

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, April 26, 1960.

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

QUESTIONS.**DERAILMENTS.**

Mr. O'HALLORAN—Has the Minister of Works received a report from the Minister of Railways regarding the two derailments that occurred on the Port Pirie to Cockburn line last week, particularly on whether they occurred on sections of the line known to need relaying?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I have not yet received a report from my colleague but I will bring the matter before his notice again. I presume he is awaiting a report from the Commissioner of Railways and as soon as I get it I will give it to the honourable member.

FIRE IN TEMPORARY HOME.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—In this morning's *Advertiser* it was reported that a fire had occurred in a temporary home at Canada Street, Springbank. Although little damage was done, will the Premier obtain a report from the Housing Trust about this matter, if he has not already done so?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—Some time ago I requested that every fire that occurred in any Housing Trust temporary home be investigated by a coronial inquiry. That has been the practice ever since, so we have a full list of the reasons for those fires. I have no doubt that the Coroner will inquire into this fire.

BLACKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE—I think the Minister of Education is aware of the accommodation difficulties concerning both classrooms and staff at the Blackwood primary school. It is hoped that the new primary school at Blackwood will be on the Estimates for 1960-61, as it is certainly badly needed. Will the Minister state whether in the meantime he will be able to accede to the request of the school committee to provide at least one more classroom at the present Blackwood primary school?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—I have considered the requests of the honourable member and the school committee and have discussed the matter with the Director of Education, from whom I have received a lengthy and sympathetic report. There is, however, a heavy demand on all available timber frame class-

rooms, mainly for secondary schools, particularly for high schools, and one cannot possibly be diverted to the Blackwood primary school at present without taking it away from some other school where it is more urgently needed. Also, as the honourable member stated, we are now discussing the proposal to erect a large solid construction school at Blackwood as soon as possible and we do not want to go to the added expense of providing temporary accommodation if we can have a solid construction school there soon. I will get the honourable member a definite reply as soon as I can.

DEATHS IN PRIVATE HOSPITAL.

Mr. HUTCHENS—For some weeks press reports have indicated that some aged persons died in a private hospital, not named as yet, under what might have been unusual circumstances. I believe that inquiries have been made, but many people who have aged parents in such homes are worried about the position. Can the Premier make a statement that may relieve their anxiety?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I believe that the Coroner (Mr. Cleland) has already made a statement in respect of the home to the effect that it was well conducted and there was no lack of control by its authorities. As the matter is being investigated by the police I cannot take it further than that. The Coroner's statement was designed to assure anyone concerned about whether the control was adequate.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION.

Mr. SHANNON—Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to a question I asked last week regarding artificial insemination services?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—The Director of Agriculture reports:—

The rate charged for artificial insemination by this department is £2 10s. per cow with two return inseminations. Inseminations are done by lay inseminators trained by this department. Only on rare occasions would they be done by a qualified veterinarian; for example, in an emergency or for training purposes. Under our regulations, inseminations may be performed only by a veterinary surgeon or an approved inseminator working under the direct supervision of a veterinary surgeon. The only exception to this is that an owner may perform insemination in his own herd using semen collected from a sire owned by him. All semen used in this State so far has been derived in a deep frozen state from other States—the great bulk from New South Wales (Berry). Preliminary plans for producing at least some of our requirements in Adelaide are now being made. In the year ended March 31, 1960, approximately 5,000 cows were inseminated.

The demand for artificial insemination service for the ensuing year is likely to be greater than our capacity to supply. The objective of the department in undertaking this work was to investigate the possibilities of artificial insemination in this State and to gain experience in all phases of the operation. The future of artificial insemination in South Australia is now under review. It is considered that a full scale programme to cover the major dairying districts of the State is beyond the scope of the Department of Agriculture. It is hoped that the work can be handed over to local co-operatives who would operate under the guidance of an Artificial Insemination Advisory Board. As a local source of semen, both chilled and frozen, is considered essential to the success of the widespread application of artificial insemination, plans to establish a semen collecting centre are now in hand.

MANNUM TO MURRAY BRIDGE ROAD.

Mr. BYWATERS—Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question regarding the sealing of the road from Mannum to Murray Bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—My colleague, the Minister of Roads, advises that a deputation led by the Hon. L. H. Densley, M.L.C. and the Hon. G. O'H. Giles, M.L.C. waited upon the Premier recently in regard to the Murray Bridge to Mannum Road. Certain decisions were reached and a letter has been forwarded to the members referred to and also the councils concerned. I understand my colleague has now forwarded the honourable member a copy of the communication referred to.

SOFTWOODS TRADE.

Mr. LAUCKE—An announcement was made at the week-end that a shipment of Russian softwood valued at £70,000 was being sent to Australia and that this shipment would be followed soon by much larger ones. It was stated that this softwood had found a ready acceptance by Australian importers, and it could be inferred that price was a very important factor in those sales. Bearing in mind the importance of our pine forests in this State, can the Minister of Forests answer the following questions: Is he aware of these importations from Russia; does the price at which the timber is being offered present a threat to our timber industry; and what steps would be taken to prevent any possible dumping of these softwoods in South Australia?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will obtain a report from the Conservator of Forests.

Mr. HARDING—I understand that the Woods and Forests Department has exported timber to Japan and that the first shipment was favourably received. Will the Minister

obtain from the Conservator of Forests a report on the shipment of logs to Japan, and ascertain whether there is a favourable future for further softwood trade with that country?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I will include reference to that matter in the report.

CUMMINS SCHOOL EXPLOSION.

Mr. KING—A report in the *Advertiser* last week concerned an explosion alleged to have occurred in connection with a gas cylinder at Cummins area school. As Cummins is in the Minister of Works' district, can the Minister say whether he knows the facts of the case and whether the gas concerned is dangerous?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—True, an explosion took place in an almost completed building at the Cummins area school, and it was apparently an explosion of gas. I have had a departmental inquiry into the matter, but as the reports of the officers concerned are not yet to hand I do not want to prejudice the rights of any parties who may be involved by making any statement at this stage, except that I can reassure the House regarding the gas cylinder. As members know, it is necessary to use some form of gas in order to supply the science laboratories at country schools, and, as ordinary coal gas is not available, portagas has been extensively used. The inquiry so far shows that the cylinder itself did not explode, so there is no difficulty in using that gas for this purpose. I can therefore reassure the House, the school committee and parents who may be concerned in this matter.

COST OF POWER LINES.

Mr. HALL—Can the Premier obtain information on the sum that will have been spent by the Electricity Trust on the three power lines from Port Augusta to Adelaide when the line at present under construction is completed?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I do not think there will be any difficulty in obtaining that information, and I will advise the honourable member as soon as possible.

PENSIONERS' COTTAGE HOMES.

