it? But all along the line we find that the people who organize themselves into bodies and are prepared to make a maximum effort to provide for the needs of the community in a magnificent way are met with a deaf ear. From time to time the Treasurer has said that suggestions made by members in the course of this debate are examined by responsible officers. If anyone anywhere takes notice of such remarks I make this appeal: that they have regard to the claims of organizations in outlying areas who want to establish and maintain ambulance services, or kindergartens, and are finding it difficult: that the Government will not be bound by red tape, and if a country ambulance service cannot be helped through the parent body that the Government give it the direct assistance which I believe the people of this State desire should be given.

A similar situation arises in relation to the care of the aged. Every member representing the northern areas is concerned about the provision of living accommodation for aged people, and I am very proud to be associated with the members for Wallaroo and Port Pirie in a series of questions asked in this House and with all members on this side who supported a resolution asking the Government to provide homes for the aged in the country as well as in the city. Can anyone suggest that these representations were even seriously considered by the Government? The reasons advanced by the Treasurer for their rejection were as threadbare as a boarding house blanket. First he said he thought that flats were built in the country for aged people, and when it was pointed out that not a single flat or a home had been built by the Housing Trust

outside the metropolitan area for the aged he corrected his statement by way of personal explanation. I do not know whether the people of this State realize that this Government does not assist any organization anywhere that is working in the interests of the aged, apart from the single one it maintains itself. Surely it ought to be prerogative of the Government to encourage the populace to take an interest in the aged, to encourage people to do some work for themselves, and when they see a community prepared to give and to keep on giving, and work and plan in the interests of the aged, it is not asking too much of the Government to recognize that work and subsidize it. All sorts of reasons have been given for not doing so and one of the choicest was given this afternoon—"that the people who run it belong to a church." The day is long past when that excuse will be accepted by the people. The home at Port Pirie, to my personal knowledge, caters for the whole community. It is not a denominational work, whatever may be said of those who conduct it, and so long as work is not denominational it ought to be encouraged by the Government. Some people from my own district are in that home and I give a full measure of praise to the people of Port Pirie generally and the workmen of the B.H.A.S., who every week contribute something out of their wages towards it. The best way to deal with these problems is to encourage the people to take their fair share of responsibility and to help them financially. The Treasurer said, in answer to my question on the subject "The Constitution laid it down that the care of the aged was a Federal responsibility, and that because the Federal Government accepts the responsibility for old age pensions the provision of homes was entirely the responsibility of the Federal Government." I can remember when the Treasurer asked us to support the Commonwealth Powers Bill, his saying that under the Constitution the Federal Government did not have the right to put one brick upon another, or to make a pick handle.

Mr. O'Halloran—And the position is precisely the same today.

Mr. RICHES—No one knows it better than the Treasurer. Within two days of the Treasurer's statement Mr. Townley, Commonwealth Minister for Social Services, addressing the Federal Conference of the Liberal Party in Australia, said:—

The greatest social need of today was the provision of homes for the aged. The best place for aged persons was in homes of their

own. The next best was in homes with their own families, then amongst their relatives and finally in homes with friends.

Now listen to this. He went on:—

The Federal Government had given thought to this problem and had found constitutional limitations on what could be done.

So we find the old folk have become a political football—the State saying that under the Constitution they are the responsibility of the Federal Government, and the Federal Government saying that under the Constitution they are the responsibility of the State. It is perfectly obvious that the responsibility for building and maintaining homes for the aged is as surely that of the State as the maintenance of hospitals, and that the responsibility, under uniform taxation, for financing them is the Commonwealth's. Let each accept its responsibility and not continually sidetrack the issue by weak excuses. I voice my protest at the lack of consideration given to representations that have been made, and the excuses brought forward from time to time, while the plight of the people who need help remains substantially unchanged. I believe Mr. Townley's statement to be true when he said that the greatest social need of today was the provision of homes for the aged. Surely such knowledge ought to make the populace take notice if they do not know it already, and we ought to express our contempt for those who seek to avoid their responsibilities with lame excuses.

I want to pay a tribute now to those working in the interests of the aborigines. On the outskirts of Port Augusta there is a mission station which is being operated by two of the noblest characters I have ever met. I would like to think that the work of people who are prepared to devote their lives to make up in some small measure for what the community at large does not do for the first Australians would be recognized in Her Majesty's Birthday or New Year honours, for if anyone in the community should be honoured it is these noble women who perform a service of such high standing and so sacrificial a nature. They have in their control some 40 children of whom it could be truthfully said more than half would not be alive today but for the administrations they have received at the hands of these women. Last week I had the privilege to bring to the city some drawings that the children at the Umcewarra Mission had done of their impressions of the centenary procession at Port Augusta, and this work was favourably commented on by quite a number of members. I suppose I will not be thanked by the Minister

in charge of the Aborigines Department for saying this, but I would like to tell the House that when he saw the work he was impressed by it and authorized me to commission these children to do paintings for him at Christmas time and he is prepared to buy three of them at two guineas each. When I am able to tell those children of that demonstration of interest in their work it will give them much encouragement. We read and hear so often criticism of the attitude adopted by white people towards the aborigines; let this work go into the other side of the ledger to somewhat balance up the account. These women are performing a sacrificial work of love. They do all the washing, ironing, mending, and cooking for these 40 children and one Saturday evening, in company with some friends in my district I saw the lady in charge sorting all the clothes that had been washed that day. One of my friends said, "I would not have your job for £500 a year," to which the lady in charge said, "I would not do it for £1,000 a year, but I am happy to do it because I feel called to render a service to those who need: one that I believe I can give." I felt very humbled and ashamed at the little that I have been able to do in comparison to those who have shown a great love. I also pay a tribute to the work done at Ooldea by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Green and those who have been associated with them during the last 16 years. Theirs has been one of the most difficult works undertaken anywhere in this State. Ooldea is perhaps the hardest place in which to live in South Australia. Those people gave up their homes and comforts to learn the language of the aborigines and to live amongst them, look after them under the auspices of the Aborigines Department, teach them in schools, and bring to them the benefits of Christianity. All South Australians should be proud of the services they have rendered, services which no other people have been prepared to continue. Their work at Ooldea constitutes a romance and I am glad it has been told in a book by Violet E. Turner. Those people encountered tremendous difficulties, such as heat, drought, and dust storms. They took up the work, without salary, for no reason other than that they felt that we as a people had an obligation to our aborigines.

Mr. Green was one of the first to agitate that some better provision be made for the Ooldea natives and to bring to the notice of the Aborigines Department the desirability of acquiring Yalata Station as a home for the

natives. I wish he could have gone with those to whom he has devoted so many years of his life, but this was not to be, though through no fault of his own or the people associated with him. I have seen a colour film of the farewell that the aborigines of Ooldea gave him and I should think that the memory of that will stay with him as long as he lives. I have also seen a colour film of the handing over of the care of aborigines and children from Ooldea to the Lutheran missionaries of the West Coast. I hope that their settlement at Yalata will mean a new era for the aborigines and that within one or two generations they will be no longer regarded as aborigines, but completely assimilated into our way of life. I hope the aboriginal children will be given equal opportunities with ours to pursue worth-while callings. With the transfer of the natives from Ooldea to Yalata a romance has ended and it is fitting that we should pay a tribute to those who have sacrificed so much in a worthy cause.

I once more ask the Government to pay more attention to the strongly-worded plea made by the Director of Mines for the establishment of a steel industry at Whyalla. I am not as complacent on this matter as the Premier seems to be. I wonder by how many years the establishment of a steel works there has been put back by the decision of the Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd. to expand its works at Port Kembla and in Western Australia in preference to Whyalla. There is a definite limitation on the number of steelworks that can be brought into operation at the one time. It seems that the decision to proceed first in other States has delayed the establishment of steel works at Whyalla for many years. This State has not been as vigorous as it might have been in supporting the recommendations of our Director of Mines to insist on the establishment of these works at Whyalla, particularly in view of the report of the Select Committee appointed in 1937 to inquire into the Bill by which the company have received rights under its leases of the Middleback ranges. A reference to the establishment of steelworks was made then. The Bill gave the company an extension of mineral leases, and there was some uneasiness on the part of three members regarding the period for which the leases had been granted and extended. One of those members was our present Acting Chairman of Committees, Mr. Christian. The company demanded a leasehold of 50 years with rights of renewal. It said that any shorter period would not give it sufficient security of tenure to enable it to build blast furnaces and allied steel works.

Mr. O'Halloran—There was some talk of a tinplate works, too.

Mr. RICHES—The Premier of the day mentioned all sorts of industries.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Tinplate works were not permitted to come to Australia.

Mr. RICHES—To many members Port Kembla is in a foreign country.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Apparently that is the view of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. RICHES—The Minister said that tinplate works were prevented from coming to Australia.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—It was proposed to bring a plant out here, but it was not allowed to leave Great Britain.

Mr. RICHES—Works have been established at Port Kembla, but for various reasons put forward, such as lack of finance, materials, and labour, they have not been established at Whyalla, but all those reasons fall to the ground when we realize that plants are to be established in Western Australia. The real reason is that the company has already tied up, almost in perpetuity, the leases of the mineral resources of South Australia, but that position did not obtain in Western Australia. The Government there had a bargaining power and said that it would only grant leases for iron ore deposits if steel works were established in that State. A responsible person should negotiate, on behalf of the people of South Australia, for the treatment of our valuable mineral resources in this State and not export our ores until we reach the stage when there will not be sufficient left to warrant the establishment of any substantial industry.

