

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, July 21, 1953.

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

ASSENT TO ACTS.

His Excellency the Governor intimated by message his assent to the Appropriation (No. 1) and Supply (No. 1) Acts.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBER.

The **SPEAKER**—I have received from the Governor a Commission under the hand of His Excellency and the public seal of the State empowering me to administer the Oath of Allegiance or to receive the Affirmation necessary to be taken by members of the House of Assembly.

The Oath of Allegiance, administered by the Speaker, was taken and subscribed to by the Hon. T. Playford, member for Gumeracha.

QUESTIONS.**PREMIER'S VISIT OVERSEAS: ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL POWER.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I believe I am expressing the view of all members when I say how pleased we are to see the Premier back in his place after his trip overseas. No doubt he had the opportunity to investigate some very important matters connected with the future development of the State, particularly those concerning our uranium deposits. Has he anything to report on these matters?

The Hon. T. **PLAYFORD**—I thank the Acting Leader of the Opposition for his kind references. Although the reason for the visit abroad of the Leader of the Opposition and myself was primarily to attend the Coronation ceremony, I took the opportunity of inspecting four of the most important laboratories that are experimenting in the development of atomic energy: those at Harwell in Great Britain, Oak Ridge and Argonne in the United States, and Chalk River in Canada. My discussions with leading scientists all point to the fact that tremendous emphasis is now placed on the use of atomic energy for peacetime purposes. Great Britain has actually approved and started construction of a reactor which will generate between 40,000 and 50,000 units of power. That is an experimental plant, and will be operating in three years' time. The cost of the electricity that will be generated by that plant is estimated to be about 1d. a unit. In the United States of America a number of undertakings—some quite dissimilar

to others—are being investigated. It is believed that all these will work, but the Americans are trying to ascertain the cheapest method of the development of power from uranium. In the United States the present cost of generating power is about .6d. a unit, and obviously it will be difficult for uranium to compete with that rate. American authorities are certain that they can produce atomic power for 1d. a unit, and I believe that with their present knowledge that can be achieved.

As a matter of interest, the cost of the production of electricity with our high fuel costs in South Australia is 1½d. a unit, so this matter will be of great importance in the future development of this State. I think the correct policy is to continue to develop at Port Augusta the two power stations proposed which will carry the load of the expansion in South Australia until 1960, by which time I am certain we shall have before us the designs for a power station which will be not only economic, but able to produce electricity at a cost much lower than at present. In the meantime it is necessary that we send young men to the research stations of the world so that they may be trained. I find there is a ready acceptance of our boys to work in these stations. We should certainly co-operate with the Australian Atomic Energy Commission in any work proposed to be undertaken here. Further—and this applies not only to South Australia, but to Australia generally—we should make a comprehensive survey of our uranium resources. I believe they are important and will have a big bearing on the future of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Acting Leader of the Opposition will realize that in answering his question it is not possible to go into details of the many things I have had the opportunity of seeing, and no doubt Mr. O'Halloran has many ideas which he considers should be adopted here. Generally speaking, I believe it is now established by competent authorities that atomic industrial power is feasible and I believe it will be able to compete with other power in this State by the time we are ready to introduce it here.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Can the Premier say whether he has commenced negotiations for the construction of a commercial atomic power reactor; could such reactor be built in this State in five years; and when, in his opinion, will atomic industrial power be available in South Australia?

The Hon. T. **PLAYFORD**—I think I covered the three topics broadly when I replied

to the Acting Leader of the Opposition. I have not entered into direct negotiations for anyone to start an atomic pile here. I believe an atomic pile can be built and put in operation within five years, but I believe also that it would not be good policy to purchase a particular model now because I fancy that improvements will be very rapid. We should rely for our expansion on the extension of the Port Augusta power station, and consider an atomic pile as a matter that will be active in 1960.

Mr. RICHES—Has the Premier been able to form an opinion as to the effect on the demand for Leigh Creek coal of the establishment of an atomic pile?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have already stated that in my opinion the two power stations being established at Port Augusta should be completed. When they are, and existing demands for Leigh Creek coal are met, about 42,000 tons a week will be needed, which is the limit the field can sustain over a long period. Whether it is atomic power or something else, there must be an alternative fuel for any new power station. The known reserves of the coal field are such that it would be unwise to overtax them.

Mr. RICHES—Is there any chance of atomic power superseding coal?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No. Wherever atomic power is introduced—and every scientist I spoke to was firm on this point—it must be initially at a base load station, which is a station running continuously on an even load. That leaves the more expensive fuels to carry the peak loads which occur at various times of the day. Atomic power will not supersede coal, but will augment it. Much progress has been made with package power stations which can produce 10,000 units. They would be suitable particularly for use in the South-East when the time comes.

PRICE CONTROL.

Mr. DUNKS—According to pamphlets and press reports, price control in Great Britain and America is becoming a thing of the past. As a result of his visit to those countries has the Treasurer any fresh view on price control in this State and can he say whether his Government will move to abolish controls in the near future?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Great Britain still has a considerable amount of control, although, like this State, its Government is gradually relaxing such controls as soon as possible. Great Britain's price structure today

is remarkably good; for instance, the prices of clothing there are not more than 50 per cent of those ruling in this State, and with regard to many other commodities Great Britain has re-organized her economy so as to be able to export large quantities of goods—even of motor cars—to the U.S.A. and Canada. I did not form such a high opinion of the economic position in America where the price level and the cost of living are abnormally high. Notwithstanding the efficiency of her production I feel that America, like Australia, is beginning to price herself out of her export markets; but that is a matter which will take a considerable investigation. As I have stated before, where there is competitive selling the policy of my Government has been to sympathetically consider the decontrol of prices, but on the other hand, where prices have become extortionate after decontrol the Government has a duty to see that control is placed on price levels.

BROKEN HILL ORE TRUCKS.

Mr. DAVIS—Has the Minister of Railways a reply to the question I asked on June 26 regarding the condition of the railway trucks used for the carriage of Broken Hill ore?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have received the following report from the Acting Railways Commissioner:—

With reference to the question asked by Mr. C. L. Davis, M.P., concerning repairs to ore trucks on the Peterborough division, the trucks in question are of the ON type and have steel floors which are affected by corrosion, caused by the concentrates. The matter was recently investigated on the spot, and although the maintenance forces at Peterborough are making every endeavour to cope with the situation, it was decided to send an extra welding set with an operator to Peterborough, and this should greatly assist in improving the situation in the near future.

EFFECT OF MYXOMATOSIS.

Mr. HEASLIP—I understand that a conference took place recently to discuss the effect of and what part myxomatosis has played throughout Australia. Representatives of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and other organisations interested in the effect of myxomatosis in the eradication of rabbits were present. Various statements have been made about the effectiveness or otherwise of myxamatosis and whether it is becoming less effective. Has the Minister of Agriculture anything to report about that conference and has he any more up-to-date information?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—Such a conference was held at the offices of the

C.S.I.R.O. and representatives of other bodies who were interested in the spread of myxomatosis attended, including representatives from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and graziers' organizations. Reports were received on the effect that myxomatosis had had in the various States. Queensland reported a 75 per cent to 90 per cent decline in the rabbit population. Victoria reported an average of 80 per cent killed, with variations from 95 per cent down to 60 per cent in other parts with an odd isolated patch in which the disease had not appeared. In New South Wales good reports were received from all over that State, including the tablelands. In Western Australia the results were very patchy, and on the whole the effectiveness of the disease was disappointing. The results in Tasmania, too, were disappointing. In South Australia myxomatosis has given fair to good results over most of the settled areas except the West Coast and drier regions. It was reported also that as the result of myxomatosis there has been a tremendous decline in the number of frozen rabbits exported. However, there has been a big increase in food production because of the increased number of sheep that we are now able to keep in the districts where rabbits have declined, and because food crops have not been subjected to such severe damage from the pest. Altogether the reports were more than encouraging; in fact, almost entirely satisfactory. It is now up to those engaged in agriculture, because they have been given a really good start as a result of the myxomatosis campaign, to finish the job by eradicating the remaining rabbits by every means available to them.

PORT LINCOLN WATERWORKS OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. PEARSON—Is the Minister of Works aware of the extremely bad office accommodation provided for the staff of the Engineering and Water Supply Department at Port Lincoln, and is he able to offer any concrete proposals or make any announcement on when the accommodation can be improved? The present building was originally a gaol, built about 100 years ago. The office staff realizes that during the war years, and subsequently when building controls were operating, the Government, along with other people, restricted its building programme, but now that those restrictions have been removed they ask, I think with every justification, that immediate steps should be taken to remedy the position.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Government is aware that it is desirable that better accommodation be given, not only for the employees and officers of the Waterworks Department at Port Lincoln, but for other associated departments. A plan was devised whereby they could be incorporated in one building. As far back as 1937 that idea was also incorporated in a big plan for Victoria Square, but neither plan was carried out because more urgent works have crowded out what might be regarded as less essential. A great deal of money has been expended on the West Coast. Each portion of the State claims, and rightly so, its proper allocation of funds. If we allocate funds in one direction, for instance in the establishment of first class offices at Port Lincoln, it means that fewer reticulation mains will be available and perhaps complaints will come from other directions, as there is not enough money, materials or manpower to do everything it is desired in any one year. A plan has been prepared, and when the Loan allocations for this year are finally settled, it will be included for consideration—a plan not only for the employees of the waterworks department, but for all other associated departments, to see if they can be housed in the one building.

