

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, October 28, 1954.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2).

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House the appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue of the State as were required for all the purposes mentioned in the Appropriation Bill (No. 2).

ASSENT TO ACTS.

His Excellency the Governor intimated by message his assent to the following Acts:—Prices Act Amendment, Supply (No. 3), Local Government Act Amendment, and Places of Public Entertainment Act Amendment.

QUESTIONS.

PETERBOROUGH HOUSING.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—A contractor has for a long time been building a group of houses for the Housing Trust in Peterborough. There is an extreme shortage of houses in that town and residents—and particularly the corporation—are concerned at the slow rate of completion of these houses. Can the Premier say whether any have yet been completed and, if not, will he ascertain from the trust when they will be completed and available for occupation?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I will obtain a report.

AYLIFFE'S AND SHEPHERDS HILL ROADS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—An article in Tuesday's *Advertiser* relating to the route to be taken in a veteran car rally next Saturday described Ayliffe's Road in South Road Park Estate as a horror stretch. I understand that road is to be a major road through to Fullarton. Will the Minister of Works ascertain from the Minister of Roads when this road will be made and the widening of Shepherds Hill Road from its junction with South Road commenced, as I understand the South Australian Women's Amateur Sports Council is developing a large area of land in that locality in connection with the women's memorial playing fields?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I will obtain a report, although I am afraid not before next Tuesday.

NEALE'S FLAT WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. MICHAEL—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked yesterday about the Neale's Flat water supply?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—As I told the honourable member yesterday, it is one of those jobs that have a high priority. As £6,000,000 is involved in the water reticulation programme for this financial year, the honourable member will realize that each job has to take its turn not only in regard to the expenditure involved but also having regard to its urgency. On the present programme, the work is scheduled to start in March next.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. O'HALLORAN.—Is it the intention of the Government to introduce this session legislation to amend the Road Traffic Act?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—A number of suggestions in connection with that Act have been made. These have been incorporated into a Bill, and notice has been given that it will be introduced.

RAIL CARS ON MOONTA LINE.

Mr. McALEES—Has the Minister of Works any further information to give about the new rail cars that have been promised so long for the Moonta-Adelaide line?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Yesterday I replied with a good deal of particularization on the position in regard to Budd rail cars. I suggest that the honourable member read that reply and if it is not as complete an answer as he would like, I will take a further question to my colleague. As I gave as full as possible a reply yesterday it is not possible for me to add anything now.

TEACHERS' TEXT BOOKS.

Mr. JENNINGS—I understand that all school teachers for the proper discharge of their duties have to purchase many expensive text books, and that at present the cost of these is not an allowable deduction for income tax purposes. I do not think this applies to tools of trade generally. Will the Minister of Education take this matter up with the Federal income tax authorities to see whether a deduction could be allowed?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I am not aware of the problem because it has not been referred to me before. I am not a taxation expert but I would be surprised to find that these books are not allowable deductions because their purchase is necessary expenditure in order to earn income. I shall investigate the matter and inform the honourable member of the result.

SCHOOL LITERATURE.

Mr. MACGILLIVRAY—Some time ago I drew the Minister of Education's attention to a pamphlet that has been used in our schools which dealt practically entirely with prohibition of alcoholic liquors. I asked him whether he was aware that that propaganda had been used in the schools and whether he would see that in future no literature of the type I mentioned would be used without his express permission. It was reported in the press yesterday that in California the State Board of Education recently approved of an 86-page pamphlet called "Alcohol—the Study of a Current Problem", and that booklet is being used as a basis of lectures. It was written by the retired chairman of the Department of Health and Physical Education of the Teachers' College of Columbia University. In the event of the Minister seeing fit to allow a continuance of the use of the propaganda booklet I mentioned earlier, will he see that an equal opportunity is given to those who believe in temperance instead of prohibition? I believe that all types of propaganda should be kept out of our public schools.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—This morning I received a report from the Director of Education which substantiates and amplifies the extempore reply I gave the honourable member recently concerning the pamphlet. The Director states:—

On the particular matter referred to by Mr. Macgillivray I understand that approval was given some 25 years ago by the then Minister for the Albert district branch of the Independent Order of Rechabites to send a booklet on the virtues of total abstinence to our schools. This has been done each year since the approval was given, although I understand that the number of books distributed is much smaller than the number of schools, and that in any one school the number of children who take instruction on this matter is very small. The study of the booklet is on an entirely voluntary basis and is outside the normal curriculum. It seems likely that interest has waned as the purchasing power of the prizes offered annually by the Albert district branch for answers to questions in the booklet has declined.

That is one aspect of the question. The second part of the Director's report states:—

On the general point there is no doubt whatever that the Minister of Education has the right and power to approve or disapprove of the display or use in any school of this department of any books, pamphlets, articles, maps, or other material. So far as the books and material required for the normal curriculum in any school are concerned, it is usual for these to be approved by the Director, although if any question arises as to the suitability of a book

which may involve political issues the matter is submitted for the Minister's personal consideration. Whenever any outside organization, for example a commercial company, desires to supply books, pamphlets, articles, maps, or other material for display or use in our schools, it is usual for the question to be submitted to the Minister and this is always done when there may be a possibility of acceding to such a request.

Amplifying that report, I can speak from my own experience, as during the last nine or 10 months a large number of requests has been submitted to me for permission for the distribution in schools of booklets, pamphlets, and various other paraphernalia, and in a large number of instances I have refused to allow it, not so much because they were offensive in themselves, but that they were a subtle method of advertising. For example, only this morning I refused to allow a booklet concerning an oil company very much in the public news at the moment, stressing the uses to which oil and its by-products can be put, because it was definitely advertising one particular company, giving very glowing biographical particulars of the managing director. I have objected to quite a number of similar pamphlets because, although they go to children, the people selling these products know that the children will take the pamphlets home to their parents, and it is a cheap and subtle method of advertising. Some are, of course, already in distribution. Touching the point the honourable member raises, I believe that it is highly contentious literature and propaganda. Total abstinence may be a very desirable thing and I would be the last to decry it, but I do not think that the school-room should be the forum for the discussion of these contentious matters. If it were on the question of temperance perhaps I would approve of it, but had the matter referred to by the honourable member come before me as Minister, instead of some previous Minister of 25 years ago, on balance I would have refused to allow distribution because it only causes a controversy such as it has caused in recent weeks, and rather than give two opposing groups opportunities to have their literature distributed in the schools I refuse the opportunity to both of them.

