

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, July 22, 1958.

The **SPEAKER** (Hon. B. H. Teusner) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

**NEW MEMBER FOR MOUNT GAMBIER.**

Mr. Ronald Frederick Ralston, to whom the Oath of Allegiance was administered by the Speaker, took his seat in the House as member for the district of Mount Gambier in place of the late Mr. John Fletcher.

**ASSENT TO ACTS.**

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor intimated by message his assent to the following Acts:—

Appropriation (No. 1) and Supply (No. 1).

**DEATH OF MR. J. FLETCHER.**

The **SPEAKER**—I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from the widow of Mr. John Fletcher, former member for Mount Gambier—

Thank you for your letter of June 17 conveying the resolution passed by the Assembly in reference to the death of my husband. The tribute from his Parliamentary colleagues and your own personal expression of sympathy are most deeply appreciated.

**QUESTIONS.****SNOWY RIVER AGREEMENT.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Premier inform the House of the outcome of the negotiations that have taken place and were, I understand, finalized recently regarding South Australia's proper share of water under the Snowy River Agreement, and whether the fears we all felt that South Australia might be prejudicially affected by that agreement have been satisfactorily resolved?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—A number of conferences were held, all of which were abortive until the last conference, which decided upon some general principles to be submitted to the various Governments, which have since been accepted. I can outline briefly what is involved at present. There were two matters about which the Government was somewhat concerned. One was that we had no method of enforcing any account of the diversion of water from the Tooma because we were not a party to the Snowy River Waters Agreement. The State Governments concerned and the Commonwealth Government have agreed to an alteration of the River

Murray Waters Agreement to provide that water diverted from the Tooma shall be regarded as water diverted by the two States concerned until Snowy River water replaces it. Therefore, the first point will be cleared up by an amendment of the agreement, which will cover the interim period while the work is being carried out. When the work is completed and the water from the Snowy is diverted into the River Murray, the States have agreed to amend section 51 of the River Murray Waters Agreement, which is the section that deals with the amount of water available to South Australia during periods of drought. That section is the key to the whole agreement as far as South Australia is concerned because all development must be designed to cover the period of low water supplies. There is no point in developing above what can be maintained under ordinary conditions. Section 51 of the agreement is very vague and many things in connection with it, although assumed, are not actually set out in it; therefore the proposals now being drawn up by the Commonwealth Crown Law officers are for a completely amended section 51 to cover the matters that have arisen in connection with the discussions and will be dealt with by this House in due course.

A new provision advantageous to Victoria and New South Wales is that which enables those States to provide South Australia's water from any convenient source. They have that right in ordinary times, but it was not specified whether they had that right in times of drought; there was some ambiguity as to whether they had to supply the precise water being released from any particular area. The new agreement will contain a provision to enable Victoria and New South Wales to supply South Australia's water from any source they wish. Obviously, it does not matter to us whether that water comes from the Eildon Weir, a Victorian reservoir, or a New South Wales dam, provided we get our share.

The second point is the definition of what constitutes Murray water in time of drought. As the agreement stands, Murray water consists of water released from the Hume Dam and from Lake Victoria reservoir adjoining South Australia. It has always been presumed—but has not been stated specifically in the agreement—that the water flowing into the Hume Dam at that time should also be counted. There has also been some measure of support for the theory that the water in the river bed itself should be considered, but that is

not specifically stated in the River Murray Waters Agreement. In the new clause, however, River Murray water will be defined as all water flowing down the Murray to Albury, water contained in the dam at Albury, all water in the bed of the River Murray between Albury and the South Australian border, and all water in Lake Victoria. Therefore, the definition of "water" will include all the amounts specifically included in the other agreement and any other amount that may have been in doubt. That definition is extremely favourable to South Australia as it means that when the Snowy River water is diverted into the Murray it becomes a part of the water of the River Murray and is subject to division in time of drought the same as water falling in the catchment area at present.

The third point, which is of some importance to us and which will be dealt with in new clause 51, deals with evaporation. Under the River Murray Waters Agreement, in ordinary circumstances provision is made to cover South Australia's evaporation losses, but again that is not specifically mentioned in clause 51 and there was some doubt whether South Australia could claim evaporation losses under those circumstances. New clause 51 will make it quite clear that the amount of water (three-thirteenths) provided for South Australia means three-thirteenths after allowance has been made for evaporation losses in South Australian lakes and rivers. That is very important to us and that decision, in my opinion, is quite beneficial to the State. By and large, I think that when honourable members see new clause 51 they will be able to support it fully, as it will be very beneficial to South Australia. The Tooma River diversion will cease to be a part of the River Murray system after Snowy River water comes in, and we shall not get a share of it, but we shall get a share of the vastly increased amount of Snowy River water—I think an additional quantity of about 600,000 acre feet.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHOOL OF ARTS.

Mr. GEOFFREY CLARKE—No scholarships are given by the Commonwealth Government to the School of Arts and Crafts in South Australia, which is now an institution granting diplomas. Will the Minister of Education approach the Commonwealth Government to see whether Commonwealth scholarships can be made available at tertiary level to this school, or alternatively, in his review of scholarships will he consider granting at

least one scholarship, with living allowance, for outstanding merit in art?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Acting Director of Education is making a preliminary survey of the number of scholarships offered by the Commonwealth Government and the State Government and the terms and conditions of those scholarships. His report has not yet reached me, but after it has I will consider the honourable member's request, together with numerous other requests I have received, and I will then discuss the matter with him.

#### FRUIT ON LARGS BAY BEACH.

Mr. TAPPING—Recently I was asked to go to the foreshore at Largs North to see the lodgement of fruit that had resulted from dumping of fruit at or near the Outer Harbour. About eight or ten cases of fruit were lodged on the foreshore, causing complaints from my constituents. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the fruit can be dumped further to sea to prevent the lodgement I have referred to?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I have received the following report;—

During this year approximately 79,000 bags of fruit have been dumped at sea from the three fruit fly outbreak areas. The bags are weighted with 20 lb. of stone before being dumped at sea from Outer Harbour. Second-hand cornsacks are used for fruit disposal. Every effort is made to ensure that only sound bags are used, and a considerable amount of fruit has been rebagged before dumping. This manner of fruit disposal is considered the safest and most suitable method available to date, and has been used for a number of years. Each year small amounts of fruit have been washed ashore when the bags disintegrate before the fruit is fully water logged. The foreshores are periodically visited and any fruit washed ashore removed for disposal. Following the boisterous weather of the previous week the beaches were visited on Monday morning, 21st July. Fruit was found scattered between Semaphore and Outer Harbour. During the afternoon six bags of fruit were picked up between Semaphore and Fort Largs. The remainder will be picked up on Tuesday morning. Practically all of this was grape fruit which had been under water for a number of weeks. There is no danger of the possible spread of fruit fly from this fruit.

I have asked the Director of Agriculture to examine all possible methods of preventing even this amount of fruit from becoming a nuisance in the way the honourable member has stated.

#### SOLDIER SETTLEMENT VALUATIONS.

Mr. KING—Can the Minister of Repatriation say whether provision will be made for the

re-valuation of fruit properties allotted under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme where the properties are subject to seepage and other factors which may affect their capital value, such as production from subsequent unregulated plantings which may also reduce their earning power? Alternatively, can valuation be delayed until the seepage danger has been dealt with?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—At the last sitting of the House I informed members that valuations would soon be sent out to the settlers concerned. That has been done, but so far I have not had any report from the settlers, but following on the honourable member's question I shall be glad to investigate any case on its merits personally and take up the question with the Commonwealth Government. Actually, we are only a partner in the scheme, and as the Commonwealth Government is financing the scheme it would naturally have the final say.

#### HOUSING PROBLEM.

Mr. HUTCHENS—The following is an extract from a leading article in the *News* of July 17:—

The South Australian Housing Trust last year completed 107 fewer houses than in the year before. At present it is limited to a stable target of about 3,000 houses a year because it can expect only enough money to finance this programme from its allotment at low interest from the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement, and from finance at commercial rates on the loan market.

Can the Premier say whether it is a correct assumption that, owing to circumstances explained in that article, the Housing Trust can build only about 3,000 houses a year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—As soon as the debate on the Address in Reply is finished the Government will introduce the Loan Estimates, and the question of distribution of all Loan money will come before the House. I do not want to anticipate the debate on the Loan Estimates, but I can tell the honourable member that the provision of money for housing through the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement is not limited to any specific amount for any State in any year. We have the right to nominate the amount that we shall spend, and so far the Commonwealth Government has always provided that sum. This year we asked for an additional £1,000,000 for this purpose, and it was immediately granted, though, of course, at the expense of other Government Loan expenditure. The more we ask for housing the more has to be paid to building societies because

under the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement a certain percentage has to be paid to those societies. On a population basis, South Australia gets more money under the agreement than any other State, but our expenditure on housing is limited by the fact that the more we spend on that item the less we can get for education and other items.