ELECTIONEERING PAMPHLETS.

Mr. LAWN—Just prior to the conclusion of the election campaign in March a statement appeared in the *Advertiser* that a person in the district of Glenelg was taking letters or election leaflets from household letter boxes and putting other election matter in. The press said that the Criminal Investigation Branch was investigating the matter and that the person concerned represented one of the political parties in South Australia. There is a rumour that the person was a staunch member of the Liberal and Country League. Will the Premier say who was the person interviewed by the C.I.B.?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have no knowledge whatever of this topic and do not know who the person is or that the C.I.B. interviewed anyone. However, I will make inquiries and ascertain the position.

DEEP SEA PORT IN SOUTH-EAST.

Mr. CORCORAN—When touring my district recently I ascertained that people at Kingston are very eager to know what is happening about the proposal for a deep sea port at Cape Jaffa. They are very emphatic that such

a port should be established. Can the Chairman of the Public Works Standing Committee say whether his committee is still taking evidence on this matter and, if so, when is it likely to be completed; and if it has been completed when we can expect its report?

Mr. CHRISTIAN (Chairman of the Public Works Standing Committee)—The committee has concluded the taking of evidence and made its decision, and is now preparing its report to Parliament. It should not be many weeks before it is available.

OPERATIONS OF MINING COMPANIES.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—Last session at the instance of the then member for Norwood the Premier undertook to obtain a report on the operations of certain mining companies. Is that report available, and will it be laid on the table of the House?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have no information as to whether the report is available, but will inquire and advise the honourable member in due course. My recollection is that this investigation was being made by the Auditor-General and I understand from him that there was a considerable delay in getting certain information he required.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—The Minister of Local Government is reported in the *Advertiser* of July 8 to have made the following statement when speaking at a smoke social arranged by the West Torrens District Council to mark the beginning of its centenary celebrations:—

Councils, as a local government institution, have not lived up to their responsibilities and privileges. They have rating powers, but as a whole are not using 50 per cent of them.

Is that the Minister's personal opinion, or can it be taken to be the view of the Government?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I did not express views, but expressed facts. The facts are that I was asked to speak on the subject "Local Government: Its Significance in Our Democracy." I gave figures to illustrate the fact that Parliament and councils had not lived up to their responsibilities in this State as compared with those in the other States. I am glad to have the opportunity to make it manifest that for business undertakings, ordinary services and public works the expenditure per head upon local government in South Australia is by far the lowest of any State in the Commonwealth, as is indicated by the following figures:—Queensland, £17 7s. 10d.; New South Wales, £12 18s. 8d.; Tasmania, £9 3s. 4d.; Western Australia, £7 0s. 4d.; and

South Australia, £5 2s. 9d.; and this notwithstanding the fact that South Australia has the highest turnover in production and our Savings Bank accounts show that in South Australia per head of the population savings amount to £147, compared with Victoria, £132; Tasmania, £100; New South Wales, £92; Queensland, £85; and Western Australia, £79. Notwithstanding the fact that the revenue of the State increased from £12,000,000 in 1939 to £49,000,000 last year, the total revenue raised by the local government authorities in South Australia on the present day value of money has receded by 20 per cent. On the occasion referred to the figures quoted were the facts, and if the facts hurt it is not for me to explain them away. I told the truth, and the truth is that in local government we in South Australia have lived up to our obligations the least of all the States. As to whether the press report is correct or not, all I can say is that it contained about 300 words out of about 3,000 uttered, but in the main I think it highlighted what was intended to be conveyed. I was congratulated on the fact that I conveyed the truth and everyone there was glad I had done so.

Mr. DAVIS—Is it a fact that the Minister of Local Government has been approached on several occasions by members on this side of the House for greater rating powers for councils, that there was no increase in the maximum rating power from 1923 until 1950, that since 1950 the increases have totalled only 8d., that the maximum rating on unimproved land values is only 1s. 8d. in the pound which is insufficient for many councils having low assessments, and that many councils are working on heavy overdrafts?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I also stated at that meeting that councils as a whole had not rated up to 50 per cent of their capacity. The two factors involved in this matter are the assessment and the rating. This morning a member of this House, who also happens to be a member of a corporation, when told that the rating of a property in one of our southern districts was £2 10s., said that in his locality a similar property would perhaps bear a £20 rating. If any council is involved in financial difficulties because of its insufficient rating capacity or because of its assessments, it is time it amalgamated with another council so as to form a council sufficiently large to maintain efficient control. I disagree with the opinion that any council is hampered because of insufficient rating power or assessment values. Instead of asking the Government to

do more, the councils should realize that any money granted by the Government must be obtained from the public purse. Speaking from memory, of the councils' revenue last year £2,500,000 was obtained from rates and £1,250,000 from grants. All grants had to come from the Roads Fund, but at the same time everyone was clamouring for better highways.

Mr. Davis—How can any municipality raise its assessment when it is already up to the Government assessment?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—It is not a question of the Government assessment, which has always been very conservative. There is nothing to compel municipalities to accept it.

Mr. Davis—There would be a good ground for an appeal if it went above the Government assessment.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The question of appeal is one for a council to consider.

PROPOSED MORGAN-BARMERA RAILWAY.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—During the recent absence of the Premier overseas the Public Works Committee submitted its final report on the proposed railway link between Morgan and Barmera, and I suppose he knows that the proposal has been turned down. In the course of his travels overseas did he get any evidence as to bridges or any other methods which would solve the traffic troubles connected with the Upper Murray districts?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I was informed by my colleagues that the proposal had not been recommended by the committee. While abroad I took the opportunity to a small extent to investigate the bridging problems of other countries. I saw the type of structure in common use in Holland, which I think would be less costly than the proposal submitted for the Upper Murray, the cost of which makes it almost prohibitive. I have already discussed this matter with my colleague, the Minister of Works, and propose to discuss it in the near future with the Engineer-in-Chief, who has a very intimate knowledge of the river formation of the Upper Murray. Whether the proposal is practicable I hesitate to say, but the idea appeared to me to be feasible.

SUBURBAN SEWERAGE.

Mr. STEPHENS—I have been asked by residents in Hanson Road, Woodville North, when the sewerage system is likely to be connected to their homes. They are not much worried about the houses being sewered, but they want to know if the work is likely to be

done soon, because if it is they will be able to do temporary work before the connections are made. Can the Minister give any information on the matter?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Obviously I have no means of knowing the requirements of various streets, but as the matter has been raised I will take it up with the Engineer for Sewerage and bring down a reply at the earliest possible date. I realize that the residents are anxious to know when the work will be done, but it depends on the money available and the commitments entered into.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Can the Minister of Works indicate when the sewerage mains will be completed in the Felixstowe, Marden, and Glynde areas?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will make inquiries and bring down a reply as early as possible.

ISLINGTON RAILWAY STATION LAVATORY.

Mr. JENNINGS—Will the Minister of Railways take up with departmental officers the matter of having proper lavatory accommodation installed at the Islington railway station, where there is none at present, although it is a busy station?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I have no knowledge of the requirements in the matter, but I will get some information on it.

URANIUM PLANT AT WEST THEBARTON.

Mr. FRED WALSH—My question relates to the uranium plant at West Thebarton, where residents have complained in the last two or three months about the excessive noise which comes from a compressor and conveyor. Also, bad fumes come from the plant from time to time. There have been occasions in the warmer months when the residents have had to vacate their homes because of the vile nature of the atmosphere. I spoke to the Minister of Mines about the matter and he promised to get a report. I appreciate that the Premier has been away and is not cognisant of the facts. Has he a report and can he indicate whether any action is contemplated to improve the position?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will take up the matter and let the honourable member have a reply tomorrow.

HOUSING TRUST HOMES, DARLINGTON.

Mr. STOTT—Some of the Housing Trust prefabricated homes in Darlington, that is, along Diagonal Road to Glenelg, have been completed for from 12 to 18 months, and I know

from a recent inspection that dozens of them are unoccupied. Can the Premier indicate the policy of the trust in regard to them? I understood they were available for purchase, but now it is proposed to rent them to tenants. Is it a fact that the proposed purchase price was too great for purchasers, and that the proposed rental is too high for tenants? Does the same position apply in regard to the homes in the north-east of Adelaide?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will get a report from the Housing Trust on the matter. I take it that the location given by the honourable member will be sufficient for the trust to identify the houses.

CEMENT SUPPLIES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on June 25 concerning cement supplies?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have a report which I will be pleased to make available to the honourable member. It deals with the production of cement and the adequacy of supplies. Production has substantially increased during the last six months, but the new kilns have had certain teething troubles and are not yet up to their full capacity.

Mr. Stephens—They have been that way for years.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No, for the new kilns commenced operating only six months ago. All competent authorities recognize that new plant experiences certain difficulties before running smoothly. I believe two minor accidents delayed production at Birkenhead. The Government has had no control over the sale of cement since control of building materials was lifted, and anyone desiring cement can purchase it through normal trade channels.

Mr. Macgillivray—You cannot get it.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Actually the report shows that production approximates present demands, but the backlog is forcing itself into the market and taking a certain quantity. The Government is getting sufficient only for its minimum requirements and has none available for public purchase.

WAGES AND HOURS CASE.