ADELAIDE-MORGAN RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. MICHAEL—Has the Minister representing the Minister of Railways a reply to my question of October 13 regarding the provision of additional accommodation for passengers using the Adelaide-Morgan rail service?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—I am glad to see the interest taken generally in these new cars, about which the members for Chaffey and Light have asked questions. The Railways Commissioner reports:—

It is true that during the inaugural run of the new country railcar on the Morgan line, there were, on two occasions, more passengers travelling than seats available. As requested by Mr. Michael, the position will be watched, with a view to providing sufficient seating accommodation on this train. It is our practice to operate a railcar and trailer in this service when the number of passengers warrants doing so. In reply to the question asked by Mr. Macgillivray, it will not be practicable to introduce new timetables for the new country railcars until sufficient of these cars are in operation.

BULK HANDLING OF WHEAT.

Mr. STOTT—Judging by the outstanding interest engendered in this Parliament with reference to the important question of bulk handling and the opinion expressed that the matter is unconstitutional, it makes the position very grave when one opinion can prevent this Parliament from introducing a law that is overwhelmingly desired by a great number of people—those most interested in this question. As the opinion given is quite contrary to Nicholas' work on the Australian Constitution and many other authorities, can the Premier say whether Cabinet will consider obtaining another considered opinion from a qualified constitutional authority and bring it down to the House?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—No opinion of any person can prevent this Parliament from considering the matter. In due course I have no doubt that the Public Works Standing Committee will table a report on the question of bulk handling or the Government will introduce a Bill. In either case it would be open to debate and decision of the House. On general questions the Government has found it wisest and safest to accept the opinions of the properly constituted Government legal authorities in connection with matters of law. Frequently, where a number of most eminent authorities agree upon some point, when it goes before it for judicial decision the High Court may upset what was considered to be a quite important principle which had been accepted by many people. We have an example of that in the celebrated James case where it was not until the matter got before the Privy Council that a final decision was given. The Government will in due course bring before Parliament a Bill dealing with bulk handling in South Australia,

and it will then be competent for any honourable member either to move amendments or when it is moved that the committee's report be printed that will open the way for discussion on the report if members feel so inclined. The honourable member is not correct in his assumption that one legal opinion dominates the actions of this Parliament. Every honourable member is, of course, free to accept or discard any legal opinion in connection with any matter.

GALVANIZED IRON SUPPLIES.

Mr. WHITE—Recently I received four requests in connection with Australian galvanized iron for the roofing of houses. Two of the cases related to houses situated on primary producing areas and in the other two the people concerned have been more or less forced to put up new houses on account of the poor condition of the old ones in which they were living. The cost of imported iron is considerably more than that of Australian-made iron, and its use adds a good deal to the cost of building a house. Can the Premier say if it would be possible to speed up the supply of Australian-made iron for roofing, and can the Government give assistance in cases such as those I have described?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—From time to time the Government makes active representations to see that the State gets its fair quota of the galvanized iron produced in Australia. Figures supplied to me recently show that at present we are getting more than a population basis quota, so, while I am prepared to examine the immediate position for the honourable member, I cannot promise that at present there is any possibility of much relief. The State Government now has no control over the distribution of building materials, as the legislation dealing with the matter has expired, so unfortunately I cannot assist the honourable member there. The distribution of building materials now takes place through the normal channels. Merchants sell freely without direction from any department.

MAIN ROADS.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—At the recent annual convention of the Australian Labor Party, amongst many important resolutions carried was one directing attention to the main roads of South Australia, including Eyre Peninsula. It was asked that they should be made safer for use by motorists by having a bitumen, cement or some other suitable surface. Prior to the war it was the practice of the Highways Department to set out a programme for

some time ahead indicating which main roads it was intended to improve in the period. As more money has been made available for road purposes, firstly because of the additional revenue derived from the increase in motor vehicle taxation approved by Parliament last year, and secondly because of the further increase in the amount of petrol tax revenue which the Prime Minister has indicated will be made available to the States, will the Minister of Works ascertain from the Minister of Roads whether a programme has been or is likely to be drawn up, indicating which main roads it is intended to improve in the near future?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—Yes, I shall be glad to do that.

ENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL FENCE.

Mr. JENNINGS—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on Tuesday relating to the construction of a fence around the Enfield High School?

The Hon. M. McINTOSH—The Architect-in-Chief has informed me that the work on this fence varies for different sides. One contractor has completed the work on one side and a tender has been called and accepted for the remainder of the work. I have not the slightest doubt that the contractor will proceed with all dispatch to complete this task.

BRICK-MAKING INDUSTRY.

Mr. RICHES—In this morning's *Advertiser* Mr. Branson, the chairman of the South Australian Industries Advisory Committee, draws attention to the apparent reluctance on the part of industry in South Australia to invest money in brick-making. He said:—

It would take a capital outlay of about £500,000 to start a completely mechanized brick factory. This type of factory could produce about 25,000,000 bricks yearly.

As private interests are reluctant to invest in the necessary machinery to mechanize brick-making in South Australia, can the Premier say whether the Government will consider establishing a Government-owned brick kiln employing the latest available machinery to alleviate the brick shortage which will continue unless something is done?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The Government is already producing a substantial quantity of cement bricks at a plant established at Yatala, and it is proposed to establish another plant there. These bricks are used for Government enterprises and by the Housing Trust and I am assured they are of good quality.

RACING INQUIRY.

Mr. STOTT—In reply to a question by the member for Torrens yesterday, the Premier said that an inquiry was being conducted into racing generally in this State. Can he say whether a committee has been appointed to make these inquiries; who have been appointed to that committee; what is the scope of the inquiry into racing and will this inquiry only consider the galloping section of racing or include trotting as well?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—The inquiry is being undertaken by the Treasury at my direction, and deals more particularly with the financial matters associated with both racing and trotting.