Mr. TAPPING—I recently asked the Premier if he would ascertain from the Housing Trust its policy regarding the building of cottage homes for pensioners in the foreseeable future. Has he a reply?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—A report from the Housing Trust states:—

The South Australian Housing Trust expects that during 1960-61 it will erect about 50 cottage flats for such as pensioners. The funds made available to the trust by the Government

under the Country Housing Act, 1958, have been expended, but the trust has continued to build some houses under this scheme for occupation by pensioners and the like in country towns. So far, 135 of these houses have been completed in 29 different towns.

A separate Bill was passed to provide that the rents of the houses should be paid into a fund which, less the cost of maintenance of the houses, should be used to finance further buildings. There will therefore be a revolving fund and the trust will always be building a limited number of houses under that scheme. As rents come in sufficient to build another house, another house will be erected, and in the course of time this will assume considerable importance in this problem.

STATE LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEME.

Mr. NANKIVELL—I believe that during last year district councils were circularized and asked to advise of any undeveloped or underdeveloped land within their districts suitable for development under the proposed State land settlement scheme. Has the Minister of Lands anything to report on that matter?

The Hon. Sir CECIL HINCKS—Thirty-three district councils were written and invited to advise of any undeveloped or underdeveloped areas in their respective districts. Replies were received from all councils but only nine suggested the possibility of any suitable land. In one of these cases a plan that was forwarded to the council to assist in identifying the areas referred to has not been returned. In some of the remaining eight cases, the areas suggested by the councils were already under consideration and in fact ten holdings comprising 22,151 acres which are part of an area suggested on the West Coast are at present open to application. The remaining areas are in course of investigation by the Land Board but preliminary research has revealed that some of the land is already alienated.

RAILWAY COACH ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply from the Minister of Railways to the question I asked about seating accommodation in railway coaches?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Railways has furnished me with the following report from the Railways Commissioner:—

On Thursday, April 14, it was necessary to mark from second to first class, four "700" class and two "600" class passenger cars. The "700" class cars have a centre aisle, with two seats on either side of it. It is not feasible to alter this arrangement. The "600" class cars have a side corridor with compartments, and when used as second class cars seat eight persons in each compartment. Arrangements

have been made that on those occasions when it is necessary to use "600" class cars for first class passengers, only six seats per compartment will be booked in these cars.

PORT ADELAIDE GIRLS TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

Mr. RYAN—During the absence from the House of the Minister of Education I sought information from the Premier, who was then representing the Minister, about improvements at the Port Adelaide girls technical high school being affected by the provisions of the Loan Estimates. Has the Minister any further information on the matter?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—We are now considering all the proposed Loan Estimate items to be submitted to the Treasurer, and as soon as I get final information I will let the honourable member know.

Mr. Ryan—This year or next year?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—This year.

RAILWAY CAR PARKS.

Mr. HUTCHENS—Has the Minister of Works obtained a report from the Minister of Railways regarding proposed railway car parks?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Minister of Railways has furnished me with the following report from the Railways Commissioner:—

Where space is available within railway property at station yards in the metropolitan area, it is departmental policy to permit patrons to park their cars in specified areas within such station yards. There are, of course, many metropolitan stations where no space inside railway property is available. However, where the provision of a park may be feasible outside railway property, the department is prepared to collaborate with the local council.

C.R.D. DISEASE.

Mr. LAUCKE—Has the Minister of Agriculture obtained a reply to the question I asked last week about the respiratory disease in poultry known as C.R.D.?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN—I have a report from the Chief Inspector of Stock, but for brevity purposes I will quote only the following extracts:—

Chronic Respiratory Disease is a well recognized disease of poultry throughout the world. It is of importance only in those flocks where the management practices are poor. It becomes serious, particularly where the sheds are overcrowded and where, as a result, feeding and ventilation are unsatisfactory. . . . Chronic Respiratory Disease can be treated with antibiotics but unless the management practices are corrected relapses invariably occur. . . . As control depends on management there appears to be little need for high priority research into treatment. Work is needed into certain aspects of the disease where it appears as a lesser cause of loss in well managed flocks.

MALLALA TO TWO WELLS ROAD.

Mr. HALL—Between Mallala and Two Wells the main bitumen road crosses the railway line. This is a particularly bad crossing because on the western side near Two Wells it follows the railway line and on the eastern side from Mallala it converges practically parallel to the line; and therefore, there is a sudden sharp turn on to the rail track. The crossing has been the scene of minor accidents and one fatal accident that I know of in the past few years. Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether safety lights could be installed there, especially now that electricity supplies have been brought to the district? Further, could the road approaches be improved?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—I will direct the question to the Minister of Railways and Roads for his attention.

ADULT EDUCATION FEES.

Mr. RYAN—Has the Minister of Education any further information regarding my question about an increase of 100 per cent in adult education fees at technical schools?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON—The honourable member's information is not quite correct. Fees for adult education evening classes were not increased in February, 1959, nor have they increased by nearly 100 per cent in the last 12 months. The position is that the scale of fees for such classes was fixed in 1953 at 10s. per term for each hour of instruction per week in the particular subject, with an extra charge made in certain practical classes, for example welding, for the cost of materials used. This was a nominal fee. There was no change in these fees during the next four years. At the end of 1957 they were again reviewed when it was considered that they should be related to those charged by the School of Mines and Industries for similar subjects. The fees at that institution vary, and it was considered reasonable, after considering all the factors involved, to increase the scale in adult education centres by 50 per cent to 15s. per term per hour of weekly instruction with the additional charge for practical classes. These new fees took effect from January 1, 1958. Two years later, at the beginning of 1960, in view of the continued upward trend in the cost of operating these classes, the fees were again increased by varying percentages, but averaging overall 44 per cent. The fees for all subjects are now the same as those charged by the Institute of Technology except for the one-hour per week classes.

PORT PIRIE COURTHOUSE.

Mr. McKEE—Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply to my previous question about the Port Pirie courthouse?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Director, Public Buildings Department, reports that it is expected that tenders for the erection of the new courthouse at Port Pirie will be called in May this year.

DELAYS IN GOVERNMENT BUILDING PROJECTS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH—Has the Minister of Works a report concerning my question about delays in Government building projects?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—Yes. The honourable member referred earlier to delays, particularly at Norwood boys technical school and the Burnside wards, and directed his question to those specific matters. Each of those contracts is being carried out by the same contractor, and it is agreed that the work has not proceeded as expeditiously as was desired. The department has taken every possible step to expedite the work and urge the contractor to complete his part of the work. The works are nearing completion and, I think, would be almost completed at this point. I regret that I did not get the information for the honourable member more quickly. The report that I now have before me is two weeks old, so that I imagine today the work would be nearly completed. However, I cannot say that definitely, but the report says that both works are nearing completion and should be completed during the next few weeks.