I also noticed that there was considerable difference of opinion amongst the members of the Select Committee on the question of royalties. The company agreed to an increase from 3d. to 6d. a ton. The same three members to whom I referred suggested that the maximum period for which royalties should be fixed by indenture should be 21 years, but the company stood firm and said "We must have the royalty at 6d. a ton for 50 years." I am not one to advocate the breaking of an agreement, but I suggest that if 6d. was a fair sum in 1937 it would not be fair today because money values have changed so much. Over 2½ million tons of iron ore is taken from Iron Knob every year. Surely the State could not be charged with a breach of faith if it made representations to the company for a more equitable royalty, especially if we only asked that it be fixed in accordance with the change in money

values since 1937. It is a source of revenue that could be explored, although it could only be done by agreement.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Goodwood)—I assure the member for Burnside that when the Leader of the Opposition spoke on the Budget and referred to the socialistic legislation passed by Parliament he said that the Opposition would support legislation which was in the national interest and which conformed with its policy, but that when legislation conflicted with its policy the Opposition would resent any inference that such legislation was the decision of Parliament because it would really be a decision of the Government's majority. In referring to the betting tax the member for Burnside suggested that it should have been called the "Playford-O'Halloran tax," but after an interjection by the Leader of the Opposition he said, "Let us call it the 'Playford-Walsh tax' and be consistent." I resent any insinuation that I was in favour of the betting tax as we know it. When debating that particular matter I suggested that it was an imposition on the stake of the investor and that if it was to be a winnings tax the investment should not be affected. The Government was not prepared to take notice of Opposition suggestions that would have made the tax fair and allowed reasonable returns on investments. Probably the member for Burnside will say that legislation which has been promised this session should be called "Walsh-Playford legislation," but that will remain to be seen. The member for Victoria referred to the betting tax and suggested that its introduction had proved beneficial to country racing clubs and to owners of race horses, but he did not appear concerned about the people who patronized the racecourses or took an interest in racing.

Mr. Davis—He is a wealthy owner.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—That may be so, but I expected some contribution from him concerning more important matters affecting the district of Victoria, particularly the operations of the Woods and Forests Department. I was surprised that he did not refer to the Nangwarry mill where certain amenities were required, including the provision of a septic tank system. A report I received from that area indicates that there has been a retrenchment of skilled staff, particularly building operatives. I understand that 18 men were responsible for the erection of homes in the settlement at Nangwarry, but because of the

Government's policy it has reduced the amount of money to be spent on forestry operations in that locality. Seven men were employed as joiners in the joinery shop at Nangwarry, but they have been asked to work as mill production employees and their weekly earnings have been reduced and the margin of skill they received as joiners has been decreased. My information suggests that the joiners have been reduced to three in number. There is a demand for joinery in the South-East and on occasions joinery work has had to be imported from the capital cities. The Government should consider maintaining the joinery shops in full production because it would seem reasonable that where timber is being handled there should be sufficient joiners. I am informed that the numbers of carpenters and painters have been considerably reduced and the Government has dispensed with the services of some of these men. The Government should give more deliberate consideration to these retrenchments, particularly as our forests are a show place of Government enterprise and have been the salvation of the State, not only because of the timber produced but because of the way such production has affected prices. It is regrettable that we have not the facilities for the growing of hard timbers, but I would like to know what is to become of the suggestion to establish another mill in the South-East. I understand that an ample supply of timber is available in the forests and the Government should consider action along these lines. The Treasurer should use his influence with the Commonwealth Government to ensure that more money is made available for the development of our natural resources. At page 230 of his report the Auditor-General states:—

Section 37 (b) of the Audit Act, 1921-1951, provides that the Auditor-General shall include in his annual report a statement showing "full particulars of every case in which the provisions of this or of any other Act or any prescribed forms have not been carried out or adopted, or in any manner have been varied or departed from. The following cases came under notice during 1951-52:—Public Works Standing Committee Act, 1927-1951.—The Railways Commissioner has commenced two works each of which, according to section 3 of the Act, is a "public work," but the Public Works Standing Committee had not inquired into them, as required by section 25 of the Act. As a result, moneys have been unlawfully expended on those works.

Those remarks cannot be ignored.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The Treasurer explained that it was a question of what constitutes a public work.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—If the expenditure on a work exceeds £30,000, should it not be submitted to the Public Works Committee as provided in the Act?

The Hon. M. McIntosh—The question is whether the relaying of a line, for instance, is a public work.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—If such a project is expected to cost more than £30,000 it should be submitted to the committee. If the Government is of the opinion that that should not be necessary, in view of the depreciated value of money, it should amend the Act to provide for a limit of £60,000, and then it would probably not be necessary to refer many of these projects to the committee.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—If a project is completed in stages it is not a public work within the meaning of the Act.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—The Auditor-General says that if any section of it is expected to cost more than £30,000 it should be referred to the committee. Before the work is carried out the Railways Commissioner should know its cost from estimates made. Many of these works are vitally necessary, but the Auditor-General's criticism must be considered. The Railways Commissioner should not be given unlimited power to spend public money on projects the cost of which has not been accurately estimated beforehand. Although I commend the Auditor-General for his straightforwardness in this matter, the Government should rectify the position so that it will not be necessary for him to make such a report next year.

Special containers are used for the transport by rail of certain classes of goods between capital cities at a reasonable freight rate, and these provide security against loss and breakage. It may be to the advantage of the Railways Department to consider the use of these containers on South Australian lines, for it should at all times provide a satisfactory safeguard against losses and breakages so as to protect both consignor and consignee. The use of such containers has much to commend it in this regard. In his Budget Speech the Treasurer told members that his Government would amend the Succession Duties Act this session. When the amending Bill is introduced I do not know whether the member for Burnside will dub it the "Walsh-Playford" Bill.

Mr. Macgillivray—It could well be termed that.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I do not apologize for mentioning succession duties in my speech in the Address in Reply debate and I am

pleased to know that the Act is to be amended, particularly as the amendment is to give relief to widows. The Government is to be commended for this proposal. At page 166 of his report the Auditor-General has something to say about the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund. The surplus of income over expenditure for the year was £9,628, leaving a balance in the fund at at June 30 of £34,873. Taking into consideration the long period of 12 years that is necessary to qualify, a retiring member or the widow of a deceased member should receive an income which would enable them to live comfortably. That is not the position today, however, and there is need for a further review of this matter. Legislation to rectify the position should have been introduced by the Government this session. The basic wage has almost doubled during recent years and widows who are entitled to benefits under the fund should receive at least the basic wage. Parliament is not being generous towards those who are entitled to benefits from the fund. I do not know whether we are to continue to build it up but I trust that the matter will be fully examined by the Government.

The Premier informed me on July 25, 1950, that the Housing Trust had written off £5,600 on 69 timber-frame houses at St. Mary's before selling them, showing that an average of more than £81 a unit was written off before sale. Under the heading "Deferred Assets" the Auditor-General reported that on June 30 last the trust had 179 houses being purchased on long-term purchase agreements, involving loans of £261,597 which were outstanding but not due. These houses included 142 in a group of timber-frame houses built at St. Mary's upon which the trust incurred a loss of £25,000. Are members to understand that the £25,000 is the total loss for the 142 homes or is the £5,600 which the Premier told me had been written off the capital cost to be added? Apparently, after having written off £81 a unit on the first 69 houses sold, the trust continued merrily on and lost £25,000 on 142 houses, indicating that something is radically wrong with the project generally, either through the contractor, mismanagement or by losses sustained on materials or some other thing. I do not know what the other thing is but it would appear that the Housing Trust has, with Government assistance, continued with further projects.

I do not know how the trust will dispose of the number of imported timber-frame houses it has erected and is still erecting. The trust discovered that there is a disinclination by

home seekers to purchase these houses, so it propounded another scheme and advanced money on second mortgage. I understand, from information I have received, that second mortgages are taken over timber-frame houses for sale, but that it does not apply to houses of solid construction. Apparently, people are being offered some inducement to take over the timber-frame houses. I understand that the selling price of prefabricated imported timber-frame houses is £2,700, but with the £300 subsidy their value becomes £3,000. I crossed swords with the Government two years ago on this matter. Why does the trust make a greater loan on timber-frame houses than on solid construction ones, especially when the Auditor-General points out that £25,000 has been lost on timber-frame houses at St. Mary's? An earlier scheme was started at Mitcham, where objection was raised to the houses being built, and activities were then started at Darlington. I believe the Darlington houses to be of a better class than those at St. Mary's.

Members were informed by the Premier that the Housing Trust, as a semi-governmental institution, would be permitted to go on the loan market, if necessary, to raise funds, but I cannot reconcile that statement with the making of greater advances on timber-frame houses than is made by other lending institutions. The position is all out of plumb and there is no balance in the scheme. I could understand the trust making larger advances on solid construction homes than on timber-frame ones, on which greater maintenance costs are necessary. Through force of circumstances people have to accept these homes and continue to live under undesirable conditions. There is no let-out. It would be interesting to know how many of these houses are being readily purchased. The member for Stuart informed me that it was impossible to sell timber-frame houses at Port Augusta and they were being let at £2 7s. 6d. a week, which he considers excessive. The trust is accepting deposits on similar types of houses in the metropolitan area, leaving a balance of £2,350, the purchasers being expected to pay £2 15s. 6d. a week for the next 35 years, plus rates and taxes and maintenance, indicating that they will have to keep their noses to the grindstone to pay for something which was out of their reach right from the start. If only the trust is permitted to do these things, should we not take notice of the Auditor-General and either increase the maximum

under the Advances for Homes Act, or let this type of borrowing continue under a second mortgage? The present maximum advance under the Act is £1,750, and the question arises whether we should be prepared to lift that to £2,000 or £2,250 to enable a purchaser to obtain a solid construction home. If we do that, we must be assured that the rate of interest will not be excessive. The tendency today is for interest rates to advance. Although the Savings Bank was lending money for the purchase of homes at 3½ per cent until May last, it then decided to increase the rate to 4½ per cent, but since September it has been 4½. If the rate continues to progress in that ratio, within 12 months we can expect it to be more than five per cent. The rate could be pegged at four per cent with a degree of safety. Having in mind existing wages, it is impossible for the average person to acquire a home of solid construction under the Advances for Homes Act.

If an ex-serviceman desires to purchase a group home from the War Service Homes Commission, or get a contractor to build one for him, he can get an advance of £2,750 at 3½ per cent. He is thus in a much more favourable position than a person buying a house from the Housing Trust. I have been unable to ascertain whether the Commission makes advances on imported prefabricated homes, but if its approach is the same as on the homes at St. Marys, then no ex-servicemen will be able to obtain an advance from that quarter. It therefore behoves the Government to give immediate consideration to whether increased advances beyond £1,750 should be made under the Advances for Homes Act. If we expect people to purchase solidly constructed homes we have no alternative but to make them an increased advance; but if the rate of interest is to advance excessively it would be safer to review the position. Why should the activities of registered organizations under the Advances for Homes Act be restricted? If it is good enough for the trust to make extravagant advances, other organizations should be given an opportunity to compete with them. When the Government introduces legislation which the Opposition considers is in the national interest, it makes no apology for supporting it, but will not take the responsibility advocated by the member for Burnside.