#### COST OF LIVING INCREASE AND MEAT PRICES.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—Last Saturday's *Advertiser* reported that the C series index figures for Adelaide showed that the cost of living rose by 6s. in the June quarter. Is the Premier prepared to comment on the significance, or otherwise, of that rise?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Any rise in the C series index figures is of considerable significance because they are an impartial record of the economy of the State. The six shillings rise followed a three shillings reduction in the previous quarter. Two items almost entirely accounted for the rise, namely, meat (4s.), and rents (1s. 9d.).

Mr. Lawn—What about clothing? What did the Commonwealth Statistician say about that?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—He said that clothing prices were substantially unaltered.

Mr. Lawn—No, he said there was an increase in all States.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have a report on this matter, and I assure the honourable member that the two important items which accounted for the increase were meat and rents. Last year Parliament passed legislation enabling some increases in rents, and I think that the rise in rents is now flattening out and that there will not be any great increase in that item in the future. Meat prices have been dominated by the stock market. The season has been unfavourable for primary production and stock prices have been extremely high for better grade meats. This has given the Government considerable concern, but there is no action we can take about it immediately. When the export lamb season is fully operating and meat is more plentiful the Government proposes to de-control meat prices for a trial period to see what the implications will be. It would be injudicious to do that now or until seasonal conditions enable a better supply of meat to come forward, but I think we shall be able to do it about the middle of September.

Mr. LAWN—A report in the *News* of July 18 showed that Adelaide and Brisbane had an increase of 6s. a week in the cost of living, this being the highest increase in the Commonwealth. The article stated:—

If the basic wage were still tied to the C series index in Adelaide, it would now rise from £12 14s. to £13 as a result of the June increase. But the wage is pegged at £12 16s. a week.

Does the Government believe that wages should be pegged while prices are free, or that prices should be pegged and wages freed? Will the Premier ask Cabinet to consider taking steps to see that wages, at least those prescribed by awards and determinations of the State Industrial Court, are freed while the cost of living figures are changing from quarter to quarter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The question is of great importance, but it chiefly concerns decisions of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. The court, in its initial stages, laid down a policy regarding the basic wage that was designed to cover a person's living requirements. It was designed for a man, his wife and three children. More recently the court abandoned that theory and wages are now adjusted on the capacity of industry to pay. The court has not determined this of its own volition, for in many industries the unions have asked for something different from the mere application of cost of living rises. The unions claim that the labourer is entitled to share in the prosperity of the country and I agree fundamentally with that. The figures cited in the *News* are not correct if you consider the various prosperity loadings that have been granted by the court for a number of years. I believe the correct method of assessing wages in industry is that which the court at present uses; that if the country is prosperous the worker is entitled to more than mere costs of living. This belief has been adopted by our biggest industrial union—the Australian Workers Union—which for many years has enjoyed prosperity loadings which have proved beneficial. In any event, the honourable member has quoted mythical figures, for everyone knows that the basic wage earner is an extinct being as every worker is on a margin and no one is tied to the basic wage.

Mr. STOTT—Will the Premier consider decontrolling meat prices before mid-September, because obviously that will be during the peak period and the market will be flooded with lambs? If the Government considered decontrolling before then it would provide a period of levelling up which would be of benefit to all concerned.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Cabinet decision was that meat would be decontrolled as soon as the market reached a reasonable equilibrium. As every member knows, meat supplies have been very short. As a consequence, there have been rather unsatisfactory yardings at the abattoirs, and supplies of first quality meat have been hard to come by.

Mr. O'Halloran—Although the yardings are second quality they are at top prices.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—As I pointed out, the position has not been entirely unsatisfactory to the trade. As soon as the market reaches a fair balance we will give a trial period of decontrol. When I said there would be decontrol in the middle of September, I qualified that by saying it would be when the export season had started to operate and supplies were reasonable. I can assure the honourable member that the point he raised will be examined.

Mr. LAWN—How can the Premier or the Government justify the decontrol of prices while wages are controlled?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think the honourable member should refer that question to other State Premiers because South Australia and Queensland, both of which have Liberal Governments, are the only States with any price control. We are maintaining and have continued to maintain, although it has not been the fashion in all States, a system of price control that I believe has been very beneficial to the industrial worker in this State.

Mr. Lawn—Wages are not controlled in New South Wales.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—If members look at the overall picture of increases in prices in South Australia and Queensland since decontrol by the other States they will see that there has been a marked advantage to consumers in this State, because prices are very much lower.

Mr. Lawn—They are higher.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—They are very much lower. When the Prices Bill is before the House I will submit the prices, and the honourable member will see that I am right. If his contention is correct there should not be any control.

#### ABATTOIRS SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES.

Mr. STOTT—Last session the Minister of Agriculture's predecessor informed me that the Government was examining the question of improving the slaughtering facilities at the

**Metropolitan Abattoirs.** Can the Minister indicate whether Cabinet has reached a decision on those improvements?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—This matter is under consideration and I hope to be able to make a statement on it fairly soon.

#### DISEASE IN DAIRY CATTLE.

Mr. JENKINS—In recent weeks there has been an outbreak of disease in heifers in dairying herds in my district. A fortnight ago one of my constituents lost eleven through it. The disease apparently takes the form of severe enteritis which develops seriously and results in death. I understand officers of the Agriculture Department have examined the position but I was informed that they could not trace the disease. Can the Minister of Agriculture now intimate whether the cause of the disease has been found?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—This disease is engaging the attention of officers of the department. I will get a report as soon as possible.

#### BY-ELECTION RESULTS.

Mr. LAWN—In view of the thrashing inflicted on this Government by the electors of Wallaroo on August 31 last and the inglorious defeat of the Government at the hands of Mount Gambier electors on July 12, can the Premier say when this Government intends to toss in the towel and get out?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—We have a way of dealing with these matters in a democratic country, and it is not to rely on the voting in one or two districts, but on voting in all districts. In due course the electors of South Australia will have an opportunity of passing judgment on the honourable member's work for his constituency and on that of other members. I have no doubt they will exercise their votes intelligently and I look forward to the occasion.

#### RESERVOIR INTAKES.

Mr. GOLDNEY—Can the Minister of Works indicate the intake into the South Para Reservoir as a result of the recent rains?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I am pleased to announce that there has been a valuable intake into reservoirs as a result of recent rains. I asked Mr. Dridan this morning to provide me with the latest figures of reservoir storages and, in round figures, they reveal that Mount Bold, Happy Valley and Hope Valley are about half full; Thorndon Park, almost full; Millbrook, two-thirds full; Beetaloo, about

one-quarter full; Bundaleer, about one-third full; Baroota, 255 million gallons out of a capacity of 1,371 million gallons; Tod River, just over half full; Barossa, about one-quarter full; South Para, 268 million gallons out of a capacity of 9,880 million, and Warren, about one-third full.

#### SOLOMONTOWN BEACH REPAIRS.

Mr. DAVIS—In April last when the Premier visited Port Pirie he promised the mayor £1,500 in June and £1,500 in July for repairs to the Solomontown beach wall. The Premier invited the mayor to call a public meeting, which was done, but the mayor was not sure what to tell the people about the £3,000 and I was asked to investigate the matter. I wrote to the Premier, but did not receive a reply, so I rang him. He informed me that he would call for a report to ascertain what work was necessary before the £3,000 was paid. Can the Premier say whether he has received a report from the Harbors Board and whether it is the Government's intention to pay that sum to the Port Pirie Corporation?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I examined this project for the repairing of a wall to the inner beach at Port Pirie, which I thought was a good proposition deserving of support. I informed the mayor and the deputation that the Government was prepared to subsidize this project in the same manner as it has been subsidizing other improvements throughout South Australia, and £1,500 was mentioned for last year and £1,500 for this year. They informed me that they were having some difficulty with the Harbors Board, which, they said, did not desire that particular gap in the wall blocked as the board regarded it as of advantage to the harbour. I discussed this matter with Mr. Meyer, general manager of the Harbors Board, and he promised to get a report. It was quite clear from his statement that the board has no objection to the bridging of the wall and believes it might be beneficial to the harbour. The difficulty has been, and still is, that whilst the residents of Port Pirie have been speaking in terms of a few thousand pounds, the Harbors Board believes it would be extremely costly work requiring the expenditure of tens of thousands. The board believes the wall could be patched but it would collapse with the first high tide. The board will not support any proposal that does not involve piling throughout the entire length of the wall. If the honourable member wants to proceed with the project £3,000 could be handed over tomorrow, but I assure him that that

would be foolish. He implied in his question that the Government had neglected to look after the project, but I assure him that that is not so—rather, the opposite is the case. It would have been much cheaper for the Government to pay over £3,000 and let the council do the job, but under those circumstances, if Mr. Meyer and his competent officers are correct, the money would have been wasted. If possible, we will work out some satisfactory solution of the problem. Obviously the Government cannot spend about £30,000 on this project at the moment. I am trying to find a cheaper way to do it satisfactorily, and as soon as the Harbors Board gives me that information I will be prepared to discuss the matter with the honourable member for Port Pirie. As I think the member for Port Augusta has some proprietary rights in Port Pirie at the moment, I am quite prepared to discuss the matter with any members for the district when the project is sufficiently far advanced.

