

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, September 18, 1958.

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

QUESTIONS.**NORTHERN NARROW GAUGE RAILWAYS.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Premier had from the Commonwealth Government any further information about the second application made by this State for a sum of £50,000 to be provided towards the cost of surveys of the northern narrow gauge railway system prior to its proposed conversion to standard gauge?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Not beyond a very brief note from the Prime Minister saying that the matter was receiving attention.

REFUNDS OF MOTOR REGISTRATION FEES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Would the Premier obtain a report from the Registrar of Motor Vehicles on the possibility of refunding portion of the registration fees paid on motor vehicles in respect of the period in which they are being repaired or the owners are otherwise unable to use them through sickness or absence on extended leave, or because they have been stolen?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

BERRI LAND ALLOTMENT.

Mr. KING—Can the Minister of Lands tell me when township allotments at Berri recently taken over by the Government will be gazetted for allotment?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—Recently the Government secured several areas for residential extensions at Berri. I think the one to which the honourable member refers would be that purchased from Mr. Traeger. This area will be gazetted open on October 2 and applications for blocks will close on November 4. The other area, which is not yet ready, is a considerable area—20 acres.

ONE BRAND TYRE SALES.

Mr. LAWN—Recently announcements have appeared in the press that interstate oil companies are compelling petrol resellers to sell a particular type of tyre. Yesterday's *News* contained the following statement by Mr. Manuell, President of the South Australian

Automobile Chamber of Commerce, headed "One Brand Tyre Plan 'Saps Resellers'":—

Attempts to limit some service stations to one brand of tyres were regarded today as another move to sap resellers' independence. President of S.A. Automobile Chamber of Commerce, Mr. G. Manuell, said this today. "We regard this as an additional move to take from the reseller any independence he may enjoy at the present and to make him a mere puppet in the hands of the oil industry," Mr. Manuell continued. "We are opposed to any further regimentation in the industry and believe that free trading is the best in the long run for the man who pays—the motorist."

Will the Government consider this matter with a view to stopping any monopoly influence in the industry, and leave the way open for petrol resellers to sell any type of petrol, tyres or batteries they wish?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have only the information contained in the press, but the type of tyre mentioned in the article is not manufactured in Australia, and it will probably be two or three years before it is. Therefore, any action required over this question is remote.

Mr. LAWN—They are making the resellers sign agreements now.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—That may be so, but a number of companies have established petrol stations themselves as an outlet for their own brand of petrol, and I see nothing wrong in that.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

Mr. LAUCKE—A district council in my electorate is concerned at the implications regarding effective control of vermin following on the failure recently of a court action instituted by the Port Elliot Council under the provisions of the Vermin Act. Can the Minister representing the Attorney-General say whether, as a result of this judgment, an amendment to the Act is contemplated to enable prosecutions to be successfully conducted in appropriate cases?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I shall be pleased to refer the question to the Attorney-General. I should think that the question of any new legislation would be a matter of Government policy and that it would be considered in due course.

STORY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on August 13 about the booklet published during the *Advertiser* centenary celebrations entitled *The Story of*

South Australia, and whether the Tourist Bureau could act as an agent for its sale?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Director of the Tourist Bureau reports:—

Arrangements have been made with Advertiser Newspapers Limited for supplies of that paper's centenary publication, *The Story of South Australia*, to be made available to this office for public sale at 12s. 6d. each. I have previously discussed with Mr. Lamshed, of the *Advertiser*, the possibility of using this publication for State publicity purposes, particularly overseas through the Agent-General for South Australia. Several days ago I wrote to Mr. Greenham asking him for his opinion regarding the use of this book for State publicity purposes. Nearly two years ago this department produced a booklet titled *South Australia—its achievements and resources*—for publicity purposes. This booklet has served a very useful purpose. I understand it was the first publication of its type produced by any Australian State. However, other States have now produced similar types of publication, but of a better and more modern standard. Efforts are being made to produce a new and better edition of the South Australian publication in time for a convention of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to be held in Adelaide in March, 1959.

ERADICATION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Mr. JENKINS—The Port Elliot and Goolwa district councils are successfully taking steps to eradicate noxious weeds in their areas. There is a large amount of false caper in the railway yards at Port Elliot and Goolwa, and I ask the Minister representing the Minister of Railways whether he will ask his colleague for the co-operation of the Railways Commissioner in the eradication of these weeds?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will do that. I think it is accepted that the Railways Commissioner endeavours to eradicate weeds on his property when neighbouring landholders do likewise, and I am sure he will co-operate in this matter.

DRIVERS' LICENCES.

Mr. TAPPING—People over 70 years of age have to pass a driving test to get a driver's licence, but my observations during the last few months have convinced me that there are people driving in South Australia who should not be permitted to do so because of physical disabilities. I know that the application form stipulates that the applicant for a licence must state on the form whether he has any disability. I am convinced that some people by-pass this declaration and I therefore feel that the matter should be referred to the appropriate department to ascertain if it has any evidence of such a happening. I spoke unofficially to a

person in the department and he was convinced that people are driving cars who should not because of physical disability. Will the Premier refer this matter to the State Traffic Committee with a view to the tightening up of this aspect?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I shall be happy to do that. Beyond taking declarations, the next step, of course, would be to make every applicant for a licence on all occasions appear before a Government department before the application could be granted. I do not think that would meet with the desires of a large percentage of the population. The Act provides for a declaration and if it is false, appropriate action may be taken. I will have the matter examined for the honourable member.

SNOWY RIVER WATERS AGREEMENT.

Mr. COUMBE—Last week it was reported in the daily press that the Premier had received from the Prime Minister a draft copy of the amended Snowy River Waters Agreement. In view of the Premier's protracted fight in this matter on behalf of South Australia, is he satisfied that the proposed agreement will be to the advantage of this State, particularly along the lines he fought for, and can he indicate the future of the agreement? Is it likely to be concluded soon?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The agreement has been signed by the three States concerned and the Commonwealth, under which the States agree that they will, during their present sessions of Parliament, pass legislation altering the River Murray Waters Agreement to provide for South Australia's sharing in the water diverted from the Snowy River into the Murray area. There are also some supplementary matters dealt with in the agreement which, in my opinion, is fair to South Australia. The agreement provides for the additional waters being shared by South Australia. It is quite specific in its terms and has been examined by the State experts, who have reported upon it and are satisfied. Amending legislation will be introduced in this House this session, and if the other contracting authorities carry out their part of the obligation, it will be dealt with by the Commonwealth Parliament in the next few days, as it will sit, I understand, for only a very limited period before the approaching election. It will also be passed by the Victorian and New South Wales Parliaments during their current sessions. I have no doubt that the

contracting authorities will honour their obligations. We shall soon know, because the terms of the agreement are specific and they will undoubtedly be carried out.

NEW LOCKLEYS NORTH SCHOOL.

Mr. FRED WALSH—During the Committee discussion on the Loan Estimates I mentioned the proposed new school for Lockleys North. Has the Minister of Education any further information on the matter?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Education Department owns a block of land more than eight acres in area bounded by Malurus Avenue, Pierson Street and Grallina Avenue, Lockleys North. It is proposed to erect a new school on this area and the project was included in the new works section of the Loan works programme for the current year. The proposal is for a school of nine primary and three infant classrooms, a library, an administration unit, shelter accommodation, lavatories, and other amenities. Working drawings have been completed and the preparation of specifications has been started. It is hoped to call tenders for the erection of the school this month.

MAAOOPE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Mr. HARDING—Recently I read out a letter from the secretary of the Maaope Progress Association and asked the Minister of Education whether the vacated school land and school building at Maaope would be available for purchase by the association. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—Following on the honourable member's request, I approved of the proposal being submitted to the Department of Lands to call for tenders for the purchase of this school property. I am prepared to give favourable consideration to any offer made by the Maaope Progress Association, because I am anxious to assist the soldier settlers in this area to obtain a local hall. Even though this is a prefabricated school I think we should do the same with it as with any solid construction school that is closed and no longer required for Education Department purposes.

OIL FROM BROWN COAL.

Mr. BYWATERS—In a recent copy of the *Melbourne Age*, under the heading "Oil made from Brown Coal" the following appears:—

The Gas and Fuel Corporation has produced oil from brown coal gas piped from Morwell. The synthetic fuel was made in an experimental plant at Hihett Gas Works. This is the

first step in the corporation's plan to produce between 70 and 80 million gallons of petrol, diesel fuel, lubricants, kerosene and waxes at Morwell each year. Production is scheduled to begin in 1963. The chairman of the corporation (Dr. R. S. Andrews) believes that in an international emergency the supply of liquid fuel from Morwell could prove vital. It is stated that the synthetic oil will be no more expensive than imported natural oil.