HOUSING TRUST HOMES AT WHYALLA.

Mr. LOVEDAY—Has the Premier anything further to add in regard to the rate of Housing Trust work at Whyalla representative upon his recent discussions with representatives of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—The discussions were general and were followed up by a letter from the chairman of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, which said that the company was now able to get additional migrants and asked that the housing programme be expanded. That matter at present is the subject of negotiation between the chairman of the Housing Trust and me.

GOVERNMENT BUILDING AT PORT AUGUSTA.

Mr. RICHES—The Minister of Works will remember, on his last visit to Port Augusta, discussing the question of a Government building to re-house the Waterworks Office and any

other Government department not now adequately accommodated there. The Minister said he would have inquiries made from other departments and then formulate a programme. Can he say how those inquiries have progressed?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—As I undertook on my visit to Port Augusta, I have put in train the necessary inquiries to see what accommodation is required by Government departments generally at Port Augusta. That matter is in the hands of the Public Service Commissioner, who is ascertaining the requirements but who has not yet submitted a report to me. When I have received the information I shall be able to formulate a programme based on it; but I have not yet received it.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. RALSTON (on notice)—

1. How many passengers travelled first class on the 8.50 p.m. train from Adelaide to Mount Gambier on Thursday, April 14, 1960, and Easter Monday, April 18, 1960, respectively?

2. How many passengers travelled first class on the 8.50 p.m. train from Mount Gambier to Adelaide on the abovementioned dates?

3. How many sleeping cars were provided on each of the abovementioned trains and what was the total number of sleeping berths provided on each train?

4. Was a record kept of the number of inquiries for sleeping berths on each of the trains mentioned?

5. If so, how many passengers were unable to obtain a sleeping berth and on which trains?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON—The Railways Commissioner reports:—

1. One hundred and twenty-eight (128) passengers travelled first class on the 8.50 p.m. train, Adelaide to Mount Gambier, on Thursday, April 14, and 36 on Monday, April 18.

2. Forty-four passengers travelled first class on the 8.50 p.m. train, Mount Gambier to Adelaide on Thursday, April 14, and 107 first class on Monday, April 18.

3. One sleeping car (20-berth capacity) was provided on each of the following trains:—

8.50 p.m. Adelaide to Mount Gambier, Thursday, April 14, 1960—all occupied.

8.50 p.m. Mount Gambier to Adelaide, Thursday, April 14, 1960—18 occupied.

8.50 p.m. Mount Gambier to Adelaide, Monday, April 18, 1960—all occupied.

Two sleeping berths (total 40-berth capacity) were provided on the 8.50 p.m. train, Adelaide to Mount Gambier, on Monday, April 18, 1960—30 berths were occupied.

4. Yes.

5. Ten passengers were unable to obtain sleeping berths on the 8.50 p.m., Adelaide to Mount Gambier train, on Thursday, April 4, 1960, and 10 passengers were unable to obtain sleeping berths on the 8.50 p.m. Mount Gambier

to Adelaide train on Thursday, April 14, 1960, and 14 passengers were listed for berths on the 8.50 p.m. ex Mount Gambier on Monday, April 18, 1960, but could not be accommodated.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from April 21. Page 271.)

Mr. QUIRKE (Burra)—I support the motion. Before speaking to this motion, I should like to add my meed of praise for the very good work carried out by the Governor who has departed from our shores and to wish him all possible success in his years to come. He did a remarkably good job in South Australia and will be very difficult to follow. It will be heartening indeed to him to read, as I know he will, the remarks of honourable members in this House who have so far addressed themselves to this motion. I congratulate Sir Mellis Napier on the good work he does when he takes the place of the Governor during his absence. Sir Mellis Napier's name is now a household one in South Australia. He has the regard and good wishes of all citizens.

I should like also to congratulate Sir Cecil Hineks on the high honour conferred on him. He came into this House at the same election as I did, but there must be something wrong with me because all these things have passed me by. Perhaps I can live in hope, but I congratulate him on the honour that has been accorded him. I have got on well with him ever since he first came into this House.

Everybody wishes Her Majesty the Queen well and the new Prince a long, happy and successful life. I often think about the Royal Family and, in the extremely high office that they hold, with the troubled condition of the world today, how uncertain they must be about knowing what destiny has in store for them; but with our good wishes and hopes for them, their destiny will be a happy one. It will be happy so long as the loyalty and love of the people of the British Commonwealth of Nations are accorded so readily to them. Knowing them as we do, we feel sure they will do nothing to lessen the regard that the people of the Commonwealth have for them.

Princess Margaret is to be married. We congratulate her and her fiancé. I agree with what other members said about the spotlight and publicity that is forever shining upon these two young people. Why on earth cannot they be left alone to work out their own destiny as all people want to do? They must take all sorts of measures to move around so that

the public cannot see them or the press cannot get at them. That is a ridiculous state of affairs that has grown up in recent years and should be deprecated. We hope that better feelings towards these people will be exhibited and that they will be left in peace to enjoy a life of health and happiness, which is the lot of every person whether exalted or humble.

I cannot let pass this opportunity to say how much I regret the passing of George Hambour. He left his mark on this Chamber and it is sufficient for me to say that after my close association with him I still miss him and I will go on missing his presence in this House. I congratulate the member for Albert, the mover of the motion, and the member for Unley, who seconded it. The member for Albert said much with which I am in full accord and some things with which I will never be in accord. I will perhaps refer to them as I go through my speech. The two things needed in the country today, apart from decentralization, are roads and electricity. We have a programme for road-making and also for electricity supplies in the country, and the latter is progressing very well. I understand that the trust is hamstrung by lack of money, which has caused its plans to be put back. This is to be regretted because people in the country, particularly in the far-flung areas, are just as worthy (perhaps more worthy) of obtaining a supply of electricity as those in the new areas being created around Adelaide. Whether at Elizabeth or in other inner subdivisions there must be water, sewerage and electricity, which are provided in these areas because of their location, yet probably for years to come areas in the north will be without electricity, which is a vital amenity. If the programme can be speeded up, particularly in the north, the country people will be extremely grateful.

I wonder if it is not possible to call a holiday in the colossal expenditure taking place on roads around the metropolitan area. I am quibbling not about the necessity for those roads, but about the concentration in the metropolitan area when in the north only a mile or two of much needed highway is constructed. If for one year at least a bigger proportion of road money could be allotted to the northern areas, so much the better, and it would be no more than justice to the people living there. At present the most that can be sealed on these roads is about one or two miles a year, so it takes years to complete a road. I do not disagree about sealing a road once it is made, but it is not in the best

interests of the road to bituminize a mile or two a year and to extend the sealing programme over possibly six to eight years because, by the end of that time or even before, the sealed parts have to be resurfaced and possibly the cost of resurfacing detracts from the amount that would be allowed for a continuation of the work. I appeal to the Government in this matter because if anything is causing comment and perhaps discontent in country areas it is the road programme and to some extent the electricity supply programme, although the Electricity Trust is doing the best it can.