#### TARPAULINS FOR EMERGENCIES.

Mr. DUNNAGE—Last week a tornado occurred in Unley that partially wrecked a considerable number of houses.

Mr. Lawn—That is not the only tornado we had.

Mr. DUNNAGE—During this trouble, as in Mount Gambier, we had the support of quite a number of decent people—

The SPEAKER—Order! I ask the honourable member to proceed with the explanation of his question.

Mr. DUNNAGE—That is what I am trying to do. I received permission to say a few words—

*Members interjecting:*

The SPEAKER—Order! I ask honourable members to refrain from interjecting, particularly when questions are being asked.

Mr. DUNNAGE—The Police Department, the Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Fire Brigade and the Unley Council co-operated, but they had much trouble in obtaining tarpaulins, etc., to cover houses that had been unroofed. This is the third time such a thing has occurred in Unley, and similar disasters have happened in other districts. Would it be possible to have a central depot at Fire Brigade Headquarters or the Police Department, at which a large number of tarpaulins would be available, so that the trouble experienced in obtaining tarpaulins last week would not recur? Will the Minister of Works consider this suggestion?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The honourable member will appreciate that what was officially described as a tornado came in mid-afternoon on a rainy winter's day, and under those conditions there was not much time left to take any action. From reports I have had, the various Government departments came to the aid of stricken people promptly and, I think, fairly efficiently, which I think the honourable member's statement bears out. The honourable member will also appreciate that to maintain a big reserve of tarpaulins at a given point against an emergency would be rather costly and might not be fully justified. I have not had any other comments on this matter except complimentary remarks from the people concerned. However, I will ask the Architect-in-Chief to consider the suggestion and to see what it would entail and whether it would be practicable to obtain and retain at least a modest supply of tarpaulins against such emergencies.

#### COUNTRY ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES.

Mr. QUIRKE—On July 1 the Electricity Trust fitted power to the homes at Burra, and since then that town has had power from the trust's mains. That, of course, has led to people as far north as Hallett, who have always been anxious to have power, wanting to know if it is now possible for them to receive a supply either by the ordinary method or by the single earth wire return method?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The honourable member signified some time ago that he was extremely interested in this matter and proposed to raise it, so I obtained a report from the Assistant Manager of the Electricity Trust, Mr. Huddleston, and, although it does not take the matter far, I shall read it for the honourable member's information:—

We have for some time been investigating the possibility of supplying electricity north from the Burra as far as Hallett. Because of our recent adoption of single wire earth return method of supply the likelihood of supply being made available to people on the route has had to be investigated. We have interviewed residents over a considerable area to ascertain their likely requirement. The matter is now in the hands of the Engineer for the area to estimate the cost of the work. This will take some time as it will be necessary to consider several alternatives involving the extent of three-phase supply and also the extent of the area to be covered by single phase supply. Because of the large number of investigations being made at the same time for other districts it is likely that it will be another three months before we can obtain an answer.

As soon as that answer is available I will see that it is forwarded to the honourable member.

## PENALTIES FOR JOYRIDING.

Mr. LAUCKE—In view of the increasing practice of taking motor cars under the pretence of joyriding, will the Premier consider the provision of severer penalties to provide more effective deterrents to this evil?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Government has received a number of reports on this matter and over the last four or five years several questions have been asked in this House regarding it. The deterrents provided in the Act are fairly substantial if the court uses them, but on many occasions the magistrate treats the taking of a car as joyriding rather than as theft. Under those circumstances the available penalties have not been used. I know of no suggestion that the penalties available are used fully by the court or that they would not be substantial enough. I do not believe the Act needs alteration, but I will have the question investigated.

## CHIMNEY ON POWER STATION.

Mr. RICHES—Port Augusta residents had hoped that electro-static precipitators would be installed at the A Power Station at Port Augusta, but the press recently announced that a chimney covering all six chimney stacks there would be built to a height of 250ft. for the purpose of dispersing smog. As this will involve the expenditure of much money, is the Premier satisfied that adequate tests have been made and is he sure that this chimney will solve the problem? Further, can he say what effect the engineers of the Electricity Trust hope the building of the stack will have?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Electricity Trust sent an officer overseas to investigate the best method of dealing with this problem, and he spent much time examining solutions provided in other industrialized countries. So that the honourable member may have a full account of the considerations involved in this matter, I will obtain a report from the trust, as any statement I might make today would be a matter of opinion and I am not qualified to give an opinion on this subject. The trust's report will set out clearly the reasons that prompted the decision referred to.

## COCKCHAFFER GRUB.

Mr. SHANNON—With your permission, Mr. Speaker, and the concurrence of the House, may I say how pleased I was to learn of the elevation of Mr. Brookman to Cabinet rank. He has a suitable background and the ability to do more than justice to the post of Minis-

ter of Agriculture. My constituents are concerned about the infestation of a pasture grub similar to the cockchafer previously found in the South-East. Can the Minister assure members that the control methods adopted by his officers who are combating this grub have been successful, and say how costly such methods are?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I appreciate the honourable member's kind introductory remarks. The pest to which he refers is the cockchafer grub, which is doing severe damage in parts of the Adelaide hills, including the Onkaparinga Valley, as well as in the southern part of the Mount Lofty Ranges and on Kangaroo Island. The department knows certain methods of control and the one probably favoured most by the department is the use of Lindane applied at the rate of four ounces to the acre. B.H.C. may also be used and DDT could also be applied; but is much more expensive. The infestation is serious because of the expense of counteracting it and because of the short growth of feed at this time of the year. I will call for a full report on this matter because I would like to be able to tell the honourable member the cheapest known way of counteracting the grub.

Mr. Quirke—Could you also ask whether this grub attacks strawberry clover country?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—Yes.

## STOBIE POLE YARD AT WALLAROO.

Mr. HUGHES—On reading this morning's *Advertiser* I was alarmed to learn that the power line to be built by the Commonwealth Department of Works between the Port Augusta power station and Woomera was to be built with 83ft. lattice steel towers along the 117 miles route. Does this mean that the stobie pole yard at Wallaroo will be closed at the end of this month, or has the trust, through the Premier, made available further contracts to keep the yard open and the men employed?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Some months ago the Electricity Trust notified the manufacturer at Wallaroo that it did not propose to extend the contract any longer. The cost at Wallaroo is substantially higher than in the city, and manufacture at that town involves fairly heavy transport costs as well. A deputation from Wallaroo waited on me and said that the manufacturers were tendering for the Commonwealth job and that they feared there would be an interregnum between the termination of the Stobie poles contract and the letting of the Commonwealth job

and asked whether it would be possible for the trust to extend the manufacture of Stobie poles for a limited period. I took up the question with the Electricity Trust, which agreed, somewhat reluctantly, to extend the contract at Wallaroo for a period until the Commonwealth job tenders had been decided. I do not know who got the job, but I heard over the air last night that the Commonwealth Department of Works had accepted a tender.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Premier indicate the Government's intentions regarding the business of the House for the next few weeks so that members can make necessary arrangements?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Government has a fairly substantial programme of legislation to bring before the House. The agreement with the Standard-Vacuum Oil Company has been consented to by all parties, and I think it is now ready for members' consideration. I understand from Sir Edgar Bean that the indenture with the Broken Hill Pty. Company is just about completed, though there were three clauses upon which some work was still being done as late as yesterday. The Loan Estimates are being prepared and about the only item not finalized is that concerning schools, and I think the Chairman of the Public Works Committee will be taking some action on that matter in the near future. The Government expects that the debate on the Address in Reply will take two or three weeks, but it will not ask the House to sit at night during that period.

I want to inform members that the State may be able to conduct important negotiations overseas shortly, but this would necessitate my absence from the House for two or three weeks. If the Leader and his Party agree, I propose to accept the invitation to go overseas because it could lead to something of outstanding advantage to this State. If I am to accept the invitation I must do so forthwith. After the completion of the debate on the Address in Reply the Government will ask members to sit on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings for the consideration of a fairly important and heavy legislative programme.

#### MURRAY AREA ROADS.

Mr. KING—Will the Minister representing the Minister of Roads obtain a report on roads generally in the Renmark district and on the present stage of plans for raising the

approaches to the Paringa Bridge on the Renmark side? When will the reconstruction of the Renmark distillery bridge on the Sturt Highway be undertaken, and will repairs to the Cooltong Road be carried out before the next fruit harvest?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will obtain a report from the Minister of Roads.

#### OIL REFINERY AT CHRISTIES BEACH.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Some people fear that the company that will construct an oil refinery near Christies Beach will employ a considerable number of people from outside this State. Can the Premier say whether there are any grounds for this fear and what proportion of South Australian labour will be employed?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have been assured that it is the general policy of the company to employ labour available in the places where refineries are established, and to employ local contractors to the maximum extent possible. However, it will be necessary to bring to South Australia some highly qualified petroleum chemists, and some large installations that could not be manufactured here will have to be imported.