ASSISTANCE TO MARRIED MINORS

Mr. FRANK WALSH—I have recently had the unfortunate experience of having to interview two sets of young couples where the husbands are not yet 21 years of age and are on salary ranges below the basic wage. In each case there is a family. I understood that there was some provision whereby persons in the employ of the Government could apply for the basic wage if they were married before they were 21. Will the Premier consider providing that where young men are married as minors they shall be entitled to the equivalent of the basic wage? Possibly assistance could be made available through the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—If the question is directed to whether the Government will subsidize wages through the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, I cannot answer in the affirmative. That department provides relief in cases of hardship generally and that is not necessarily limited to any particular type of hardship.

HOUSING TRUST TIMBER HOMES.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Premier say what the approximate cost will be of the new timber houses the Housing Trust propose to erect in various parts of the metropolitan area as indicated in a press report this morning?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I have not that knowledge but point out that the cost of houses varies considerably from neighbourhood to neighbourhood according to the cost of land. I will ascertain the price at which the Housing Trust considers it will sell these houses and any information available concerning the cost of their production.

TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES.

Mr. TRAVERS—Has the Premier now sufficient evidence before him to justify the Government taking the necessary steps to fix a time limit on the individual speeches of members?

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—I agree that the evidence on this topic has increased considerably lately, but I have always felt that in this House what you lose on the roundabouts you pick up on the swings. While at times it may seem that members' speeches are unduly long I think that in the long run the business of this House is transacted as quickly as it would be if we had some hard and fast rules as to time limits.

Mr. O'Halloran—The maximum time limit would become the minimum.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD—Yes, and in all probability more members would rise to speak on matters under debate. I would not be in favour of breaking away from the custom of affording members an ample opportunity to express their views.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD BALLOT.

Mr. STOTT—I have received many complaints from wheatgrowers who are entitled to vote on the forthcoming ballot for the election of two representatives to the Australian Wheat Board stating that they received papers in connection with the wheat stabilization issue now being concluded but not in connection with the election of two representatives to the board. I understand that an application must be made, but that is not well understood and this morning I received two telephone requests to explain the position. One registered partnership received one ballot paper for the election but three in connection with the wheat stabilization ballot. Can the Minister of Agriculture give the House any information on what is required, and will he make a statement to clear up the position about those who are entitled to vote?

The Hon. A. W. CHRISTIAN—The ballot in respect of the wheat stabilization scheme was conducted by the South Australian Electoral Department instructed by my department, but the ballot for the election of two members of the Wheat Board is not within our jurisdiction. It is being conducted by the Commonwealth Electoral office instructed by the Wheat Board. I cannot say whether that department is adopting a different practice, but I shall make inquiries to see whether the election can be based on the same principles as ours; that is, every member of a partnership having the right to vote. Although I assume the Commonwealth is following the same practice as we do, I shall make inquiries.

SUCCESSION DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by the Hon. T. PLAYFORD and read a first time.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by the Hon. T. PLAYFORD and read a first time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: MR. H. L. TAPPING.

Mr. O'HALLORAN moved—

That a further two weeks' leave of absence be granted to the honourable member for Semaphore (Mr. H. L. Tapping) on account of ill-health.

Motion carried.

RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Irrigation) brought up the report of the Select Committee, together with minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Ordered that report be printed.

BUDGET DEBATE.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from October 27. Page 1192).

Legislative Council, £8,465.

Mr. BROOKMAN—Before speaking on the Budget I indicate that I disagree with any suggestion that we should limit speeches in this Chamber, because it seems to me that ample time should be given for everyone to express his views. By limiting speeches we might only prolong debates as the maximum might become the minimum. From listening to the Federal debates it seems to me that members nearly always take up the full time allowed.

Mr. Travers—What time are they allowed?

Mr. BROOKMAN—I think the time varies.

Mr. Travers—It is not two hours.

Mr. BROOKMAN—No, I think they vary from 35 minutes down to 25 minutes on some debates, and that the leaders of the Parties are often given extensions of time by the courtesy of the House if they wish. It seems to me to be unreasonable to limit speeches in a small House like this considering the amount of debating time available to us. I do not believe any restriction should be placed on members expressing their own ideas. I know that the honourable member for Torrens did not mean that; he suggested a limitation on speeches, but I disagree with that.

The large sum of over £50,000,000 is involved in this year's Budget, and the thing that strikes me particularly is the accuracy with which it is prepared. It is remarkable that public finance can be budgeted to within one per cent, yet even such a small variation last year was enough to raise criticism from certain quarters. However, such accuracy seems to me to be incredible and it is something that we should not always take for granted. We deal with a tremendous number of figures in this House, many of them forecasts of what is to be, and we should pause occasionally and consider just how accurate they generally turn out to be in financial matters. We are living within our income, but only just.

This year we have budgeted for a deficit, although over a period of four or five years it will not be a deficit. For this reason I say we are only just living within our income. Are we going to increase our income in the future? I think not, and I hope not, because we do not want to increase taxation, which of course includes income tax from which a good deal of our revenue comes. An increase in taxation certainly would not be hailed as a popular measure, because many people believe that we are already over-taxing and thereby destroying incentive. I cannot agree with that at the moment, but the matter is debatable and I believe that taxation should not go any higher.

The Government is budgeting for a small reduction in the rate of succession duties. This is in the nature of relief for certain types of legatees, mainly widows and children under 21. I applaud any reduction in succession duties, though I question the wisdom of differentiating further between various types of people. Succession duties were increased steeply a few years ago and several new classes of legatees were listed, so some people were subject to steeper increases than others. I do not think these duties can be justified on logical grounds, but they have been with us for many years and we have to accept them. Under this Budget widows and children will be afforded some relief, and no-one can properly argue that they do not deserve it, but the rates of succession duties are too high. They should be reduced all round.