Mr. WHITTLE (Prospect)—I compliment the Government on the Budget and say without fear of contradiction that every member was expecting a considerable reduction in many

lines. The confident manner in which the Treasurer presented the Budget left no room to doubt his great confidence in the future of the State. I also support other members in their welcome to the new member for Stirling. I have been closely associated with Mr. Jenkins in local government work and know he is an enthusiastic member of the Victor Harbour council and also in the larger provincial sphere of councils in that area. He is also a vice-president of the Municipal Councils Association, and from my experience I know of no vice-president representing country councils who has given more attention to his duties during my experience of the last 10 or 15 years. I am sure that the electors of Stirling will have in Mr. Jenkins a worthy representative in this House for many years.

I am particularly pleased that although its funds have been considerably limited, the Government has achieved an excellent job in all departments. Two new schools will be opened in my electorate next year, one at Enfield and the other at Northfield, although there is already a small school at the place. The school committees associated with these establishments will have an arduous time in providing amenities for the children, and I was therefore pleased to notice that the Treasurer has provided an extra amount for subsidies to school committees. I earnestly hope that the Education Department will give special consideration to new schools opening in the suburban area and enable them to have the first call on the additional subsidy funds provided. I trust it will not be long before these schools will be able to obtain the amenities already available at the established schools.

I know I am voicing the views of all members on this side, and I believe members opposite, when I congratulate the Treasurer on the fact that tomorrow he will begin his fifteenth year as Premier and Treasurer. I notice in tonight's *News* an excellent article by an unbiased writer respecting the ability with which he has managed the affairs of the State. My thoughts go back to a more favourable Budget presented in 1942. That year a considerable surplus was available to the Treasurer, which he used admirably, and as a consequence the debt on part of Parliament House was entirely eliminated. However, during a recent speech in this House the member for Port Adelaide said that we were still paying interest on the money spent for the erection of this building. I thought he was incorrect and I interjected accordingly, though I could not quote exact figures. Since then

I have obtained a report from the Treasurer showing the true state of affairs, and I would like to have it incorporated in *Hansard* as a perpetual record, for I am sure it will be of interest to members and the public generally. The total cost of the first wing of Parliament House, completed in 1892, was £165,404 10s. 4d. The total cost of the second wing completed in 1939, was £258,125 14s., making a total of £423,530 4s. 4d. A contribution of £100,000 towards the completion of the second wing was made by Sir Langdon Bonython, so that the full cost to the Government was £323,530 4s. 4d. I am sure it was a very wise decision of Parliament, led by a Liberal Government and, I understand, fully endorsed by the Opposition, to complete Parliament House in the middle thirties.

Mr. Fred Walsh—There should be a few changes in this Chamber.

Mr. WHITTLE—Yes, particularly in lighting, but even so I believe it compares favourably with most State Houses of Parliament. It showed both foresight and courage in those days to undertake the completion of Parliament House as originally designed, except, of course, the dome, which after all, was only ornamentation. One section of the press expressed strong criticism of the proposal, but Parliament was wise to ignore it, and this generation and those to come will have the benefit of its wonderful ornamentation and utility. When Parliament was opened for the first time the then Governor-General of Australia, Lord Gowrie, who had previously been Governor of South Australia, remarked that he had always thought, when he looked across King William Road at Parliament House, that South Australians must have little confidence in the future of their State when they allowed that structure to remain in its uncompleted form for so long. To revert to the figures—the amount written off from National Debt Commissioners Fund from 1928 to 1942 was £10,831 17s. 7d. and the sums written off by revenue surpluses were—for the year ended June 30, 1937, £71,917 9s. 3d.; for the year ended June 30, 1939, £8,880 14s. 1d., and in 1942, to which I have already referred, £231,900 3s. 5d., which brought the total amount written off to £323,530 4s. 4d., and therefore no debt exists on Parliament House.

We have listened with a great deal of pleasure to remarks by some members of the Opposition in commendation of the Government. I know that facetious remarks have been made to the effect that this is a good Budget from a rather poor Government, but I

really think that not only members on this side but members of the Opposition will give credit to the Treasurer and his Government for this excellent Budget. I have noted with considerable interest a number of questions asked in recent months respecting migrants in the Gepp's Cross Hostel, as this is a subject concerning which I have had quite a lot to do. I refer to the possibility of affording these people some measure of home life by the provision of kitchenettes. It was the member for the Commonwealth district of Sturt, the Hon. K. C. Wilson, and myself who, in discussing the prospects of these people having happier home life, first suggested that more adequate cooking arrangements be made for them so that they could prepare their meals as they wished. That suggestion was made to the Premier and taken up, through Mr. Wilson, with the Commonwealth Government. I have visited the hostel on many occasions and have met quite a number of families because, of course, my services as member for the district have been available to them just as they are to any other member of the community. The majority of them lay down as one of their great disabilities this lack of separate cooking arrangements. Every family naturally has various tastes in food, and the added expense of living in the hostel is a great barrier to their ultimately obtaining their own homes. I am sure that if this much needed amenity is provided they will have more home life and certainly it will be a tremendous saving to them.

There are one or two other items on which I may have something to say when we reach the Estimates, but I would like again to say how pleased I have been to note the very buoyant state of affairs revealed by the Treasurer's remarks when introducing the Budget, and I am confident that this Government will continue in its present good hands beyond the 15 years—

Mr. O'Halloran—We do not mind it for another few months.

Mr. WHITTLE—There is nothing like whistling to keep up one's courage. I know that the member for Prospect is being referred to as "a gone coon." My opponents are on the war path, and in fact it has been said to friends of mine that I am an old chap and do not often go to Parliament. Members know, of course, that there is not an atom of truth in that, for I have been absent for only one sitting day in the 12 years that I have been a member of this House.

Mr. O'Halloran—You have never heard a member of the Opposition say that.

Mr. WHITTLE—No, and I do not think it comes from the candidate, but we all have to put with wild statements by people who are very interested in one side of politics. I can say in all sincerity that in all the elections I have contested no derogatory statement has been made by any candidate opposed to me, although I cannot say that of some of their supporters. I feel confident that the Government will not be defeated, despite the many rather facetious remarks concerning it. I support the first line.

Mr. DUNNAGE (Unley)—First I congratulate the Treasurer on the Budget he has brought down and on the very happy position in which we find ourselves, especially when we consider that of other States. The member for Prospect spoke of the Premier's record term of service of 14 years, and tonight's *News* pays a fine tribute to his unbroken record. It seems to me that, despite all the criticism, if he lives he will be here for another 14 years, and I am happy to be on the side that hopes he will be here, and on the side that will see that he remains. Like Mr. Whittle, I am very pleased to be associated with this gentleman who has established such a fine record and who has contributed so much more than any other man towards the welfare of South Australia. It seems superfluous to keep on saying it—

Mr. O'Halloran—You will ultimately believe it.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I believe the Leader of the Opposition does; I really believe that he is quite happy that the Treasurer is here, and I honestly believe that the Treasurer also is very happy to see the honourable member sitting right opposite him and hopes that he will be there just as long as he, the Treasurer, is on this side.

The Hon. Sir George Jenkins—The honourable member comes over here occasionally.

Mr. DUNNAGE—He often helps the Government and we appreciate it.

Mr. O'Halloran—The Government is not always wrong.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Some people think so, even some on the honourable member's side, but I do not believe that the Leader of the Opposition does. I would also like to congratulate a very good friend of mine, the new member for Stirling, Mr. Jenkins. He has been known to me for about 30 years and no-one was more

pleased than I was to see him take his place amongst us. I think it is the first time the district has been represented by a member living at Victor Harbour. For many years Mr. Dunn represented the district, but he lived in the Strathalbyn area. I hope Mr. Jenkins will be in this Chamber for many years, though not always occupying a back bench. I thank the Minister of Lands for enabling members to visit Kangaroo Island. I am sure we all enjoyed the trip and we were amazed at the work already done. It is pleasing to know that many men will be settled on the land there in the not distant future. According to the Minister of Agriculture, this is one of the outstanding developmental undertakings in land settlement in Australia.

I think members will agree that the erection of temporary homes has been the means of providing satisfactory housing accommodation for many people. Generally speaking, people do not prefer to live in such homes, although they can be made very comfortable. I think the cessation of the building of these homes will result in many members being overwhelmed by people wanting accommodation. There seems little likelihood of providing all those who want rental homes with accommodation for many years, and the provision of temporary homes seems the best way of accommodating people quickly. Yesterday I was speaking to a man who had been allotted a temporary home and he was thrilled with it and satisfied with the low rent. I appeal to the Government to continue the temporary homes project if the money can be found. The erection of other types of homes is becoming so expensive that it is almost impossible for a young man to build or buy a home. In travelling through the Gilles Plains area I have noticed that hundreds of prefabricated houses are being built. I think they cost about £2,500. This is not cheap and, in addition, they are far from the city, so it will be costly for the occupant to travel to and from employment. They are certainly not of the same value as a stone or brick home. If the Premier has not concluded his contract to buy prefabricated houses I hope that he will do so as soon as possible. I notice that it is proposed to vote about £4,500,000 for education this year, but I remember that when I first came here in 1941 it was £1,100,000. I wonder whether we are getting an adequate return from such huge expenditure.

Mr. Davis—The Government has taken many benefits away from the children. What about the book allowance?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Does not the honourable member think the parents should pay a little towards the cost of books?

Mr. Davis—They do.

Mr. DUNNAGE—If the Government has reduced the book allowance it is a very small thing when we consider spending £4,500,000 on education alone.

Mr. Davis—The man on the basic wage needs all the assistance he can get in educating his children.

Mr. DUNNAGE—They have found a way to do it.

Mr. Davis—I had to struggle to do it.