Some time ago it was suggested that the Lurgi process, which is similar to what is being used at Morwell, could be used in some of our brown coal deposits, and especially at Moorlands near Tailem Bend. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Mines to examine the process to ascertain whether it could be used at Moorlands, Leigh Creek or Quorn, because apparently it could be an asset to the country?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The State Government is making a further and extensive investigation to see whether it can find additional tonnages of coal that could be mined economically for power purposes. The honourable member mentioned Quorn—one of the places under investigation. The problem with our coal deposits is that they are low-grade, with excessive over-burden, making them costly to operate. In fact, they are completely uneconomic when compared with the use of imported fuel. We undertook a big investigation at the Moorlands field but the tonnages of coal there are relatively limited, and as the coal is extremely wet, and has a heavy over-burden we could not work out any proposition that seemed even remotely economic. The Lurgi process is not a mining process but a gasification of the coal after it is mined. If one cannot produce the coal effectively the Lurgi process cannot remedy that feature. The Germans who came out in connection with the Morwell proposition gave a report on the Moorlands field as well. If we can, we must find additional economic fields of fuel in this State. There is no problem about the use of Leigh Creek coal and that field is being fully extended according to the resources of coal available, but if we can find additional resources it will be greatly to our advantage and enable us to expand local power production without having to import coal or oil.

HIRE-PURCHASE CONFERENCE.

Mr. STOTT—Can the Premier say whether any further progress has been made with the proposal to hold a Premiers' conference on hire-purchase agreements and the limiting or

control of interest rates payable? Does he know when the conference is likely to be held and what the agenda will be?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—As far as direct knowledge is concerned, the New South Wales Premier sent me a letter asking whether this State would be prepared to attend a conference if one were called dealing with hire-purchase business. I replied that it would. I have had no further communication from Mr. Cahill on the matter, although about three weeks has elapsed since he received my letter. Since that time I have heard during the broadcast of question time in the Commonwealth Parliament, and read in newspapers, a reference to the matter and it appears that there is now some question of a request being made by Mr. Cahill to the Prime Minister to call a conference, instead of the New South Wales Government doing it, to which I think the Prime Minister has replied that if Mr. Cahill can get agreement amongst the States on the steps to be taken he would call a conference, but that the States should first reach basic agreement on what they proposed to do; but that is hearsay.

WEAPONS RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—In recent weeks I have been concerned about reports reaching me privately with regard to the sewage treatment plant at the Weapons Research Establishment which serves Salisbury and Elizabeth. I have been awaiting an opportunity to see the plant but so far have not had the opportunity. I read in the press recently that the inspector of the Salisbury Board of Health (Mr. Milton) had reported on the matter. He said that the sewage treatment plant is so overloaded that evidence of fly infestation has been found in the sludge drying beds. I understand this plant is designed to treat 160,000 gallons daily, but because of the increased growth in the area the daily flow is said to be very much greater. I am informed that if some action is not taken there could be an even worse fly infestation in the area than last summer when it was very bad. Will the Minister of Works have the matter investigated to see how serious it is, with a view to having the increased quantity of sewage treated, thus preventing the breeding of flies in the sludge beds?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have taken action in this matter and the department has been busy on it for some time. It is recognized that the treatment plant at the works

is overloaded, and within recent months steps were taken to raise the height of the walls of the ponds to increase the capacity. Then later, when the local population again increased and the department was advised that provision should be made for an even larger population, further steps were considered. I discussed this matter with departmental officers this morning. Plans and specifications have been completed for very considerable oxidation ponds in addition to those already there. The funds are available to do the work, and it is expected that tenders will be called within a week or two.

BUNDALEER RESERVOIR CHANNELS.

Mr. QUIRKE—The Bundaleer Reservoir was built many years ago and extensive channelling was undertaken to convey the water into the basin from the surrounding hills. Where these channels passed through the various privately owned properties small bridges were built across them to provide access to the various paddocks. Built many years ago as they were, they are now completely outmoded as regards size. Modern machinery can no longer pass across because they are not wide enough, and many miles have to be traversed over not necessarily good roads with expensive machinery in order to get from one paddock to another. Can the Minister of Works now make a statement on this matter, as he promised he would?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The honourable member was good enough to tell me yesterday that he desired this information, and I can now tell him that approval has been given for the replacement of the existing bridge on the Spalding-Booborowie main road at an estimated cost of £3,200. A start will be made about October. In the meantime, temporary repairs have been effected to enable the bridge to be kept in use. Four other bridges are in fair condition, but over 50 years old. The Engineer-in-Chief is conferring with the Commissioner of Highways regarding the replacement of three of those.

COST OF FREE MILK.

Mr. STEPHENS—Some time ago I asked the Premier whether he would ascertain the cost to the Federal Government of supplying children in State schools in South Australia with free milk. Has he a reply to that question?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The schools milk scheme, which commenced

in this State in September, 1951, has cost the Federal Government a total of £1,157,867 2s. 9d., made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
December, 1951	26,748	13	4
		212	11 10
March, 1952	17,680	6	10
June, 1952	40,270	1	0
		129	11 9
June, 1953	163,543	9	8
June, 1954	151,635	14	4
June, 1955	150,244	14	8
June, 1956	194,559	18	10
June, 1957	200,844	15	0
June, 1958	211,997	5	6

PROSECUTION OF TRUCK DRIVER.

Mr. JENNINGS—My attention has recently been drawn to the case of a constituent of mine who was fined for having been the driver of a motor truck which did not have on the side of it the owner's name and the tare of the vehicle. This man was employed to drive the truck and was not the owner of it, but nevertheless he was at fault in law. I believe that is an anomaly, and that the owner should be responsible for having his name placed on the side of the truck. Will the Premier have this matter investigated and, if necessary, arrange for the law to be altered?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

OIL EXPLORATION

Mr. RICHES—Americans have recently commented on the possibility of finding oil in South Australia. As I understand that the Premier intends visiting Innamincka this week end, will he ask the directors of Santos whether they would make a public statement on the results of the drilling up to the present in the Wilkatana area near Port Augusta? Much drilling has been done, and I understand that the results are not unhopeful. As there is much local interest in this matter and it would be helpful if Santos were willing to make public their proposals for this area, will the Premier accede to my request?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Yes.

REMAND HOME FOR JUVENILES.

Mr. DUNSTAN—During the debate on the Loan Estimates I asked the Treasurer what was the position regarding the building of a remand home for juveniles. Has he a reply?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The chairman of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board reports as follows:—

A ground plan of the proposed departmental remand home at Glandore was finally considered and approved by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board at the meeting on

4th instant. This plan has now been returned to the Architect-in-Chief with an intimation that the proposed accommodation and facilities therein meet the requirements of the board.

The honourable member will see that the matter is now in the hands of the Architect-in-Chief.

Mr. DUNSTAN—As I understand it, the Glandore home is basically for neglected children—boys with no convictions who are between the ages of six and 14. It seems to me that the choice of site is contrary to the department's stated policy of segregation. Can the Premier state why it has been selected?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I will try to find out for the honourable member.

SEWERAGE REGULATIONS.

Mr. LOVEDAY—I have asked several questions regarding the printing of sewerage regulations. Can the Minister of Works say whether those regulations have yet been printed and, if not, whether the printing of them could be expedited?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I cannot give the honourable member a firm reply at the moment, but I will inquire.

BOTTLE MENACE ON ROADS.

Mr. CORCORAN—My question, directed to the Minister of Works representing the Minister of Local Government, concerns the bottle menace on roadways. I recently received a letter from the South-Eastern Dairymen's Association of South Australia, as follows:—

A few years ago an effort was made by the association to have a surcharge of 6d. placed on all beer bottles, but with no success. Since then other associations have also taken the matter up and we think the South-Eastern District Councils Association is dealing with it at present. At a meeting of the central council of the association held on Friday last, members requested that this matter be brought under your notice with the hope that something may be done to reduce the menace. This matter was considered previously, but nothing practical was done. The human element is involved and it is only with the co-operation of road users that much can be achieved. I imagine that the members for Victoria and Mount Gambier have also been requested to bring this matter before the Minister, who by now may have conceived some practical way of dealing with it.

The SPEAKER—The honourable member may not debate his question.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The honourable member was saying something that I might otherwise have to say in reply to his question. This matter has exercised the minds of many

people for a long time. There has been widespread agitation in places other than the honourable member's district for something to be done. For instance, on Eyre Peninsula the matter has been before a local government conference at least once. It is difficult and hedged about by many problems. As far as I am aware, and speaking with a layman's knowledge of the law, the only offence committed is that of creating a nuisance on a public road, provided a person is caught in the act of throwing bottles on to the highway or arranging them nicely on the edge of the road, sometimes as a row of "dead marines." I will ask my colleague if further thought has produced a possible solution of the problem because, under present conditions and without the imposition of what would be irksome regulations or legal provisions about the sale of the containers of what has perhaps become Australia's national beverage, it does not seem possible to eradicate the menace or mitigate it in any worthwhile way. It must be accepted, however, that glass is a permanent substance and that, as the years pass, increasing danger will accrue from the bottle menace on the roads.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COUNTRY SEWERAGE.

Mr. RALSTON—Has the Premier any further information to give the House on the report of the Advisory Committee on Country Sewerage?

The Hon. SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have obtained a copy of the report of the advisory committee, which has at present issued only its interim report on this matter; but the priorities set out by the report are:—No. 1—Naracoorte; closely followed by No. 2—Mount Gambier; and No. 3—Bordertown. The committee has stated that these matters are urgent. As a result of that report, as the honourable member knows, amounts were placed upon the Loan Estimates this year for Naracoorte and Mount Gambier. Naracoorte's plans were somewhat more advanced than those of Mount Gambier, so possibly we shall have some difficulty in spending the amount provided for the latter place; but I assure the honourable member that the Government will get on with the job as quickly as possible.