Fortunately, rural production is in a satisfactory state, but many people fear that this may not last. They say we have had a run of good seasons, but it may not go on continuously and, secondly, overseas markets for our primary products may collapse. We are tremendously dependent on primary production, but the fact is frequently forgotten. The

other day the member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Hutchens) made several criticisms about the agricultural situation, but his remarks were not well-informed or sound. There is a lot that he can learn about rural production and many people could show him, without any vindictiveness, much about the agricultural situation that would belie his remarks. He said that South Australian farmers were sitting back and not doing their best or not taking advantage of the information provided by the Department of Agriculture. I point out that probably in no State of Australia is farming more efficient than in South Australia, though this State does not enjoy favourable climatic conditions. Largely owing to this our farmers have the incentive to be more efficient than those in other parts of Australia. The average production from dairy cows in this State is considerably higher than the average of any other State, and this has been so for several years. Considering the wonderful dairying districts along the eastern coasts of Australia that is a credit to South Australian dairy farmers. It indicates that the man who is up against bad climatic conditions has to struggle harder. He cannot afford to have poor cows in his herd and he has to cull correctly and breed wisely. I admit, generally speaking, that we have had good seasons in the past few years. So long as wool and cereals are being produced in good quantities we think we are having good seasons, but not all parts of the State have had them. As the member for Victoria knows, two or three years ago the South-East had a bad season and suffered severely. The Adelaide Hills had a bad season last spring; in fact, it was one of the worst that farmers there could remember. I addressed a group of dairy farmers in that district to whom electricity had just been extended and suggested that their production would increase as a result. However, I was told by all that as a result of the bad season their production could not possibly be increased then. The State is so large that some districts may have a good season while others have a bad one.

Development in the higher rainfall areas in the last few years has been staggering, and I cannot understand the gloomy picture that some people paint of rural production in this State. Only about three per cent of South Australia has a rainfall of 20 inches or more, but these areas have been transformed recently, principally by private people, but also considerably by the Government. This great development has been made possible partly by good

prices for primary products, partly by the much greater use of machinery, and partly because of the increased supplies of superphosphate which we have been getting. Unfortunately this production is only just becoming evident in our statistics and I think it will be another two or three years before the Statistical Register will show the tremendous increases in these districts. I would like to quote a few lines from the 1954 report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission, in which it clearly denies the gloomy outlook for primary industries which we so often hear mentioned in this Chamber. In paragraphs 46 to 48 it says:—

46. In 1952-53 primary industry had a most successful year in South Australia. Wheat, barley and wool production reached record levels one important reason being improvement in agricultural methods, particularly in the association of animal farming with cereal growing. Dairying production did not increase and fruit production declined. Coal production also fell slightly, but the output of sawn timber increased.

47. In 1953-54 in South Australia wool and wheat production declined slightly. Barley production increased, but prices fell sharply. Fruit production and the output of coal, minerals and sawn timber all increased. Dairying production again showed little change.

48. To summarize the position for the two years, South Australia experienced two satisfactory years with high levels of primary production and income.

That seems to be a very different picture from the one we are so often told about. In primary production the fluctuations in prices that come about are very steep—much steeper than people tend to realize. I do not know of any sphere of production where such fluctuations can occur in such a short space of time and without warning. The position of quite a number of rural industries has altered radically in the last few months. Wool prices are still satisfactory, but no-one seems to know whether they will increase, decrease or remain as they are. There seems to be little ability to forecast the price of wool, and those who have tried it in the past few years have generally come to grief. Meat prices are fairly good, but the dairying industry is by no means as healthy as it was. Prices are lower than they were a year ago, and although still satisfactory, are not by any means as buoyant as they appeared to be a while ago. Pig meat prices have fallen. A pig that would bring about £24 in 1953 now brings only £14. Potatoes, which a short time ago were bringing as much as £60 a ton and more in Sydney and would have done so here had the market

been completely uncontrolled, are now almost unsalable. Many farmers in the potato growing areas still have large quantities stored in bags or in heaps in sheds hoping for the best, but if they sell them at all they will only get £7 a ton and even lower, and many are not selling them. Great quantities of potatoes have rotted at heavy expense to the farmer in the last few months simply because of the glut in demand. Egg production is also in a rather unhappy position. Only recently the Egg Board had to send out to its suppliers a circular pointing out the serious position of the egg market overseas. The board is paying prices now which may not be justified in the next few months if the overseas position continues to be bad.

The Department of Agriculture was the subject of criticism by one member recently; or rather he criticized the farmer for not taking enough notice of the department. I believe his real complaint was that the departmental expenditure was slightly lower than for the previous year and was concerned about the fact that farmers were not making use of the department. That should be emphatically denied. The department is doing a tremendous amount that it did not do a few years ago. It has always been a good, sound department, but at the moment it is at a higher standard than ever before and is giving information to whoever asks for it. I assure the honourable member that it is being well used by the farmers.

Mr. Hutchens—It is a splendid department.

Mr. BROOKMAN—I am glad to hear the honourable member say that. I have criticized it in the past and I feel that there are still ways in which it could improve its activities, but generally speaking its officers are setting a good example to other departments in their approach to the inquirer. I suggest that the honourable member attend one of the numerous field days that are being held at this time of the year. I know of two next week and if he cares to go along he will see just what is happening in the country, and observe the enthusiasm that the farmers are displaying. People are travelling sometimes hundreds of miles to attend a field day and I have seen people from Adelaide at a field day at Keith in almost as great numbers as people of the district. One cannot fail to be gripped by the enthusiasm reigning in the country for agricultural improvement. In this I speak of the heavier rainfall areas with which I am more familiar than the cereal growing districts. Departmental officers give addresses at these

field days and at agricultural bureaux conferences, and they have built up personal reputations throughout the district for their knowledge of their respective subjects. Although I believe that South Australian agriculture compares favourably with agriculture in other States, I do not know how it compares with agriculture overseas, and no doubt some other countries could teach us something. Perhaps the United Kingdom farmer could teach us much about the science and practice of farming.

Mr. Macgillivray—There is no doubt about that.

Mr. BROOKMAN—The honourable member's interjection reminds me that the standard of farming in Scotland is high. Only recently I read a statement that the standard of agriculture in Scotland in the late 18th Century was so low that the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland was formed to improve it.

Mr. Macgillivray—That society still exists.