Mr. DUNNAGE—The people have had to struggle in years past. Does the honourable member expect them to get everything for nothing today? The education of our children is a valuable asset to the State, but by the way expenditure has increased in the last few years I do not know what will happen in the future. Even in my district we have not half what we require in regard to education, and perhaps within 10 years we shall be spending £15,000,000 on this service alone, despite the fact that South Australia has a relatively small population. We thought that a high standard of education would greatly help our young people, but we find them doing many things that young people did not do a few years ago. For instance, there is far more child delinquency today than there was in my day.

Mr. Davis—How do you know?

Mr. DUNNAGE—We hardly heard about child delinquency when I was young. Education is supposed to train young people to be law-abiding. Large sums are being spent in training teachers at the Teachers College, but I wonder whether we are getting an adequate return. An amount of £30,732 is proposed for the salaries of the principal and lecturers of the college, totalling 28. The allowances for students in training (689) amount to £122,410.

Mr. Shannon—Doesn't the college keep our schools going?

Mr. DUNNAGE—But how many teachers are turned out each year? I know that the purpose of the college is to train our teachers, but the Government has brought out many teachers from overseas. Are we getting good value for the money we are spending at the Teachers College? There were 159 recruits that entered the college through the ordinary channels in 1950, and 152 completed training courses. It is costing the Government over £150,000 this year to train our teachers, or

£1,000 a year for each student. Surely we should be able to train more students for the sum proposed to be spent, or we should be able to train the same number more cheaply.

Mr. Hutchens—How would you suggest we do it?

Mr. DUNNAGE—We might cut down the staff considerably or cut out some of the payments to students.

Mr. Moir—Aren't the students under a bond of some sort?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Yes, and if they do not complete their course they lose money under certain circumstances.

Mr. Hutchens—The cost of training a man in the services is over 50 per cent greater than the cost of training a teacher.

Mr. DUNNAGE—It may be, but defence personnel are taken all over the country. The sum provided seems unreasonable for the production of so few teachers, and I feel that it could be cut down. On previous occasions I have referred to schools in my area and now have to report that two more buildings have been erected and are being used at the Unley Girls Technical School. They are not the answer to our problem, which is becoming more intense because the attendance at the school is increasing at a greater rate than hitherto and it seems that this school will never be put on the list because of the financial restrictions on the carrying out of public works. I appreciate the Government's difficulties with regard to the needs of outlying suburbs which are being developed, but I see no reason why the inner suburbs should be completely forgotten.

Mr. Davis—What about the country schools which get no attention?

Mr. DUNNAGE—It seems to me they are getting their fair share compared with the schools in my district. The Unley Girls Technical School has been given only two prefabricated units in the last 12 years.

Mr. Davis—We cannot even get that.

Mr. DUNNAGE—A new high school has recently been erected at Port Augusta, and schools have been erected in other country areas. The Unley Girls Technical School is the largest girls' technical school in the metropolitan area and is still growing. It caters for districts as far afield as Yankalilla and Nairne. Between Brighton and Glenelg a new high school has been opened and in time that will ease the congestion at our school, for many girls from that district who would have attended the Unley school will now attend their local high school.

Mr. Pattinson—We should have got it 20 or 30 years ago.

Mr. DUNNAGE—At least you have it now, but although we have been promised a new high school at Unley and have been given a block of ground, we still have more than 1,000 students in the old high school buildings. If the new Unley high school is ever built the Girls' Technical School will probably take over the present high school buildings, but I do not know when that will be. I have suggested for a long time that the Government acquire buildings near the park lands to be used as secondary schools. Two outstanding examples of this policy as pursued by private school boards may be seen in the Methodist Ladies' College and the Pulteney Grammar School, where the children have their lessons in buildings adjacent to the park lands which they use as a playing arena. That is the only way in which sufficient land for a school may be obtained in the inner suburbs.

Mr. Davis—Haven't you got playgrounds in your district?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Many, but none are large enough for the erection of a school.

Mr. Hutchens—Do you advocate an area of 18 or 20 acres for a school site?

Mr. DUNNAGE—We would be quite happy with three acres. We advocated an area of about ten acres, but we have no hope of getting that in the Unley district, for there is not a block of that size anywhere between Adelaide and Mitcham. A block which we held has been used for the erection of the Mitcham school, but I do not complain of that for a new school was needed there.

Mr. Hutchens—The fault is not that of the department but is due to lack of foresight on the part of the local council.

Mr. DUNNAGE—No. The Government should buy large buildings adjacent to the park lands so that adequate educational facilities might be provided for the inner suburbs. Eventually the Government will be forced to adopt my suggestion. I am concerned about the position of the District and Bush Nursing Society, as it is finding it extremely difficult to carry on. Local councils are helping and the Government is increasing its grant by £1,500 to £9,000 this year, but that amount is only a fleabite and merely an admission by the Treasurer that that organization is doing a good job. Some patients are discharged from the Royal Adelaide and other Government hospitals before they have fully recovered, and on their return home the

district nurse is summoned to attend them. The nurses in my district are being overwhelmed by such requests for attention, and, although usually two nurses operate there, at present three are on duty and finding it extremely difficult to cope with the amount of work offering. Two motor cars take out these nurses, two of them in the one car. At the end of a street one alights and says to the other, "I will do this street and you do the next." Then they make their calls and the car eventually picks up both of them. This organization should receive more consideration from the Government. Most of its revenue is from voluntary contributions which are raised by people keen enough to support this organization. These people do a marvellous job and get nothing out of it, although they save the Adelaide Hospital much work because some of the patients are discharged before they are fully recovered. In my district Mr. Freeman, chairman of the District and Bush Nursing Society, gives practically all his spare time to this organization. He was put on the society's council by a local government authority and has been left on his own to look after this organization. The Government should realize the wonderful work being done in an honorary capacity by these people and increase its subsidy from £9,000.

Mr. Davis—Why doesn't the Government do that?

Mr. DUNNAGE—Finance would be one reason, and there may be others, but more money should be made available so that this organization could more adequately carry out its work. Some criticism has been levelled in this House against the Industries Development Committee's recommendation of subsidies to certain brick manufacturers in the Thebarton and Hindmarsh areas, but as chairman of the committee I disagree with the member who criticized Mr. Palmer. He has been before the committee on many occasions and I consider he is one of the few brick manufacturers who have co-operated fully with the committee and the Government. He should be commended rather than criticized for he has done a great deal to try to modernize his brickyard which over the years has done a good job.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Was he subsidized for the purpose of making texture bricks?

Mr. DUNNAGE—He was subsidized to make bricks, and there was no restriction on the type of brick he was to make.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Was he expected to make the ordinary housing brick?

Mr. DUNNAGE—He was expected to make any type of brick suitable for the type of plant in operation. He was also expected to make a profit in order to repay the Government the money loaned. Every brickyard makes a certain quantity of texture bricks and I would be surprised if Mr. Palmer is not doing it.

Mr. Fred Walsh—What is the percentage increase in the number of bricks?

Mr. DUNNAGE—I do not know; all I am saying is that he has co-operated with the Government and the committee more readily than most brick manufacturers, either in the metropolitan area or in the country. It is unfair to criticize a man who has done that. I desire to refer to the activities of the Tourist Bureau. Mr. Baker, the director, and his officers have done an excellent job, but I think they could, with more assistance and consideration from the Government, considerably increase the number of visitors to South Australia. I was talking to Mr. Baker the other day and it amazed me to discover the number of Victorian visitors who came here through the agency of the South Australian office in Victoria. Mr. Baker set down £30 for a 10-day visit to accommodate tourists, but if the department received more assistance the return would be £300,000 a year. In travelling round Australia I have noticed that South Australia has many attractions for visitors, but with more propaganda and financial assistance the amount could be more than doubled. I hope that visitors will come here from other States, as well as from Victoria. I know, from visits to Sydney, Brisbane and Perth, that many people desire to visit Adelaide and would be only too pleased to do so if accommodation could be found for them. Much criticism of Adelaide's hotel accommodation has been heard. Mr. Justice Maxwell, the New South Wales Royal Commissioner, who has been inquiring into the liquor trade in that State, had something to say about the hotel position in New South Wales. Many visitors from other States to Adelaide have been found accommodation in private homes because it has been impossible for them to get accommodation elsewhere.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Hotels have been unable to extend their premises because of building restrictions.

Mr. DUNNAGE—That has not been the only problem, as many hotels cannot get sufficient staff to attend to visitors. I hope that that position will be overcome in the not far distant

future. Notwithstanding that many hotels have been unable to build, they still have rooms available. In the *Advertiser* of October 1 last, Mr. Justice Maxwell said:—

The New South Wales Commission will have performed a national service if its activities prompt a thorough-going review of the hotel problem in all States. Australia has shamefully neglected the tourist industry, with its great potentialities, not only as a currency earner, but as a stimulus to progressive ideas. I think we have neglected our tourist traffic and perhaps it would be a good idea if the Government set up a small committee to investigate the matter. I suggest that Mr. Baker should be appointed chairman and that the committee should report on the possibilities of South Australia as a tourist resort. Many of our larger towns, including places on Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula, could be used as tourist resorts. If that were done it would mean bringing probably £1,000,000 per annum into South Australia instead of £300,000. I trust that the Premier will seriously consider this matter, which has been sadly neglected. I do not suggest that the proposed committee should be a Parliamentary one.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Mr. Baker could do it on his own.

Mr. DUNNAGE—It would be much better if he had some assistance. There are some places where tourist possibilities are not so great, but many towns along our coastline would be a great attraction to tourists.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Do you think that the Government would assist in that way?

Mr. DUNNAGE—It is doing so now. Many people have made so much money during recent years that they make overseas trips, but I think that will cut out during the next year or two and that, with the reduction of high wool prices, they will not be able to make trips overseas.

Mr. Davis—Will the woolgrowers go elsewhere?

Mr. DUNNAGE—I cannot say, but I hope they will come here. Take the employees at Broken Hill, who get the lead bonus but seek cheap fares to Adelaide. I agree that they should be brought down cheaply, as the more visitors we get the greater benefit it will be to the State.