Mr. LAWN—Has the Premier anything further to report in reply to the question I asked the Minister of Lands on June 25 about the Government's intentions should the Arbitration Court grant either of the two applications before it from employers—for an increase in the standard working hours and a decrease in the basic wage?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government follows Arbitration Court awards, but it does not anticipate them.

Mr. LAWN—Can we assume from the Premier's statement that in preparing this year's Budget the Government will not anticipate either a reduction in the basic wage or a lengthening of the working week by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Since the honourable member asked his previous question today I have had an opportunity to read fully the question he asked on June 25. If he will look at the *Hansard* report of the statement I made last year he will see that it was not proposed to take from employees any of the privileges they had. That is totally different from what the honourable member said. On August 6 last year (page 291 of *Hansard*) I said:—

We do not think it feasible to alter the "C" series index to the detriment of the worker. He is involved in additional costs and any freezing of those adjustments while he is out on the limb would be unfair to him. Secondly, we do not ask for a return to a 44-hour week, but we say that the 40-hour week should be effectively worked.

The Government has set out its position clearly. We have informed the court that if it desires any information from any of our instrumentalities it will be provided. We have refused applications from both sides to produce evidence in support of their cases. We have advocated that the 40-hour week should be effectively worked, and we still hold that view. I did not say that the Government proposed to oppose the application. I said we would not support it. In regard to determinations of the court, I repeat what I said earlier. The Government cannot be in a position to know what the court will determine in any matter, and in preparing its Budget the Government will consider only known facts.

HILLS HIGHWAYS.

Mr. SHANNON—The road work being carried out in front of the Eagle-on-the-Hill Hotel has overcome some of the difficulties arising from the bottlenecks on the Adelaide-Mount Barker Road between the Big Gum Tree and the Crafers summit. This work has been in progress for a considerable time and obviously a large sum of money has been expended on it. It is also obvious that a bottleneck there will continue despite what is being done. This is a fairly straight stretch of road, there being no corners where real bottlenecks could occur, and it would seem that the money spent

could have been expended more profitably on formation work on the proposed road between Burnside and the Crafers summit. Can the Minister of Local Government say how much has already been spent in widening the road near the Eagle-on-the-Hill Hotel? Will this type of work be carried out at other points on the present Mount Barker Road? I have noticed surveyors' marks on the road not far from the Crafers summit junction where a road leads off to the Mount Lofty summit, which indicates that something is contemplated at that spot. Will any further widening take as long, or will as much money be spent as on the half-mile stretch near the Eagle-on-the-Hill, and will we have a road that will cope with the increasing traffic it will be called upon to carry? If not, will the Minister consider building the new highway and leaving the present road in its existing state?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—It is impossible to answer extemporaneously all the points raised, but what has been done on the present road is in conformity with a recommendation of the State Traffic Committee that the worst points on that road be improved and that the proposed new road be constructed. It will take some time for the new road to be not only surfaced, but conditioned for surfacing.

Mr. Shannon—Why not spend the money on the new road rather than the present road?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Parliament has not delegated to me the authority of the Highways Commissioner. Under the Act he has definite authority and he, in pursuance of that power, has carried out what he thought was the will of Parliament in straightening the road. However, in view of the suggestions and criticism raised I will bring down his full report.

ROYAL TOUR PROCEDURE.

Mr. FLETCHER—The district I represent is to be honoured by a visit from Her Majesty the Queen, and people there desire to know the correct procedure. Will the State Director of the Royal Tour, Mr. Pearce, visit the various towns concerned to discuss with the committees appointed the procedure to be adopted and the programme mapped out by them?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Mr. Pearce will visit all the towns where Her Majesty will go and full details of the programme will be worked out. The local authorities will be advised of what will be expected of them. Mr. Pearce will undoubtedly visit Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Renmark on several occasions and outline the programme.

During his visit to England he discussed these matters with Palace officials, and details of the Royal Tour in South Australia are practically complete. Local details will now be worked out. All possible assistance will be given to the centres that are being visited and I hope we shall have full co-operation from them.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAYS.

Mr. CORCORAN—It is understood that the Government has decided to broaden the railway gauge from Mount Gambier to Millicent, but it is not known what will be done about the route from Millicent to Beachport. Prior to the recent State election some formation work was carried out between Mount Gambier and Compton, but since the election that has ceased. Has the Government decided to broaden the gauge from Mount Gambier to Beachport and, if so, when will work commence? Has the Government reached any decision about broadening the gauge from Naracoorte to Kingston? Which of these works will be given first priority? The district council of Lucindale is concerned about the route the line through the township will take. Recently, in accordance with councillors' requests, I inspected alternative routes, but they would like the opportunity of placing before the officers responsible their views on the route the line should take. Will the Minister of Railways give them this opportunity?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The programme approved by the State and the Commonwealth Parliaments provides for the standardization of gauges in South Australia. The system under which it has been carried out up to the present is that the Commonwealth pays seven-tenths of the cost and South Australia three-tenths. Obviously, we are not entirely in control of how much may be expended in each district or on each line, but the Government's present policy is that the next section to be standardized will be between Mount Gambier and Millicent. When that has been done it will be time to say what priority shall be given to the other lines, because it is unwise to start more than we can finish and have two sections unfinished instead of one completed. It is our intention to use available funds, material, and manpower to broaden the line as far as Millicent and proceed with the other works as men, money, and materials will permit.

Mr. CORCORAN—Can the Minister of Railways give me an assurance that the department will confer with the district council of Lucindale before finality is reached on the

route of the railway through the township? Can he say whether the Government has considered the possibility of a railway line from Millicent through Lucindale to Keith? There is a rumour in the South-East that such a railway is contemplated.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Regarding the matter of a minor deviation of the route through Lucindale, it has been the practice of the Railways Commissioner and the engineers to consider local requirements and requests. If any suggestions are put forward I will see that they are considered before the route is finally decided. I have heard of no suggestion in Government or Parliamentary circles regarding the second matter raised by the honourable member. I take it there is much conjecture as to whether in the future it will be wise to have such a line, but the future will have to take care of itself in that connection. I can see many more urgent works being done before consideration is given to the construction of such a line.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—The following appeared in the *News* of July 1 last under the heading "Bogus Inspector Preys on Cafes":—

A bogus health inspector is doing the rounds of city cafes sampling food and seeking hush money. He has been active for about two weeks.

In view of that disclosure and the suggestion that some food shops and cafes are so badly conducted that crooks can secure amounts of money intended to be bribes to allow traders to continue in a manner unsatisfactory to the public and contrary to the intentions of various Acts, will the Premier endeavour to add to the number of inspectors to police these establishments and thus assist the shopkeepers?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I did not see the article and it has not been brought before me, but I presume it relates to the inspection of foodstuffs in the metropolitan area. If that is so, it is a matter for the Metropolitan County Board but if it does come within the scope of the Government I will give the matter my attention.

PORT ADELAIDE HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT SCHEME.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—I desire to ask the Minister of Marine a question regarding the action of the Harbors Board in compulsorily acquiring land for extension in connection with the Port Adelaide harbour development scheme. Some time ago I wrote to the Minister on behalf of a constituent who holds a block

on Lady Gowrie Drive, and in reply he quoted me as saying, "It appeared that the board was taking advantage of the ignorance of the landholders in such matters as land acquisition to get land at less than its true value." I believe the board proved my case, because the same letter contained the following:—

This department has purchased two-thirds of the allotments or blocks facing Lady Gowrie Drive required by the board under its developmental scheme, the per foot frontage purchase prices ranging from £1 to £4.

A logical deduction is that some landholders sold their blocks below their true value, and that applies to the case I placed before the Minister on behalf of this lady. In the first place she was offered £150, and when she refused the board increased the offer to £200 and said that that was the maximum it would pay. I placed further information before the Minister to show that similar blocks had been sold for £5 a foot, which would make the value of her block £250. I understand that the department has handed the acquisition of these properties over to a land and estate company in Adelaide, and this company has been worrying my constituent. It now has an agency at Renmark, which has written to my constituent saying:—

We now have had confirmed advice that £200 is the maximum price the South Australian Housing Trust are prepared to offer for your land and understand that they are now taking proceedings to compulsorily acquire the land.

This person is sick and desires the block for her own use because it is essential that she should live near the sea. Can the Minister say what instructions were given to the land agents acting on behalf of the board to acquire building blocks compulsorily, and who made the limit of £200 for each block? Will the Minister stop further action being taken in this case until he has given the matter his personal attention? There should be a complete inquiry, because I believe that many people have been paid a lot less than the true value of their blocks, as they did not know what powers the Government had for compulsory acquisition and thought that they must hand the land over and take whatever price the Government was prepared to give.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Let me dispute the point that there is a disparity of £1 to £4 a foot for this land. The position may be that one block is in a good locality and is worth £4 a foot, whereas another may be in a back street and need much levelling. Therefore, there is no manifest disparity between the value of the two blocks, although the figures

vary. I had the case mentioned by the honourable member further investigated, and the figures he gave are not substantiated by facts, although I believe he thinks they were correct. A search has disclosed that as much as £7 a foot and as little as £2 has been paid in the same locality. The initiative for action still remains in the hands of the seller. Nowhere has it been shown that the courts do not do justice to landholders. Generally the accusation has been that the Government has paid too much for this land. On the facts disclosed, the lady in question has been offered a price in excess of that usually paid. She has done nothing to utilise the land; she has paid only rates and taxes, which, of course, does not add to its value. The price arrived at is the maximum which the board would be justified in paying. If the lady does not desire to accept it, she has the recourse of the ordinary citizen to have the matter decided by arbitration. That stage has not been reached. So far as I know none of this land has been compulsorily acquired, although a number of blocks have been acquired by voluntary arrangement without any suggestion of arbitration. The facts do not prove the honourable member's contention, although I believe he has properly stated the position.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REFRACTORIES LIMITED.