#### PEDESTRIAN CROSSING.

Mr. DUNNAGE—The Unley and Marion councils have established a fine pedestrian crossing on the South Road, but it cannot be made effective because, according to the Road Traffic Act, motor vehicles do not have to stop when pedestrians are using the crossing. The teachers at the Black Forest school have instructed the children how to use the crossing, but at the Unley City Council meeting last night the head inspector recommended that the crossing be abolished because it was dangerous for pedestrians to use it. A council report stated:—

In view of the hazards attached to pedestrian crossings, it was resolved that the two other approved crossings be not laid down until legislation was amended to make them reasonably safe, and it is now recommended that the pedestrian crossing on South Road be abandoned, the signs removed and the road painting blocked out; but the fluorescent lighting remain until such time as the Road Traffic Act and regulations are suitably amended or abolished.

Will the Premier consider amending the Road Traffic Act to make it compulsory for vehicles to stop when people are using pedestrian crossings?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will have the question examined by the State Traffic Committee as early as possible and



advise the honourable member of what action the Government may take. I agree that zebra crossings can be dangerous because South Australian motorists have not become accustomed to them and do not look for them. I think we must establish much more clearly what are the rights of motorists and pedestrians and see that motorists are notified when they are approaching such crossings. In Victoria traffic lights have been placed at some crossings to control the traffic and thus minimize the danger to pedestrians.

#### NORTHERN ROADS PROGRAMME.

Mr. QUIRKE—On June 18 I asked a question concerning the road programme for the Manoora, Hanson to Burra road and the Jamestown to Mannanarie road. Has the Premier a reply?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have received the following report from the Commissioner of Highways:—

(1) Road from Manoora to Burra, via Hanson.

£110,000 has been allocated for the reconstruction and sealing of the section between Manoora and Hanson during 1958-1959. Sufficient metal is on hand for the completion of this work from Manoora to Black Springs, and a contract has been let for the crushing of 68,000 cubic yards of stone for the construction of the base, with a bituminous seal, between Black Springs and Hanson. It is expected that the road will be completely sealed between Manoora and Hanson during 1958-1959.

It is intended to call tenders for crushed stone in the near future for the purpose of reconstructing the section between Hanson and Burra during 1959-1960. With respect to the route, it is the present intention to connect up the above-mentioned road with the Kapunda-Peterborough main road at the end of the bitumen south of Burra.

(2) Road from Jamestown to Mannanarie.

The district council of Jamestown is at present completing the road between Jamestown and Caltowie, including the Caltowie Street, for which purpose £25,000 has been allocated during 1958-1959. Only £5,000 has been allocated during that year for the commencement of the reconstruction and sealing of the section of the Clare-Orroroo main road between Jamestown and Mannanarie. It is expected that funds will be available to continue with the reconstruction and sealing from Jamestown towards Mannanarie during 1959-1960.

#### UNIFORM RAILWAY GAUGES.

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Can the Premier say whether the Prime Minister's refusal to agree to South Australia's request for a preliminary grant of £50,000 towards the cost of survey work associated with the uniform gauge proposal for our northern narrow gauge system indicates that the Commonwealth is not as enthusiastic as we hoped about carrying out

this project? Can he comment on the likelihood of the commencement of this work in the not distant future?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Frankly I was surprised at the Commonwealth's decision, which has been considered by Cabinet, and I have been authorized to approach the Commonwealth asking it to further consider the matter as its decision has rather serious implications for the future. Only £50,000 is involved and it was for the purpose of making the necessary surveys to enable us to go right ahead with the work next year when our activities in the South-East have been completed. Unless that amount is available all the organization we have built up, which could be transferred for this work from the South-East, will have to be dismantled and employees displaced. Unless this money is available we cannot start the work and I hope that, as a result of the fresh evidence we shall submit, the Commonwealth's decision will be more favourable.

#### SOLDIER SETTLEMENT SCHEMES.

Mr. STOTT—The Premier was reported recently as saying that the Government would consider settling ex-servicemen on single-unit farms because the Commonwealth had abandoned group settlement schemes. Can the Premier elaborate on that statement and indicate whether the new proposals will affect the development of the Bookpurnong area near Loxton?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The report relates to a statement I made when I represented the Minister of Lands at the Returned Soldiers' League Conference, so if it contained any inaccuracies I must take the blame. The position as we understand it is that the Commonwealth Government has decided to discontinue group land settlement and no additional projects will be approved after a certain date. As soon as works currently in progress conclude the group settlement policy will cease. A similar decision has not been made with regard to single farm propositions and we understand that the Commonwealth is prepared to continue financing such units. If that is the position the way is open for the State to continue to develop land, and when it is sufficiently developed to sell it to farmers and as a result finance further development. We hope to create a revolving fund, and an amount will be provided on this year's Loan Estimates for land settlement in the hope that we can continue to develop land in the interest both of the State and of returned soldiers.

**PORT AUGUSTA PUBLIC WORKS.**

Mr. RICHES—Parliament has approved three important projects for Port Augusta: the building of a new police station, the building of new offices for the Waterworks and Agricultural Departments and a new maternity wing for the hospital. Will the Minister of Works ascertain why a start has not been made on any of these works and when it can be reasonably expected that it will?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I shall be pleased to do that. The matters raised have not come before me since I took over the portfolio and I am not conversant with the background. I will examine the documents and get a report.

**BLANCHETOWN BRIDGE.**

Mr. STOTT—This afternoon the long-awaited report of the Public Works Committee about the bridge across the River Murray was tabled in this House. It recommends that the bridge be constructed at Blanchetown at a cost of £666,800. Will the Government make provision in the Estimates this year to get on with this long-awaited project?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—As the honourable member stated, this report only came to hand today. I do not know what preliminary work the Highways Department has done in the matter, but I presume it would be very little, because it would have to wait for the report. I doubt if the work can be proceeded with this year, but I will examine the matter and advise the honourable member in due course. In any case, the amount of money available to the Government is fairly limited, and although increased amounts have been provided to the Highways Department for bridges, some work has already commenced on other projects which must be completed before we can get any advantage from this expenditure.

Mr. O'Halloran—The next generation will be doing the work unless there is some provision.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—it would be futile to start new work when other work had not been completed. However, I will obtain a report as soon as possible.

**INMATES OF MENTAL INSTITUTIONS.**

Mr. LAWN (on notice)—

1. What are the present numbers of inmates in South Australian mental institutions in the following categories—(a) adult males; (b) adult females; (c) children?

2. Of the adults, how many, according to the Superintendent of mental institutions, are merely there because of old age as distinct from mental ill-health?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Superintendent of Mental Institutions reports:—

1. (a) 1,293; (b) 1,237; (c) 84—according to the latest available statistics.

2. As stated previously the literal answer to the question is nil. However, about 25 per cent of the adults are over the age of 65 years. I am of the opinion that about 300 elderly patients could be cared for in infirmary hospitals, in Eventide Homes, or in the relatives' homes. During the last two years the formerly increasing tide of elderly admissions has been appreciably reduced.

**EYRE HIGHWAY.**

Mr. BOCKELBERG (on notice)—

Is it the intention of the Minister to incorporate in any master plan work at present being done on the Eyre Highway by district councils?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—At present the work being carried out by the district councils on Eyre Highway is mainly maintenance work. However, if any work of a permanent nature is being carried out, it will be done to departmental standards to be incorporated in the ultimate plan. The only two works of this nature during 1958-59 are the construction of the Pine Creek Ford near Iron Knob where the road will have to be realigned, and the reconstruction of the Ceduna streets. The department is concentrating on the Lincoln Highway in accordance with the policy outlined by the Minister of Roads some time ago, and a total of £378,000 has been allocated to Lincoln Highway during 1958-59.

**TOWN PLANNING, OSBORNE AND TAPEROO.**

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—What progress has been made by the Town Planner towards subdivision and town planning for the Osborne and Taperoo areas?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The development plan for the metropolitan area will take at least three years to prepare. The Port Adelaide development plan prepared by the Harbors Board will be of considerable assistance to the committee in proceeding with proposals for the Osborne and Taperoo areas and permission has been given for the Harbors Board to consult the Town Planner regarding the development of the land purchased by the board in the Port Adelaide area. The work of

subdivision and town planning for the Osborne area will therefore be dealt with in the general over-all plan.

#### PETROL AND OIL INSTALLATIONS.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—When is it proposed to commence the Harbors Board plan of 1949 to transfer petrol and oil installations from Birkenhead to Outer Harbour?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The holdings of the oil companies are mostly freehold land, but they also include land leased from the board. The leases have many years to run and it may therefore be some time before the oil installations can be removed from their present sites. However, the establishment of the refinery near Port Noarlunga may necessitate a review of the whole scheme.

#### PUBLIC RELIEF POLICY.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice)—What are the details of the recently introduced policy of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department in the issuing of relief in cash in lieu of tickets?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The recently introduced policy of granting State relief in cash in place of coupons was decided upon for the following reasons: (a) savings in administrative cost in issuing and accounting; (b) greater convenience to recipients and to the supplier. However, the Chief Relief Officer is still authorized to issue orders for food supplies, in certain circumstances, where he considers this desirable.

#### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:—Blanchetown bridge, Croydon boys technical high school, and augmentation of the water supply in the Encounter Bay water district.

Ordered that reports be printed.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Consideration of committee's report.