Office accommodation in Adelaide is another matter needing attention. I am aware that it has been held up because of building restrictions. When I first entered Parliament I visited the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department and was amazed at the condition of the building and raised the matter

here. The Hon. R. S. Richards, who was then Leader of the Opposition said, by way of interjection, that it had been agreed to build a new block of Government offices at the corner of Victoria Square and Flinders Street. I understand that the work is to be proceeded with at some time, but my view is that the time is now. Office accommodation in Adelaide is becoming so acute that if the Government will not build other people should be allowed to do so. The cost of such a building will be great, but there will be a big return in the rentals saved by the Government. Moreover, all revenue producing departments could be housed in the one building. The Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Motor Vehicles Department, which is now situated in the Exhibition Building, could be housed in the new building at Victoria Square.

*Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. DUNNAGE—On looking up *Hansard* I find that the matter of the suggested new building in Victoria Square was before Parliament in 1936. It is interesting to recall the remarks made on that occasion by Mr. (now Mr. Justice) Abbott, who was then member for Burnside.

Mr. O'Halloran—Do you say it was the first time it was raised?

Mr. DUNNAGE—To my knowledge.

Mr. O'Halloran—It was raised about 15 years before that.

Mr. DUNNAGE—I remember the Hon. R. S. Richards speaking about it about 1944, when he said that the matter had already been referred to the Public Works Committee and I thought he said it had been agreed that the new building should be erected. Mr. Abbott referred to the tin sheds in Victoria Square, some of which are still there and are likely to remain for a long time yet. The Motor Vehicles Department is at one end of the city and the Engineering and Water Supply at the other, and our Taxation Department will be at this end of the city when we take over State taxation, therefore, if one wants to pay his dues to the Government he has a long walk. It would be of great assistance to the public and also to the Government if all these revenue departments were congregated at the one centre. I should think that such a building would pay for itself from the rent saved from the buildings now used.

Mr. O'Halloran—When Mr. Gunn was Premier in 1924 he suggested the erection of

a building at Victoria Square which would be the receiving house for all Government accounts.

Mr. DUNNAGE—There has been much criticism by members opposite of the economic position generally of the State and it has even been said that we are going downhill, but the fact remains that South Australia is very stable and employment here is still at a very high level. From what I know of the position in Victoria and New South Wales I should imagine that we are at a far higher level than those States.

Mr. O'Halloran—Do you believe in the Treasurer's policy of using national credit?

Mr. DUNNAGE—I do not understand national credit like you understand it. I am not a Douglas Credit man and I do not profess to be a financial expert like many other people do. The Treasurer has done his best under very adverse circumstances. At the beginning of my speech I said what I thought about his effort, and in the circumstance his Government is doing a far better job than any other State. I have much pleasure in congratulating the Government and the Treasurer on the Budget. I particularly congratulate the Treasurer on the fact that he will tomorrow begin his fifteenth year in office, and I prophesy that he will still be in office 15 years from tomorrow.

Mr. HEASLIP (Rocky River)—I had not intended to speak on the Budget until I heard certain remarks last week by the member for Adelaide, and I do not want them to go unanswered. I also congratulate the Treasurer on having attained the fourteenth anniversary of his Premiership. So long as he desires to stay there, the people of South Australia will return him. Being so satisfied with him, I feel sure he will be returned with his Government for the coming session.

Mr. McAlees—There is such a thing as being there too long!

Mr. HEASLIP—It will be many years before that time comes. I congratulate the Treasurer and his Government on the Budget, which is realistic, down to the ground and common-sense. It has included nothing which will not be carried out and I am sure it will keep the State's economy on an even keel, which is so desirable in these unsettled times. I am not pessimistic of the State's economic condition, but, unfortunately, too many members opposite have been inclined to cry wolf—unemployment and depression. If anyone talks long enough and loudly enough, he can bring that about.

Now is the time for progress and I feel confident that whatever is before us our economy will stand up to it and we will come through smiling.

Mr. O'Halloran—You have not much confidence in what is before us?

Mr. HEASLIP—I am not in a position, nor do I think anyone else is, to say what is before us.

Mr. O'Halloran—Is not that what members of the Opposition have said?

Mr. HEASLIP—They are anticipating something which probably will never occur, which is bad policy. We have to face up to whatever comes, but no-one inside or outside the House knows what it will be. The Budget will take care of whatever position may arise. I flatly contradict statements made by the member for Adelaide. I understand his reference came from *Hansard* of 1893. Dealing with the early land settlement of South Australia Mr. Lawn remarked:—

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. 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.

Long before South Australia was settled the term "squatter" was quite a common one. He also said:—

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 member had in mind that it was obtained illegally. Later, referring to the Liberals, he said:—

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.

I take exception to those remarks. They are untrue and a slur on the old pioneers who went out and risked everything without any subsidies or help from any Government and made South Australia what it is today. It is because of that slur that I rose to speak. I have before me a book entitled *The Land Policy of South*

*Australia from 1830 to 1842*, by Wilfred Oldham, B.A., Tinline Scholar, University of Adelaide. From those I have inquired I have been assured that this book is an authority and there has never been a contradiction of the statements printed in it. The following is included:—

Land was to be sold only "in public, for ready money, and either by auction or otherwise," but never at a rate lower than 12s. an acre, provided also that that price which the Commissioners should at any time establish, should be a uniform price throughout the colony.

Mr. O'Halloran—You must know that certain land was granted to squatters.

Mr. HEASLIP—No land in South Australia has been a free grant to anyone. Every acre has been sold for money.

Mr. O'Halloran—You had better have a look at some other authority.

Mr. HEASLIP—I will be pleased if anyone can contradict that statement.

Mr. O'Halloran—You are dealing with what occurred prior to 1843. Much happened after that.

Mr. HEASLIP—That is the time which the member for Adelaide refers to in his accusations against the pioneers. It was when they first came out and settled in what is now the metropolitan area. They were supposed to be prohibited from going outside, and because they went outside they were called "squatters"—they are Mr. Lawn's words and not mine. The following is also a quotation from Oldham's book in referring to the survey system:—

Opposition was also found elsewhere. The system was held by many to be derogatory to the interests of the pastoralists settled throughout the colony. Numerous cattle and sheep stations had been established in suitable districts antecedent to the surveys. There can be no doubt that, in some cases, the proprietors were desirous of purchasing the land on which they had settled; they had, however, no legal claim to this, although they were utilizing it. Thus the unfortunate settler, if his station were included within a special survey, was compelled either to remove or to purchase at such an enhanced price as the real owner might fix upon it.

It is unnecessary to give more than those two quotations. During that period no grant of land was made to any settler. He paid for it, and I feel that the member for Adelaide, in mentioning one particular person on this side of the House, although he included others, cast a slur on the men who developed South Australia. I take exception to that and register my protest. The member for Port Pirie referred to the number of swagmen on the roads. Living

in the country and adjacent to Pirie I say there is no need for any man to be carrying his swag through that country.

Mr. McAlees—They have to go where the work is.

Mr. HEASLIP—Exactly, but they are not unemployed. They are simply going from one job to another, and if they prefer to carry their swag instead of using a car or a taxi good luck to them; they have what it takes, but they are not forced to do it. The member for Port Adelaide had a very sorrowful story to tell about conditions in the hostels at Port Adelaide; he almost made me cry, and I would have done so had I thought any of it was true. There is no need for unemployment there if they care to look for work. There are millions of rabbits in the country, and if we are too fussy to eat them there are others in the world who are not. Every pair of rabbits is worth 2s. 8d., and if a man cannot trap 20 pairs a day there's something wrong with him.

Mr. O'Halloran—So you think myxomatosis is a failure?

Mr. HEASLIP—In some areas it has been ineffective and it is not the sole answer to our problem; unless we are prepared to take other action in conjunction with it we shall not eradicate the rabbit.

Mr. O'Halloran—There was a period of 12 months when, because of myxomatosis, trapped rabbits were unsaleable.

Mr. HEASLIP—There was no need for that because myxomatosis in no way affects the meat of a rabbit and is only communicable among rabbits. The refusal to buy could only have been due to local prejudice and we could still export. The only men unemployed today are the unskilled; men who have been riding the crest of the wave taking advantage of the high wages and not troubling to learn a trade. There is no need for a trademan to be unemployed, and I would teach every man a trade. I appreciate what the Government is doing for country areas in the extension of water supplies and electric power, although I feel that too few of the smaller towns are being served with electricity. It is going to the larger towns and making them larger still while the little towns remain small. The building up of the small places would be far better for the country and tend towards a better spread of population.

Mr. O'Halloran—Yet a fortnight ago you voted against an inquiry into decentralization.

Mr. HEASLIP—This is only one small contributing factor and something which could be done, but it does not solve the problem of decentralization by any means.

Mr. O'Halloran—All I wanted was an inquiry to ascertain the factors.

Mr. HEASLIP—That is one factor and an inquiry is not necessary to find it. Another is the supply of water. I am interested in a small country town in a big rainfall area and I feel sure there is an adequate underground supply. The Engineering and Water Supply Department has approved of a survey and has selected three sites for bores. It took me two years to get that far and it is two years since the sites were picked, but although a boring plant has been in the district doing work for civilians, those sites have not been tested and now, I understand, the plant has been moved from the district. It would need an expenditure of only about £200 to ascertain whether the water was available and it would be money well spent. If we are to keep people in the country and encourage them to retire into the smaller country towns we must give them the amenities they could get in the city, such as bowling greens, which can only be established if water is available.

The Hon. M. McIntosh—Perhaps there are other places which need it more urgently.

Mr. HEASLIP—In a case of a community versus an individual the community ought to come first.

Mr. O'Halloran—But surely you know that the Government does not want to build up country towns.

Mr. HEASLIP—I think it does and it is doing a good job in that direction, but it is not above a little criticism. I am not afraid to mention these things if I think I can be of any help to the Government, and I am sure that it appreciates constructive criticism. Finally, I want to say a few words on land settlement. I particularly appreciated our recent trip to Kangaroo Island and I congratulate the Minister of Lands on arranging it. I do not think one member who went would have missed that trip, for it was an education to all of us. I claim to know a little about pasture improvement and primary production, but it was very instructive to me to see what the Lands Development Executive is doing there. I feel that the huge area of land covered with useless scrub will be brought into production so that, instead of being a liability, it will be a great asset to the State. In addition it will provide homes for many returned

men who are there pioneering, building up their own farms and learning how best to fit themselves for the work that lies ahead.

Mr. Davis—You have changed your tune, haven't you?