Mr. McALEES—On the opening day of the session I asked the Minister of Works a question regarding the operations of South Australian Refractories Limited, at Wallaroo. People in the district were given to understand that as soon as electric power became available there the company would operate at full capacity. At the time there were 18 employees, but that number has since been reduced to three. I asked the manager of the company why and the only answer he could give was that insulators were oversupplied in Australia. It would appear that the company will stop operations. Can the Premier say what the position is?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will make inquiries and let the honourable member know as soon as I can get the information.

ABATTOIRS KILLING CAPACITY.

Mr. STOTT—Has the Minister of Agriculture completed his inquiries regarding the establishment of meat works at Noarlunga, and does the information he has received indicate whether, with the licensing of these works, there will be sufficient abattoirs capacity for the slaughtering of lambs during the forthcoming season?

The Hon. Sir GEORGE JENKINS—When the Kadina works get going and with the operations of the Gepps Cross abattoirs on the present improved basis, we should be able to handle all the lambs available for some years.

RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAMME.

Mr. RICHES—On June 25 the Minister of Lands undertook to get from the Housing Trust a report in connection with its rental housing programme. The Governor, in his opening Speech, said:—

The Housing Trust has now decided to carry out its rental housing programme under the Commonwealth and State Housing agreement. I asked the Minister to ascertain whether tenants of Housing Trust homes will be eligible for rent subsidies, which I understand are available in other States. Has the Premier any information on this matter?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I understand that generally, under the Commonwealth housing agreement, rents will be somewhat higher than they were under the previous arrangement—that the rent for a house under the new scheme will probably be 3s. higher than under the State housing scheme. I will get a definite reply on the matter and will also ascertain whether tenants can qualify for any remissions.

ADELAIDE CEMENT COMPANY EXPLOSIONS.

Mr. TAPPING—Will the Premier obtain a police report on the recent explosions at the Birkenhead works of the Adelaide Cement Company? The last explosion caused an injury to a member of the company's staff.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I do not think this is a matter for the police, but for the Factories Department. I believe the company has obtained the expert advice of a University professor. I assure the honourable member that every step possible will be taken to see that there is no repetition of the accident.

ADDITIONAL IRRIGATION AREAS.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—In reply to a question by Mr. Michael on July 23 last year, the Minister of Lands said that if it were correct that South Australia would be allocated a further 3,000 acres sufficient land would be available for all applicants for irrigation blocks. He knows that I have been in touch with him constantly on behalf of qualified ex-servicemen who are anxious to know whether they will get blocks. I understand that the Australian Dried Fruits Association opposes any extension of plantings in the dried fruits industry. Is it the intention of the

Minister to continue developing irrigation areas until all qualified ex-servicemen are allocated blocks?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Some time ago the Commonwealth Government approved of sufficient plantings to enable all qualified ex-servicemen to be allotted blocks. We are now endeavouring to secure areas of land to meet the position. I have had no information from the Commonwealth regarding a curtailment of plantings, and it is not the intention of the State Government to curtail them.

Mr. Macgillivray—Have you had a communication from the A.D.F.A.?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I have had a communication, and as far as I know no curtailment of planting is contemplated by either the Commonwealth or the State Government.

MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS—HOUSING TRUST RENTS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Acting Leader of the Opposition)—I move:—

That the Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move a motion without notice.

The motion I desire to move is:—

That in the opinion of this House it is desirable to appoint a Select Committee to enquire into the recent increases in rents of Housing Trust homes and into the general administration of the Housing Trust.

The SPEAKER—I have counted the House and there being present an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the House I accept the motion. The honourable member can speak to it, subject to a limitation of ten minutes.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I realize that at present the Government has before it many important matters, and it is with some hesitancy that I bring this subject forward. The new member for Torrens has an important task—

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—On a point of order, under which Standing Order is the honourable member addressing the House?

The SPEAKER—The honourable member has moved for the suspension of Standing Orders to enable him to move a motion without notice, and has indicated what the motion will be. Under the Standing Orders he may speak to the suspension motion for a period not exceeding ten minutes, and no debate can take place upon it, except that a Minister has the right to reply for a period not exceeding ten minutes.

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—(Minister of Works)—Mr. Speaker, do you rule that the honourable member has the right to speak? You did not put the matter to the House.

The SPEAKER—I have not put it yet because the honourable member has the right to speak to the suspension motion for ten minutes. He is dealing only with the suspension of Standing Orders. The argument in support of the motion can relate only to the reasons for the suspension and not the subject matter of the subsequent motion.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I was about to extend a courtesy to the Government. This afternoon two new members, Mr. Travers and Mr. White, have the responsible task of respectively moving and seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, and therefore, as I have said, I have some regrets at moving in this way this afternoon, although I have no regrets about my case. Last week I discussed my move with the Acting Premier. I pointed out that the proposed increase in Housing Trust rents would commence from last Saturday, and that the Minister in charge of housing matters would not return to Adelaide from overseas until the day after the increases began, and asked him to suspend them until that Minister had had an opportunity to consider the trust's move. Time is the essence of the contract. If I allow this matter to remain in abeyance until the Address in Reply debate is concluded Housing Trust tenants will be in an impossible position. My request was simply that the new rents be suspended until the return of the Premier.

The SPEAKER—I think the honourable member is trespassing on his motion.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I do not desire to deal with the subject matter of the motion, but these facts have a bearing on the motion to suspend Standing Orders. I hope the Opposition will be given the opportunity of proceeding with the motion.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I oppose the suspension of standing orders on this occasion, not because I desire to stifle debate but because the House is about to start the Address in Reply debate, during which any matter may be aired by members and the suspension of Standing Orders for the purpose mentioned would hinder rather than facilitate a debate on this matter. The honourable member said that the House had had no opportunity to express its views on this matter, but that is not so. When the Housing Trust was first formed it was tied down to a

rigid formula and the people who were fortunate enough to get the first houses were also fortunate in getting the cheapest rents.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I rise to a point of order. I take exception to the Premier's introduction of the merits of the case.

The SPEAKER—The Honourable the Premier will continue.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—This matter was introduced in this House in 1942 by way of amendment to the South Australian Housing Trust Act. In the debate on that amendment the honourable member said that he welcomed the legislation.

Mr. LAWN—I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Is the Premier justified at this juncture in discussing whether the Housing Trust had the right to act in a certain way?

The SPEAKER—The Acting Leader of the Opposition had a little latitude in moving his motion.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I merely desire to deal with the statement of the Acting Leader of the Opposition that the House had had no opportunity to discuss this matter. Members had an opportunity to discuss it, and Mr Walsh

as well as the then Leader of the Opposition (the Hon. R. S. Richards) and the secretary of the Parliamentary Labor Party (Mr. Duncan), supported the move at that time. For the honourable member to say now that the House has had no opportunity is beside the point and discussion can best be arranged by allowing the House to proceed in the usual way so that it may deal with such matters in the Address in Reply debate.

The House divided on the motion for the suspension of Standing Orders—

Ayes (15).—Messrs. John Clark, Corcoran, Davis, Dunstan, Hutchens, Jennings, Lawn, Macgillivray, McAlees, Riches, Stephens, Stott, Tapping, Frank Walsh, and Fred Walsh.

Noes (21).—Messrs. Brookman, Christian, Geoffrey Clarke, Dunks, Dunnage, Fletcher, Goldney, Hawker, Heaslip, and Hineks, Sir George Jenkins, Messrs. Jenkins, McIntosh, Michael, Pattinson, Pearson, Playford, Shannon, Teusner, Travers, and White.

Majority of 6 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

QUESTIONS (RESUMED).

RAILWAY OPERATIONS.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. When did the South Australian railways commence operations?

2. What were the numbers of (a) passenger coaches in use; (b) locomotives in use; (c) other rollingstock in use; (d) miles of permanent way laid; (e) employees; and (f) hours

per week worked by these employees, as at the date of commencement of operations and at June 30, respectively?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Acting Railways Commissioner reports:—

1. The South Australian railways commenced operations on April 19, 1856.

2. The information concerning rolling stock, permanent way, and staff is as follows:—

At commencement
of operations.

At June 30, 1952.

(a) Passenger coaches in use	9	542
(b) Locomotives in use	3	351
(c) Other rollingstock in use	12	8,987
(d) Miles of permanent way laid	7 (approx.)	2,552 M., 57 chs.
(e) Employees	77	11,576
(f) Hours per week worked by these employees.		

Train operating
staff and gate-
keepers—12 hours
(approx.) per
week-day.

Labourers probably
10 hours per
week-day.

Administrative salaried
officers—38 hours per
week.

All others—40 hours
per week.

It should be observed that the latest information is given as at June 30, 1952, as the figures for June 30, 1953, are not yet available.