Mr. BROOKMAN—Yes; it arranged exhibitions of live stock and set an example in agriculture for other countries to follow. The Royal Society of Agriculture in England had its origin in the success of the Scottish society. A tremendous amount of good can be achieved by farmers who organize themselves in an effort to obtain agricultural information. About 1840 a group of farmers near Edinburgh subscribed funds and obtained the services of a noted chemist to conduct research into certain questions. In these modern days Governments have taken over much of this research work, and Parliaments all over the world continually voting large sums towards scientific research; but there is still much that farmers can do. South Australian farmers support the Agricultural Bureau, and that organization cannot be praised highly enough for its work in keeping alive the farmers' interest in farming advances. The greatest advances made by farmers generally result from the emulation of the example of good farmers in the locality, and these better farmers get their information from the Department of Agriculture or some scientific organization. The department's work results in a tremendous benefit to the farmer.

The department's research station at Parndana, Kangaroo Island, has now operated for three years and a tremendous amount of work has been done on establishing pastures and the use of top dressing on new and old pastures. The work at Parndana, which has been summarized by the Minister of Agriculture in a short statement in answer to one of my questions, has

confirmed the opinion of all who have been working on pastures in the heavy rainfall areas that a heavy application of superphosphate is important. The value of superphosphate has been realized for the past 60 years, but we still have much to learn about how and when to use it. These questions are important because of the amount spent on superphosphate by farmers and because of the different results that may be obtained from different methods of application. Practically all authorities who have done research in top dressing in the high rainfall areas agree that more superphosphate must be used than has been thought necessary in the past. I say that because I hope the Lands Department, which has large holdings adjacent to the Parndana research centre, realizes that fact. It seems that it is of very little use establishing pastures in high rainfall areas with an application of less than two bags of superphosphate per acre. It is better that those two bags be applied in the initial stages rather than that the pasture be left to struggle up weakly for a year or two and then the accumulated amount of superphosphate applied. An application of two bags in the initial stages has proved more effective than any light dressing. I realize that the Lands Department has a physical problem in shifting the superphosphate in the way I have mentioned, but I trust that, if it does not intend to apply the superphosphate in this way, it will change its plans and do so in future. I support the first line.

Mr. CORCORAN (Victoria)—I support the remarks of the member for Alexandra (Mr. Brookman) regarding a time limit on speeches. I do not support any suggestion to limit the time. Members should be at liberty to discuss matters at length. Most members will not abuse that privilege. Like the member for Alexandra, I am impressed when I consider the colossal figures involved in the Budget and recall the amounts provided in prewar Budgets. The figures express the vast expansion in the State's financial obligations. We have no reason to be other than fairly optimistic about seasonal prospects. A few weeks ago they did not appear very bright, but since a couple of reasonable falls of rain have altered the outlook. It is sincerely hoped that the season will be propitious. In a Budget involving such big expenditure, we cannot expect it to be balanced to the exact figure, and therefore it is better that we should have a surplus than finish the other way.

I am concerned about many things mentioned in the Budget. One of our most

important State operations is afforestation in the South-East. I am glad the Government is continuing its planting policy and milling activities. These operations are a great asset not only to the South-East, but to the whole State. It is proving a profitable proposition, and is almost the life blood of the district. Operations have not yet by any means reached their limit. Another mill is being erected near Mount Gambier which also entails the building of 400 homes. This will necessarily prove of great benefit to the township. Despite all our activities in afforestation, the State cannot cater for all its timber needs. I recently visited the Mount Burr mill, which is turning out an improved finished article. There is discontent at present among forestry employees because of the recent increase in rents for departmental homes, and they are hoping that something will come out of representations made on their behalf for a decrease. However, they do not intend to do anything desperate in the meantime. They have a just right to complain because of the steep rise in their rents. In fixing the rate consideration must be given to locality value. In small settlements like Nangwarry and Mount Burr which have no extensive shopping facilities, rentals should not be as high as for similar houses in the metropolitan area which have all amenities. I am an ardent advocate for the setting up of an impartial tribunal to which these people could appeal. This view is also held by the employees, who believe they would receive more considerate treatment from such a body. The Government should strive to keep these people happy and in its employment. They have security of tenure so long as they work with the Forestry Department, but when they reach 65 they will have to wander around and find other homes. In response to a request I inspected some of the homes and found that there was very little provision in the older dwellings for lighting. When one shut the door one was almost in darkness. Higher rentals are being charged for these places than for some of the modern premises which have additional amenities. It will be agreed that a grave mistake has been made in fixing the rentals.

Recently I had the pleasure of inspecting the operations of Koniak Pastures Limited. I understand that the Land Settlement Committee visited the property, which is situated 21 miles north of Millicent adjacent to the Princes Highway, during the week-end. I congratulate those responsible for establishing these pastures, which have vast potentialities

for greatly increased production. They have established definite evidence of the possibilities of vast areas of similar country in that area. I have not seen Palestine clover in a more healthy and vigorous state than I have there. I hope the Minister of Agriculture will be able to inspect it soon. I am not unmindful of the productive work being done in the South-East; in fact, more is being done than is generally realized. I have some information about the work done by the Lands Development Executive since 1945. It started off with 10 secondhand ex-Army tractors and they were put into operation in the Penola area, where the Executive had its South-Eastern headquarter's office, staff quarters and workshops. There was a similar set-up on Kangaroo Island, where there was accommodation for the 45 families who would eventually live on the blocks. There were also a school and a dance hall. In its work the Lands Development Executive had prepared and allotted 494 farms for dairying and grazing, and some cereal growing. About 470 houses were erected, 491 dairies and sheds, between 15,500 and 16,000 acres of scrub were logged, 316,000 acres ploughed, and 200,000 acres sown to pastures. The programme had involved spreading superphosphate on 480,000 acres and erecting 2,200 miles of new fencing, sinking 900 bores and 220 dams. There is no difficulty in identifying the fences of the Land Development Executive because they are erected in a thoroughly workmanlike manner. They will stand inspection and there is little room for criticism. A good job has been done. Of 78,000 acres of pasture established in the South-East 40,000 had strawberry clover as the main legume, and the remaining 38,000 acres, in some cases, had a sprinkling of this legume.