Mr. HEASLIP—It is a poor person who cannot change his mind; when a man becomes so dogmatic as to be unable to see that he is wrong there is no hope for him, and I am prepared to praise as well as to decry. I feel that the Budget is sound. The economy of this State is sound and although no-one knows what lies before us I am sure we shall come out on top if we remain in the hands of the Premier and his Government.

Mr. JENKINS (Stirling)—As a new and inexperienced member I did not know until this afternoon that I would be eligible to take part in this debate. However, one member pointed out to me that this would be a favourable time for me to speak and I gladly avail myself of the opportunity. I pay a tribute to the late Mr. Dunn, the former member for Stirling. He was highly esteemed throughout the district and I hope I shall be able to fill his place with honour and provide the same high standard of service that he did. I sincerely regret his passing. I add my congratulations to those of other members in complimenting the Premier on completing 14 years in office. I hope that God will give him strength to carry on for a long while yet.

I desire to bring before Parliament some of the requirements of the electors of my district. The Premier said tonight that there were 10,000 ways in which money could be spent, but that he would have to get additional money to meet all requirements. I wish to refer specifically to irrigation and other projects on the Murray, particularly in the Lakes area around Wellington, Langhorne Creek, Milang and Goolwa. Development in this area is of immense importance, and irrigation would greatly help intensive farming, as many farmers are suffering from the want of fresh water. Last Friday I had the privilege of declaring open the Milang bowling club's season and some farmers told me they are already on bore water. Stock lose condition when supplied with bore water and in the initial stages of transferring from fresh water the farmers lose much time in mixing the bore with the fresh water in order to get the stock to drink it. Work has been commenced on a fresh water supply for Milang, but it is necessary to reticulate fresh water beyond the town and into the surrounding districts to serve farms.

The corporation of Strathalbyn is anxious to get a subsidy for the Strathalbyn hospital. I do not know how far it is from the Mount Barker hospital, which is the nearest subsidized institution, but Strathalbyn is 32 miles from Victor Harbour, and the Strathalbyn hospital has to serve a large area. It has 20 beds but has never received assistance from the Government except for a grant in regard to some new buildings that were added recently. Some of the ladies in the district work every sales day at the stock sales supplying morning and afternoon tea and luncheons, and I hope that some provision will be made to subsidize at least the money raised by those ladies. Victor Harbour is sadly in need of a sewerage system, which would be dependent on a more adequate water supply. I believe that during the coming year a plant may be installed at Goolwa to boost water from that town to Middleton. That will relieve the pressure on the Hindmarsh Valley reservoir and temporarily relieve the position in the Victor Harbour district, but if a sewerage system is installed—I hope in the not distant future—something more adequate will have to be provided. There are 2,000 residents in Victor Harbour, but at the height of the tourist season it has up to 8,000 floating population. That entails a tremendous strain on the existing systems in the town, especially as there is only a four inch main to which the hotels are coupled. The sewage effluent is emptied into the sea through a small pipeline. This matter is causing great concern amongst the council and guest home proprietors.

The jetties and causeways in the district are yearly becoming in worse repair. The jetty at Port Elliot is considered unfit for anyone to walk upon and there is a notice on it advising persons that they use it at their own risk. I hope that at least a small sum will be provided for repair work on jetties in order to give tourists who visit Victor Harbour and Port Elliot better facilities for swimming. It is necessary to make some provision for swimming, and I think the jetties are best suited for that purpose. A hardy annual in the district is the provision of a better road between Mount Compass and Victor Harbour, a distance of 17 miles. It is estimated at least 2,000 motor cars and up to 40 buses use that road when there is a trotting meeting at Victor Harbour, but it is not only on trotting days that it carries a great volume of traffic. On all holidays in the summer and on practically every day for several weeks around the Christmas holidays many people travel over the

road, which is far too narrow for the volume it has to carry. Motor cars wishing to pass omnibuses, milk waggons and wood lorries have to go off the road and on to the shoulders, which is dangerous and may lead to skids. We hope that in the near future something will be done to improve this road. Tourists need some encouragement to visit our district. An improvement to this section was considered necessary as far back as 1938, but work had to be discontinued during the war. If that work were necessary in 1938 it is much more necessary in 1952 because there is at least double the amount of traffic on the road now. I thank members for their indulgence in listening to me and hope that some of the requirements of the district of Stirling will be considered when voting moneys for this financial year.

#### THE ESTIMATES.

##### THE LEGISLATURE.

First line (Legislative Council, £8,314) passed.

House of Assembly, £12,732; Parliamentary Library, £4,014; Joint House Committee, £9,312; Electoral Department, £43,078; Government Reporting Department, £23,049; Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, £3,017; Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement, £3,203; Miscellaneous, £28,528—passed.

##### CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH.

State Governor's establishment, £4,691; Chief Secretary's Department, £13,163; Statistical Department, £45,320; Audit Department, £45,754; Printing and Stationery Department, £200,439; Police Department, £1,302,589; Sheriff and Gaols and Prisons Department, £170,529; Hospitals Department, £2,894,617; Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, £460,215; Department of Public Health, £108,112—passed.

Miscellaneous—£913,267.

Mr. RICHES—The grant for the provision of ambulance services has been decreased from £10,000 to £5,000, but more money should be provided for ambulance services in the country. In many instances a country organization desiring to apply for such assistance must apply through and be sponsored by an organization in the city which, in many instances, has no immediate relation to the country body, and this policy also extends to the Flying Doctor Services. Has the Government considered how this policy is working out and, if not, will consideration be given to changing it? I am disappointed that the Port Augusta ambulance committee has been left without a grant.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Prior to the last two years the Estimates contained no line for the establishment of ambulance services, although occasionally small amounts were made available for indigent cases coming to the city. After certain members had raised the matter of the organization of our ambulance services two years ago the Government investigated the matter and found that a number of entirely unco-ordinated services operated throughout the State. Agreement was reached, and all the authorities controlling these services except one or two commercial interests in the metropolitan area were pleased to come into a co-ordinated scheme. At the time the parent organization was set up the Government stipulated that its activities should be extended to cover country services and it was assured that they would be. Last year the Government was asked to assist in this matter by granting £10,000, and certain assistance was also given for the purchase of new ambulances by the Police Department to be co-ordinated under the scheme. Further, in response to a public appeal for funds the Government contributed £5,000 with the full co-operation of the Leader of the Opposition, who I am pleased to say approved of Government assistance in this connection. This year the Government was asked for £5,000 to meet the maintenance costs of these services. Country members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade have expressed to me their pleasure at the steps being taken to improve country ambulance services, and the Government desires to give the utmost consideration to this matter. It is necessary that country ambulance services be co-ordinated to avoid duplication of services and the possibility of an ambulance not being available in the case of an accident. Other States have always dealt with this problem on the basis of the co-ordinated services. I express my appreciation of the work of the St. John Ambulance Brigade without thought of profit but only to serve the community. The new co-ordinated scheme has operated only over the last 12 months, and only today the Government received a request for assistance in connection with the setting up of a proposed service.

The official Flying Doctor Service which covers a large area of the State does not cover the area mentioned by the honourable member, but a separate small organization functions in that area. It is not possible, however, to deal with these as co-ordinated services, as there is a State-wide organization necessitating a State-wide conception of their duties. With regard to the mission which sponsors the

Flying Doctor Service in which the honourable member is interested, he will see from the Estimates that the other aspects of its work have been dealt with on a generous basis.

Mr. SHANNON—The total amount of the Miscellaneous grant has been increased by about 30 per cent, the major portion of this being for country health services. I give the Government full credit for what it has done. Government hospitals in the metropolitan area are built and maintained solely from taxpayers' funds, whereas in most country areas hospitals, including three in my district, are largely maintained through local funds. The Government has acted wisely in encouraging local efforts in country areas. The Mount Barker Soldiers' Memorial Hospital required a maternity and obstetric block and the Government promised to subsidize local efforts on a pound for pound basis. It was estimated that the building would cost £20,000, but because of rising costs the amount has increased to £30,000. I believe that local residents have raised £10,000, no small burden. I commend the Treasurer for his far-sighted policy in increasing the grants to encourage local effort.

Mr. Macgillivray—How is the country health scheme getting on?

Mr. SHANNON—Unfortunately, lack of personnel has been a drawback and the scheme has had to be discontinued. I hope we will be able to establish a service of child health, not only in the hills districts, but throughout the State, because a good start in life, especially through good nutrition, is half the battle. The State will get bigger dividends by establishing such a scheme. I am sure that we have the Government's sympathy in this matter.

Mr. PATTINSON—I join with Mr. Shannon in commending the Government for its far-sightedness in substantially increasing grants and subsidies to these most necessary and desirable institutions, which is only another illustration of the Government's advanced policy of decentralization in providing these amenities throughout the country. I join issue with Mr. Shannon, however, when he says that hospitals in the metropolitan area are paid for by the general taxpayers and that people in the metropolitan area do not follow the laudable example of hills residents. This example has been copied recently in the metropolitan area. On page 34 a grant of £7,000 is provided towards nurses' quarters at Ashford Hospital and £3,350 was granted last year for the Glenelg District Community Hospital,

both of which are in my electorate and both conducted by the community in an entirely honorary capacity almost on the same lines as subsidized country hospitals. Years ago I was chairman of a Government subsidized hospital on Yorke Peninsula, which was established on almost precisely identical lines with those in the metropolitan area. The hospitals in my district receive a direct monetary contribution from the council. A women's auxiliary, which does honorary work, raises large sums. But for the generosity of this Government neither the Glenelg Community Hospital nor the Ashford Hospital could have been established. Both of them have been of incalculable benefit to the public.

About three years ago the Government purchased from the Housing Trust about 50 acres at Oaklands, which has a huge housing settlement, in order to establish a public hospital for the south-western suburbs. It was realized that it was absolutely impossible for the Government to incur a vast expenditure in establishing a hospital at Glenelg and residents set about establishing the two community hospitals, which were subsidized by the Government on a pound for pound basis. Only a fortnight ago the Chief Secretary laid the foundation stone of new nurses' quarters at Ashford Hospital, to cost £14,000, the residents being responsible for £7,000. A similar situation applies at Glenelg where, instead of building new nurses' quarters, a house opposite was purchased for the purpose. In this case, too, the Government has subsidized the purchase pound for pound. I believe that the Glenelg hospital has been established for less than two years. Until two years ago it was almost impossible for expectant mothers to know, with any certainty, where they could obtain a hospital bed. The Glenelg hospital has proved of great benefit and has been largely patronized. I opened a fete there last Saturday week, which raised £800, and up to the time I started to speak 1,110 babies had been born there, but by the time I had finished the number had increased to 1,111. However, I take none of the credit for that.