Mr. Dunnage—But most roads in the metropolitan area are being constructed by local government authorities.

Mr. QUIRKE—I know, but I am referring to highways. Who paid for the Marion Road?

Mr. Dunnage—That goes to the country, but it is not in my area. We do our roads ourselves.

Mr. QUIRKE—The honourable member is not in a country area. I am referring only to the expenditure on main roads in the metropolitan area that lead to and from the country. Although country people benefit when using these roads to come to the city, they come off some bad roads to get to the good roads. The country road programme above all else demands attention. Even if more money were given every third year to complete country roads it would be no more than justice to the country people and it would prevent a colossal maintenance waste. Grants have been made for main roads, one of which is that from Hallett to Burra. Part of this road is now bitumenized and people from the north are taking advantage of it. The road from Hallett should be sealed, at least as far as Burra, as promptly as possible to save the wastage of money on maintenance made necessary by the increased traffic. Money is spent in putting gravel on the road and after only one year it has to be repaired again because it is graded and then thrown off, causing a terrific wastage that should be avoided.

The Leader of the Opposition took the Premier to task for the huge State debt that now exists. He rightly drew attention to it because it is a matter for concern but the Premier was not wrong in defending it, as there is no other way under present conditions open to the Treasurer of a State to obtain money other than the way in which it has been obtained. There are other ways, of course, but they are not operative.

Mr. Shannon—We could not even build highways if we did not have money.

Mr. QUIRKE—No, but the point is that there is a debt. However, I defend the Premier in his attitude; he said that he had spent money and for his expenditure he had obtained valuable things for the State. All progress today is a matter of debt—even hire-purchase. Had a Labor Government been in office since 1933 and had it carried out the same programme it would have been in debt, too, because it would not have been able to get money from any other source. Although I am not defending the Loan programme, I maintain that there are other means of providing finance. We have to be realistic and recognize that we have this debt and that it will continue to grow no matter who is in office in this State, because that is the way things are ordered today, wrong as that might be.

The member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) mentioned inflation. Of all the inflationary causes that we have I give pride of place to hire-purchase. Although we are told time and time again that hire-purchase is not inflationary, it is and must be inflationary. Figures from the Commonwealth Bank's *Statistical Bulletin* (company supplement for 1959) show that in 1957-58 the sum invested, apart from debentures, in hire-purchase consisted of share issues, £9,000,000; shareholders' funds, £12,000,000; bank overdrafts, £44,000,000; undistributed profits, £3,000,000, making a total of £68,000,000, to which must be added the sum that people subscribe in debentures. Regarding bank overdrafts, there is £44,000,000 of inflation. I do not know what that figure is today, but I understand that the banks have whittled it down because it represents direct inflation.

Hire-purchase agreements now total more than £400,000,000. At the minimum charge of 16 per cent—that is, 8 per cent flat—the profit is about £64,000,000, or equivalent to the total sum invested outside of debentures, and that to the consumer is £192,000,000 when he has paid on a three-year programme. How can that be called anything but inflation? A person who invests £1,000 in a hire-purchase company at 8 per cent will receive £80 per annum, or £240 in three years. I use the three years' term for a hire-purchase agreement, although I see now that it is as high as five years, in which event the conditions will be immeasurably worse. A person who signs a hire-purchase contract for £1,000 at 8 per cent flat will pay £160 a year over and above £1,000, or £480 over the three years. That £480 over the three years means that in that time he has paid 48 per cent more than

his original contract payment. Those are colossal figures that cannot be defended by anybody, anyhow. Further, they are only the interest charges, and the person entering into the contract still has other charges to meet.

We hear criticism by ill-informed people who say that the greatest inflationary medium today is the increase in wages. It is nothing of the sort! The type of hire-purchase I have mentioned is the greatest charge on the wage earner and if he is not able to meet those charges when he wants to purchase anything industry will stand still. Can anybody refute that? If these charges remain as they are, the incomes of people must be such as to meet those charges over a three-year period. No working man's income gives him sufficient to purchase even his output in goods. It never does! If we are going to have this sort of thing we shall get continual rises in salaries and wages as this thing extends, and it is extending. It has gone from three years to five years in many cases, and a person having to pay another two years at 8 per cent flat will pay another £320 on the same sum.

What is the use of talking loosely about inflation when we have a thing like that hanging around our necks? I will not say what must be done at this stage, but something must be done about it, and it is sufficient to realize the necessity for doing something in the matter. Any increase in wages is always months behind the appreciation in costs. I have heard people say that wages must be related to value of production, but no greater nonsense than that has ever been spoken. If we related wages to production value they would have to be about three times what they are today in order to purchase the output of industry. Some people today are investing what savings they have, from whatever source they came, at 8 per cent, and it is those savings that have been used by hire-purchase companies in order to extract this amount of tribute from the person whom we say should not have higher wages. I know quite well that to keep wages rocketing up and up all the time is not good for the economy, but if other things are beating the man to the draw all the time he has to get wage increases in order to live. This financial system must be controlled. The only way I would control it would be to enter into competition with it, because real competition could bring this thing tumbling down in 12 months.

Mr. Ralston—Could the present Government do it?

Mr. QUIRKE—Any Commonwealth Government could bring it tumbling down in 12 months, for the good of the economy of Australia, because the financial structure of Australia is entirely a Commonwealth matter. We cannot control it here, nor can any other State control it, and it must be controlled by the Commonwealth, which has the power and should use it.

Mr. Ralston—Do you think the present Commonwealth Government would do that?

Mr. QUIRKE—It is doing it to some extent through the Development Bank. A machine can be purchased today through the Development Branch of the Commonwealth Bank at 4½ per cent flat.

Mr. Ralston—That is for primary production.

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes.

Mr. Ralston—It is not for the worker.

Mr. QUIRKE—Nobody is going to tell me a primary producer is not a worker.

Mr. Ralston—I meant "a working man."