Mr. HAMBOUR (Light)—I appreciate being granted the honour of moving the adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. Before proceeding to the Speech itself, I express my sincere regret at the passing of the member for Mount Gambier. During the time I knew John Fletcher I grew to value his friendship and looked forward to his cheery company.

He was always ready to extend a helping hand: Mount Gambier has lost a worthy representative. I also express my sympathy to his widow.

I take this opportunity to extend a welcome to the new member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Ralston). I assure him that he will find good-will here—if not in the Chamber, certainly amongst members in other parts of the House. I trust that he will enjoy his short stay in this Assembly, and I wish him well. I regret the resignation from Cabinet of Sir Malcolm McIntosh, and particularly the reason for his resignation. I was delighted to see him here this afternoon, and I hope he will recover speedily from his malady. As a Minister he was very kind to me, particularly in the early stages of my association with this House, and I feel that he has served his State well.

I congratulate the member for Alexandra on his elevation to Cabinet rank, and feel confident that he will do justice to the office. I have always held him in high regard, and I am sure his forthrightness and administrative ability will be to the benefit of the department and this State. The new Minister of Works has now a more arduous task, full of details and worries, but I know that his grey hair cannot go much greyer, and he will measure up to his responsibilities. I also congratulate the member for Burra (Mr. Quirke) and the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) on their appointments to the Public Works Committee. The work of the committee will be well executed by both these men, who will give it all they have.

I am sure the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech will be applauded by all as a document of just and far-reaching optimism in the future of this State, the implementation of which is the responsibility of all members. This Parliament has been unanimous in supporting the Premier in his fight to safeguard the rights of this State under the Snowy Waters legislation. Parliament is confident that the Premier will accept no less than what the State is entitled to, and his statement this afternoon leads us to believe that we will get it. A lesser man would have weakened by now, but his work on this matter has earned him the admiration of all people in this State, and added to his stature.

I come now to primary production, which is dealt with in paragraph 5 of His Excellency's Speech. When I first read the Speech conditions did not look particularly good, but the rains of the last week or so have been of considerable benefit to the primary producer and,

indeed, to the whole economy. Unfortunately, wool prices are lower and are causing concern among primary producers. The world price of wool has fallen by 35 per cent, of metals by 30 per cent and of butter by 20 per cent, and these are matters for concern. Last year there was a small harvest, and there were low wool prices. This perhaps did not disastrously affect the old-established man, but caused difficulty to the new man. Prices of pigmeats and butter depend on the economy of other countries and their ability to buy, and they all effect the welfare of the primary producer. The position of wool is of more than individual concern; it is an item of national concern and I cannot see at present how we can hope for any improvement in price. Ninety per cent of our wool is exported and must be paid for from the currencies of other nations, many of which are in a much less fortunate position than we are. It may be said that man-made fibres are taking the place of wool, but that is only due to circumstances and because of a shortage of foreign currencies. In fact, the prices of artificial fibres have increased while the price of wool has dropped, because foreign currencies do not have to be found for the purchase of fibres and people are forced to use them the same as they were forced to use substitutes during war time. We must become reconciled to the fact that the price we receive for our wool depends on the economies of other nations.

A policy of complete self-containment is dangerous because it detracts from our customers' ability to buy our goods. We must have reciprocal trade, but at present our older customers seem to be falling away. Take Great Britain for instance. When wheat was £1 a bushel we sold wheat to Britain at 16s. 9d., yet she was the first to decide to leave the International Wheat Agreement.

Mr. O'Halloran—We pushed her out.

Mr. HAMBOUR—The fact remains that she is not in the Wheat Agreement now.

Mr. O'Halloran—We didn't have the wheat to supply her.

Mr. HAMBOUR—We could soon get the wheat to supply her now. As the Leader knows, wheat producers have been advised not to grow wheat in any quantity. The price of butter has dropped. During a difficult period Australia was rationed in her butter supplies so that Great Britain could be supplied, but now that we have the butter to sell, Great Britain has decided to buy butter where she can buy it more cheaply—on the Continent—and to the detriment of our butter producers.

We must consider the cares and worries of our primary producers. Secondary industry has a Tariff Board to go to, but primary producers must sell their produce on the world market at world parity prices. We are losing our markets in the East. Indonesia, once an excellent market for our flour, has slipped away and I believe the same applies to Ceylon. Our trade with China last year totalled only about £8,000,000, but I believe that trade could be expanded, although it probably will not be to any degree for political and ideological reasons. In quantity our trade with Japan increased last year, but because of lower prices the money value of that trade was lower. Members of the Labor Party raised a hue and cry against the Japanese trade agreement, but I am at a loss to understand what trade arrangements can be made for primary producers generally that will be accepted by the Labor Party. I should like a subsequent speaker from the Opposition to say how we should deal with the export of our surplus commodities. For instance, in a normal season we have a surplus of 66 per cent in wheat and 90 per cent in wool.

The Labor Party has suggested that we increase our trade with China, but the argument used against trading with Japan was the low wage structure in that country and I remind members opposite that in China the wage structure is even lower. I said last year—and I still say—that I am not opposed to conducting business with China. At present we do £8,000,000 a year business with China, but how are we to increase that amount if we are not prepared to take their products; you cannot have one-way traffic. Recently the Federal Minister for Primary Industry and the State Ministers of Agriculture agreed that the price of wheat should be increased by 4d. a bushel, but I agree with wheat growers that the increase was too small, particularly when the support given to other industries is considered. I have no brief for the milling industry, but about 4,500 people are employed in it and most mills are down to two shifts and finding it difficult to export flour. Consequently there is a shortage of bran and pollard in the face of a big demand. I believe that the price of wheat should have been increased by about 2s. a bushel. I understand that a rise of 2s. 2d. a bushel is necessary before the price of bread rises by 1d. a loaf.

Mr. Stott—2s. 4d. a bushel.

Mr. HAMBOUR—That may be so. If producers were given a substantial increase such as 2s. or even 1s. 6d. a bushel, the Wheat Board could subsidize the export of flour and hold

markets that have been ours for many years but are gradually slipping through our fingers. I believe that the wheat grower is entitled to a better deal. On today's price he receives about 12s. a bushel net, but I do not think that is enough. Surely he is entitled to a margin of profit, for I do not know of any other producer who does not get his margin of profit. The wheat grower has to rely entirely on bounteous seasons if he is to be profitably employed in growing wheat.

I was pleased to learn that last year the irrigated areas enjoyed a good season for that was some compensation for the disaster of 1956. I hope that next year will also be a good season so that the settlers may be given the necessary lift in their efforts to develop new country. I express my appreciation to the officers of the Department of Agriculture who have come into my district and whose help and advice is appreciated by my constituents. I should like the Minister to convey those sentiments to his officers who are doing such good work. I am proud to say that over the past two years growers in my district have won the State-wide wheat crop competition. The prize went to two young men of whom I am proud. Only a fortnight ago a bacon and carcass competition was held in the town in which I live and the judge said the points given at that competition were the highest ever recorded in this State. I am proud of that record too. Further, the best Jersey cows are kept in the district of Light and we have topped the prices at the wool sales on many occasions. I attribute these achievements largely to the competitions sponsored by the Australian Wheat Board and the Department of Agriculture and express my gratitude to the officers concerned.

His Excellency's Speech stated that about 1,000 ex-servicemen had been settled, that 1,200 had been assisted by loans, and that future land settlement would be proceeded with by the State. It is with some trepidation that I look at a young man going on to a new block today. The cost of development is so high and the prices of primary products so low that I feel there is not much future in it at present. Unless support can be given to these settlers the same as is given in other countries to primary producers, the only man who will make a reasonable profit is he who has no capital liability and is firmly established. To the man who must start from scratch, or with only a small deposit, a future on the land is not particularly bright.

During the past year the necessity of bringing water from the River Murray to the metropolitan area has been proved beyond doubt. The people of the metropolitan area must realize that the State is one whole. I have been accused in the past of being "country versus city" minded, but I have only asked for equal treatment for country and city people and have not minded any concessions being given to city people provided they were applied to country people also. The cost of bringing water to Adelaide has been higher than the price received for it, but country people have been pleased to think that last summer water restrictions were unnecessary. I hope the Government will proceed with the further use of Murray waters in its reticulation programme. I suggest that a pipeline be taken from the nearest point on the River Murray, say Blanchetown, to the Barossa Valley, which is one of the most fertile and richest parts of the State if given the water.

I congratulate the Government on the extension of the main from the Warren Reservoir to Nuriootpa. When that is completed many areas in my district without a service will enjoy one. I believe the programme envisages progress at the rate of eight miles a year, that eight miles has already been laid, and that another eight miles is to be completed. Other contracts have been let for the construction of a reservoir at Myponga and the raising of the dam at Mt. Bold. It is also hoped to build reservoirs at Clarendon and Kangaroo Creek. All these projects will tend to improve the supply of water for the metropolitan area. I am sure that the Minister of Lands is happy that the reticulation programme now covers four-fifths of the people of Yorke Peninsula. The people of Kapunda, Riverton, and surrounding districts will also be happy when the work to which I have referred is completed. I have previously raised the question of a water supply for Manoora, but it has been considered economically impossible to bring supplies from the River Murray or the Warren system to that area. During the last few months, however, efforts have been made to find underground water and reports now show that water is available.