HOUSING TRUST OPERATIONS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice)—

1. How many houses have been erected by the South Australian Housing Trust to May 31, 1953?

2. How many have been erected for sale?

3. How many have been sold?

4. How many of the 6,700 applicants for loans under the Homes Act have received a second mortgage loan from the trust?

5. What rate of interest is charged by the trust for second mortgage loans?

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

1. 14,451.
2. 6,543.
3. 6,491.

4. The Housing Trust has no records of the names of applicants for loans under the Homes Act and thus has no information as to which of these applicants have received second mortgage loans from the trust.

5. At present $4\frac{1}{2}$ per centum.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. Is the Treasurer aware of (a) the great variation in the numbers of electors in the respective House of Assembly electoral districts; (b) the approximate equality of numbers of electors in the respective House of Representative electoral districts, brought about by the operation of the quota system under the Commonwealth Constitution Act?

2. Is it his intention to review the number of electors in the House of Assembly districts?

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

1. (a) and (b). The number of electors is not the same in each district, neither is there equality of numbers of electors in the House of Representative electorates throughout the Commonwealth, nor is the quota to elect a senator the same in each State.

2. No. The standard of amenities provided in the country is still lower than for the metropolitan area.

FACTORY EMPLOYEES.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—What were the numbers of persons earning (a) salaries; and (b) wages, employed in South Australian factories in January, 1952, and January, 1953, respectively?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The latest available information regarding salaried and wages employees separately, of factories in South Australia, is that showing the average weekly number of employees during the year ending June 30, 1952. The figures are:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Salaried	10,382	3,312	13,694
Wages	55,790	12,374	68,164
Total employees	66,172	15,686	81,858

The only information available for individual months is that of total employees—salaried and wages staff combined. The figures for

January, 1952 (actual) and January, 1953 (an estimate only), are:—

	January, 1952.	January, 1953.
Males	66,923	62,150
Females	16,474	13,950
Total	83,397	76,100

The 1953 estimate probably is understated.

SWIMMING TUITION IN SCHOOLS.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—Does the Treasurer intend to introduce legislation to provide for compulsory swimming tuition in primary and secondary schools?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—It is not practical to provide for compulsory swimming tuition in primary and secondary schools. I have a comprehensive report on this matter which I will hand to any honourable member that desires to see it.

LARGS BAY JETTY.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—

1. Is it the intention of the Harbors Board to have Largs Bay Jetty restored for normal use?

2. If so, will the board consider the advisability or otherwise of using secondhand timber from wharf demolition for this purpose?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The existing structure is so old and its timbers so beyond repair that it would not be possible to "repair" same as suggested. Having regard to this fact, the only alternative would be to replace the jetty, and the cost thereof would necessitate reference to the Public Works Standing Committee. Even if this was recommended a new construction could only be carried out at the expense of many other urgent essential works already sanctioned.

BRITISH DUTY ON WINE.

Mr. Macgillivray for Mr. STOTT (on notice)—

1. Is the Treasurer aware of the refusal of the United Kingdom Government to reduce the duty on Australian wines imported into Great Britain?

2. Is it the intention of the Government to approach the Commonwealth Government to increase the import duty on British motor cars and trucks to a rate comparable with the duty against Australian wines in Great Britain, in view of the Government's interest in developing Loxton soldier settlement scheme to produce wine?

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

1. I have discussed this matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and submitted information to him which he is now considering.

2. No.

PARKING OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. Is the Minister of Local Government aware of any person other than a member or officer of either House of Parliament using parking facilities in front of Parliament House?

2. If so, what are the names of the owners, the registered numbers, and the types of such vehicles?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Other than members and officers, I am not aware of any person who has been permitted to use parking facilities in front of Parliament House, except members of the judiciary and the Chief Storekeeper, who is chairman of the State Coal Committee.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS moved—

That during the present session, unless otherwise ordered, the House meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week, at two o'clock.

Motion carried.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS moved—

That during the present session, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after the six o'clock adjournment on Wednesdays, Government business take precedence over other business, except questions.

Motion carried.

HUNDRED OF TOWNSEND: ACQUISITION OF LAND.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement on acquisition of land in the hundred of Townsend.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech:—

May it Please Your Excellency—

1. We, the Members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.

2. We join in the re-affirmation of loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, in the year of Her Majesty's Coronation.

3. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

4. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

Mr. TRAVERS (Torrens)—I have the honour to move the adoption of the Address in Reply. It is an honour, and I regard it as such for a variety of reasons. I suppose all Australians would appreciate the honour of participating in some way, even though remotely, in the preparation of the reply to be sent to His Excellency. Secondly, as this is my first speech in this House I regard it as a signal honour to have had the Government entrust to what I might call the tender mercies of my altogether politically inexperienced hands such an important matter. At the outset of the deliberations of the Thirty-fourth Parliament my thoughts and those of all citizens turned, and rightly so, to the great event, the Coronation. Obviously, on that occasion there was a great upsurge of fervour and loyalty amongst the people of this country which cannot do other than greatly solidify the union of the Commonwealth of Nations to which Australia belongs. Happily, the Coronation is now an accomplished fact. We look forward to success and hope for prosperity during what we trust will be a long and happy reign by our new Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II. I think I can borrow the sentiment contained in our National Anthem and simply say, "Long may she reign!" I am sure every member would wish to extend to His Excellency the Governor a hearty welcome to South Australia. We are all exceedingly happy to have him join us as part of the machinery of Government in this State. We welcome him and pledge to Her Majesty the Queen, through His Excellency, our loyalty.

This being my maiden speech, I may be permitted to digress a little from the main theme for the purpose of making one or two comments about the institution of Parliamentary government, more particularly as I see it in our own State, because there are many people today who speak in terms of cynicism about Parliamentary government and with scant respect, very often, of the system of governing through the medium of elected representatives. We will always find the cynics and the sideline players, the gentlemen who are too busy doing other things to take a guernsey themselves, but are always ready to give advice.

My experience during the few weeks that have passed since election day has confirmed, in its entirety, the view I have always held—that the Parliamentary system of Government in its operation in the Australian and British communities operates with complete satisfaction. My observations in this House have been most pleasant, revealing a grand and desirable tone existing between members of all Parties on both sides and mutual respect by members for one another. Let us hope that that will long continue. While that exists it does not militate against an obviously keen desire on the part of all representatives to fully, completely and ably represent the electors who sent them here to do the job.

I pay a tribute to the people of South Australia on the progress and prosperity they have achieved during the past few years. One cannot read His Excellency's Speech without being agreeably surprised and pleased at our progress. In paying that tribute to the people one cannot avoid complimenting a Government which, for the past few years, has enabled that prosperity and progress to be achieved. There is no doubt that the Government of South Australia enjoys a most enviable reputation—a reputation that has spread far afield. Its great achievements, of course, merit and explain that. The Governor's Speech indicates, with great clarity, that the good works of the past are likely to continue. I have great pride and pleasure in supporting the Government; indeed, it is said amongst the public that one might distinguish, even from a back view, the South Australian Liberal Government. It is claimed that the reason for it is that, unlike so many other people, no member has been known to talk out of the back of his neck. It is a Government that has displayed wisdom and foresight, and one which, I again repeat, I am pleased to support.

I turn from that to make one other remark which might be regarded as of a personal nature. I very much admire—and I think all members of the House admire—the long and very creditable public service rendered to this State by the gentleman who formerly stood precisely where I am standing—the Hon. Sir Shirley Jeffries. I referred a moment ago to the Parliamentary system and I am forever reminded of the quotation which comes from the Book of Proverbs, "That in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." I am equally impressed by the misquotation of it which is more commonly used—"That in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom." That applies

whichever way we think of our Parliamentary system of government. It is difficult to see how, in an elected assembly of this kind, any Bill can be brought before the House on which some member has not some special knowledge. It is difficult to see how any subject can go by without there being some, in what I might term the multitude, who have not a specialized knowledge which can be made available to members.

It is impossible for all members to be fully informed upon all subjects. Of course, there is a corollary to that situation which I might be pardoned for mentioning because it seems to me that there may be some occasions on which more would be achieved if some members took a little time to digest and think over what some of the previous members said rather than getting up and needlessly repeating it. In my short time here, consisting of one day—and what seemed like several nights, but in fact, was only one—I could not help hearing the squeak of the parish pump as member after member clamoured for his share of the £200,000 for foreshore rehabilitation, and that notwithstanding that those who can hear heard the Minister say and those who could read doubtless read in the press that it was neither the Minister nor the Government which administered the fund, but a committee appointed for the purpose.

Another impression which I may be pardoned for mentioning came from today's performance. I could not help being impressed this afternoon by the well-sustained cross examination, which was administered by my friends on the other side, to the various Ministers on this side. At the same time, I was not unmindful—and they will pardon me for saying this—of the words of the Evidence Act, which applies to the question of cross examination, and which keep surging through my mind—"That the court may disallow cross examination which is prolix, unnecessary or irrelevant."

I have mentioned that in the Parliamentary system there is great merit in the fact that members are selected from various jobs, various districts, and from various walks of life. All the assembled, combined force of a chamber such as this must be able to contribute a lot of information on all problems that are likely to arise in a free country. There are problems we all encounter and which, we all hope, will be remedied. Let me mention a few I am brought in touch with in my work and which many other members would never encounter. I do so merely to illustrate what I have just said, namely, that we seek the known facts

and gather the problems from the various walks of life in which we move. By virtue of my work I come across certain problems. I mention some of them, not by way of criticism of the Government, but merely to suggest that in the course of time and as opportunity presents itself, we will have an opportunity of looking at them.