Mr. QUIRKE—I will not fall for that one. The extension of that concession to other forms of production would be beneficial, for it would mean 9½ per cent as against 16 per cent—a marked reduction—and there is no earthly reason why it could not be better than that. The Commonwealth Bank does not owe it to anybody. They do not have to make profits in order to get money to pay interest to their investors. They can do much better than that, and they should. It is a marked departure from the accepted thing. The hire-purchase business and the people connected with it are entirely unmoral and they are killing the country. There should be a united demand from the Parliaments of Australia in this matter, but whether we could get unanimity I do not know. When we realize that the funds outside debenture funds amount to £64,000,000 and that £402,000,000 is owing on hire-purchase contracts, we must wonder where the difference is. What is the total debenture money invested in the 44 hire-purchase companies, and what is the relationship of the total funds I mentioned to the £402,000,000 now outstanding? I would like to have this information, but it is almost impossible to get it. It would tell a story associated with inflation. The whole thing can be inflationary from the ground upwards, particularly that portion financed by bank overdrafts. We cannot ascertain the total amount invested by the banks in their companies. It is said to be 40 per cent, but if it is it does not cost the banks anything, and I defy anyone to

prove otherwise. They do not use shareholders' funds. We are to have the Hire-Purchase Agreements Bill brought before us again this session, and we should do all we can to alleviate the position.

We have just had a by-election in the district of Light, and one of the features of the campaign was the play on decentralization. I have always supported schemes for decentralization. I should like to see small industries established in country towns, and they can only be small industries. All over the world primary producing areas do not have big industries located in them, mainly because of the lack of continuity of population. In South Australia country districts are not sewered, and it is necessary for them to be sewered if much labour is employed.

Mr. Bywaters—Shearer's works have 400 employees.

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes, but they have the river nearby. They have a good industry, and they have proved the fallacy of the argument that rail transport prevents a firm from establishing an industry in the country because of high transport costs. They have overcome the trouble and it could be done elsewhere. They were not compelled to go to Mannum, and there can be no compulsion for people to go to Saddleworth or Riverton, but it is most unlikely that industries would want to go to those places.

Mr. O'Halloran—There should be a measure of encouragement.

Mr. QUIRKE—Yes. One of the big capital costs in starting a factory is the building itself, but an industry wanting to start at any country town can arrange for the building to be erected. In country towns where there is already an industry and where the Housing Trust will not build houses because of the uncertainty of the industry money can be made available over a period of 10 years so that houses can be built for people engaged in the industry. That is a fine contribution, and I deprecate statements that the present position is the result of neglect. I do not like this writing down of our country towns, and I have some figures that I hope will show that country people have done a tremendous amount towards increasing the wealth of the State. It is useless to quote values for various years because in 1931 the price of wheat was only 1s. 6d. a bushel. A mighty lot of bushels would be needed at that price to reach the total amount received for the wheat crop in recent years. It is production that counts.

I will give figures regarding grain, but I do not want them to be interpreted in the wrong way. In 1930-31, 4,180,000 acres were planted to wheat. The yield was 34,871,000 bushels, and the value £4,572,000. That was when wheat was 1s. 6d. a bushel. The barley acreage in that year was 251,000 and the yield 4,572,000 bushels. The total acreage sown to grain was 4,431,000 and the total yield of wheat and barley was 39,443,000 bushels. The yield per acre for wheat was only 8.34 bushels. In 1939-40 the acreage sown to grain was only 3,237,548, but the yield in that year increased to 51,031,000 bushels. The wheat yield per acre was 15.02 bushels, and the barley 19.78. The production value for wheat that year was £8,346,000. In 1950-51 the grain acreage was 2,611,862 and the production 47,663,000 bushels. That was 8,000,000 bushels above the figure for 1930-31, yet in that year there was double the acreage.

From these figures we can see that the primary producer is doing a good job and taking advantage of new ideas. He has widened his crop rotation. That no-one does better than the farmer with the information disseminated by the various organizations is conclusively proved by these figures. In 1950-51 the wheat yield per acre was 16.74 bushels, and barley 21.87. In 1958-59 the grain acreage was 2,739,000, an increase on the 1951 figure, and production increased to 69,696,000 bushels. The value was £53,145,000. In 1939-40 the value of the wheat production was £8,346,000; in 1950-51 it was £22,793,000; and in 1958-59 the grain crop was valued at £53,145,000. The yield per acre for barley in 1958-59 was 28.27 bushels. I have not got the figure for wheat. In 1930-31 the wheat yield per acre was 8.34 bushels, in 1939-40 it was 15.02, and in 1950-51 it was 16.74. The barley yields per acre were 19.78 bushels in 1939-40, 21.87 bushels in 1950-51, and 28.27 bushels in 1958-59. Even if there are fewer people living in the country now, production of grain has been increased tremendously.

The thinking of people in various country districts is much the same. In 1941 when I first contested the Stanley electorate as a Labor candidate I had a Liberal opponent. At Auburn he polled 146 votes and 124 electors voted for me. At Water-vale 52 electors voted for my opponent, and 120 for me. At Saddleworth we each got 110 votes. At Riverton he got 221, and I got 166. At Hamley Bridge my opponent received 179 votes and 154 people voted for me. In 1944 I had a Liberal opponent, but no Labor

opponent. At each of the previously-mentioned voting places I received more votes than my opponent, with the exception of Riverton, where he got 201 votes and I got 197. As the Labor candidate I defeated my Liberal opponent. In 1947 my two Liberal opponents ran square on the card, and I beat both of them with an absolute majority, but with the help of the Labor vote. When there was a Labor candidate against me the same thing happened. In 1944 the subdivision of Saddleworth recorded 603 votes for the Labor candidate, and in the by-election just held 574 votes were recorded for him. The subdivision of Riverton recorded 1,834 votes for Labor in 1944 and in Saturday's by-election it recorded 1,769. The country does not change much except in its productive effort and that is something for which the country people must be given full marks and full recognition. My investigations reveal that the country people have used their intelligence and application to such an extent that their efforts have produced a colossal benefit for the South Australian economy. I refer to wheat and barley only and not to wool and the other primary products. The remarkable increase in production of wheat and barley reflects great credit on the people.

School attendance figures do not reveal outstanding changes and the changes that have taken place have been caused mainly by improved transport and the introduction of area schools resulting in the closing of some smaller schools. The attendance of school children is lower because children who attend country secondary schools are, in the main, those that leave the country. They get a higher education and, because there is nothing in the towns for them, they leave. In most cases children who do not attend secondary schools in the country remain in the country. I am not saying whether I think that is good or bad, but the fact remains that where secondary education facilities are provided people deliberately set out to equip their children for a status in life that cannot be given them in the country. The establishment of a small industry in a town gives them that opportunity and the leaders of this State must reorientate their ideas on decentralization. No-one wants to see country towns go ahead more than I do, but that would require something more than trying to encourage a small industry to go to a town, because such an industry might soon find itself in bother.

High schools are established at Jamestown, Burra, Clare, Balaklava and Kapunda and area schools also provide education, but the

product of those schools does not go into secondary industry because it is deliberately educated for a different sphere. Before I investigated this question I thought there was but one answer to it, but I now believe that a small industry in the country town is not the answer because that industry could be killed in time through lack of employees. It has been said that people should be attracted from the city to the country but that does not work.