VOLUNTARY OAT POOL.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Yesterday afternoon, when asking a question of the Minister of Education representing the Attorney-General, I indicated

that I wanted the balance-sheet of the Voluntary Oat Pool. The member for Ridley interjected to say he had some knowledge of the question. Can he supply me with the information?

Mr. STOTT—The Voluntary Oat Pool is a purely voluntary organization. Its balance-sheets have been published from time to time. The current balance-sheet is not yet available because the pool has not yet been wound up but I understand it will be shortly, when another dividend will be available and the balance-sheet will be published almost immediately. As soon as I have that information, I shall be pleased to hand it to the member for Light so that he can see the light of day about this pool.

MARION ROADS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—The *Government Gazette* of last week contains a notice of the City of Marion under plan No. 40, folio 19, with a schedule attached, indicating that certain roads are to be closed. It appears that some land is to be taken over. Is that for the purpose of the construction of the Tonsley spur line and, if so, when is the work likely to be commenced?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will seek information from my colleague, the Minister of Roads.

DEVELOPMENT OF PINE FORESTS.

Mr. JENKINS—I am informed that recently the Conservator of Forests said there was not much suitable land available in South Australia for the development of pine forests. On the other hand, I was told that the Department of Agriculture has said that there is only one effective way of dealing with Cape Tulip: the planting of pine forests. At present, 500 acres of land on the Crow's Nest near Port Elliot is covered with Cape Tulip, which area probably would cost less to acquire than it would cost to clear heavy timber on land near Second Valley used for afforestation. Will the Minister have this scheme investigated to see whether it is practicable or economical?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The Cape Tulip weed is undoubtedly one of the most serious weeds we have to contend with, if not the most serious, and it is spread over a wide area. I do not think the Department of Agriculture has ever suggested that the whole of the area infested with it be planted with trees because, after all, many of the parklands around Adelaide have this weed. The honourable member referred to one particular area in

his district, and I will obtain a report on that area, but I would like to know whether the land is available for ready sale. It seems to be a big area, and many factors, such as soil, will have to be taken into account. If the honourable member will provide all the details he can about this land I will see that the matter is investigated.

SOLDIER SETTLERS LIVING ALLOWANCE.

Mr. STOTT—The Minister of Lands will be aware that the living allowance of soldier settlers at Loxton is fixed at £624 a year, and that recently the Bureau of Agricultural Economics worked out an owner-operator's allowance for those engaged in the dried fruits industry at £970 a year. Representations have been made to the Minister by the association governing the affairs of Loxton soldier settlers to increase the amount. I raised this matter recently, and now ask whether the Minister has any further information on it, and whether the department intends to increase the living allowance?

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—This matter was discussed yesterday week with settlers from Loxton, but no finality has been reached between the State and the Commonwealth. I think the allowance is £671, not the sum mentioned by the honourable member, but no house rent is included in the £671, although it is in the other figure. The matter is being investigated and I will provide further information later.

RIVER MURRAY LEVELS.

Mr. KING—Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked yesterday regarding river levels and their likely effect on road works in the upper Murray?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The expected maximum river height at Renmark, which I gave yesterday as 22ft. 6in., is approximately correct; it is expected that it will not quite reach that level. The Lake Victoria storage has been drawn down in recent weeks, which will enable it to be used subsequently to draw off some of the peak of the flood when it has reached that point, and will make a difference of some inches in height at Renmark. The Commissioner of Highways is of the opinion that the road between Renmark and Paringa will be kept open. The work that may be required to the ferries at Kingston and Berri is under investigation, and the result will be known in a few days. It is expected

that there will be sufficient time to carry out such small works as may be required on the banks before the oncoming of the peak.

ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—During the debate on the Loan Estimates I expressed my pleasure at an amount of £73,000 being allowed for the Gawler and Mount Gambier adult education centres, and asked the Premier whether he would find out how much would be allocated to the Gawler centre, and what buildings it was proposed to erect with the money. Has he obtained that information?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Of this amount, £15,000 will be spent at Mount Gambier, and £58,000 at Gawler. The works to be carried out are renovations to the old primary school at Mount Gambier, and the erection of a dual woodwork centre, including a temporary administrative centre, and domestic arts centre at Gawler.

INTRODUCING SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mr. HARDING—Recently I asked whether editions of the book *Introducing South Australia* would be presented to senior schools for inclusion in their libraries, and whether further editions could be purchased by members of this House. Has the Premier obtained a reply?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I think in the original distribution copies were made available to certain schools, and I think additional copies can be purchased at the Tourist Bureau.

WORKS MINISTER'S REPORTS.

Mr. QUIRKE—On July 30 I asked the Minister of Works whether he intended to renew the extremely helpful practice of issuing annual reports from his department, and he promised to investigate the matter. Has he any further information?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have nothing further to state beyond what I told the honourable member in reply to his previous question.

ABORIGINAL WELFARE OFFICER.

Mr. RICHES—Can the Minister of Works state when it is proposed to appoint a welfare officer of the Aborigines Department at Port Augusta? I have been informed that a situation has arisen there that makes such an appointment urgent.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—In the last day or two I have received reports that there is need for this appointment to be expedited. This morning I discussed the matter with the

Protector of Aborigines, who told me that the Public Service Commissioner is calling applications for the position. As soon as applications are received and the matter has been considered, the officer will be appointed.

NORTH WALKERVILLE SEWERAGE.

Mr. JENNINGS—About two years ago the sewers were extended to North Walkerville, but one street there was not sewered because there was an unsubdivided piece of land and the owner was apparently fairly obdurate and would not permit an easement through it. I understand that after lengthy negotiations he was good enough to grant an easement. When the Hon. Sir Malcolm McIntosh was Minister of Works he informed me that when this easement was obtained the sewers would be extended along that street. Can the Minister of Works give me any further information now?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—From memory, I think that the owner had some objection to granting an easement because he had a tank or some other construction on the land, but I understand the question has been resolved, as the honourable member said. I think the way has been cleared for progress to be made, but I will check that and give the honourable member a further reply.

PORT ADELAIDE GIRLS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. STEPHENS—Can the Treasurer say whether one line on the Loan Estimates for £210,000 included a sum for the Port Adelaide girls technical high school?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The sum of £210,000 is for the new Port Adelaide girls technical high school, which was approved by the Public Works Committee in its interim report dated August 12, 1958, and the figure shown on that report is £218,000. The new plans referred to are the standard plans for a girls technical high school to be erected at Port Adelaide and Elizabeth in the first instance.

MANOORA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. HAMBOUR—Has the Minister of Works a further reply to the question I asked yesterday about Manoora's water supply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Approval has been given for an expenditure of up to £2,000 for test drilling by the Mines Department, and it is expected that the drilling will commence in about two weeks.

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER LIGHTING.

Mr. QUIRKE—Has the Minister of Works a progress report on the provision of a better system of lighting in this Chamber?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have discussed this matter with the Chief Mechanical Engineer in the Architect-in-Chief's Department, and we have discussed ways of experimenting with lighting systems; I have also conferred with you, Mr. Speaker. However, there does not seem to be any easy way of ascertaining what improvements can be made, but Mr. Doig is considering that matter. There are sharply divided opinions on what might be done and what will be the consequences of installing improved lighting. Some hold firmly that the present lights and fittings are part and parcel of the Chamber and that they should not be removed in any circumstances. I am not taking sides, but that is a matter which must be carefully considered. Apparently whatever we do will be wrong in the opinion of some members. However, we are now well into the session, so I think it would be unwise to disturb the present lighting arrangements by installing other wiring and fittings in order to conduct tests. The honourable member might bear with the present situation until the end of the session, when we shall be able to conduct experiments.

ELIZABETH GROVE SCHOOL.

Mr. JOHN CLARK—Money was allocated under the Loan Estimates for a new school at Elizabeth Grove, and during the debate I said the population of that district had increased sharply and had caused overcrowding at the Elizabeth South school. Can the Treasurer say whether the building of the Elizabeth Grove school can be expedited?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Tenders have been called for the erection of the Elizabeth Grove school and they are due on September 24. It is hoped that the buildings will be ready for occupation in February, 1960. Approval has also been given for the erection of four more wooden rooms at Elizabeth South school and, if a transport service is provided from the Elizabeth Grove and the Elizabeth North schools, there should be sufficient accommodation for the Elizabeth Grove children until their new school has been erected.

MARRYATVILLE INFANT SCHOOL.

Mr. DUNSTAN—During the debate on the Loan Estimates I drew attention to the fact that no provision had been made for a new

infant school at Kensington. Has the Treasurer any comment to make about that?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I have a recommendation from the acting Deputy Director of Education which I shall read. I am not sure, but I think it has been approved by the Minister, and it states:—

I recommend that Mr. G. T. Clarke, M.P., and Mr. D. A. Dunstan, M.P., be informed that, because of more urgent requirements in districts at present lacking necessary school accommodation, it is not considered that the building of this school should take precedence over the erection of schools in the other districts, but that consideration will be given to improving the accommodation at Marryatville school on the 1959-60 building programme.