This year seeding in the South-East would be about 14,000 acres, of which 12,000 would contain strawberry clover as the main legume. Although not all of this country was accepted for war service settlement purposes, about 5,000 acres of the old Konetta Station had been started as a project with the expectation that it would be accepted after further drainage. In spite of all that has been done there is still a vast area of land to be exploited. I have much more information on this subject but what I have given will indicate the work done already. When we see the strawberry clover on the Koniak property and the effect there is in absorbing moisture one realizes that there is some logic in what Mr. Hawker said. No doubt the growing of clover will help to remedy considerably the drainage problem,

but I am pleased that the drainage work is being continued. Some people are sceptical of the drainage activities, but all possibilities are being taken into account by the department. When we see what is being done we can say that we are not acting wrongly. It has been rumored that the Government considered building a new railway line from Millicent through Lucindale to Keith. As such a line would run through the country that I have been talking about the project might be worth further consideration. Some day, I am sure, the railway will be built.

Recently the Treasurer indicated that the proposal to have a deep sea port at Beachport would be reconsidered. I do not know when that will be, but I hope it will not be unduly delayed. A deep sea port should be established in the South-East within a reasonable period. People ask me when the work will begin but I cannot tell them. I hope the Rivoli Bay investigation will be continued as early as possible. In the South-East there is an important fishing industry. Some time ago the Minister of Marine told me that the Harbors Board intended to provide a shipping haven at Beachport. I can see no special reference to that in the Estimates, but I assume that the cost of that work is embodied under the "Miscellaneous" heading. I understand that consideration has been given to improving the approach to the slipway at Robe and although there is no specific mention of that I hope an amount is also included for that work. The Minister of Marine has promised that a boat haven will be provided at Beachport and that the slipway at Robe will be attended to. I have referred to these matters so that people living in those areas will realize that I am not overlooking their interests.

The Treasurer has also promised a review of septic tank and sewerage proposals in the country and I hope Naracoorte will benefit from that review. The ratepayers in that area are concerned with the disposal of their household and sanitary refuse, but their problems will not be solved until sewerage facilities are provided. In some dwellings constructed on high ground it may be possible to instal septic tanks. I have frequently referred to the necessity for train warning devices at Kalangadoo, Naracoorte and Penola but nothing has been done. I will, if necessary, make further approaches to the responsible Minister in regard to these crossings because I am familiar with the conditions and appreciate the dangers. I hope that on the next occasion I approach him something will result. I realize that expense is

involved, but it is not so great when the safeguarding of human life is at stake. The broadening of the gauge to Millicent is progressing reasonably well under favourable weather conditions and I hope it will not be long before that line is officially opened.

Mention has been made of the important part primary production plays in this State. This is a primary-producing State and primary production is its life blood. Mr. Brookman referred to the importance of the dairy industry and although it is not so stable at the moment it is in a much better position than it was three or four years ago. In days gone by work in the dairy industry was slavery and drudgery, but mechanization has resulted in those engaged in it enjoying some leisure. The wool industry seems to be stable and there is no need for undue alarm. We have been told that there is no likelihood of substitutes disturbing the market. Many Asian countries with a low standard of living would be glad to enjoy the benefits of wool. I believe that many people in India have never seen a pound of wool and if it were not for the substitutes they would have to go naked. It is sometimes suggested that if we fully exploit our land resources there will be over-production, but I doubt whether we could cater for the world's demands.

I was pleased to notice that a soldier settler from the Glenroy forest area topped the abattoirs market for fat lambs. He received £6 10s. 6d. a head for about 80 lambs and an average of £6 2s. 6d. for 130 lambs. Those lambs come from the red gum country. I appreciate the efforts of the research departments which are so important and which are performing a vital work in the development of our broad acres. The benefit derived from the results of their efforts is inestimable and the application of scientific methods has revolutionized the capacity of our land resources. I hope that the various matters to which I have referred will in due course be attended to, and that we shall enjoy a prosperous year and as a result balance the Budget.

Mr. WHITE (Murray)—Before dealing with the Budget I wish to refer to the treatise we listened to last night from the honourable member for Chaffey on the Douglas Credit System. In his very long speech he indicated that the financial system under which we are working is entirely outmoded and that the system that Major Douglas expounded some years ago could be substituted for it. When

dealing with a subject like this we should face the facts as we see them. This State is only 118 years old—possibly one of the youngest in the world. It was then just a raw piece of country, covered with scrub and inhabited by wild animals. Since then we have developed it to its present condition, in which we have millions of acres under profitable cultivation. We first learned in the hard school of experience what this new land was suited for, and in latter years we have established institutions to do this work for us. We have built towns, cities, railways, reservoirs, bridges and roads and from the virgin state we have developed the land into the beautiful area that it is now.

Mr. Davis—What did that cost us?

Mr. WHITE—It does not matter what it cost. The progress made in that time is proof that the financial system under which we have been working has a great deal to commend it. The Budget must be regarded as a very good one. The Premier has been forced to budget for a deficit of £1,933,000, the first deficit in five years. Fortunately, however, there have been surpluses over the last four years that more than offset this deficit, and this indicates that we have had very good management of public monies. When introducing the Budget the Premier referred to the seasonal outlook and the prices obtaining in markets overseas for our primary products. He said:—

Some falls and uncertainty in primary produce prices are also matters for concern. These arise in part from accumulating surpluses in other countries, and, in part, from the changeover, particularly in Britain, from Governmental to private buying of primary produce. It is vital that both the costs and efficiency of production of primary producers be very closely watched and improved, for the time is over when an unsatisfied market offered a ready demand at a high price for almost any produce, and again we must sell in open competition with producers in other countries.

That is very good advice to the primary producers of this State, and advice that has been handed out quite freely in the past few months, as it has been the main theme for speeches made at the openings of country shows. Because there has been a tendency for prices in overseas markets to fall, the primary producer has been urged to make his methods more efficient and generally to get his costs down. He uses many goods that come from secondary industry, including machinery, superphosphate, and fencing materials. The cost of these has a very great effect upon the costs that he has to deal with and if we are going to keep the cost of primary production down to a level at which