Mr. Hall—Wild horses wouldn't do it.

Mr. QUIRKE—I agree. Another reason why the country population has fallen off is that in 1933 South Australia had about 200,000 horses and that meant about 500,000 tons of hay had to be conserved. In those days it was cereal hay—wheaten and oaten hay and sheaved hay. I ask members to visualize the number of men required to handle the 500,000 tons of hay that was cut with a binder, stooked in the paddock, carted into the stack, taken out and chaffed, in the main, and fed to the horses. Most farms had two eight-horse teams with all the frills necessary to maintain them. In some cases two ten-horse teams were kept and often a horse wrangler, perhaps two, would be employed. Those men did not get much encouragement to stay there because some were not paid for their services. No-one wants those conditions again because they are not conducive to taking labour to the country.

Hay production for 1959-60 was 671,000 tons of which only 114,000 tons was cereal hay or sheaved hay. Baled hay accounted for 557,000 tons. I ask honourable members to consider the difference required in the handling of baled hay as against that required for sheaved cereal hay.

Mr. Heaslip—It is not too good either.

Mr. QUIRKE—No. Manpower is not used as much today. Pick-up loaders are used and there are all sorts of facilities for handling hay. The machinery does not demand the same attention as the thousands of horses that had to be fed in earlier days. There has been a falling off in the horse population but that has not done the country any harm; it could have done it immeasurable good. The figures quoted during the recent election campaign were not as real as they were supposed to be. The country needs good roads, and electricity in every home. It needs a water supply and after an adequate water supply is provided and roads and electricity are given to the people industry will flow into the country towns.

Before the last war there was little secondary industry in Clare but look at that

town today. I ask honourable members to think of the industries and the amenities now provided there. High schools, secondary schools, primary schools, electricity, water, and good roads have accompanied every industry in a small way and they have centred on Clare. Motors can be restored and crank shafts reground at Clare. Fibrous plaster can be provided for houses, and two brick kilns operate. The town produces steel construction parts of every sort and maintains heavy tractors, diesel tractors and diesel plants. Everything is there but nobody was forced to go to Clare.

When speaking of Riverton, Saddleworth and Kapunda I hesitate to say where I think the industrial centre should be. Obviously there could not be an industrial centre in each town because there would be nothing to maintain it, but there could be an industrial centre in one district drawing its working population from the towns about. No tangible reason can be given why Kapunda, Riverton and Saddleworth have gone back, but the results achieved in Clare are obvious to everyone and they provide labour for a wide area surrounding the town.

The speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor referred to war service land settlement, exploration for oil, drainage, forests, water supply, sewers, river development, roads, Leigh Creek coal, the Electricity Trust in all its branches, Housing Trust, education and immunization, prices and rent control, and all sorts of things that are Government-controlled. We cannot today loosely say that we are totally opposed to Socialism. Certain forms of Socialism can be opposed but the programme mentioned in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech indicates dangerous ground in this respect. All that programme is designed to provide opportunities that could be the means of starting decentralization. The State can provide amenities and that list is a fair quota, but the State cannot be expected to go beyond that. It is a social programme.

Australia is wedded to the two-Party system: Liberal and Labor. Most people in this State are wedded to neither one ideology nor the other. I often liken the political set-up in Australia to a square. There are two extremes in politics (the extreme right and the extreme left) and both are equally damaging. If that square is taken as representing Australian politics, on the right-hand side is a narrow margin representing the advanced right-wingers and on the other a

narrow margin representing the advanced left-wingers. The people in the centre are neither one thing nor the other: all they want is a good solid political system which they can adhere to, and it is time both political Parties with their age-old shibboleths started thinking on such lines. If the two existing policies were burnt and we started again, we would be bestowing on the people a wonderful benefit. I know of many thousands of people who do not belong to one Party or the other, but who will vote very often according to how they think the candidate states his own views. They are sick and tired, in the main, of all the old shibboleths and Party banners and will support the Party that comes out and discards the extreme right or the extreme left. On the one hand, there is the extreme Rightist, the man who supports this unnormal financial order that puts such an incubus around the necks of the people who want the ordinary amenities in their homes. The extreme Rightist is anathema: he has no place in an up-and-coming Australia.

On the other hand, the extreme Leftist lives all the time in a spirit of revenge against the extreme Rightist. He says, "He was the man who killed me. He was the man who kept this country down. He was the man who caused the cemeteries at Broken Hill to grow to the size they did because he refused to allow the hollow water drill that could have prevented the silica dust from dusting and hardening the lungs of the miners, so that they died in their thousands." That is all true, but it happened many years ago. The type of person who would do that then is with us now but he could never do it these days. So, why maintain the antagonisms of the extreme Left and the stupidities of the extreme Right whilst in between on the misty flats the rest of the people are drifting to and fro? All that they look for is good solid guidance. When that time comes, anybody advocating that sort of policy will get the support of most people of this country. People are not fools; they are looking for guidance. Some say that the farmer, who is a landed man, would not vote Labor. Do not believe it. Thousands of them do, and would—if Labor had a policy. Others will vote nothing else but Liberal. They are a proportion but not the vast majority of the people. If they were, I would not have been here for 19 years. That is all there is to it. The people are looking for that lead and, when it is given to them, they will respond to it. At present, they are sick to death of being hammered first by one and then by the other Party. No good at all

can come out of that Party, no good at all can come out of the other Party, whereas there is immeasurable good in both of them. There are just as good men on both sides.

Mr. Clark—There are more good on this side than on the other.

Mr. QUIRKE—Not at all. We would not have the conditions that we have in Australia today were it not for a virile Labor Party in years gone by. Everybody must admit that. I wish we had some of those men today. The same applies to the other side. Nobody can discount what the Premier has done for this State. Who can write it down? Nobody! All those factors have contributed and I make a plea for honourable members not to forget these things. Time is running out. Everything is building up in this country so that, without trying to decry what has been done, I say there is an agitation proceeding in this country in the minds of people. I get it wherever I go, as other honourable members must get it wherever they go. The only thing needed is the right lead. People will respond to that. We must depart for ever from those things that have obtained here for the past hundred years but which today have no part or place in the advanced civilized life that we propose should be ours. We cannot always think that the progress of a nation depends entirely upon its material wellbeing—money and the things it possesses. That does not bring wellbeing to a country in its entirety. Such things are good and acceptable but it must be the will of the people to do the right thing in relation to everybody else that is important. That applies particularly to the hire-purchase people, who have no will to do good to anybody but themselves. That is anathema today.

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray)—I rise to add my word of sympathy for the wife and son of the late George Hambour in his tragic and sudden death. There were times when he and I disagreed forcibly, but no-one was more shocked than I at the tragic ending of a man who had given so much to his district. I join with all honourable members in expressing my sympathy to the wife and son of the late member for Light.