PORT AUGUSTA FRUIT FLY CAMPAIGN.

Mr. RICHES—Can the Minister of Agriculture inform the House what instructions the department proposes to issue to householders at Port Augusta regarding the fruit fly campaign?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—With fruit fly outbreaks it is usual to introduce legislation prohibiting the planting in the prescribed areas of host vegetables such as melons, cucumbers, chilies and tomatoes, before the end of August. None of these will produce ripe fruit before the end of September, the time to which stripping normally continues. During 1958 the proclamation prohibiting planting was not invoked because there were few commercial growers (which are the group most concerned) and the fruit fly was the Mediterranean type which does not normally infest the vegetables concerned. However, growers were advised not to plant until after the end of August. Vegetables, such as tomatoes, planted now would not be stripped in present campaigns, but if there were a recurrence or a new outbreak, ripening fruit on the bushes would then be stripped. At Port Augusta, last year's outbreak was on November 28, and there could conceivably be this overlapping should we be unfortunate enough to have another outbreak there. This is unlikely, particularly in the prescribed areas where experience has shown recurrences are the exception. Householders should be able to plant now with a more than reasonable chance of using the crop.

SCHOOL TOILET BLOCKS.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question concerning toilet blocks at the Norwood Practising school and the Payneham school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The Architect-in-Chief proposes to undertake both these works departmentally, but owing to the volume of major and minor school works to which he is committed he cannot give me the precise commencing dates. As soon as he is able to do so I will let the honourable member know. I take this opportunity to express publicly what I have expressed privately—my very great appreciation of the splendid services rendered to the Education Department and to me personally by the Architect-in-Chief (Mr. Siddall), the Secretary of the department (Mr. Slade), the Principal Architect (Mr. Lees), the Senior Architect (Mr. Allan) and other members of the staff. During the last financial year the Architect-in-Chief's Department successfully carried out work for the Education Department at a total cost exceeding £2,500,000, an amount unprecedented in the history of the State, and during the present financial year will carry out similar works at a cost exceeding £3,500,000. That is a magnificent record in view of the shortage of staff and other major works in which the department is involved, and I cheerfully pay my tribute of respect to the officers for what they have done in the past, are doing, and I am confident will do in the future.

MAGILL REFORMATORY.

Mr. DUNSTAN—Can the Premier say whether the plans for a new Magill Reformatory building have been withdrawn and the whole project is to be reconsidered in the light of the numerous representations made?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The chairman of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board has reported to the Chief Secretary as follows:—

The Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board has not scrapped the original plan of the proposed new building for the reformatory at Magill. However, a new site has been selected. This is a little to the south of the position first chosen, and nearer the existing old buildings.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, recommended the House to make appropriation of the several sums set forth in the accompanying Estimates of Expenditure by the Government during the year ending June 30, 1959, for the purposes stated therein.

Referred to Committee of Supply.

THE BUDGET.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I desire to place before the House estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 1958-59. In the aggregate expenditure proposals amount to £73,413,000 as compared with revenue estimates of £72,447,000, thus leaving a prospective deficit of £966,000. An anticipated deficit of £966,000 would appear, at first sight, a matter for serious concern, and so it would be if the last word had been said on the extent of financial assistance for 1958-59 which the State could expect from recommendations of the Commonwealth Grants Commission. The present recommendation is for £5,250,000, consisting of £5,201,000 for the current year and £49,000 to cover the deficit of 1956-57. The amount for the current year, although £343,000 higher than the grant for 1957-58, is over £1,000,000 short of the amount which was notified to the commission in July last as my best estimate of the State's financial needs.

Members will recall that the principles adopted by the Commonwealth Grants Commission are to recommend grants for the smaller States designed to place them eventually in a budgetary position comparable with the budgetary results of the bigger States, provided that standards of social services, and the severity of taxes and charges, are comparable. In the first place, when recommending the grant for a forthcoming year, the commission necessarily relies upon its judgment and rather generalised information as to outlook and trends. Two years later, when the results of all State Budgets are available to it, the Commission reviews the Budget results of the claimant States and makes a further recommendation to adjust the amount of the grant to that which is justified in accordance with the principles it has adopted and by the results of the year reviewed. This amount is known as the "first part" of the grant and can be either positive or negative.

In making its first estimate of the grant for the forthcoming year, *i.e.*, in estimating what is termed the second part of the grant the commission, as a precaution against possible over-provision, provides for a "margin of safety" and thus sets the amount lower than it might otherwise be. For 1958-59 the commission had a more difficult problem than usual in estimating the probable requirement for South Australia which would be found eventually to be justified by the results. It seems probable that at least two of the three larger States,

Victoria and Queensland, will face substantial deficits in 1958-59, although it is difficult to estimate their extent. The standard to which the smaller States can be brought for 1958-59 will therefore almost assuredly be a deficit standard, and indications placed before the commission by the Commonwealth Treasury suggested this could be over £1 per head of population, or as much as £1,000,000 as applied to South Australia. On the other hand South Australia has ordinarily conducted its finances with an extent of economy and effort somewhat greater than the bigger States. This extent of greater economy and effort, if maintained into 1958-59, would rank as a set-off against any deficit standard. It would appear, however, that the commission, in making its recommendation for 1958-59, was not prepared to anticipate that South Australia would qualify for a significant set-off for greater than average economy and effort. At the same time it allowed for a considerable deficit standard as well as a margin of safety in estimating the State's requirements.

The financial proposals in this Budget have been made with the same balance of economy against reasonable necessity as the Government has exercised in recent years, and I have every reason to expect that the commission on subsequent examination will again find that our finances have operated with greater than standard economy and effort. Such a finding will mean that a substantial proportion of the prospective deficit of £966,000 will be subsequently reimbursed.

Members will recall that this has already happened in relation to recent years. For 1955-56, although a deficit standard of £709,000 was applied to South Australia, this was almost entirely offset by favourable adjustments on account of economy and effort, so that all but £48,000 of the standard deficit was recouped by a subsequent grant. For 1956-57, although a deficit standard of about £130,000 was applied, this was entirely offset by favourable adjustments, and the whole actual deficit of £49,000 is being recouped by a positive first part grant this year. For 1957-58 the commission has yet to make its review and may be expected to impose a deficit standard, yet I anticipate it will see fit to recoup most, if not the whole, of the £400,000 deficit for that year. I have every confidence that the review of 1958-59 will end equally satisfactorily.

The tax reimbursement grant for the current year will be about £18,950,000 or £1,469,000

more than the past year, whilst the special grant, excluding those portions designed to recoup previous deficits, will increase from £4,858,000 to £5,201,000. The aggregate of current assistance from the Commonwealth under these two headings will therefore be about £24,150,000, or 33 per cent of the anticipated receipts from all sources, which is the same proportion as for the previous two years.

The Government proposes no increase in taxes and charges in this Budget. The general level of taxes and charges in this State has been kept somewhat below that of other States, chiefly by the avoidance of such unsatisfactory imposts as entertainment tax, hire purchase tax, and the operation of a lottery. In order to make this possible without the Budget running seriously into deficit the Government has preferred to adopt a policy of ensuring all reasonable economies in the cost of its public undertakings and administration. This policy is continued into the present Budget and the Government is gratified with the increasing operating efficiency and economy in such undertakings as the railways, the tramways, and the forestry undertaking, and with the magnificent efforts which local communities are making in co-operation with the Government for the provision and maintenance of hospitals and institutions.

THE YEAR 1957-58.

When submitting to this House my Budget for 1957-58 I estimated that revenue to be received would amount to £71,095,000, and that expenditure would be £71,615,000, giving a prospective deficit for the year of £520,000. Actual revenue for the year amounted to £70,642,000 and failed to reach the estimate by £453,000, while payments totalled £71,042,000, which was £573,000 below the estimate, so that the actual deficit was £400,000. Taxation receipts were practically as estimated. While stamp duty receipts exceeded the estimate by £110,000 because of a marked increase in the volume of land transfers, and succession duties were £59,000 above estimate, receipts were below estimate for land tax, betting taxes, and motor vehicles registration and licence fees. Corresponding to the reduction in receipts from motor vehicle fees was a reduction in the amount transferred to the Highways Fund.

Receipts from the operation of public undertakings, recoveries of debt services, and other departmental revenues were £794,000 below estimate. Within this group there were a number of variations above and below estimate, and I shall comment on the major items.

Education revenues were in excess of the estimate by £87,000, chiefly as a result of the receipt from the Commonwealth of its proportion of the increased funds which became payable to the University in consequence of the adoption of recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Australian Universities. Because of the poor harvest last year the amount of grain available for rail transport and shipment was reduced. This, together with a reduction of the output of ores and concentrates at Broken Hill, seriously affected the revenues of the Harbors Board and the Railways Department.

Harbors receipts were £154,000 below estimate, but the loss in revenues was offset by a saving in expenditure of £98,000. Railway receipts fell short of the estimate by £752,000, but an offsetting factor was the saving of £664,000 on estimated payments. This saving on the original estimate can be explained partly by the reduced traffic available to be carried, but in large part it was due to further economies resulting from efficiency in operation and administration. Faced with heavy losses of traffic the Railways Department avoided any retrenchment of staff in 1957-58 and yet at the same time achieved an improvement of £300,000 in the cash operating result over the previous year. I believe that a tribute is due to the efforts of both the railways administration and all its employees. Receipts from the other major public undertaking—water supply and sewerage—bettered the estimate by £122,000.