Last year the Ashford hospital made a profit of £815. In both instances we have extremely able boards of management, members of which are giving their services honorarily. We have a large and enthusiastic women's committee and are receiving large donations from all sections of the public. None of these necessary and desirable institutions could have been established without the

far-sightedness and generosity of the Government and of the Treasurer and Chief Secretary in particular.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—As I understand the position, the State Government made an agreement with the Chifley Government for up-to-date methods of prevention and treatment of tuberculosis to be instituted in South Australia. In accordance with that agreement the Commonwealth contracted to meet certain costs of maintenance and treatment of patients. I notice that £40,000 is placed on the Estimates for Kalyra and £25,000 towards buildings and £1,300 towards the cost of X-ray equipment. Is this entirely at the cost of the State, or is the money provided for out of the financial assistance granted by the Commonwealth under the agreement?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I believe that the amounts set out are for maintenance. I understand that under the Commonwealth Health Scheme the State can claim reimbursement for expenditure associated with the treatment of tuberculosis, but whether it is a complete reimbursement I do not know. I can ascertain that for the honourable member.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—The Health Department deserves every consideration, because there is practically no aspect of our social life not associated with it. I was pleased to hear Mr. Pattinson pay a tribute to the Government for all the money it had spent in his district and the wonderful assistance it has given to hospitals; but on the other hand I was disappointed to hear Mr. Shannon, in reply to an interjection by me, say that the child welfare scheme commenced a number of years ago in his district had fallen by the wayside. I had much pleasure in speaking to Dr. Jungfer who initiated the scheme. During the war he was medical officer at the Loveday Prisoner of War Camp. He is the type of doctor who is not content to do only the job for which he is paid, but tries to help the community in every way possible. While at Barmera he visited the various schools in the district and without pay examined the children. On returning to the district of Onkaparinga he started a similar scheme there. When money was granted for this work in Mr. Shannon's district, Mr. Riches and I took strong exception to its being limited to that district. It was said that if the scheme was successful, the work should be extended throughout the State. I believe the present method of examining our school

children for health purposes is completely useless. At present a lady doctor visits the schools and sometimes children are absent owing to illness. It is probably another three to seven years before a doctor again visits that school. I was hoping that if the scheme financed by the Government and put into operation by Dr. Jungfer had been successful the examination of school children could be decentralized. If a child were not present on the day of the visit there would be no difficulty in arranging for the local doctor to call the next time he passed the school. That is the way I visualized the scheme would be carried out instead of the present system of underpaid medical officers.

I was interested to hear the Treasurer in reply to Mr. Riches say that it was never the practice of the Government to subsidize individual organizations. The Treasurer mentioned the Mothers and Babies Health Association, the Kindergarten Union and others. He could also have mentioned the Boy Scouts Association, the Girl Guides Association, the National Theatre, the S.A. Oral School, and the Symphony Orchestra. It would be out of place if we agreed to money being made available to the Boy Scouts Association, or the Girl Guides Association provided it used it in a certain way. I take the view that if the Boy Scouts Association has the responsibility of spending the money it must decide where it is to be spent. I draw the Committee's attention to page 40 where it says, "The S.A. Country Women's Association—towards the Port Augusta Hostel." Why is this particular hostel referred to? This seems to run counter to everything the Treasurer said in reply to Mr. Riches, and everything this Committee has approved. Had the Treasurer given the amount to the parent association and allowed it to spend it in the way it thought fit it would have been in accordance with practice.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I believe that this is a case where the Country Women's Association asked the Government for a sum for the establishment of a hostel, because there is a Government hospital at Port Augusta and it is a centre for outback expectant mothers who at present have no place to go pending reception at the hospital. It is not usual to make any grant to the C.W.A. and this is a distinct departure from practice.

Mr. TEUSNER—I am pleased to note the provision of £10,000 for the Symphony Orchestra, which is an increase of £5,000 above that of last year. The establishment of the

orchestra has resulted in a valuable contribution to the cultural life of the State. It was only last Saturday evening that I had an opportunity to talk with Mr. Henry Kripps, the conductor, and I find that he has been delighted with the reception the orchestra has received in the country. The orchestra draws on a large number of musical organizations for its players and it is therefore desirable that those organizations shall be of high standing. I would like to make a plea for a grant to help the South Australian Brass Bands Association, and particularly the Tanunda Band Competition Committee, which has been functioning since 1920. As the orchestra draws upon the various brass bands for its brass players it should be considered by the Government for a grant. The Tanunda band has supplied players of brass instruments to the orchestra and the Tanunda committee has conducted competitions annually since 1920. On Saturday last the Tanunda band was successful in winning the A grade championship of South Australia, which it has done on a number of occasions previously, and was awarded full points by the adjudicator for what is known as "own choice selection." Since 1920 the committee has distributed £9,000 in cash prizes and has attracted bands from New South Wales and Victoria. On Saturday last the Ballarat and West Coburg bands competed. The secretary of the Victorian Bands League, Mr. White, informed me that in Victoria the Government has been making a grant of £1,000 annually to the Ballarat Band Competition Committee in connection with the South Street Competitions, and another £500 to the Victorian Bands League. The two corresponding organizations in South Australia are the Tanunda Bands Competition Committee and the South Australian Bands Association. In addition to the prize money distributed the townspeople of Tanunda have billeted visiting bandsmen in the town as insufficient hotel accommodation is available. My purpose in suggesting a grant to the organization is that I understand that in Victoria a grant is given so that the Ballarat Bands Competition Committee may award appearance money to competing bands. If bands can be encouraged to come to South Australia from other States—and they can be by paying greater appearance money—the standard of our local bands and the symphony orchestra will rise. New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland have some of the best bands in Australia and if our local Competition Committee receives a grant to help increase the

prize money or appearance money more bands will be encouraged to come to South Australia.

Mr. RICHES—The members who have tried to stand behind the Government in its refusal to listen to repeated applications for assistance from the two services I have mentioned have not helped the Government's case at all. I give the Government full credit for granting pound for pound subsidies to organizations prepared to undertake work of the nature referred to by the member for Glenelg and for giving the encouragement that the member for Onkaparinga says organizations in his district have received, but is there any reason why the Government should not extend that same consideration to a body operating a flying doctor service? The member for Chaffey mentioned the Country Women's Association hostel at Port Augusta, and I am asking that the same policy be applied to the Flying Doctor Service. If it is against the policy of the Government to recognize a religious denomination, let it recognise the work itself and make a grant for it. Surely this is a work that should be encouraged. We have been told that the organization cannot be recognized, that it is not official, that it must make its application through some other organization. However, the Kimba hospital does not have to apply through the Whyalla hospital, nor the Girl Guides Association through the Boy Scouts Association. The two flying doctor services are entirely different in their set-up and render entirely different services. I also ask that some consideration be given to the Port Augusta motor ambulance transport service. There is not another ambulance service operating in the country over a wider area. It is on call for 24 hours a day for the seven days of the week and takes patients from Port Augusta, Quorn, Orroroo and surrounding districts to the Adelaide Hospital at the very low rate of 1s. a mile only because the people contribute regularly towards its upkeep. The Premier is on firmer ground when he speaks of the co-ordination of ambulance services. I think all members agree that their co-ordination in the metropolitan area was a good thing. It is not desired to take away money which should be used on co-ordinated ambulance services in the metropolitan area, but more money should be provided for country services. The Treasurer may have included an amount in the Estimates to meet applications which may arise from time to time during the year, and I trust that, if that is so, he will make a grant from the funds at his disposal.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Revenue Estimates show £160,000 as a reimbursement from the Commonwealth in respect of maintenance under the Tuberculosis Scheme—an increase of £24,000 on the previous year. An amount of £15,000 was received as a reimbursement towards capital expenditure. The Estimates under discussion show that £40,000 is being granted to the Kalyra Sanatorium for maintenance, £25,000 for buildings, and £1,300 for equipment, so the £15,000 shown in the Revenue Estimates would not be sufficient to cover the amount voted for buildings. The sum of £66,000 has been granted to the Bedford Park Sanatorium and over £56,000 to the Morris Hospital at Northfield, so that those amounts, together with the amounts granted to Kalyra, would total about £180,000. Therefore the amount to be received from the Commonwealth is almost a complete reimbursement.

Last year's Estimates disclose that in many instances the amount voted for a miscellaneous line was exceeded and that hospitals which ran up against heavy costs were generally given special assistance. This year the Government will do its utmost to assist in all cases of emergency, but the Estimates are harder to design this year than they were last year, and the Chief Secretary is up against a much closer proposition than he was last year. Although the Flying Doctor Service in which the member for Stuart is interested is not directly subsidized, the two ground organizations associated with it are liberally subsidized and no doubt those subsidies assist the organization with the provision of its services.

With regard to the suggested grant for brass bands I will examine the matter as this is an entirely new line of expenditure. The grant to the Symphony Orchestra is not exactly parallel, for the Australian Broadcasting Commission provides most of its funds and this year is providing about £39,000 compared with the State Government's grant of £10,000. The original agreement has lapsed but this Government has informed the Commission that it is prepared to proceed with the project and will make certain funds available to it. The Government is participating in this direction because under a previous arrangement with the A.B.C. the Symphony Orchestra was not available to the country, whereas since this Government made grants to it a number of concerts have been given and appreciated in country areas.

Mr. Moir—The Government has never subsidized the bands, although it has used them in all its processions.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will examine the matter.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Residents of River Murray towns had great pleasure in listening to the symphony orchestra and everything possible should be done to encourage music and other forms of art. I was interested in Mr. Teusner's argument in support of brass bands as a training ground for members of the orchestra and I was glad to hear the Premier say that he would consider subsidizing brass bands, but I remind him that bagpipes are the finest form of martial music. Will he consider subsidizing pipe bands?