Much has been said, both in this House and outside, about sewerage, but I believe that Loan money should be made available for water reticulation before much is spent on sewerage facilities. The Committee on sewerage facilities visited my home town to investigate the necessity for sewerage there, but when local residents realized the cost of

such a scheme the enthusiasm for it was not very great. The Leader of the Opposition has been reported as saying that sewerage would be given to country people at cut prices.

Mr. O'Halloran—At metropolitan prices.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I apologize to the Leader and amend my statement. I believe the metropolitan price is either 1s. 6d. or 1s. 3d. I think the charge in the country is 2s. 6d. I believe the Leader of the Opposition said he would give country people sewerage for less than 2s. 6d.

Mr. O'Halloran—That is so.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Is he prepared to increase the charge in the metropolitan area so that sewerage rates will be uniform throughout the State?

Mr. O'Halloran—Why shouldn't they be the same?

Mr. HAMBOUR—What would be the reaction of people in the metropolitan area?

Mr. John Clark—People in this State are all South Australians.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Of course they are, but what would members representing the metropolitan area say about such a scheme? I congratulate the railways on the efforts being made to improve services. All people who have ridden in the diesel trains will admit that they give a vastly improved service. The diesels are even more comfortable than a motor car.

Mr. Davis—What do you ride in?

Mr. HAMBOUR—I have often ridden in the diesel bluebirds and I have enjoyed the ride. Unfortunately for the railways, one great advantage of road transport is that goods are picked up at one point and taken direct to their destination. If they are carried by rail the person taking delivery has to get them to the point of destination himself. I do not know how the railways can get over that difficulty, but I wish them well in their difficult task. When the Estimates were before the House last year I pointed out that the railway refreshment rooms showed a loss of about £19,000, and I hope there will be no loss for the past financial year.

I do not know whether the Transport Control Board is controlled by the Railways Commissioner, but it has a system under which anyone desiring to use road transport in competition with the railways has to apply to the board for a permit. The board grants the permit if it considers it necessary, but the permit costs 10 per cent of the carrier's fee. If the board considers a permit should be granted the fee charged should be only a nominal one. Recently a man had to shift

sheep from dry country to the South-East and the permit cost £12 7s. It is wrong for the board to charge such high fees. I believe the railways are doing a good job if we consider the difficulties with which they are faced. I understand that the Naracoorte-Kingston line is being broadened and that the work is nearing completion, and I am sure that will make members representing the South-East happy.

A great fillip was given to housing when it was decided to spend £368,000 for cottage homes in the country. The Mayor of Kapunda told me that that town had the highest ratio of old age pensioners of any place in South Australia. Three of these homes were constructed at Kapunda, and the people there hope that this policy will be continued from year to year so that more homes will be built for elderly people in the country. I have seen houses partly erected and I am sure they would be acceptable to anybody. The Government's decision to build houses for elderly people who cannot afford to pay high rents shows that it is doing what it can for decentralization.

I cannot understand why the Housing Trust builds houses to be let for rentals as high as £5 5s. a week. I always understood the trust was established to provide houses at the lowest possible rent. A sum as high as £5 5s. is an incursion on anyone's wages, and a man would have to be on a good salary to afford that much. The sums made available to the trust should be used on homes that working people can afford. Not long ago the trust decided to make concessions to those desiring to purchase their homes, and I believe about £16 a year was allowed to tenants who desired to become purchasers instead of tenants. I was chided last year by members opposite when I spoke of the desirability of people owning their own homes. I felt it was almost essential for a man to own his home, but I was told by members opposite that many people could not afford it. I tried to prove it did not cost much more to purchase than to rent. I have made further researches and find that in 1911 about 36 per cent of the people owned their homes; in 1921, 45 per cent; in 1933, 47 per cent; in 1947, 55 per cent; and now, 65 per cent have some equity in their homes. Those figures show that the good government and prosperity we have enjoyed in the last 20 years have contributed greatly to the increase in the percentage of people purchasing their homes. The attitude of our people towards saving money will have a great

influence on the national character. Savings Bank reports reveal that savings are high, but so are earnings. I believe that the average earnings in this State are about £18 a week.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Are the salaries of members of Parliament included in that?

Mr. HAMBOUR—I did not come here to make money, but in the sincere belief that I could do something to help the people of this State. If members opposite are sincere in their approach to national questions they will appreciate that the savings of the people are a most important factor in our economy. It is our responsibility to see that our young people are brought up with an appreciation of the value of money. It is the ambition of almost every youngster when he starts work to scrape up enough money as soon as possible to put down as a deposit on a motor car.

Mr. Davis—Why not?

Mr. HAMBOUR—When he is about 24 or 25 if he wants to get married he has to chase up his member of Parliament to try to get him a home, and he has to buy furniture on hire purchase. Such a person will remain in debt for the rest of his life, but if he saved some money he would have a chance of eventually owning his own home and what is in it. It is true that people are born into a world that is not of their making, but we should impress upon young people the necessity to save money. More houses are blown out of the exhausts of motor cars than we realize. Between the ages of 16 and 25 a young man should be able to save enough money to pay a deposit on his home.

Mr. Davis—Should not our young people have transport of their own?

Mr. HAMBOUR—When I was a boy I rode to work on a push bike. There is nothing degrading in that, or in walking to work or using our public utilities that members opposite would like to see paying their way. The Savings Bank is doing a lot of advertising and using propaganda to try to get the people to save money and build up security for the future. Members opposite may say that the saving of money will result in unemployment, but that is not right.

Mr. John Clark—Who said that?

Mr. HAMBOUR—The saving of money will result in purchasing power being used for buying durable assets instead of wasting assets.

I congratulate the Housing Trust on the work it is doing. The treatment I have received from officers of the trust has been most courteous and I hope the trust continues to prosper. I do not agree with all it does

but from the State's point of view it has performed magnificently. Education is a tremendous question and it is admitted by all that there is insufficient money available for it and that the number of enrolments in our schools will increase. I believe secondary education will reach its peak in 1967. We should consider what will happen if we have not sufficient money. It is admitted that the Minister of Education has done a tremendous amount of work and is to be applauded by all, but his department will be confronted with greater expenditure as time progresses. The question of transport is going to get bigger. There is a tie-up between school transport and roads. The district councils in my constituency cannot afford to repair roads for school buses and the Highways Department is not happy about making roads for school buses. It devotes some of the Federal Rural Grant grudgingly to such roads but the opinion is that if a school bus traverses a road the maintenance of that road should, to a degree, be the responsibility of the Education Department. This could place an additional burden on the department.

Private schools are to be commended for the part they play in educating our young. Not all parents of private school students are wealthy. Many of them are humble working people, but they pay for the education of their children. It has been suggested that students today are not as good as they were and that they are not receiving the education they should. There have been comments on the fact that only half of the candidates pass the Intermediate examination. Those who have read the debate on the Murray Report in the Federal House will understand how different sections of the Education Department blame other sections; tertiary blames secondary, secondary blames primary and I presume primary blames the kindergarten. I am not in a position to say where the fault lies, but there is dissatisfaction and the product of our schools is lacking in the essentials. I employ many people and in the main their spelling, although not good, is not as bad as their writing. I do not know whether that is the result of using Biro pens or the elimination of the copy book. If it is the latter, the sooner it is restored the better. I believe our students should be taught how to write.

If we are lacking in finance for education we must get it. Private schools accept full responsibility and one church organization in Australia teaches 350,000 children entirely without Government support. I take my hat

off to those people who accept the full responsibility for educating their children. If you ask the parents of children at public schools to contribute to education costs they hold up their hands in holy horror.

Mr. John Clark—That is not true.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Perhaps that is an exaggeration and I take it back, but they want departmental assistance.

Mr. John Clark—They raise thousands of pounds annually.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I was chairman of a school committee for 17 years and it rendered sterling service but we are now talking of a period when there is a shortage of finance for education. That money can only come from one source—the people. The time has come for the parent to accept a lot more responsibility. I criticize the Education Department, too. It is responsible for teaching subjects like cooking and domestic arts which, from time immemorial have been the parents' responsibility. After all is said and done are the girls of today better cooks than our mothers? We should direct the finance available to the best possible purposes.

Mr. John Clark—That is being done.

Mr. HAMBOUR—If we haven't enough money for essential subjects we should drop laundry and cooking.

Mr. John Clark—Are you suggesting we cut the curriculum because we are short of money?

Mr. HAMBOUR—I suggest we concentrate on the essentials.

Mr. John Clark—What are the essentials?

Mr. Davis—Isn't it essential to eat?

Mr. HAMBOUR—The honourable member looks as if he has over-eaten. I suggest we cut our suit according to our cloth. In the House of Representatives on May 8, Mr. Beazley, a Labor member said:—

We may as well face the facts plainly that this is a country that in many respects has false values. We can say that parents need assistance to educate their children up to university level, but, after all, this is a community that spends £450,000,000 a year on gambling, £240,000,000 a year on liquor and £125,000,000 a year on tobacco. That is an expenditure of more than £800,000,000 a year. In the last seven years only £500,000,000 has been spent on education in the whole of Australia. I agree with Mr. Beazley's remarks in that respect.