Among other departmental revenues the main variation was in the contribution from the Commonwealth towards the cost of rehabilitating areas damaged in the River Murray flood of 1956. Progress on this work was slower than anticipated, and as a result, the receipt from the Commonwealth was £175,000 below the estimate. The corresponding saving in payments for the year was £228,000. Under Commonwealth grants for the year the State received a special grant of £368,000 which had not been anticipated when the Estimates were presented. Subsequently, with the approval of Parliament, this grant was appropriated in its entirety to assist with the provision of low rental houses for needy families in country areas.

ESTIMATES FOR 1958-59.

RECEIPTS.

I have estimated that receipts on consolidated revenue account will amount to £72,447,000 in 1958-59 and the details which go to make up this figure are set out in the Estimates of Revenue which I have tabled.

State Taxation.—The estimate for receipts from State taxation is £9,959,000, which is £188,000 more than actual collections last year, and the main additional revenues are expected from—

	£
Stamp duties	55,000
Succession duties	41,000
Motor vehicles registration and licence fees	71,000

Larger receipts expected from taxation derive entirely from the anticipated growth in the volume of business. Whereas in 1957-58 there was a certain carry-over effect due to the operation for a full year of increased charges which came into force during the previous year, there is no such carry-over this year, nor are any increases in taxation rates proposed. It is of interest to note that the estimated increase in motor vehicle registration and licence fees has no impact on the estimated Budget result, as such receipts are automatically appropriated for the construction and maintenance of roads.

No appreciable increase can be expected from the remaining two major taxation sources—land tax and betting tax. Valuations for the purpose of land tax are reviewed regularly at five-yearly intervals, and as the last revaluation was effective for collections in 1956-57 the next revaluation will not affect the Budget until 1961-62. However, I anticipate that changes in ownership of land, and the subdivision of land previously used for primary production, will have the effect of increasing land tax collections by some £10,000 over last year. The estimate for 1958-59 is £1,400,000. Tax collected by the Betting Control Board and paid to consolidated revenue fell from £610,000 in 1956-57 to £580,000 in 1957-58. While I cannot at this stage see any grounds for anticipating a recovery in collections from betting taxes I believe that there will be no further fall, and therefore I have estimated that receipts this year will again reach £580,000.

Public Works and Services and Other Receipts.—Receipts from the operation of State undertakings, recoveries of debt services, and other departmental receipts are estimated at £37,042,000, an increase of £969,000 over actual receipts last year. The principal variations in this section are as follows:—

Education.—Receipts for 1958-59 are expected to amount to £770,000, or £238,000 more than last year's actual. The increase arises from the system of grants by which the University of Adelaide is financed and within this system two factors will operate to increase receipts by the State this year. First the Commonwealth in

effect subsidises the State at the rate of £1 for every £3 of State grant to the University, and as the State grant will increase this year so will the reimbursement from the Commonwealth. Second, following the report of the Committee on Australian Universities the Commonwealth arranged to make grants to the States to be passed over to the Universities for the purpose of meeting some of the more urgent requirements for additional staff and equipment. Such grants will be greater this year than last.

Harbors and Railways.—For harbors the estimate of £2,100,000 for receipts from wharfage, tonnage rates, port dues and pilotage is £21,000 less than actual receipts last year. For railways receipts from the carriage of passengers, freight, and livestock are estimated at £13,088,000, or £560,000 less than last year. It is a serious matter for the State Budget that, instead of an increased volume of business, the State should be faced with a lesser use of its harbor and rail facilities this year. Both harbor and rail revenues are restricted because of the small grain carry-over from the poor 1957-58 harvest, and by the reduction in ore traffic from Broken Hill to Port Pirie which has resulted from the fall in overseas prices for base metals.

Waterworks and Sewers.—Anticipated revenues at £4,750,000 are £301,000 greater than actual receipts last year. Except in the City of Adelaide area, where the city council's annual review of valuations is adopted for the purposes of water and sewer rating, no general changes are proposed in the basis of valuations nor in rates. The anticipated increase in water and sewer revenues will arise from additional consumers and from higher consumption.

Hospitals.—Receipts are estimated at £1,551,000 for 1958-59, an increase of £149,000 over actual receipts last year. It is anticipated that the number of patients in Government hospitals, including the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital, will be greater this year.

Recoveries of Interest and Sinking Fund.—Estimated recoveries of debt services at £6,856,000 are £575,000 greater than actual receipts for 1957-58. The increase is a direct result of further loan moneys being made available to semi-governmental bodies, and the principal increased recoveries will be from—

	£
Electricity Trust of South Australia	159,000
South Australian Housing Trust . .	242,000
Municipal Tramways Trust	44,000
State Bank (including advances for homes, loans to producers, and advances to settlers)	62,000

Departmental and Miscellaneous Revenue is expected to amount to £2,669,000, which is £74,000 less than actual receipts for 1957-58. The decline of £74,000 is due to a decrease of £201,000 in the contribution of the Commonwealth towards costs arising from the River Murray flood offset by increases in the majority of other departmental lines. This year's contribution of £149,000 by the Commonwealth will complete the amount of assistance promised to the State in respect of expenditure on protection and rehabilitation in flooded areas. The principal increases in departmental items are estimated as—

	£
Law courts—Fines, fees, etc.	29,000
Registrar-General of Deeds—Registration fees	21,000
War Service Land Settlement—Recoups by Commonwealth Government for services	17,000
Agriculture Department—Sale of produce and fees for services . .	13,000
Audit Office—Fees for audit	9,000
Lands Department—Sale of maps, fees for printing and recoups for the costs of aerial photography	9,000
Sheriff and Gaols and Prisons Department—Proceeds of prison labour	8,000

Territorial.—The estimate of £543,000 for territorial revenues is £4,000 less than actual receipts for 1957-58. Receipts from land sales are expected to be some £10,000 less than last year's receipts, which were abnormally high, and a slight decline in the quarrying of iron ore is expected to reduce royalties on minerals by £4,000. These declines are likely to be offset by an increase of £10,000 in Crown lands rents.

Commonwealth Grants.—Grants are estimated to total £24,904,000 in 1958-59, an increase of £651,000 over the figure for 1957-58. Whereas the original Commonwealth estimate of South Australia's share of the tax reimbursement grant for 1958-59 was £18,910,000, I have estimated that, on the basis of recent population trends, the State's allocation will be closely £18,950,000. This represents an increase of £1,469,000 on the grant for 1957-58. It emphasizes how rapidly the population is growing in this State. Last year the State shared to the extent of £368,000 in a special grant designed to assist all States to combat unemployment. I have no indication that such a grant is likely to recur in 1958-59.

PAYMENTS.

The Estimates of Expenditure, which contain details of the proposed payments by

departments for 1958-59, have been tabled. The estimated total of payments for 1958-59 is £73,413,000, which exceeds last year's actual payments by £2,371,000. This total is made up of—

	£
Annual payments for which appropriation is already contained in special legislation . .	18,934,000
Proposed payments in respect of the various departments for which appropriation will be sought in an Appropriation Bill which will be introduced at the completion of the Budget debate	54,479,000
	£73,413,000

Details of payments within the first category are shown on pages 4 and 5 of the Estimates and amount to £18,934,000, which exceeds last year's payments by £1,041,000, principally as a result of increases in the amounts of interest and sinking fund payable in respect of State debt. A summary, under Ministerial Heads, of the estimated expenditures of the various departments appears on page 7. The estimate of such payments, £54,479,000, is £1,330,000 in excess of last year.

I now propose to mention some of the more important features of these expenditures. An amount of £2,020,000 is provided in the Estimates for Police Department, and this represents an increase of £149,000, or approximately 8 per cent, on actual expenditure last year. The amount provided will permit the police force to be maintained at the standard of efficiency which the public expects and to which it is entitled. In continuance of the policy adopted in recent years funds are included to provide the Police Department with vehicles suitable for its needs. Whilst many of the vehicles replaced will probably have some useful life under less strenuous circumstances it is considered that the nature of usage of vehicles by the police demands replacement at a "safe" mileage in the interests of efficiency and of police and public safety. The sum of £8,950 is provided in Police Department estimates for purchase of radio equipment. To June 30, 1958, over £50,000 has been spent on police radio equipment, and I believe that the standard of efficiency of the radio network compares favourably with any other in Australia. The existence and extension of this network has greatly facilitated the introduction of the mobile police patrol system in Adelaide and its suburbs, under which a constant patrol by at least 25

police cars, in contact with police headquarters, is maintained 24 hours a day. It has been estimated that in the absence of these patrols, to give the same degree of coverage by foot patrols would require up to twenty times the number of officers. The amount of £162,000 is provided as the Government's contribution to the Police Pensions Fund and this amount, which exceeds last year's contribution by £45,000, is required to meet the Government's share of the costs of increased benefits given by amendments to the Police Pensions Act which were made during the last session of Parliament and which were effective from December 1, 1957.