Take the Supreme Court, for instance. As members know witnesses appear from day to day, some under subpoena, which says most impressively "Herein fail not" and frequently have to wait for a day, perhaps for two or longer, before being called. That may become uncomfortable for people if they have to sit in a witness room, all the time waiting. But the point is that we have not got a witness room. These good people—often expectant mothers and others who are ill—have to accommodate themselves as best they can on the landing of the stairs or in the cold and draughty passages. That is one of the problems that people in my profession encounter. It is my duty to mention that because it may not have been brought before the House.

On the other side of the same building is the Criminal Court, which also has problems. I do not suggest that these things need to be attended to today or tomorrow, but may be kept in the back of one's mind for the future, in order to give them such priority as the finances and resources of the State will permit. I hope that it will be a reasonably high priority. Take the Criminal Court, when counsel has occasion to interview an accused person. No room is provided for that person and you are ushered into his cell where you can sit on a table amongst the remains of a meal he does not find very appetizing. The administration of justice is the outstanding thing in any community, but things which are cheap sometimes become nasty. I respectfully suggest that such things ought to have a reasonably high priority among things to be done. They cost money and money is a commodity a little hard to come by. There are a few other things which do not cost money and which might receive attention in the near future. Members will pardon me for talking of the profession in which I practise, for I feel I can speak upon legal subjects with knowledge and authority. During my term in this House I shall endeavour to limit my comments to subjects on which I can speak with knowledge and authority. Take the case of the man or woman charged with a criminal offence. Under the present system a trial may take a

week or more but unless he can establish illness or some such matter the accused person does not get bail during the trial. I suggest that is a survival of early and barbaric days which urgently needs attention. The object of keeping a man in prison during a trial is to ensure his attendance at the trial. The fond theory of our law is that a person is presumed innocent until proved guilty, and whilst under committal awaiting trial in most cases a person is allowed bail, but after he commences his trial he does not get it. We all know of cases where people of good standing or in bad health have been charged with offences but have been acquitted.

Let me also mention this, that it is always on about the last day of the trial that the accused person gives evidence. That has to be so: it is the system. After a week or so in prison he comes along almost broken in spirit and befuddled in mind from the shock of his experiences in prison, when his mind should be at its clearest and his appearance at its best. It would cost nothing to remedy that position. It may surprise people who are not brought up to it to know that in an appeal from a criminal court to the Court of Criminal Appeal the law provides for a secret report to the court of appeal from the judge who presided at the trial and against whose decision an appeal is brought. The ground of appeal may be a complaint about that very judge's conduct at the trial, but the provision still exists for a secret report which neither the accused nor his counsel is given an opportunity to read. Then there is the curious situation in respect of High Court appeals—and I hasten to say that this is a matter over which the State Government has no control, as it is entirely a Federal matter. In the early days of the century when the right of appeal from State Courts to the High Court was given, £300 was a lot of money. Provision was made that in any civil matter involving £300 or more a litigant had the right of appeal to the High Court without obtaining leave from anyone. But in criminal matters one could only go to the High Court after obtaining special leave. Let us see what the lapse of time and a change of circumstances have brought about. I suppose there are few people today who do not have to contend with £300 worth of taxation. If any taxpayer wishes to challenge the validity of such a tax claim he can go straight to the High Court. In recent years we have had two cases—one of murder and one of manslaughter—in which the High Court took the

view that the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal was not correct, but the High Court refused leave to appeal. That is a curious situation and I venture to say that the accused in the murder case, before he was hanged, thought of a stronger word than "curious."

There are other matters needing alteration. I realize that many members may be thinking of this speech—"A new broom trying to sweep clean," but I do not intend my remarks in that way. I am suggesting matters which I believe need attention. If that attention is given by the combined wisdom of this House I have no doubt it will produce a satisfactory result. Drunken driving charges seem to be common in this State and there should be a provision enabling the accused person to summon his own doctor with the same promptitude as the arresting officer summons the police doctor. I speak with a good deal of experience from the bar side, not from the dock, and in every case one finds that there is some complaint about the accused person's doctor not being sent for. It should be the duty of the arresting constable when sending for the police doctor to simultaneously send for the arrested person's own doctor if he wants him. There should also be provision for a night court to enable people under arrest to apply for bail.

I would like to refer to the inferior judiciary, as it is called—the special magistrates. Here is a glaring instance of how changed circumstances and the lapse of time have outmoded the present system. It is always useful to know how matters have grown up. Our local courts have an extensive jurisdiction—up to £750. It is a jurisdiction equal to that of the County Courts and District Courts which are presided over by judges in the neighbouring eastern States of New South Wales and Victoria. Our presiding officers are still called magistrates and are still under the Public Service Act. This matter needs prompt attention. Under an Act of 1850 justices of the peace exercised the jurisdiction, but as the practice grew those justices were appointed magistrates. Sometimes they were paid and sometimes the positions were honorary. Later, as the work grew, clerks of court were appointed magistrates and eventually legally qualified men were appointed and the jurisdiction grew from a small beginning to its present size, but the system has never changed. Our magistrates have not the status of the judges in corresponding courts in the neighbouring States. Because they are under the

Public Service Act there is the unseemly situation of appeals against appointments. The judicial officer appealing has to go before a Public Service Board and call and give evidence, in effect, of his own character and ability—a most degrading thing; on the other hand a man already in the Civil Service has a definite leg-in for the appointment. In making this comment I am not directing my remarks at a very worthy recent appointee—Mr. Hunkin—nor at anyone else who has been appointed; I am simply suggesting that the system be amended for there is nothing to recommend it any longer. If one looks at the forefront of the Public Service Act he notices that 16 classes of public servants are exempted from the Act, but not so the junior judiciary. It is perfectly obvious that if we are going to write down the status of our courts everyone else will let us. We should build up their status so that they will be accepted elsewhere as of equal jurisdiction and status to those in adjoining States.

It is less than 100 years since it first became possible in England to obtain a divorce dissolving marriage by order of the court. Today divorces are going through in England at the rate of 34,000 a year, which means that 68,000 people annually are being divorced. It is currently said that hearings of undefended divorce cases take an average of 10 to 15 minutes. Every Christian community has always proceeded on the basis that the family is the fundamental unit of society. What is to be said then of those 68,000 people and their children? It is a problem that is not solved by merely ignoring it or laughing it off. In Australia there are about 7,000 divorces annually, and I suggest that that indicates a higher ratio per thousand of population than in the Old Country. I do not propose at this stage to say anything about remedies, but merely put this forward as an urgent social problem that someone has to face if we are to be able to go on talking about the family being the fundamental unit of society. Recently in *Modern Law Review* one Harvey, chairman of one of the English Quarter Sessions, writing on this subject, recited the phrase from the marriage contract, "Until death do us part," and went on to point out that, with the present provision of divorce for three years of desertion, the contract ought to be amended because, expressing it in his legal jargon, he said, "The marriage contract is now a contract for three years certain, subject to termination thereafter at the option of either party."

It is a matter of considerable gratification to read what His Excellency said so well about the prosperity of both primary and secondary industries. It is good to see it; good to know that we have a Government which has facilitated the prosperity and, indeed, the advent of so many industries in this State. It is good to read about the encouraging increase in food production; about the 23-bushel average, an increase of five bushels above last year; that the sheep flocks have reached the very grand total of 11,500,000 and that the fat lambs slaughtered for export increased from 130,000 to 440,000. His Excellency said there has been a steady increase in the production of beef cattle. That is perfectly true but I suggest that this country has to face up to the problem of accelerating that increase. We have the potential, but we are not using it. There are at least 1,000 miles of country extending through Alice Springs in the north and almost to the borders of the State on each side where cattle are produced in their thousands, but on reliable statistics only 6 per cent of our beef production is exported. If we allow that state of affairs to continue we may reckon upon a good deal of trouble from our little neighbours to the north before so many years are past. In comparatively recent years I had the opportunity of doing a good deal of work in the islands to the north of Australia. I met a lot of their people and, with the aid of interpreters, talked to them and got their point of view—a point of view which was changed very considerably by the Japanese infiltration. They had become nation conscious and if they see a stretch of cattle country such as we have, and not more than six per cent of our beef exported, to use a colloquialism, as soon as they have a feather to fly with they will do so and they are within two hours flying distance of our shores. Unless we do something about it we will have no-one to blame or thank but ourselves.

As long ago as, I think, 1911 the Commonwealth of Australia, on taking over the Territory agreed to build the north-south railway line, the route of which would run right slap bang through the middle of the cattle country. In the interests of South Australia, as well as that of Australia as a nation, that is a work that ought to be pressed for with as much speed as reasonably may be. Also there is an area known as the channel country, the effective working of which requires an expenditure of a large sum of money because it would mean the building of about 300 miles of rail-

way from Marree to the vicinity of Birdsville, but it would provide this State with literally thousands of beef cattle. This is one of the best cattle areas we have, but they simply cannot be brought in their fat condition to our markets because they have to be walked and they are poor by the time they get there. A railway would make a great difference to the amount of beef available for export. I do not claim to be an expert upon these matters, but I have read what the experts have said upon a subject in which every Australian is vitally interested. Of course these things cost money and there may be some who can fairly say that Rome was not built in a day nor was the present state of Australian establishment accomplished in a day but in a little more than a century. It may take that long again before we can claim that it is a fully developed country, but here again is a thing we may well store in our minds—and not too far back—and deal with it as we find time and money permits.