we can compete successfully in overseas markets it is not only the primary producer who will have to cut his costs but the secondary producer as well. The union boss, the investor who likes to get a return from his money and the manufacturer—in fact everyone has to pull his weight to keep down the cost of production in our primary industries. That is a very important matter because South Australia is essentially a primary producing country and history has proved that when the primary producer does well everyone else in the country does well with him. It behoves everyone to see that our surplus primary produce can be sold in world markets at a profit; if that can be done everyone benefits. I have already stated that agriculture is the basis of our prosperity. Therefore it is pleasing to see that sufficient money is to be made available to the Department of Agriculture to keep it in a state of progress. I am particularly pleased that in almost every instance increased amounts are to be made available to agricultural research stations. They have been established to keep our agricultural industries progressive and abreast of developments taking place in other States. They investigate the problems peculiar to agriculture in this State. I have had the pleasure of visiting the research station established about 18 months ago at Wanbi, which is in one of the worst parts of the Murray mallee. That area was in a state of drift when the department took it over. Many people have the idea that the department chooses a good piece of country in which to establish a research station, but this is one of the worst pieces; in fact, 300 acres of it were taken over by the department because the farmer who owned it could not do anything with it. A portion of the area is still drifting and the department is trying to stabilize this country. It is sowing rye corn and using various types of superphosphate to encourage its growth on areas that have drifted out to the raw soil. Experiments are being carried out with what is known as three-in-one superphosphate which is three parts superphosphate to one part sulphate of ammonia, and the results are very encouraging. The research station is also experimenting with fodder plants that it believes will do well in that low-rainfall country, and there is every indication that the Wanbi station will prove to be a great boon to our Murray mallee areas.

I notice that £50,000 will be made available to the Glenelg Corporation for improvements to the Patawalonga estuary, and that £60,000 has been spent on the purchase of land at

West Beach for a new recreation area. Although the Government has been criticized for this I believe that these projects are a step in the right direction. The beautification of the areas will lead to their establishment as tourist and holiday resorts, and it will remove eyesores. If the Government is able to make money available to metropolitan councils for this purpose I hope it will make similar sums available to councils that I know a little about and which are situated along the River Murray. The river areas have a type of scenery that one never sees anywhere else and many people could be enticed, there for their holidays if some of them were made more attractive. Some corporations own land close to the Murray and they have tried to make it more attractive, but if it is to be beautified much money must be spent in a short time. Beautification cannot be done piecemeal, so assistance should be given to those councils that desire to improve these areas on the same lines as that given to Glenelg and other metropolitan councils. The Budget is a good one, and it seems that all our important Government departments will be able to function satisfactorily so that they can add their contribution to the further progress of South Australia. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. HEASLIP (Rocky River)—I congratulate the Treasurer in bringing down another good Budget. The estimated revenue and expenditure are records, but the Treasurer is budgeting for a deficit of almost £2,000,000, though that is not large in relation to the expenditure. During the last four years, by prudent budgeting and careful administration, the Government has accumulated surpluses sufficient to offset the deficit. I was interested in the remarks of the member for Victoria (Mr. Corcoran) that in his opinion surpluses have been accumulated which are in the interests of the State. He explained that surpluses should be accumulated to tide us over years when deficits occur. Of course, the Treasurer has had to budget for a deficit on account of the reduction of £3,850,000 in the Commonwealth disabilities grant. He could only budget for a surplus by pruning expenditure on some items. In other words, by cutting down on expenditure on developmental projects the Treasurer need not have budgeted for a deficit. Mr. Corcoran and Mr. White have referred to development of areas in the South-East which have been non-productive. They would have remained so if this money had not been spent, so although

the expenditure brings about a deficit it also creates production and prosperity and is therefore well worthwhile and something that will in the years to come certainly repay us. Neither would one recommend the cutting down of developmental expenditure in connection with our Mines Department, for unless we develop our country it must remain useless to anyone. I am not unduly concerned about the reduction in the Commonwealth Grant as I regard it as a sign of progress and development, and the sooner we can do without these grants the better it will be for both the State and the Commonwealth.

Mr. Teusner—I think recognition should be given to our industry and efficiency.

Mr. HEASLIP—As a State we are entitled to some compensation for the development we have achieved, and I do not think that the method of computing grants is the right one; it brings about inefficiency and waste and encourages the building up of charges which ultimately lead to increased costs of production. The sooner we get rid of this way of getting money the better.

Mr. Jennings—There is nothing to stop us, is there?

Mr. HEASLIP—Although we are doing it slowly we are certainly doing it, and this year alone has reduced the amount by almost £4,000,000. However, having got rid of it we are entitled to some assistance from the Commonwealth for developing those things which South Australia has hitherto lacked. I would instance the railways as an example of the harmful impact of the present method of assessing grants. It is said that in order to participate in Commonwealth grants it has been necessary to keep in line with the expenditure in the eastern States, and that if we did not increase our railway charges we would lose part of our grant. This surely is a short-sighted policy. Because of the lower costs of production we have been able to offer we have attracted many industries, but if we are compelled to increase costs this State will lose much of its attractiveness to industries. In order to participate in the grants we charge more for the transport of our goods. The eastern States, which supply the grants, have in turn to increase their charges in order to find the money and the next thing is that we are told we must keep in line with them, so it is like a dog chasing its tail.

Mr. Davis—Why not put industries in the country and avoid the long haulage?

Mr. HEASLIP—Industries would not come to South Australia if they were forced to go

into the country. In order to be successful they naturally wish to be near the city where labour and other amenities are available. We are voting to the railways £4,000,000 from revenue. The Auditor-General says that the department will have a surplus of £515,000 which makes the net amount about £3,500,000. In 1952 the railways carried 76 per cent of our wool and 24 per cent was carried on the roads by private transport, because hauliers are not allowed to operate—the railways have a monopoly.

Mr. Davis—Most of the wool comes from places away from the railways.

Mr. HEASLIP—All of it does. Not all is carted to the railways, but it all comes to Port Adelaide and in many cases is carted on roads which parallel the railways. In 1953-54 the percentage of wool carried on the railways dropped to 70 whereas that carted by road rose to 30. Today it costs £1 a bale to send wool from my district, 150 miles north, of Adelaide. Wool is probably one of the best cartage propositions the railways have, but they are losing it, and if open competition by road transport were allowed the railways would lose nearly all. I have never supported road transport as against rail, but when the railways increase charges to such an extent that it increases cost of production to a point where it becomes uneconomical the railways are not entitled to a monopoly.

Mr. Hutchens—How do our rates compare with those of other States?