The amount of £4,555,000 is provided in the Estimates for Hospitals Department. This is £431,000 more than was spent by this department last year. Provision is made for the opening of the general section of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in the new year, and when this section is in full operation a further 384 public and private beds will be available. In addition to providing for meeting the costs of staffing and operating the various hospitals a special vote of £35,000 is included for the purchase of two cobalt treatment units for the Royal Adelaide Hospital. These units will be used in conjunction with the large X-ray linear accelerator for the treatment of cancer. Hospital authorities have been very impressed with early results obtained from deep ray treatment, and with the installation of these cobalt units, which give a ray almost as penetrating as the X-ray, the Royal Adelaide Hospital will have what I am informed is the best radio-therapy unit in the Southern Hemisphere. There is one other feature of South Australia's health expenditures which invites special comment. Thirty years ago there was possibly no disease more feared than tuberculosis, but thirty years of intense research in prevention, treatment and cure of this disease has very considerably lessened the danger. In 1928 the incidence of tuberculosis cases notified in South Australia was 8 per 10,000 of the population. In 1938 this number had fallen to 5 per 10,000. In 1948 it was 4 per 10,000 and, despite the mass X-ray survey which has revealed cases which perhaps would never have been notified in former years, the incidence of tuberculosis fell to 3 cases per 10,000 of the population in 1957. During the past 10 years approximately £4,000,000 has been spent wisely and beneficially in this State on the prevention, detection, treatment and cure of tuberculosis. In this campaign the State and the Commonwealth have combined to achieve gratifying

results. These remarks are prompted by the fact that for the first time in very many years accommodation at tuberculosis hospitals is not strained and, with some further improvement, it may be possible to close one of them as a tuberculosis treatment centre. This is a truly remarkable achievement.

The sum of £773,000 is provided for Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department. This is £46,000 more than actual expenditure last year and is required to staff and operate the various institutions conducted by the department and to provide relief at approved scales to deserted wives and children and to families of persons not entitled to Commonwealth unemployment benefits.

The amount of £216,000 is provided in the Estimates for Department of Public Health. This is £13,000 in excess of actual payments last year and provides, in addition to normal departmental activity, for continuation of the State x-ray health survey and for medical and dental examination services to children in country schools.

Grants and subsidies to various hospitals and institutions included under "Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous" have increased in five years from £839,000 in 1953-54 to £1,530,000 in 1957-58. This is an increase of 82 per cent, and for 1958-59 an amount of £1,835,000, or 20 per cent more than last year, is provided for grants and subsidies to 100 different bodies. The total amount of such grants and subsidies over the past five years exceeds £6,000,000. The principal grants included in the Estimates this year are—

	£
Adelaide Children's Hospital . . .	460,000

Of this grant, £100,000 is towards providing additional accommodation. £50,000 is towards the services block consisting of quarters for medical officers, staff dining rooms, kitchens and store accommodation. This block is scheduled to be completed within the next few weeks. It will then have cost £300,000 of which the Government has contributed over £200,000. An amount of £20,000 is provided towards additions to Estcourt House to double the bed capacity for convalescent children, increasing it from 50 to 100. The sum of £30,000 is provided towards additions to Gilbert Wing which will provide an additional 36 beds by adding a fourth floor and is the first step in the recently announced plan to build a 500 bed hospital at a cost of some £3,500,000.

	£
Home for Incurables	145,000
This grant includes £100,000 towards expansion consisting of a 25 bed addition to the women's wing, additions to staff quarters, and completion of services and covered ways.	
Institute of Medical and Veterinary science	183,200
Mothers' and Babies' Health Association	66,800
Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital	222,300
Of this grant, £100,000 is provided as a contribution towards purchase of land and the first stages of additions estimated to cost some £500,000, which will include a new obstetric block.	
S.A. Blood Transfusion Service	42,000
The cost of operating the blood transfusion service is met 60 per cent by the State Government, 30 per cent by the Commonwealth Government and 10 per cent by the Australian Red Cross Society.	
S.A. Spastic Paralysis Welfare Association—towards therapeutic block	8,000
Tailem Bend Hospital—towards new hospital and nurses' quarters	10,156
This project which is estimated to cost £70,000 will provide a new 24 bed hospital.	
Whyalla Hospital	10,500
Blackwood and District Community Hospital—To increase bed accommodation from 16 to 26	10,397
Northern Community Hospital	5,913
LeFevre Community Hospital	6,000
Salisbury District Hospital—Towards completion of the Lyell McEwin Hospital	30,319
This hospital will provide 45 beds and when completed, is estimated to cost £325,000.	

The sum of £282,000 is provided for subsidies to institutions. Some of the proposals for this year are:—

	£
Crippled Children's Home, Somerton	2,000
Spastic Centre, Ashford	2,000
District and Bush Nursing Society	20,000
Kalyra Sanatorium	54,635
Minda Home (including £17,500 for building extensions)	22,500
Private (non-profit) Hospitals	177,176

In connection with these latter the Government has agreed to subsidise additions to Calvary, Memorial, and St. Andrews Private Hospitals. At Calvary Hospital a new northern wing will be built to provide 18 additional beds. At St. Andrews Hospital a proposal is in hand to increase bed capacity from 20 to 155. The first stage of this plan is to provide 73 beds in place of the present 20, together with staff accommodation, operating theatres and auxiliary services. At Memorial Hospital a new

nurses' home is proposed. Conditional subsidies to hospitals, where the amount paid is contingent upon the hospitals themselves raising a certain part of their operating requirements from fees and other revenues will this year require £150,000, which exceeds last year's actual payments for similar purposes by £10,000.

Special subsidies to hospitals for additions, alterations and equipment amount to £116,000, compared with £42,000 last year. Included in this year's provision are:—

	£
10,000 to Angaston Hospital towards additions designed to increase accommodation from 30 to 40 beds.	
20,058 to Berri Hospital. A first instalment towards the establishment of a new 32 bed hospital, which is estimated to cost £100,000.	
7,232 to Booleroo Centre Hospital towards rebuilding an old portion of the hospital.	
9,796 to Murray Bridge Hospital towards additional staff quarters and other minor works.	
10,722 to Naracoorte Hospital as a first instalment of the Government's contribution towards the cost of a new hospital.	
25,000 to Snowtown Hospital towards a new hospital.	
10,000 to South Coast District Hospital at Victor Harbour towards a new maternity block.	
7,000 to Waikerie Hospital towards new nurses quarters.	

Other special payments to be made from "Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous" vote this year are:—

	£
For Ambulance Services (including £10,000 for country services)	40,000
Meals on Wheels	1,000
Royal Institution for the Blind	20,000
S.A. Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb	10,000
Missions to Seamen—Towards War Memorial Building Appeal	5,000
Rail fares of blind persons	4,000
Rail fares of blind and incapacitated soldiers	55,500
Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust	6,000
South Australian Symphony Orchestra	12,500
Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers Association—Grant towards building	2,000

Provision is made under Publicity and Tourist Bureau for improvement of the swimming pool at Loftia Park by installing a filtration and chlorination plant and for additions to the Wilpena Pound Chalet which was purchased by the Government last year.

Following the financial failure of the previous owners the Government decided, in order to ensure that the Flinders Ranges should continue as a tourist attraction, to purchase the chalet from the liquidator of the company. Satisfactory arrangements have now been made for the lease of the chalet to a tourist organization and this grandly located chalet will continue to be an attraction which, in concert with magnificent scenic beauty, has drawn so many tourists to the Wilpena Pound. A sum of £25,000 is included for further progress work on the Glenelg boat haven, £25,000 is provided for subsidies towards the provision of swimming pools in various areas, and £25,000 is included for subsidies towards recreation areas, principally in connection with development of the West Beach Recreation Reserve where work is proceeding well in accordance with plan and where, in the not too distant future, a dreary stretch of waste land will be converted into a well-equipped recreation area with caravan parks, playing fields, tennis courts, and golf course, all within a few hundred yards of one of the finest natural beaches in the State. It is hoped that some of these facilities will be available this summer.

An amount of £6,506,000 is provided under "Treasurer—Miscellaneous," a decrease of £656,000 compared with similar payments last year. Last year an amount of £842,000 was appropriated to extinguish past deficits, and in explaining this amount I mentioned that, after making this appropriation, there would remain £677,000 of unrecouped deficits, £628,000 of which has been funded in the Public Purposes Loan Act, 1958, and the balance of £49,000 is appropriated to Consolidated Revenue Account in this section. When this adjustment is made the only amount carried in Consolidated Revenue Account will be the £400,000 deficit of last year, which will be dealt with and, I believe, recouped in the Commonwealth grant for 1959-60.

Other items which require increased provision this year are:—

	£
Payments to the Commonwealth of principal and interest pursuant to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement	786,000
(This amount exceeds last year's payment by £153,000 as a result of increased borrowings and is recovered in full from the Housing Trust.)	

L2

	£
Payments to the Commonwealth of principal and interest pursuant to the Railways Standardization Agreement	85,000
(An increase of £11,000 over last year.)	

The amount included as a contribution towards working expenses of the Municipal Tramways Trust is £480,000, which is £10,000 less than the amount actually paid last year.