It was gratifying to read that the Department of Agriculture is setting up five new research centres throughout the State and the Government is to be complimented on that. Anything which will expand the scientific development of primary production is to be encouraged and commended. We are getting away from the stage, pretty rapidly I think—and the more rapidly the better—which is typified by the case in which a young professor of great scientific standing went from Waite Institute to one of our outlying districts. He gave a lecture upon soil erosion. He did a very competent job, but afterwards an old fellow came up to him and said "Look young fellow it is no good you comin' ere and tellin' us these things. Why, I wore out two farms before you was born." The quicker we get away from that attitude the better, and these centres are a step in the right direction.

I compliment the Government on the contents of His Excellency's Speech in relation to developments at Leigh Creek, the uranium question and various other progressive things contained therein. I am proud to have had a little to do with the question of the Leigh Creek field by being a member of the Electricity Trust from which I resigned to take my seat here. We take the view that the Government has done a grand job about coal and a few of the basic facts are worth mentioning. New South Wales, it would appear, had in sight at all relevant times no less than twelve thousand

million tons of coal, but seems to have been allergic to strikes, blackouts and stoppages of all types. South Australia was unable to get its supplies and only a little over 10 years ago the Government interested itself by commencing work at Leigh Creek, and only about five years ago the Electricity Trust took it over. May I pay a tribute to the chairman of that trust, Mr. Drew, a most competent man who is doing a grand job for the country. New South Wales coal that could be got when there were no strikes or stoppages cost about £4 10s. a ton, but we had to go as far afield as India to get coal at approximately £10 a ton. The Government got to work and produced coal from Leigh Creek for about £2 a ton. In the five years that the Electricity Trust has been operating it has doubled the output of electricity built up during 103 years of previous work—a magnificent performance I suggest—and in addition to paying its way has provided work for about 4,000 South Australian people. It is easy enough to provide work by shows which are not paying their way, but it is a commendable thing to produce a show which can provide work for that many South Australian people and pay its way; not only pay its way, but save this State from blackouts and rationing, connect 10,000 new country consumers, spread its lines over the State and save South Australia £1,500,000 that would have gone to New South Wales if the miners there had only behaved properly and produced coal. These things, I suggest, need no further commendation, so one may turn to the question of housing. I read in His Excellency's Speech that 4,000 houses were erected during the year. There again, if we simply make the bald statement we are left with the impression that it is a lot of houses, but look at it in another way. It means, in fact, that for every working day one completely new street of houses was built, for it averaged about 16 per working day. Looked at in that way it is something stupendous. Just imagine it; at the beginning of the working day it is broad acres and at the close of the day there are 16 completed new houses in that street, and this is going on every working day of the year.

I was also pleased to read of the suggestion for the return of taxing powers to the States. It seems to me that only an irresponsible person or Government would say, "I want to spend the money, but I am not prepared to bear the burden of raising it." In other words, "I have no confidence in my own economy of money, and need someone to provide it for

me." It seems that there can be no reward for prudence on the part of the Government unless it has the power of raising the money it spends, and the sooner we can return to that situation the better. I have uppermost in my mind the thought that many people are apt to say, "Let us have a change of this, that and the other kind," on the fond and foolish assumption that a change is of necessity a beneficial reform. I do not subscribe to that doctrine, but rather to the great words of wisdom one finds in a place no more lofty than the hoardings where one sees a representation of a dog with a bee sticking on its tail, with the caption "When you are on a good thing stick to it." I have pleasure in moving the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. WHITE (Murray)—In having the honour bestowed upon me of seconding the motion I regard it also as an honour bestowed upon those people whom I have the privilege to represent in this Chamber. I extend to you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations upon your reelection to your very high office. I believe that this creates a record which has been achieved only through the able and impartial manner in which you carry out your many duties. I also extend congratulations to the member for Mitcham, who once again has been elected Chairman of Committees. This appointment also creates a record for this House, and is the result of his thorough knowledge of chairmanship and the fair play he has associated with the position.

I take this opportunity to affirm the loyalty of the people of South Australia to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Our young Queen, by her good living, devotion to duty and desire to make things better, has won the respect and confidence of the people of her Empire, and I believe of many people who live outside its precincts. I sincerely hope that her reign will be characterized by peace and progress for people in all walks of life and that she will be blessed with good health so that she can better carry out her many duties. I trust that she will live long to reign over us. Her Coronation was celebrated in South Australia with all the enthusiasm and splendour the occasion warranted. Next year Her Majesty will visit Australia, which will be the first time a reigning Monarch has visited our shores. It is pleasing to know that the committee saddled with the responsibility of making suitable arrangements for her reception and entertainment has its plans well in hand. I hope that it will see to it that as many

people as possible, particularly children, will have the opportunity to at least get a glimpse of Her Majesty.

I join with Mr. Travers in extending to Sir Robert and Lady George a very cordial welcome, and trust that their term of office will prove to be a very happy one. In opening Parliament His Excellency referred to a vast range of subjects. I do not propose to touch on all this afternoon, but to confine my remarks to those appertaining to our country districts. He referred to the activities of our Department of Agriculture. South Australia is essentially an agricultural State. So much so, that the prosperity of those engaged in primary production is reflected in the prosperity of most other people who live here, and therefore it is very important that the department which watches over the well-being of these industries should continue in a progressive State and have facilities so that it can deal with problems as they arise. It is therefore very pleasing to know that five research stations are to be established in South Australia. One will be at Loxton to deal with problems associated with the new irrigation settlement. This matter is of very great interest to the people of the district of Murray, through which the River Murray flows. In the post-war period much interest has been displayed in irrigation projects in this district, and to establish a Loxton research centre will not only help with the problems of that locality, but result in the accumulation of knowledge which will assist in the development of many other areas along the Murray.

I have been interested to note that two more research centres are to be established in the South-East, one of the high rainfall areas of the State. Much development is taking place there, and this has been made practicable because the Waite Agricultural Research Institute has indicated how we can restore the mineral deficiencies of the land in that area. This information has been available for about 12 years, and we still have much to learn. These research centres will undoubtedly help to provide this additional information and assist in the further development of this area, and eventually help it to carry the very big population which I believe it is destined to carry. I have been particularly interested in the statement that a research centre will be established at Wanbi. I have had considerable experience in mallee farming and am aware of the many problems associated with it. The land made available for the Wanbi research centre is typical of a vast area of the mallee land we have in this State. When

these areas were first developed it was for the purpose of growing wheat, and in the initial stages it was probably the best crop to grow because it was necessary to have stubble burning in order to kill off mallee and other vegetation. When the land became properly cleared the people still wanted to carry on with wheat production and went in for bare fallowing because of this. In 1945 the Murray mallee became the dust bowl of South Australia. Since then the land has become stabilized mainly because we have had a run of good seasons and because farmers have got away from the idea of growing wheat. They now grow rye corn on the light patches, and barley to a greater extent than before on the heavier land, and the adoption of a system of trash farming has eliminated bare fallow. There is still much to learn if we are to maintain the present prosperity and keep the land in a stabilized condition. We must have new sand binding plants. They must be plants which will not only hold the sand together but be good for fodder purposes. It is necessary to find new types of rye corn which will be more prolific yielders than the present types, and more palatable to stock. It is necessary to have research into the use of hormone sprays so that cultivation can be eliminated and the effects of wind erosion on the loose textured mallee land avoided. I believe the Wanbi station will play an important part in all these matters. I will watch its activities with great interest because its findings will affect a vast area of land in this State. Other research centres have been indicated. There is to be one at Parafield. A project on the shores of Lake Alexandrina will demonstrate various irrigation systems and whether the land can produce vegetables and pastures under irrigation. All this indicates how the department is alive to the responsibilities it shoulders and that it is capable of exerting itself to deal with the problems of the day.

I was interested in the remarks His Excellency made about soil conservation. Prior to my election to this place I had the privilege of serving four years on one of the soil conservation boards set up under the Soil Conservation Act of 1947. This gave me ample opportunity to study the need for soil conservation. I have seen paddocks where careful records indicate that the wheat production from them has been reduced by 40 per cent because of erosion water. I have seen other paddocks, all of which were cultivated but today are divided into five strips because of the guttering

caused by the rush of water. In loose texture soils I have seen areas up to 900 acres which are nothing but a drifting mass and producing nothing, as well as being a menace to the surrounding country and the roads running through it.

These are some of the scars we see in our agricultural country after, in many instances, not more than 50 years of land usage. I ask members to reflect on this. If we do not practise soil conservation methods what will be the state of our land in another 50 years? Fortunately the work of our important soil conservation section of the department is bearing good fruit. We see contour banking being carried out. In our steep pastoral country we see contour furrowing. A system of bare fallowing has been largely replaced by a system of trash farming which leaves the trash on the top of the soil and provides a protection against running water and strong winds. That farmers are becoming interested in these things is proved by the announcement in the Governor's Speech that another soil conservation district is to be formed. I refer to the West Broughton conservation district. In the Murray Plains soil conservation area three soil conservation committees have been formed—Dutton, Truro and Mannum. These committees are formed only in places where sufficient interest is taken in soil conservation matters. The unfortunate part of it all is that having captured the enthusiasm of the man on the land in regard to soil conservation it is becoming apparent that this important section of our department is under-staffed and cannot deal expeditiously with the work coming to it. I know the Government is alive to its responsibilities in this regard. It is paying the fees of young men so that they can study agricultural science at the university on the understanding that they will give some years of service to the Soil Conservation Branch when their training is finished, but the drift of personnel is still going on.