Mr. John Clark—What did he say about the expenditure on defence?

Mr. HAMBOUR—That is quite another question and if the Labor Party changes its

attitude on immigration we may be able to use some of the defence expenditure to bring in more people. Mr. Beazley continued:—

It cannot be said that all around us is grinding poverty that prevents large numbers of people from giving their children an opportunity. Very often there is a total selfishness and a falseness of values that prevents people from giving a proper assessment to education's place in the lives of their children.

That is only portion of his very interesting speech in which he also refers to the teaching fraternity and its attitude. I commend it to members.

The Government has expended millions on hospitals and the country cannot claim that it has not received a fair share or that it is neglected in favour of the city. I was somewhat disappointed at Mount Gambier to hear what was said about what the Government should do for Mount Gambier's hospital services. I examined the hospital building and although it is not completed I suggest that Mount Gambier is getting more than its share of expenditure on hospitals. Mount Gambier will have the best hospital outside the metropolitan area and hospital users will pay only from 35s. a day, whereas most other country hospital users have to pay 45s. to 55s. a day.

Mr. Davis—Mount Gambier isn't getting it for that.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Will the honourable member tell me how much?

Mr. Davis—Thirty-six shillings.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I will give the honourable member the shilling afterwards. Nearly £3,000,000 was spent last year and a greater amount is contemplated for next year. Our hospital services are divided into four categories. First there is the private hospital, which acts independently and finds all its own finance. It balances its own budget and carries on to the content of the patients and management. It has nothing to do with the Government. Then there is the community hospital, which receives a subsidy on capital expenditure and in some cases annual grants. The subsidized hospital gets a set subsidy on capital expenditure as well as annual maintenance grants. Originally the grants were intended for the treatment of indigent patients and that still applies because the subsidized hospitals will treat anyone whether or not he can pay.

The Government hospital is the one that I criticize. All its capital costs are found by the Government. The patient gets a concession rate, even if it be 36s. a day, but that is 10s. cheaper than the patient could get



treatment elsewhere. The fee should be increased to a minimum of 45s. a day, that is if there is to be equal treatment for everybody. I also believe in the principle, which we must accept, of those who can afford to pay for hospital treatment paying for those who cannot afford it. This is the policy of subsidized hospitals. We should bring the charge at Government hospitals up to at least that of the subsidized hospitals, which would relieve the Government of having to find money for capital construction and maintenance grants.

We have a fine Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It is good to look at, good for nurses, good for patients, and good in all ways except financially. I do not know what its total cost will be, but the daily cost of bed occupancy is far too high. In analysing any new construction the Public Works Committee should give more consideration to the use of the building and the financial liability that will rest on the Government for ever and ever. When there is a new building it would be assumed that labour costs would be reduced because of the adoption of labour saving devices. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has the greatest ratio of nurses to patients of any hospital in the State. In most countries there are five patients to one nurse. In Great Britain there are three to one, but here the ratio is almost one to one. I do not condemn the nursing profession for it is not at fault. It is all due to bad management and old buildings. It is a matter that should be investigated, particularly where there is a new construction.

There is a shortage of trained nursing staff in hospitals all over the world. For two years now, as a member of the executive in connection with country hospitals, I have put a proposition to two conferences, and it was agreed to unanimously each time. The proposition was submitted to the Nurses Registration Board on each occasion but was rejected. Now a girl has to be 17 before she can start on a nursing career. If she passes her examination she gets a certificate when she is 21. The average service given by a trained nurse to the community is less than two years, which results in the shortage. Often because a girl has to wait until she is 17 to start nursing she goes into other employment. A girl should be allowed to start at 16 and finish at 20. This would provide a 50 per cent increase in the qualified staff available at all times. If a nurse at present gives only two years of service and she can get the certificate a year

early by starting one year sooner it is obvious that the potential is increased by one half. If that were done—and the proposal is accepted by members of the medical profession and hospital authorities—it would be the solution. The Nurses Registration Board says that a girl of 16 is too young to start nursing and that at 20 she is not responsible. I do not say the board believes she is irresponsible but at 20 she has not reached the age of maturity and cannot be held responsible for any misdemeanour. We teach a boy of 18 to kill so surely a nursing certificate could be given to a girl of 20. The only argument against my proposal is that 16 is too young to start and 20 too young to be given a certificate, but it is something that we must agree to in the future. The medical profession places too much responsibility on the shoulders of trained nurses and as soon as it faces up to its own responsibilities the sooner we shall get more nurses. I commend the Minister of Health for appointing administrators at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with a view to more economic conduct of the institutions.

I congratulate the Government on its road work. Arterial roads have been improved beyond all expectations. The department is doing its best but I am concerned about the money being spent in grants to councils for work on main and loose surface roads. In my district it costs over £200 a mile per annum to keep loose surface roads in good condition, which is extremely bad value. It is not possible to do the patrol work in dry weather and wet conditions must be awaited. It is said that main roads cannot be sealed by the department because of the high cost, so money is granted to the councils to do maintenance work. Before such roads can be patrolled a base has to be constructed. The Minister has said that the surfacing of the road is the lowest part of the cost. This is a matter that should be seriously considered. Money is being wasted by the continual construction and scraping, which is all I can call patrolling.

Admittedly we have better roads than we had 20 years ago, but surely we can arrange our finances in such a way as to eliminate expenditure on dust menace, washaways and potholes by gradually sealing lateral roads. The present policy of the Highways Department in assessing and fixing higher rates to be paid to district councils and other local government bodies is wrong. I have made some inquiries about the rates paid to councils and find that all are not treated in the same way.

It appears to me that the efficient councils get the lower rates. Where the council has to buy plant the department allows 2½ per cent as an interest charge. Such things as age of machine, balance in machine account, balance in plant account, and how the machine is purchased have to be considered. This leaves the matter open to abuse. Where a cat. 212 is used the contractor gets 54s., including driving, which leaves 46s. an hour for the machine.

Councils for a similar machine get varying rates. It may be 20s., 22s. 6d., 24s. or 27s. 6d. Councils get paid for the operator in addition. Why should one council be paid 20s. and another 27s. 6d. for the same machine, doing the same type of work? I know the reason but I cannot understand it.

I have a list showing greater disparities over a wider range. The following table gives some of the reasons:—

Rate.	Date	Balance.	Finance.	Plant	Cost.
s. d.	Purchased.	£		Account.	£
20 0	16/12/53	1,505	Highways	Dr. 10	6,050
22 6	24/4/54	2,535	Highways	Cr. 642	5,850
24 0	?	2,103	?	Dr. 222	5,850
27 6	6/5/57	5,635	Private	?	6,050
27 6	?	3,121	?	Cr. 552	6,050

There are others with similar variations. A machine of the same age as another and with a similar amount owing, but with a different working balance, is paid for at a different rate. There is also a difference where differing amounts are owing. I would like the department to consider paying for a machine at a certain rate. The older the machine, the greater the cost of maintenance, so, the hire rate should not be reduced because a machine is getting old, although that is what is being done. The whole idea of the department seems to be to keep every council's account in balance, but in my opinion this encourages carelessness. I want the department to give a rate and then let the council mind its own business, so that if councils look after their machines it will be to their benefit, but if they knock them around it will cost them something.

Mr. Shannon—You are suggesting that the present policy encourages carelessness?

Mr. HAMBOUR—I do not suggest it; I say it. The 6-yard capacity truck rate varies from 8d. to 2s. This is wrong: there should be an equal rate for all. The contractor's rate is 1s. 2d. a mile for the first mile and 9d. for each additional mile, including driver. A 20-mile trip would return 2s. 4½d. a mile and a 10-mile trip 2s. 6d. a mile, but the contractor would have to provide his own driver. He only gets paid from the stockpile to the work in hand.

The widest of all disparities is for the tractor with a power-controlled blade. A contractor gets 72s. an hour for this machine, but supplies a driver, whereas for similar machines councils get from 18s. 6d. to 35s. 3d., with the driver paid extra. This is wrong, and I ask the department to provide a rate for a type

which will enable councils to have sufficient funds for replacement. When the Government gave interest-free loans to councils to purchase equipment it was the grandest thing ever done for them, and I believe the Government is sincere in its endeavours to keep councils strong, but unless this rate business is attended to the Government will be taking back everything it has given, which I am sure is not the intention.

I thank the Electricity Trust for what it has done in the last 12 months. I know that some members think that the increase of 4 per cent was unjustified, but after all, that was only equivalent to the decrease in 1955. The trust has saved rural consumers £70,000, which is a great amount to them and very greatly appreciated. There were some anomalies in distribution, however, as one surcharge was reduced only by £4, whereas others were reduced by £15 or £16.

When I was at Mount Gambier recently I was very impressed with the work being done by the Forestry Department.

Mr. Lawn—Were you impressed with your organizing power there?