Mr. HEASLIP—They are now on about the same level, but we raised them in order to get our Commonwealth grant. We may be paying too dearly for it, for in my opinion it is not a long-sighted policy. It is better to go without than to pay too high a price for it. The Auditor-General's recent report contained the following details of earnings by the Railways Department from its transport services:—

| | 1953, £ | 1954. £ |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| Country passengers . . . | 841,824 | 867,587 |
| Suburban passengers . . . | 521,641 | 531,933 |
| Parcels, mail, etc . . . | 422,299 | 437,935 |
| General merchandise . . . | 5,329,656 | 5,683,374 |
| Wool | 279,003 | 242,474 |
| Wheat | 721,839 | 638,202 |
| Livestock | 676,873 | 724,863 |
| Minerals | 2,268,870 | 2,761,164 |

Totals £9,276,241 £10,050,077

It will be seen, therefore, that the only two commodities on which earnings fell were wool and wheat. When the charge for a service is raised to an excessive amount, the users of that service will rebel. Today lorry after lorry

owned by farmers may be seen bringing wool to Adelaide. Frequently we hear derogatory remarks about so-called "wool barons," but we should remember that the price of wool has dropped by 50 per cent since 1951.

Mr. Pearson—They would not be barons if they did not watch their costs.

Mr. HEASLIP—It is true that the cost of producing wool today is about 5s. a lb., and the market price of about 5s. 6d. a lb. does not leave much profit margin. A dry season or two would present many problems not only to the woolgrower, but also to the Treasurer if, by that time, he had not accumulated a surplus. I agree with the member for Victoria (Mr. Corcoran) that South Australia is essentially a primary-producing State. This Parliament has granted our railways a monopoly, but we should ensure it is a good monopoly. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company is a good monopoly because it produces the cheapest steel in the world, but the freight rates charged by the Railways Department are by no means cheap.

Other complaints may also be made regarding the railway service. Recently my attention was drawn to a livestock sale at Wirrabara at which 7,500 sheep were yarded. The stock agents applied for 100 railway trucks to transport the sheep, but they were told they could have only 60. Those 60 trucks had to make two trips on the narrow gauge track from Wirrabara to Gladstone, which necessitated the stock agents working from 5 p.m. to 4 a.m. next day loading sheep. I understand that recently a buyer from Millicent bought 1,000 lambs at the Wirrabara market, and, when the consignment arrived by rail at Millicent seven days later, six or seven were dead. Before the purchaser could get the rest of the lambs out of the railway yards at Millicent a total of 30 had died. Their death was attributed to the fact that they had been taken from their mothers and forced to spend several days in the railway yards and in the trucks; this caused them great fatigue, which they could not withstand.

Mr. Hutchens—What notification was given to the Railways Department about truck requirements?

Mr. HEASLIP—Application was made, but the information was they were not available. The sheep stayed in Wirrabara from the Friday until the Tuesday before they were trucked. At the last sale 1,500 sheep remained in the yards until the following Tuesday owing to a lack of trucks.

Mr. Davis—What answer did the Railways Department give to that?

Mr. HEASLIP—I do not know. I am a producer in the district and we are dependent on buyers from the South-East to take our surplus sheep. It costs them 8s. a head for transport and 30 deaths in a thousand is a straight out loss. As a result these buyers are losing interest in the district.

Mr. Davis—Have you had the matter investigated?

Mr. HEASLIP—No; it is not my job. Such things should not happen. In March, 1949, just after I entered the House, there was a complaint from Wirrabara about the lack of lights in the trucking yards. Lights were promised within three weeks, but they are not there yet, despite the fact that electricity is available and poles have already been erected. I believe the railways could be managed more efficiently. They could and should carry more than they are carrying today, and should not be costing taxpayers £3,500,000 a year. Much of this loss could be eliminated. I appreciate that the Minister of Railways is trying to do something.

Mr. Davis—Whose fault is it?

Mr. HEASLIP—If it is not the railways fault, I do not know whose it is. Ever since I have been a member of the House I have asked questions regarding the bulk handling of wheat. Even before I entered the House the question had been referred to the Public Works Committee, but we are still waiting for a report.

Mr. Davis—You ought to be patient. The committee has been on it only seven years!

Mr. HEASLIP—I can take you back 23 years. In March 1931 the following appeared in *Hansard*:—

The Hon. T. Butterfield—In view of the high price of wheat sacks and the immense cost to the State will the Government consider favourably having a full inquiry made into the question of bulk handling of wheat? There has never been such an inquiry in Australia.

The Treasurer—If the honourable member will put his question on the Notice Paper I shall give him a considered answer. It is a matter of policy. The honourable member has previously spoken to me about the matter and

personally I think it would be an advantage if the Public Works Standing Committee were to make a full inquiry into bulk handling or any other method that will lead to a reduction in the cost of marketing wheat. We must reduce the cost of production as much as possible if the primary producers are to remain in the industry.

That was the beginning. Later in the same month the following appeared in *Hansard*:—

The Hon. T. Butterfield—Do the Government intend to consider the necessity of referring the question of bulk handling of wheat to a committee for the fullest inquiry?

The Treasurer—The Government deem an investigation desirable and the question of referring the matter to the Standing Committee on Public Works is receiving consideration.

In October of the same year a further question was asked on the subject as follows:—

The Hon. T. Butterfield—At the conference to take place in Melbourne in connection with the wheat bounty will the Premier bring up the desirability of doing something to substitute bulk handling for the present costly system of bag containers which will run this State into an expenditure of £600,000 this year?

The Treasurer—I should say that that is a subject which could appropriately be raised at a conference of Ministers of Agriculture.

The Hon. R. L. Butler—I think it could be referred to our Public Works Standing Committee.

The Treasurer—I have no objection to that. This conference is being called to consider the question of the wheat bounty. I may bring the matter up for discussion at a future conference. Western Australia is setting out on a programme of bulk handling of wheat.

Mr. Moseley—Mr. Butterfield in a question he asked referred to the cost in this State per annum of bagging wheat. On a 51,000,000 bushel harvest the cost would be £630,500. This is a yearly waste that should be eliminated. Can the Treasurer give the House an estimate of the cost of installing bulk handling appliances at Port Adelaide, Wallaroo and Port Lincoln?

The Treasurer—A thorough inquiry would have to be made into the matter before I could answer the question. The Government will take it into consideration.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.45 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 2, at 2 p.m.