Since I have been a member of this House, nothing has been brought more vividly or closely to our minds and hearts than the sudden deaths of the late members for Wallaroo and Light. That makes us think seriously about providing for our dependants because, in cases

like these, wives could be left entirely destitute by the sudden demise of honourable members. The fact that there is no compensation whatsoever for the dependants of a member who does his job properly for his district and then dies suddenly in the course of his duties is something that concerns every member. He is not even covered by any form of workmen's compensation, as applies to the wage-earner. We are similarly placed, and members on this side of the House rely entirely on their Parliamentary salaries. The fact that our dependants can be left with no compensation is a matter that greatly concerns many members to whom I have spoken. As it could happen to any one of us, something should be done in this matter.

At this stage I congratulate the incoming member for Light (Mr. Nicholson) on his win last Saturday. Once an election is fought and won, no matter how hard he has fought, the loser naturally congratulates the winner and the winner consoles the loser. One thing that was brought vividly to the fore was the decided swing to Labor in that by-election, and that was not due entirely to the intense campaigning by members on this side. It was a clean and worthwhile campaign and I heard no jarring note from either side in the area to which I was allotted. Government members entered into the fray, put much time and energy into the campaign and learned much from the Labor campaign. As I see it, people in the country, particularly those to whom I spoke, are looking for a change. At Cadell some said to me, "It is time we had a change of Government." I was pleased to observe a decided swing in favour of our candidate, a man the people had not as yet met. Although there was much campaigning from both sides, the swing to Labor in that area was most decided.

I should like at this stage to congratulate the mover of the motion on his fine and thoughtful contribution to the debate. I was particularly interested in his reference to both private and socialistic enterprise. I think he echoed the sentiments of many members on this side when he said, in effect, that private enterprise and Government enterprise worked well together to the benefit of the State. All Labor members agree that private enterprise and socialistic enterprise need to combine to work in the interests of the State. That is the ideal and has been proved already. I pay a tribute to the efforts of the Electricity Trust in the district of Albert and in my district. It shows the wisdom of

the Government previously in establishing, with the support of Labor members in both this House and the other House, an undertaking that has proved very successful indeed.

Mr. O'Halloran—It could not have been established without the support of Labor members in the Upper House.

Mr. BYWATERS—I appreciate that interjection because the honourable Leader was a member of this House at the time and he knows the position. True, without the support of the Labor Party in this House and in the Upper House, the legislation would not have been passed. All country members will rejoice at the beneficial rains we had at the week-end. I know the people in my district are happy about them although we were treated fairly well last year along that strip of country in my district where we have had good crops. We were anxiously waiting for good rain and I am glad it has come.

Much publicity has been given to the prospect of a new dam on the upper reaches of the River Murray, just inside the South Australian border, something that has been hailed by many people along the river who depend on the river for water. Some time ago, prior to the last election, when the Premier mentioned that there was a scheme from New South Wales to serve the outer areas away from the Murray, the Menindee lakes scheme was suggested and we thought that this would come to fruition; but it did not and apparently it fell by the wayside. Then we heard later of a scheme to be extended from Lake Bonney, which I did not favour, and I expressed that view here. Apparently it was not feasible, as the cost of the work would have been prohibitive. I hope that the proposed dam on the Murray becomes an accomplished fact, because many of those dependent upon water for their activities are at some loss to meet their requirements. We are becoming more and more dependent upon the Murray for our water supplies, and that applied particularly last summer, when 80 per cent of the water used in the metropolitan area was drawn from that source. It is fortunate that we did not have a year similar to 1957 when, following a high river, we had a low river with a high salt content. If that had occurred this year people in the metropolitan area would have been in dire straits.

Mr. Jennings—It would have been a disaster.

Mr. BYWATERS—Yes, and possibly gardens would have failed and there would have been a shortage of drinking water. We were fortunate that there were good rains in the eastern States and that we were able to use Murray

water. The present population of the metropolitan area is about 500,000, and it is expected to reach 1,000,000 in the not distant future. There will then be an even greater demand for Murray water. Therefore, it is essential that a dam be constructed on the upper reaches of the Murray. Undoubtedly there will be problems associated with this scheme, and one of these concerns the water supply in the lower reaches of the Murray. Although the Premier assured me that this was not likely to arise, I emphasize that irrigation activities there greatly exceed those of a few years ago. It is to be hoped that there will be no need for worry in this regard. Another thing that worries irrigators occurs when water in the Murray is clear in colour. Algae does not get a chance to grow when there is colour in the water, but when the water is clear irrigators have trouble with this growth. It is to be hoped that provision will be made for colour to come into the river to check the continual growth of algae.

Fish from the Murray are an asset not only to South Australia, but also to New South Wales and Victoria, and the netting season is usually when the water is discoloured. Quite a few fishermen are concerned about the locking of the river as this could result in some loss of income. I do not think that the trouble is insurmountable. I trust that these things will be taken into consideration when planning the construction of the proposed dam. Several river captains have spoken to me about the necessity of dredging the Murray. Silt accumulates and sandbanks develop because of the slow movement of the water. They contend that to preserve the maximum quantity of water the river should be dredged and the silt used for reclamation, as was done under the Outer Harbour scheme. Very little attention has been given to the question of suction dredging on the Murray, but in the near future I think we shall have to look closely into this aspect so that the river can be maintained at a sufficient depth to provide for the free passage of water.

There has been a distinct increase in irrigation along the Murray, particularly in the lower reaches. Areas around Renmark have been well consolidated with the development of orchards, but in the lower reaches much attention is now being given to vegetable growing. Many people in the metropolitan area have found that because of high land values and increased council rates they have to move out into areas where land is cheaper and water is readily available. Many growers from around

Virginia and Salisbury have found this step necessary. Only last year we had to pass legislation to control underground waters, particularly those from subterranean basins. Land along the Murray is ideal for closer settlement. In the last year or two many areas have been subdivided into blocks of 10, five and 2½ acres, and this has occurred particularly near Murray Bridge. Three such subdivisions have already taken place and another is about to take place. The ready sale of these blocks indicates that many people are anxious to get on the land. There is a growing need to provide more vegetables for the metropolitan area, and this demand could readily be met by people producing near Murray Bridge, which is only 50 miles from Adelaide, with a good road to the city. During the recess I took up with the Lands Department and the Engineering and Water Supply Department the possibility of water being provided for these blocks at other than the ordinary reticulation rates, which amount to about 2s. 6d. a thousand gallons under pressure. Water should be supplied to these areas on an acre foot basis, similar to the scheme for irrigated orchards, but I am told that this is not possible at present. I have been informed by both the departments referred to that under the existing legislation it is impossible for the Engineering and Water Supply Department to enter into this agreement because its charter is to supply water for domestic and stock purposes and not for irrigation. The Lands Department provides water for irrigation, and the bugbear is that it cannot operate in areas which are supplied by the Engineering and Water Supply Department, which also suffers from a similar restriction as regards the operations of the Lands Department; so we have a stalemate. If necessary, legislation should be introduced to allow these departments to provide water for irrigation at a satisfactory rate to allow those on small areas to operate successfully. This has already been done by private enterprise. There are two such schemes on the lower river where private people are installing their own plants to supply water. I understand that they intend to sell water to others for irrigation. If increasing supplies of vegetables are to be made available to the metropolitan area, there is a need for the Government to supply water from the Murray at a cheap rate.