Mr. HAMBOUR—I wish the honourable member for Adelaide would not talk rot. He can come in in the next chapter. I had not been in Mount Gambier for 15 years and I was astounded at the work that had been done. I inspected the mill, the stone quarries and the coreboard factory. I hope that Mount Gambier progresses further. Decentralization is a ball the Labor Party has been rolling around for the last 12 months, and, like a rolling stone, has gathered no moss. Decentralization has become a complete racket, so you have a racket and a ball. I am sorry the honourable member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) is not here.

Mr. Lawn—He is here.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Then I am glad, because I am going to give members opposite a sample of what he considers to be decentralization. There is a small industry in my district that he tried to get transferred to Murray Bridge.

Mr. Bywaters—That is a lie.

The SPEAKER—Order! The honourable member is out of order.

Mr. Bywaters—I defer to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but the statement is not true.

The SPEAKER—I think the honourable member should withdraw that.

Mr. Bywaters—I withdraw, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HAMBOUR—There is a small industry in Kapunda that received an offer from Murray Bridge, with the dangling of a bribe of a capital contribution of £20,000.

Mr. O'Halloran—Do you suggest the honourable member for Murray was responsible for the bribe?

The SPEAKER—I ask the honourable member to refrain from using the words “dangling of a bribe.” If that is applied to the honourable member for Murray, I ask the honourable member for Light to withdraw.

Mr. HAMBOUR—The amount of money was not offered by the member for Murray.

Mr. Bywaters—I will take pleasure in replying to this later.

Mr. Lawn—Why mention the honourable member for Murray?

Mr. HAMBOUR—Because it comes within his district. I felt very annoyed about this, and I could produce evidence to support what I am going to say. An offer was made to these people that if they would come to Murray Bridge £20,000 capital would be made available for them to enlarge.

Mr. Bywaters—Do you say I offered that?

Mr. HAMBOUR—I say the honourable member for Murray visited them and rang them, and I will get a complete statement of the conversation if he wants the House to know about it. An endeavour was made to get the firm to transfer to Murray Bridge.

Mr. Lawn—I cannot see anything wrong with that.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Of course you cannot, and it is quite in order, but is that decentralization—50 miles as against 50½ miles from Adelaide?

Mr. Lawn—I did not say it was.

Mr. HAMBOUR—You do not say anything at any time. An offer was made by the honourable member for Murray to get a business to transfer from Kapunda to Murray Bridge, but, unfortunately for him, he happened to

approach particular friends of mine, and they sought my advice. I said, “If there are no strings attached it is worthy of consideration, but if they want to take control of the business, I would reject the offer.” I believe they accepted that advice. I never imputed that the member for Murray offered a bribe or anything else, but he was involved in trying to get an industry to Murray Bridge. Maybe I am politically innocent or naive, but the rubbish I heard at Mount Gambier about the Playford policy on decentralization rocked me.

Mr. O'Halloran—Sour grapes?

Mr. HAMBOUR—Not one bit, but I believe I have always had a sense of justice and fair play.

Mr. Fred Walsh—Hardly, in your reference to the member for Murray.

Mr. HAMBOUR—It was true.

Mr. Fred Walsh—You said there was nothing against him.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I said the member for Murray was a party to an attempt to transfer an industry from Kapunda to Murray Bridge.

Mr. Lawn—What is wrong with that?

Mr. HAMBOUR—Nothing, but that is how you people believe in decentralization.

Mr. Lawn—You said he offered a bribe.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Can the member for Murray deny that he had full knowledge of it?

Mr. Bywaters—I will reply to that in my speech.

The SPEAKER—Order!

Mr. HAMBOUR—I did not suggest he offered a bribe.

The SPEAKER—The honourable member for Light has made it clear in his remarks that he was imputing no charge of bribery against the honourable member for Murray.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I will now turn to what members opposite have had to say about the Government's policy on decentralization. The Leader of the Opposition hopes that he is going to ride into office next elections on his policy, but his Party has not a concrete proposal. Let the honourable member for Gawler (Mr. John Clark) reject what the Playford Government has done for his district. I read only a few days ago that a member of another place boasted that Government members opposed the establishment of Elizabeth and that it was only with Labor's support that it came into being. According to your ruling last year, Mr. Speaker, I cannot quote from a speech in another House during the session, and that is why I did not bring the matter forward. The member for Gawler really has no argument

against the Playford Government on the treatment that he has received with regard to decentralization.

Mr. John Clark—You let me get half a chance and I will tell you.

Mr. HAMBOUR—If it is in accordance with fact, that is all right.

Mr. John Clark—Have you ever heard of the treatment Gawler has had from the Playford Government?

Mr. HAMBOUR—Can the member for Wallaroo say that the Government has not tried in his district?

Mr. Lawn—Of course the Government has not tried; it has talked about it, but has made no effort.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I would like the member for Wallaroo, when he speaks on this debate, to say whether the Government has been sincere and honest in its attempt to help his district with decentralization.

Mr. Hughes—It has not convinced me to that effect.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Then the honourable member is most ungrateful. The people of Wallaroo can thank the Attorney General for initiating what has taken place there. I excuse the member for West Torrens, who has been on the sick list and is not up with current affairs. Perhaps he can go into a huddle with the member for Wallaroo and find out just what is going on. I know the member for Whyalla will be honest enough to get up and say what the Government has done for Whyalla. The homes have been put there by the Housing Trust. The Premier has told us repeatedly, and has carried the statement into effect, that he will put homes wherever an industry is located. I am sure the member for Whyalla will not rise to his feet and condemn the Playford Government on decentralization. He should be thankful.

Mr. John Clark—Do you think we are selfish enough to think only of our own districts?

Mr. HAMBOUR—I am dealing with the question of decentralization. I am sure the member for Stuart is bursting with gratitude for what has been done in Port Augusta.

Mr. John Clark—You have only quoted safe Labor seats so far.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Maybe my remarks are provoking. I like members opposite to rise to their feet and say things in this House where they can be contradicted, and not out in the street, speaking to poor, innocent people who do not know.

Mr. O'Halloran—You cannot contradict me.

Mr. John Clark—It convinced the people of Mount Gambier, anyhow.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I would like the member for Stuart to express his gratitude or otherwise when he rises to his feet. With regard to the Leader of the Opposition, I know he has Leigh Creek coalfields in his area and they are not doing a bad job.

Mr. Hughes—The Premier put them there, of course.

Mr. HAMBOUR—He helped. I am not denying that the Leader of the Opposition may have made his contribution too, because he is energetic and can look after his own affairs. I know the member for Millicent, who is absent, is most grateful for what has been done in his district, because he is a normal man with a sense of justice.

Mr. John Clark—You are only quoting safe Labor seats.

Mr. HAMBOUR—That is where the complaints come from. I would like the member for Mount Gambier in his maiden speech to tell this House in all honesty of the progress Mount Gambier has made, whether the Government has lent any support or not. I saw a beautiful housing settlement at Mount Gambier which I believe was erected by the Housing Trust. I would be mighty proud of the seat the member for Mount Gambier represents, and I think he is proud. I am sure he will not rise to his feet and condemn the Government for things they have not done.

Mr. Lawn—Your own supporters down there said that the Premier spoke only of the area north of Adelaide. That is what they think of the Playford Government.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I was talking about what the Government was going to do in other districts. In my district it is going to build a prison farm.

The SPEAKER—Order! I ask the honourable member to address himself to the Chair and not to members opposite.

Mr. HAMBOUR—I apologise, Sir. A prison farm will be built in my electorate. It will mean an additional 14 families and 120 souls, and I do not care whether they are prisoners, because it will be a development. A little further up the river development is taking place at Oxford Landing, which is also in my district. Honourable members opposite need not worry about the members on this side because they are capable of looking after their own districts and do not grizzle. The member for Chaffey has worked as hard as any member in this House to bring a cannery at

Berri into being, and surely he is deserving of some gratitude for the work he has done. Is not the Government entitled to some gratitude for the support that it has given that project, or will have to give to it? I heard someone sneer at the mention of the oil refinery at Halletts Cove and say that it will be another satellite town. Of course, the Labor Party would go into the middle of the ocean or make the harbour at Wallaroo deeper so that it could take a 100,000 ton ship. No-one can help the location of that refinery any more than they can help the location of the iron ore.

I am sure that the member for Millicent will be happy with the arrangement that will take place between Cellulose (Australia) Ltd. and Australian Paper Manufacturers. Oil exploration will take place in the State, and again the Government will be making some contribution. Ever since I have been in this House I have contended that decentralization resolves itself on water, power and roads, and those are the things I want.

In conclusion, I thank the Government for its policy and assistance with regard to swimming pools. Two swimming pools have been completed in my district, one a school swimming pool and the other a major one, and another is in the course of construction. Another will shortly be put in hand as sufficient funds become available. It has been an absolute boon to country people, and I congratulate and thank the Government for what it has done.

Time has given me an appreciation of the difficulties. I know it is very easy to criticize, and that is why members opposite do so. They revel in criticism, but unfortunately they do not put up any alternatives. I trust I have given my best for my district, for South Australia and Australia. I formally move the motion.

Mr. HARDING secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.10 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 23, at 2 p.m.