Mr. QUIRKE—I support Mr. Riches' request for assistance to the Flying Doctor Service in his area. I have heard him plead, year after year, for its recognition. I understand that the refusal to assist the service was on the ground that it is denominational. I do not think it is a valid reason in this instance. With the member for Stuart, I investigated the position and found that the outback people living there have few amenities, in fact they reside there with considerable hazard to their health and well-being. It was because there was no service in the district that the people responsible for it initiated it. If it were superimposed on an existing service there might have been a valid reason for objection, but if the service were withdrawn those people would be without any doctor service. Although it is run by denominational interests it is undenominational in its work. No questions are asked; need is the only sponsor of the service rendered in that area. It is wrong that Mr. Riches has had to raise the question year after year and plead with all the earnestness of which he is capable. We know that he is thoroughly sincere in his efforts, and that Party politics do not enter into it. I should like the Treasurer to resolve this question once and for all and give assistance to these people. If that work collapsed tomorrow the State would be under an obligation to find a substitute, and I doubt its capacity to do it even if it had long notice.

Mr. O'Halloran—And it would be at twice the cost.

Mr. QUIRKE—There is no doubt about that. I have a copy of the report of the health survey made in hills districts and it does not make happy reading. We are unable to prove whether the conditions are now better than they were at the time of the report. The majority of South Australian children are healthy, although there is far too much sickness among them. We may have a shortage of physiotherapists,

dentists and doctors, but they treat only the effects. If a child's teeth are rotten with decay or the child is in ill-health owing to malnutrition, the principal cause is ignorance. Even if a child's adenoids or tonsils are removed and dental decay attended to the cause of the trouble is not cleared up. The cause of these troubles is the ignorance of parents. In many cases our animals are in better health than our children.

Mr. Riches—Do you attribute adenoids and tonsil troubles to diet?

Mr. QUIRKE—Absolutely. If any child is given an excessive milk diet in conjunction with other foods he is certain to get adenoid and tonsil trouble. In the main doctors do not advocate the removal of tonsils unless they are very bad. If the milk diet in conjunction with starchy foods is cut down the tonsil trouble will clear itself up. We want publicity in relation to the simple factors of child health. When we have that our hospitals will not be so overcrowded. This ignorance as to food exists not only among people with low incomes but throughout all grades of society. It is necessary that everyone should be instructed on these lines. Once again I pay a tribute to the booklet entitled *Health Notes* issued by the Chief Secretary's Department, but it does not reach enough people. It should go into every home because the information contained in it is invaluable, but instead it goes to members of Parliament, district councils and corporations and such bodies and probably no further. Yet if the articles in it were understood and put into practice by the whole population probably the whole attitude towards child nutrition would be changed. If we are to have a health plan let us have an education campaign. It is not sufficient to send dentists around to the schools and to have doctors to tear out children's tonsils after they have gone rotten. It is first necessary to prevent their teeth from needing dental care and prevent their tonsils from poisoning the system because work beyond their capacity has been forced upon them. In a matter like this no amount of money is excessive to carry out such work.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I want to correct one conclusion drawn by the member for Stanley, that we had ruled this matter out because it was denominational. Let me make it clear that that was not the case. The last time this was debated I told members that the Government would get reports. We found that the Flying Doctor Service given in this instance

is not on all fours with that service given in other districts; it is totally different, and in some instances would not be given in other places. The recommendations to the Government were against any subsidy being given directly to the flying doctor aspect of this undertaking. The Government has treated this organization extremely well. On page 34 will be found three items, one of £300, one of £250, and another of £150 provided for this organization, and on page 37 there is an amount of £3,400 for the Murat Bay Hospital towards nurses' quarters, etc., again an institution run by this organization. Last year there was voted for this organization £1,550, although it used only £550 because the other work was not done, but this year we are providing £4,100, so the member for Stanley will see that the organization has not been ruled out because of its denominational character, but that the Government, on the contrary, is providing £4,100 this year as against £550 last year. Places like Tarcoola and Cook get very inadequate assistance from the Commonwealth Railways.

Mr. Riches—They do not get any.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Exactly, yet those places were established purely and simply as Commonwealth railway centres. When the State establishes places like Radium Hill or Leigh Creek it automatically provides services for the community. I can assure members that there is nothing in which we have tried to give better service to the community than under the Chief Secretary's Miscellaneous line. We have helped in every way possible to establish health services, and indeed the district of Stuart has had extremely liberal assistance. One has only to look at the sums voted for Port Augusta to completely disprove the idea that these services have not been liberally spread throughout the country; indeed, we give things in country areas because of their remoteness which we do not give in the metropolitan area. It is well to remember that every State except South Australia, with the possible exception of Queensland, has closed down on its free hospital service. I believe even the free service for which Queensland has been noted is to be abandoned, but I am not fully acquainted with the agreement recently signed. This State has done its utmost to provide that every person, whether he can pay or not, shall receive adequate medical attention, and I fancy that this is the only State which has no hospital means test. The financial position is not easy. The Grants Commission assesses us in

comparison with what has been charged in other States and the fact that we have been able to maintain our free hospital services is something for which this State can take some credit. It is only by effecting the greatest economies elsewhere that we have been able to make the provisions already made. I assure members that the Chief Secretary will do his utmost to meet any emergencies that may arise.

Mr. RICHES—I am glad to hear from the Treasurer that he is completely satisfied about the type of service being rendered by the Flying Doctor Service.

The Hon. T. Playford—I said that I appreciated the service given by the organization, which is different.

Mr. RICHES—He has removed the objection that the Government had last year that it was run by a religious denomination. I think he said that.

The Hon. T. Playford—I did not say that.

Mr. RICHES—I think he said to the member for Stanley that that was not the reason why a grant had not been made. He also said that the organization gets help indirectly from grants to hospitals. The Bush Church Aid Society maintains the Flying Doctor Service and also staffs and in some instances wholly maintains hospital services. It therefore runs two distinct services. Although the Government refused for some years to recognize the hospital services run by these people at Murat Bay, Cook and Penong, last year it made a grant on the understanding that the district councils concerned would rate their people in accordance with the system set down for other parts of the State. The organization built the hospital at Cook and has maintained it without any assistance from any Government until last year, when this Government made a grant of £150 and a subsidy on money subscribed locally. The grant for Tarcoola was made to the Tarcoola medical fund which owns the hostel. Until comparatively recently the people had an arrangement with the District Bush Nursing Society in order to render the service there, but to avail themselves of the advantage of having a doctor taken to the town for consultation regularly every month they came to an arrangement with the society which, in addition to providing the aerial medical service, maintains the sister at the hospital, for which the Tarcoola medical fund receives £250. However, the Flying Doctor Service still receives no subsidy, but I have never been given any valid reason why it should not. It maintains

two aeroplanes and has to employ mechanics to keep them airworthy. It costs many thousands of pounds a year to keep the service functioning efficiently, and some of the money is contributed by people outside this State. Because of the wonderful service being rendered, because many people think it is being subsidized, and because I believe it to be the wish of the people that it should be assisted, I would not be fulfilling my duty if I allowed the organization to be passed over every year without examining the excuses that have been put forward. I have always thought that the Treasurer has not been properly advised on this matter. He mentioned tonight that he had received a certain report, and that it was adverse to granting a subsidy to the service. If such a report has been received I would be amazed, for I have not heard anyone make any complaint about it. I should like the Treasurer to assure the Committee that the door is not shut to the possibility of a grant in this financial year.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—The Treasurer raised an interesting point when he referred to the fire that gutted the nurses' quarters at the Barmera hospital. The nurses lost everything they possessed and steps were taken by the people in the district to raise funds to help them. The people were pleased when the Government said it would subsidize the assistance provided by the local people, but there is another aspect. The Barmera hospital, like other hospitals, has an active body that works to provide those things that make life more comfortable for the nurses. These commodities include china, rugs and chairs. The nurses lost many of those items in the fire. I understand the Government carries its own insurance on hospitals. Will the hospital committee in this case be reimbursed for the replacement of the materials destroyed?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Under the heading "Barmera Hospital" £510 is shown as expenditure in 1951-52 on compensation to members of nursing staff for personal losses sustained on account of fire in the nurses' quarters. Those losses included all sorts of items such as a piano, wireless set and articles of clothing, so that although last year's Estimates contained no line on this matter £510 was granted by Cabinet as relief to the nurses.

Mr. MICHAEL—I congratulate the Government because in this year of financial stringency it has been able to increase the subsidies to all

subsidized country hospitals at a time when they are facing a difficult period owing to increases in costs.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Does the Government carry its own insurance on public buildings such as schools and hospitals, and was the payment of £510 mentioned by the Premier made to the nurses as a gift or as of right?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government does not carry all its insurance, as some special risks are not profitable for it to carry. In the main it carries all hospital risks, but there have been some fires in living quarters where private property has been burnt, and as a result of the frequency of those fires it was decided that Government staff members could insure personal belongings at a reasonable rate.

Mr. Macgillivray—Were the nurses informed of that provision?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Whatever procedure was taken it was undoubtedly explained to the people concerned, but I do not think it applied to nurses. I will check up on the position and let the honourable member have the information. Although the nurses at Barmera were not covered by Government insurance and there was no legal obligation on the Government, it set out with the local people to assist the nurses by providing some compensation for their losses.

Mr. Macgillivray—Was that compensation made as a gift or as of right?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN—That line, under Hospitals Department, has been passed, and the honourable member would be out of order in discussing it.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—In general terms, the Government is not under any legal obligation to replace equipment brought on to Government property by an employee and destroyed by fire. It is a question of commonsense and justice. The same thing arises in the case of employees at a factory where acid is manufactured and clothing damaged. Except in cases where loss is due to negligence of Government employees, the Government always assists.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—What is the position as regards property given to hospitals by committees? The Treasurer said that a sum was given to replace a piano, but crockery, cutlery and other things were given to the Barmera hospital, all of which was lost. Was the payment made as a gift or as of right?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—When any organization makes a present to the Government it becomes the Government's property and it is a question whether the Government should replace it. I think the Barmera hospital was re-equipped after the fire better than it was before. The sum of £510 was made available to replace the property.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONTROL OF RENTS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

METROPOLITAN AND EXPORT ABATTOIRS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

PHARMACY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.30 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, November 5, at 2 p.m.