It is essential for us to speed up the elimination of the blemishes we have in our agricultural country. It is necessary to prevent further erosion. The Government should institute an inquiry in order to ascertain the cause of the drift of personnel from this section of the department. Perhaps a higher remuneration would help, but in any case there should be an investigation so that the important section of the department will be kept fully staffed and its work of soil conservation car-

ried out without interruption. I draw attention to what is called lakeside erosion at Lakes Alexandrina and Albert. It is the result of action by waves caused by westerly and south-westerly winds. It has all happened since the construction of the Goolwa barrage. The effect of the barrage is to keep the level of the water in the lakes about 18 in. higher than normal, but this has killed off the natural vegetation along the shores. The reeds and rushes which appeared to be nature's protection have gone, and the shores are now open to the effects of the waves. The soil there consists of a chocolate loam over white sand, and the waves suck the white sand out, leaving the good topsoil to fall into and dissolve in the water, thereby being lost. Since the barrage was placed at Goolwa it has been estimated that about 1,200 acres of land had been lost in this way. Various suggestions have been made as to how this erosion may be arrested. One is that the lake should be kept at its normal level, but if that is done the level of the river will be lowered and irrigation problems created. Another suggestion is that a lock be installed at Wellington so that the levels of the river and the lakes may be controlled independently. Another school of thought suggests that plants may be found in other parts of the world which, if planted, will provide protection for the shore. I do not suggest which of these is the correct solution, but in South Australia, where we are not well off for agricultural country, we cannot afford to lose an acre of it. I mention this matter today so that it may be taken up and a determined effort made to prevent further erosion of this good pastoral country. Under our laws if a man pays for land he becomes the owner of it and can do almost what he likes with it, but in the eyes of posterity the owner is only the custodian and if we do our job properly as a nation we will try to hand on land to future generations in a state of production equal to if not greater than that in which we first acquired it.

I was interested in the remarks of His Excellency with regard to re-forestation, particularly those concerning the pine forests of the South-East. It was stated that at the end of this year the State pine forests would cover about 120,000 acres and that the revenue from this source now exceeded £1,000,000. It has been my great privilege to visit these forests on several occasions and one cannot help but be impressed by their magnitude, their potential wealth, the quantities of raw materials which, on maturing, they must provide for

other industries, and the great amount of employment they have created. A splendid feature is that many of these forests have been established on poor bracken country, practically useless for any other purpose, and by planting pines on this land the Government has brought it into tremendous production. On one occasion I had the pleasure of discussing afforestation with the conservator of the Mount Burr forest, who told me that Mount Burr was one of the few places in the world where an effort was being made to improve the standard of the pine used for reafforestation purposes. His officers were adopting a system of selection, and experienced foresters, knowing which trees would make the best timber, went through the forest, when the trees came to a certain stage of maturity, and took from selected pines the cones for the supply of seed for the propagation of young trees for new forests. This indicates the thorough methods being used in the planting of pines in our forest areas. I pay a tribute to the officers of the Woods and Forests Department on their achievements by way of reafforestation in this State.

Another aspect of reafforestation is the supply of young trees to the public. I suppose thousands of such trees are supplied each year, but I often wonder how many come to maturity. I hazard a guess that a big percentage of them do not grow at all, not because the trees are inferior, but because many people do not know how to plant a tree or know nothing about the attention required during the first two or three crucial years after planting. In many cases the wrong species of tree is chosen for the particular locality. If an officer were made available by the department to give on the spot advice in country districts, more tree-planting projects would be successful and encouragement would be given for more to be undertaken, thus enhancing the appearance of the countryside. More trees would be planted around farm homesteads and public institutions such as schools, and such schemes would certainly add to the attractiveness of many country towns.

Paragraph 10 of His Excellency's Speech refers to the activities of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, including reticulation schemes in hand and contemplated. Mention is made of the progress of work on the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline, and it is a fine thing that the Government should try to eliminate city water shortages. I was pleased to see that a reticulation scheme was being provided for Yorke Peninsula, for that should

have been provided many years ago, as people there have suffered from water shortages for a long time. The completion of the Uley-Wanilla scheme in the West Coast will undoubtedly provide many amenities for the people there and add to production. Although I applaud the Government on the fine progress made in these directions, I regret that no mention has been made of a reticulation scheme for the district of Murray. Although the River Murray runs through the middle of my district, more water carting is done there than in any other part of the State. The river flats have been promised a reticulation scheme to operate from the Mannum-Adelaide main, when completed, but no mention of that was made in His Excellency's Speech and it seems that the frustration and hard work associated with water carting must continue. The Murray Flats on the western side of the river constitute a fine agricultural area producing probably the finest wheat in the Commonwealth, but that area has a poor water supply. The underground supply is meagre and the quality of water poor, having about 600 grains of salt to the gallon, and a reticulation scheme would provide considerable benefits for the people living there. In the hundreds of Burnett and Seymour on the eastern side of the river in my electorate, land development has almost come to a standstill, mainly because of the shortage of good water. This country is not the poor land that some people are inclined to believe. If one travels along the road from Tailem Bend to Murray Bridge he gets a poor impression of it, but it is good country farther from the river. Scientific workers have indicated how the idle lands of the South-East, Mount Compass and Kangaroo Island can be developed, and they are showing how the country on the eastern side of the Murray can be brought into economic occupation. Farmers there who are pursuing proper methods are growing good pastures on their farms. I am referring to lucerne, rye grass and primrose, and have pushed their carrying capacity in some instances up to one sheep to the acre. Country that can be developed on these lines can stand the cost of a reticulation system particularly when the source of supply is at their back door.

I thank the Government for installing a new supply pipe in the Murray Bridge water system. During two or three summers it was evident that portions of this district were without water during the heat of the day, but the new pipe, which is of larger diameter, and

can carry higher pressures, will, we hope, remedy the situation. I was interested in His Excellency's remarks concerning the development of our mineral resources. He mentioned the development taking place at Nairne where pyrites deposits are being worked as a source of supply of sulphur for the manufacture of sulphuric acid for the superphosphate industry. This development is of great importance. Practically all our agricultural country is deficient in phosphates and we have to make up this deficiency by the use of artificial manures. The demand for superphosphate will become greater in the future. All the country being developed in the South-East, on Kangaroo Island, at the lower end of Yorke Peninsula, and on parts of Eyre Peninsula has a high rainfall, but requires heavy dressings of superphosphate. Without it the country could not be developed. The tendency to use larger dressings with the sowing of cereals is becoming greater. There was a time when top dressing was only carried out in high rainfall areas, but it is now becoming common in the lower rainfall areas, so the demand for superphosphate will increase. Its use is an underlying factor in the prosperity and the future of this State. It is important that we make our superphosphate industry independent of outside supplies of sulphur. I commend the Government for the practical interest it is taking in this matter.

The Electricity Trust is saddled with the responsibility of extending power into all parts of the State and it is pleasing that its programme is progressing satisfactorily. We are very happy in the electorate of Murray with what the trust is doing. Mannum, of course, has been connected with the Osborne works for some years and six months ago Murray Bridge was connected. The people there are optimistic about what the advent of a plentiful supply of AC current will do for that locality. We believe it will bring industries to Murray Bridge. We are badly in need of them so that we can absorb our young men and women into our community. At present there is not sufficient work for them so they have to go to other places to make a living. I can speak with some authority on this subject because for some years we have had numerous inquiries through our corporation from captains of industry about the potentialities of Murray Bridge for the establish-

ment of industries. We could point out that we had an unlimited supply of water, that the town was situated on a main road and railway, but when we told them we could only supply a limited amount of DC current the negotiations always broke down. The advent of AC current will therefore be a great asset to Murray Bridge.

The work of supplying electricity to the reclaimed swamp areas is proceeding. When the irrigation areas were first settled the seepage drains were pumped out by diesel engines. The same engines are still there, but are reaching the stage when they are likely to break down altogether. Settlers are therefore apprehensive. Obviously, if the seepage drains are not pumped out their pastures may be ruined. The settlers have placed all their capital into these holdings and have a lot to lose. They have asked me to request that the changeover to electric pumping be speeded up. The work is now in hand. A gang of technicians is working at present at Cowirra installing electric pumps and I suggest that another gang be brought there to speed up the work in the reclaimed swamp areas.

I suppose all members at some time have given lip service to decentralization. It is a happy subject to propound at election time. As the Electricity Trust sends its power lines into the country it also provides the potentialities for industries and amenities for country dwellers similar to those enjoyed by the residents of the city. The trust's activities constitute the most practical thing that has ever been done in South Australia towards decentralization. The Governor's Speech indicated that South Australia is still enjoying prosperity, the standard of living for all our people being good. The programme for the current session was outlined which, if put into operation, will ensure a continuance of prosperity. It will at the same time enable development to take place allowing Australia to carry the population necessary for national security. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.41 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 22, at 2 p.m.