The amount provided for Lands Department—£735,000—is £24,000 more than actual payments last year and includes a further £120,000 for payment to the Commonwealth of South Australia's share of amounts to be written off in connection with properties developed under the War Service Land Settlement Agreement. A sum of £122,000 is provided under "Minister of Lands—Miscellaneous," and the principal activities included in this section are:—

	This year.	Last year.
	£	£
Botanic Garden—Salaries and grants	66,262	61,097
National Park Commissioners	17,116	16,493
Royal Zoological Society	17,500	14,503

The amount provided for Engineering and Water Supply this year is £3,098,000, which is a reduction of £277,000 compared with last year. The decrease is due to the entirely different situation as regards metropolitan water supply. Last year at this time metropolitan reservoirs held some 9,000 million gallons, and in the absence of late spring rains it was necessary to pump water from the River Murray practically throughout the year. At the present time all reservoirs serving the metropolitan area are full to capacity and hold some 14,000 million gallons. In addition, this year there are nearly 4,000 million gallons in the South Para reservoir, which is about two-fifths full. With full metropolitan reservoirs, and with sufficient water in South Para to augment the supplies to Salisbury, Elizabeth and Barossa areas, it is anticipated that it will not be necessary to resume pumping through the Mannum pipeline until the end of February, 1959.

During the past five years the amount spent by the Government towards the care of aborigines has amounted to almost a million pounds made up as follows:—

	£
1953-54	119,000
1954-55	157,000
1955-56	179,000
1956-57	216,000
1957-58	264,000

and the amount provided in the Estimates for Aborigines Department for 1958-59 is £374,000, which exceeds last year's payments by £110,000. During the period I have quoted amounts provided for Aborigines Department have therefore increased by 120 per cent and the amount provided for 1958-59 exceeds expenditure of five years ago by over 200 per cent. A substantial part of this expenditure has been incurred in making grants to missions which have accepted the responsibility of caring for aborigines. The Government is deeply indebted to these fine people who have chosen to devote their lives to the care of our natives, and the Government has not been, nor will it be found wanting in providing the material resources necessary to make more effective their personal efforts. This year the following grants are included in the Estimates for payment to mission authorities:—

	£
To the Evangelical Lutheran Church—For assistance at Koonibba and Yalata	20,700
To Umeewarra Mission	1,909
To United Aborigines Mission—For assistance at Finnis Springs, Gerard, Nepabunna, and Oodnadatta Missions, and Tanderra Home	26,700

A large part of these grants will be devoted to the provision of cottages for aborigines. Provision is also made for better housing of natives on reserves and on the Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations, and for the purchase of homes in selected localities for housing suitable aboriginal families.

The amount provided for Public Works is £1,185,000. This amount, which is £82,000 more than actual expenditure last year, will be required to carry out necessary maintenance and provide replacement furniture and initial furnishings for the various Government buildings. The principal amounts included are:—

For maintenance of and furniture for—

	£
School buildings	476,000
Hospital buildings	365,000
Police and courthouse buildings	71,000
Other Government buildings	235,000

The section "Minister of Works—Miscellaneous" includes a special vote of £10,000 for cutting a channel in the South-East of the State, from Lake Bonney to the sea. This channel is necessary to enable the effluent from Cellulose Australia Limited and from the new paper mill to be built by Apcel Limited to be disposed of. The work appears to be satisfactory. The channel has enlarged to a noticeable stream, and there has been a fairly substantial fall in the level of the lake. If the

water drops to the expected level, not only will it enable effluent to be disposed of, but it will, I believe, bring in several thousands of acres of previously undrained land and make it available for closer settlement.

Education Department provision of £8,195,000 represents an increase of £718,000 over last year. Provision is made for payment of salaries at existing rates to present staff and for the appointment of the additional teachers necessary to cope with expanding school enrolments. As members will have noted from discussions during the debate on the Loan Estimates 11 new schools were occupied last year, work is in progress on a further 10 new schools and work will commence this year on yet another 26 new schools. This is quite apart from large new classroom blocks at 14 existing schools and craft blocks and timber classrooms at very many locations. The requirements of new schools and of extensions to existing schools place constant pressure on the department to recruit more and more staff.

During the past 10 years over £11½ million has been spent in the provision of additional school accommodation. During this same period school population has increased from 73,000 to 154,000, and the number of teachers from 2,651 to 5,114. The annual expenditure of the department, including maintenance of buildings, has increased from £2,135,000 in 1948-49 to £7,914,000 in 1957-58, and it is anticipated that the comparable expenditure for 1958-59 will amount to £8,675,000. From time to time comment is made on the extent of the Government's efforts to meet the problem of providing for our growing population the educational facilities so necessary to equip our citizens for modern business and industrial life. I believe it is relevant to inform members that during the past 10 years the amount spent on education has been as follows:—

	£
Provision of additional school accommodation	11,614,000
Education Department (including maintenance of school buildings)	48,341,000
Grants to University of Adelaide	4,798,000
Grants to School of Mines	1,406,000
Agricultural education (including additional accommodation)	1,918,000
Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery	1,378,000
Other education grants	1,211,000

making the not unimpressive total expenditure during the period of £70,666,000. Included in the figure for other education grants is approximately £729,000, which has been paid out as grants to the Kindergarten Union. It is of

interest to note that this State's efforts in this regard have compared favourably with experience in the eastern States.

Expenditure from all sources on education in South Australia 10 years ago represented 82 shillings per head of the population and exceeded the average in the eastern States, where similar expenditures per head of the population were—

	Shillings.
New South Wales	81
Victoria	80
Queensland	73

giving a simple average of 78 shillings. Last year the per capita expenditure from all sources on education in South Australia was 282 shillings, whereas the comparable figures for the eastern States were—

	Shillings.
New South Wales	281
Victoria	280
Queensland	217

giving a simple average of 259 shillings. The simple average is mentioned because that is the figure taken into account by the Grants Commission in making grants to this State.

Mr. O'Halloran—In that respect we are a bit overweight.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The Leader will realize it is not possible to keep every department on balance in some things. On balance we are underweight, but on education we have been consistently overweight. I mention that because I know that one member of this House evidently does not know it, or if he does, he has not publicly stated it.

Per capita expenditure in South Australia has therefore increased by 244 per cent over the last decade, and the implementing of proposals for 1958-59 will raise per capita expenditure on education to 324 shillings, which is four times the figure of ten years ago. In an endeavour to stimulate higher secondary education the Government has decided to liberalize the assistance given to students. Accordingly it is proposed to double the present number of 72 Intermediate exhibitions and 30 Intermediate technical exhibitions available to students. This increase will be effective in 1959 and will involve an additional cost of £5,500 per annum. So that country students may not be deprived of the opportunity of pursuing secondary studies it is also proposed to make substantial increases, as from the final term of 1958, in boarding allowances to students in classes up to Intermediate standard and to bursary and exhibition winners above Intermediate standard. The former will be increased from £50 per annum to £75 per

annum and will cost £14,000 this financial year and £21,000 in a full year. The latter will be increased from the present varying rates of £25, £30 and £40 per annum to a standard rate of £75 per annum and will cost £4,000 this financial year and £6,000 in a full year. It is proposed also to introduce a new boarding allowance at £75 per annum to Leaving and Leaving Honours students who are compelled to live away from home to attend a school giving a full matriculation or a full Leaving Honours course. This proposal will be effective as from the first term of 1959 and will cost £3,750 this financial year and over £11,000 in a full year. Under Libraries Department provision is made for the Government's share of administration costs and supply of books to libraries which are set up pursuant to the Libraries (Subsidies) Act. One such library is already in existence at Elizabeth and approval has been given for a further two such libraries, one at Seacombe Gardens and another at Port Pirie. Provision is also made for purchase of books to enable a library service of technical and educational books and selected fiction to be made available at Yatala Labour Prison and Adelaide Gaol.

An amount of £1,777,000 is provided under "Minister of Education—Miscellaneous." This is £449,000 greater than was spent last year and the principal increase is in the grant to the University which, exclusive of £44,000 shown under Special Acts, will be £1,320,800, which is £395,600 greater than last year's grant. Included also in this section are grants to the School of Mines £260,325 and to the Kindergarten Union £135,000. Amounts are also provided for grants to the Institutes Association £23,780, to the S.A. Oral School £1,700, to the S.A. Spastic Paralysis Welfare Association £800, to Suneden Retarded Children's Welfare Association £1,500, and to Townsend House School for Deaf and Blind Children £14,000. Under Factories Department provision is made for employment of staff and for expenses associated with promotion of industrial safety. The sum of £789,000 is provided for Agricultural Department—an increase of £31,000 over last year's expenditure. Provision is again made for further expenditure in connection with fruit fly control and destruction. An amount of £405,000 is included in the Estimates for "Minister of Agriculture—Miscellaneous," and the principal items contributing to the increase of £180,000 are as follows:—

The grant to Waite Agricultural Research Institute this year will be £280,000, which

exceeds last year's grant by £80,000. A grant to the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board of £15,000 will be made. In concert with the Commonwealth Government it has been agreed to erect special yards at Marree and at Gepps Cross for the purpose of isolating cattle from pleuro-pneumonia areas. The cost of these facilities, estimated at £105,000, will be shared by the Commonwealth, the board, and the State Government. In addition to making loan funds available to the board last year the Government is also making the grant of £15,000 towards meeting these costs. An amount of £70,000 is also included in this section to meet payments of compensation to persons authorized to receive such by the Fruit Fly Compensation Act which is being dealt with by Parliament this session. Under "Irrigation—Miscellaneous" the amount provided—£211,000—is £202,000 less than actual expenditure last year. This decrease is due to a tapering off of the work of rehabilitating areas damaged in the 1956 River Murray floods. The principal work still in progress deals with the restoration of the banks in Government reclaimed areas and with removal and resiting of levees in up-river areas. In this latter connection it will be appreciated that during the flood crisis banks were thrown up wherever it was considered that the rising floods could be held. Some of these banks cut properties and straddled roads and it has been necessary to remove them or resite them in some location where they give adequate safety without hindering business and communication. In any case the river towns in the main now have bulwarks against flood in danger areas and can face up to high rivers with more confidence than at any other time in their existence. The banks have been consolidated at 18in. above the 1931 flood level and have been constructed in such a fashion that without great trouble they can be raised to meet higher levels if and when such occur.

The sum of £741,000 is provided for Mines Department. This is an increase of £45,000 over actual expenditure last year and will enable the department to continue its search for new minerals and underground water supplies and to provide assistance to miners and prospectors. An amount of £1,387,000 is provided for Harbors Board—an increase of £34,000 compared with last year's actual payments. Provision is made in this section for the operation and maintenance of all harbor facilities, including the operation for part of the year of bulk loading facilities at Wallaroo and Port Lincoln. Provision is made under

"Minister of Marine—Miscellaneous" for continuation, and in some cases completion, of the construction of groynes at Stansbury, Port Vincent, Beachport, and Ardrossan.

Railways—£14,734,000—a decrease of £422,000. This reduction arises principally from the reduced tonnages which, it is estimated, will result from the lower grain hauls consequent upon the poorer than average harvest last season and from the reduced tonnages of ore being railed from Broken Hill. At the same time progress of the transfer to diesel power will reduce the costs of transportation as against use of steam locomotives. Reduction in the price of sleepers will also mean a saving of some £65,000 in this year's relaying programme.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the State as at June 30, 1958, was £296,814,000, which represents a net increase of £20,374,000 for the year. This net increase is made up as follows:—

Loans Raised—	£	£	
New moneys	23,648,000		
Conversions	39,997,000		
			63,645,000
Less—			
Conversion or redemption of matured securities	39,997,000		
Redemptions by National Debt Commission	3,274,000		
			43,271,000
Net Increase in Public Debt			£20,374,000

NATIONAL DEBT SINKING FUND.

Under the Financial Agreement both State and Commonwealth Governments are required to make contributions to the National Debt Sinking Fund for redemption of State Debts. During 1957-58 the National Debt Commission received £668,000 from the Commonwealth and £2,800,000 from South Australia as contributions in respect of this State's public debt. At the beginning of the year the Commission held a balance of £140,000 for debt redemption purposes on behalf of this State. During the year, in addition to contributions from the respective Governments, interest amounting to £3,000 was earned by the fund. From the total of £3,611,000 available, the Commission, during 1957-58, purchased and redeemed securities on behalf of this State at a cost of £3,564,000. At June 30, 1958, a balance of £47,000 was in the hands of the commission for further redemption of debts.

GENERAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS.

After a poor season with near-drought conditions over most of the State during 1957-58 there was a long worrying interval between the opening rains in May and the follow-up rain in mid July. A second poor season would have put a very severe strain upon our rural economy with considerable reflected damage to business activity and employment elsewhere in the State as well as upon the Government's finances. Most fortunately the July rains have been followed by adequate falls well spread, both in time and location, so that the present seasonal outlook is excellent.

Apart from practically guaranteeing an above normal rural production in 1958-59 the bountiful rains have meant a very fine catchment by all water storages for city as well as country requirements. The amount of water held in storage this month is an all-time record. All major storages are full with the exception of the new South Para Reservoir, which has received its first intake and is about two-fifths full, holding a new reserve supply of nearly four thousand million gallons. By the end of next month it is quite possible that this reservoir will be practically half full with some five thousand million gallons in storage.

Water, of course, has always been one of the major problems in South Australia's development, and adequate water reserves will continue to play a vital part in the State's future, both in the country and in the metropolitan area. It is thus very pleasing to me to be able to record that the State is now assured of an adequate reserve of River Murray water. As members well know the Snowy Mountains Agreement had certain features which my Government considered could prejudice South Australia's right to River Murray water, particularly in a drought year. As a result of South Australia's firm representations the Commonwealth Government and the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and this State have agreed to amend the River Murray Waters Agreement to ensure that this State will have in future years adequate water for both irrigation and city water supplies.

Despite recent good rains, the effects of the 1957-58 season continue to be felt, both by the economy generally and by the Government finances. The reduced purchasing power of country producers has inevitably reduced business activity throughout the State. Of the State activities both railways and harbors were affected last year less than may have been expected by the low harvest yields because there

was a considerable carry-over of grain from the previous season to be railed and exported. As the present carry-over is abnormally small these public utilities will be heavily affected thereby over the next few months. Coupled with the adverse seasonal conditions in South Australia in 1957-58, which were duplicated and even more severe in eastern Australia, there were heavy falls in export prices generally, and particularly in those for wool and dairy produce. Though it would seem that there are no further significant falls in prospect and there have been some small improvements there is no immediate likelihood of any appreciable recovery in these overseas prices.

The economy generally, partly because of the drought and near-drought conditions throughout much of Australia, but more particularly because of the general slackening in activity overseas, was less buoyant than for many years. Apart from the fall which I have mentioned in prices for our rural export produce, there were heavy falls in overseas prices for minerals, raw materials, and other basic commodities. Production and activity in North America particularly fell to the lowest point for many years, with a significant degree of unemployment. The Australian economy, because of its very great dependence upon overseas markets, prices, and activity, was inevitably adversely affected. This was by no means surprising. The surprising and gratifying feature is that the Australian economy's adverse reaction from the combined effects of these overseas influences and its internal drought has been so limited and so well controlled. South Australian unemployment in 1957-58 and since, whilst more than we have known for a considerable period, and undoubtedly more than could be contemplated without serious concern, has nevertheless been less than 1½ per cent of persons available for employment. This has been consistently somewhat lower than elsewhere in Australia and is no more than one-fifth of the proportion unemployed in the United States of America. At the same time industrial activity, though it still progressed in this State, progressed at a less rapid rate than previously.

Parallel with the improvement in the local seasonal outlook there are clear signs of improvement in the overseas economic situation. The fall in prices of basic materials and produce has ceased, and even some small to moderate recoveries have occurred, although it is yet too early to predict any widespread upswing in export prices for Australian produce. The last few weeks in the United

States show an increase in business and productive activity and an increase in orders from both private and governmental sources. All the portents are that America has commenced to climb out of its worst post-war recession, and there must be good reason to expect that we in Australia will, at the same time, climb from our much less severe recession, which would be more fairly described as a temporary slowing down in an otherwise very rapid rate of progress. Whilst the indications are that the price fall in export products from both farms and mines has ceased it would be most unwise to rely on any early or substantial recovery to anything like the very high prices which these products have commanded in recent years. Recovery in the profitability of both rural and mining production must come from continuing improvements in the efficiency of production and a firm control of costs. The most pleasing observation upon the reaction of the South Australian economy during the last year or so under adverse conditions derived from both internal and external sources has been its resilience and optimism, together with a realistic adaptation to the new situation. There has been no suggestion that the era of magnificent development and of expansion is over, but rather a sober re-planning for the development we all believe is ahead. This attitude is being greatly helped, I believe, by the Commonwealth's financial, industrial, and social policies. The refusal to cut back migration, in particular, is an earnest of confidence in our future expansion.

This is the twentieth consecutive Budget which I am now privileged to present to this House. Looking back I feel bound to observe that whilst some critics suggested that an over-optimistic view was taken of the progress of which this State was capable, the actual accomplishments of the past 20 years indicate that the predictions were on the contrary quite

clearly under-optimistic. Whilst we have had our temporary worries and set-backs over the last year, these are almost insignificant when compared with the overall progress over those 20 years. During that period the volume of industrial production in South Australia has trebled, the volume of primary production nearly doubled, the economy of the State been remodelled upon a strong and well balanced basis, and the standard of living of our people greatly improved. The building up of a strong balanced economy is continuing, and I have been able to inform members in recent months of two particularly large proposed projects which will be of incalculable benefit to the State. I refer to the decision of the Standard Vacuum organization to construct an oil refinery in the Hallett's Cove area, and the decision of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited to establish a steelworks at Whyalla. Engineering plans are now well under way for the refinery, which will cost about £16,000,000. The steel making plant, rolling mills, and associated works at Whyalla, to cost some £30,000,000, will be started in 1960.

Looking forward at these great new industries which are already promised to us during the next few years, and the others which must surely follow them, there would seem every prospect that the next decade should repeat the progress of the last two. This will surely be so, so long as we retain confidence in ourselves and our future and are prepared to continue the earnest effort and competent planning which are required and to face up to the costs which are necessarily involved to the Government, to the community at large, and to the individual citizen. I move the adoption of the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.31 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 23, at 2 p.m.