Many young people are anxious to go on the land. We heard an excellent speech from Mr. Quirke, who pointed out how production from the land had increased in recent years, despite the fact that fewer people were on the land.

We are told that Australia will not be able to feed her own people in a few decades unless there is greater production. There could be increased production if more people were placed on the land. Only yesterday I read in the press that the number of applicants for land that had been opened in Western Australia far exceeded the number of holdings that could be made available. Some of this land is on the Ord River in the Kimberleys. It was said that people had come from every State looking for land. When I was in Western Australia a year or two ago I was told that many South Australians went to that State looking for land, and many people are also seeking land in this State. A man on wages finds it difficult to undertake this work because of the high overhead costs. On the Murray an opportunity is presented for people without much capital to undertake production. If water could be provided on a reasonable basis, it would be found that more market gardeners would go to areas adjacent to the river.

In reply to a recent question the Minister of Works informed me that another main is to be laid from the Murray to serve the metropolitan area. We know that this is necessary because of the increased population, and we also know that it will be necessary, as the Minister stated, to serve new areas along the route. For a long time I have had in mind the need for supplying water to areas between the Murray and Adelaide. I refer particularly to the northern part of Monarto and Callington. This is a particularly fertile part of the State. With an assured water supply people there could increase their production considerably. I long for the day when water will be supplied to these people. A scheme has been evolved to take water from Tailm Bend to Keith. The member for Albert and I are particularly interested in this and will be pleased to see it come to fruition; and this applies probably more to my friend than to myself, because although the first part of the work would be in my district, there is a much greater area in his district to be served. I join with him in supporting such a proposal. Much of the land through which such a main would run is very good, particularly since trace elements have been applied to the soil. Production has been stepped up considerably. The stock-carrying capacity has increased out of all bounds compared with other parts of the State and there is a need to supply that stock with water. People in the Hundreds of

Seymour and Burdett, which are adjacent to the proposed main, wish to have a supply and I shall press their claims.

The shortage of personnel in Government departments has caused me some concern. Recently I applied to the Architect-in-Chief's Department for an architect to be sent to Murray Bridge to draw up plans for the proposed new block at the high school, but I was told that there was a shortage because architects were leaving the department as they could do better in private enterprise. An architect who, I felt, had a great deal of sympathy with me had already gone to private enterprise, possibly because he would get more money, but I heard that he was being re-engaged by the department. It seems to me to be wrong to pay a man to come back from private enterprise. It would be much better to pay a higher salary in the first place if these men deserve it, which I am sure they do. It is a pity that good men are being lost to the Government. This applies also to surveyors. We have been asking for surveyors to come to the river swamp areas to survey certain areas that the department has taken over. The people from whom land was taken three years ago have not been compensated because surveyors have not been sent there to carry out this work. Surveyors are being lost from the department because they are doing better outside. All departments will have to investigate this matter with a view to taking steps to keep their officers.

The member for Burra spoke at length about decentralization, which is a live issue, as was proved in the recent by-election. Wherever we went during the campaign people spoke to us about decentralization, as they were concerned that only small industries were able to go to the country. I pointed out that the firm of Shearer's employed 400 people at Mannum. This industry was established at the end of last century, and it has grown because it has been able to compete with others, despite high transport costs. It has been able to get efficient management and employees; in fact, I have been told the standard of employee there is very high and that the firm is very happy with its men. This industry has shown that it is possible to have large industries in country areas.

I know there is also a need for small industries and in my electorate, particularly at Murray Bridge, there is as good a cross-section of small industry as there is anywhere in the State. Recently small industries have come into the area because we have all the facilities

necessary to decentralize industry—a good road, adequate power and an ample water supply. We know that more industries will come, but they could be encouraged more than in the past. We know certain inducements have been offered to industries to go to the country, particularly to the area around Elizabeth. I do not consider that is a country area; nevertheless, it is getting the benefit of these facilities. I do not complain about that, but facilities could be offered to other country areas. Power should be supplied at the same price as in the metropolitan area and we should ensure that transport costs are no higher than in the metropolitan area. I think the Government could well look into this matter with a view to assisting industries to establish themselves in country areas.

It was brought to my notice recently that certain people in this State who have not been here long are interested in bringing to this country an industry that they carried on overseas, namely, a tannery. We have done a great deal of exploratory work, but there are difficulties that I intend to take up with the Treasurer to see whether some assistance can be given to promote this tannery. I understand that most of the leathers used in this State come from other States because there are few tanneries here. There is a need and an opportunity to establish another tannery, especially one using some of the improved methods used overseas. Some of the samples this man showed me were outstandingly good, and although I am no judge of leathers I took them to people who are experts in this field. These people have been told that, although the quality of their product is good and cannot be matched, their prices are too high. The field is so competitive that prices must be cut to the lowest, regardless of quality. I do not think that is good because today, perhaps more than in the past, we need good quality in shoes, particularly in children's shoes which do not last very long.

The cannery that was recently established at Murray Bridge is doing very well. Although we have been told that there is a surplus of stocks in Australia generally, and in this State in particular, this cannery has completely sold its stocks. Although it is operating only in a small way, if it can carry on and meet the requirements of the area it now serves it will be doing a service to growers, employees and the industry as a whole. We know that the canning industry has gone through a hard time, but there is still a need for good quality canned fruits, so there is

an opening for such an industry in my electorate, where there are a number of fruit growers, to process fruit in close proximity to the area where it is grown. I am sure the choice of Murray Bridge will be vindicated.

I have covered several matters that concern my district. I have spoken mostly on district matters because this debate gives members an opportunity to put before the Government and the various departments the needs of their electorates. We, as representatives of our areas, are justly entitled to do this, and that is why I have spoken about matters of particular interest to me. I support the motion.

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa)—I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I heartily congratulate the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) on his thoughtful and excellent speech in moving the motion. May I, too, congratulate you, Mr. Acting Speaker, for your interesting speech in seconding the motion. I join with members in hailing the joyful announcement from the Royal Family circle of the advent of a second Prince to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and the engagement of Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret. I feel that we are singularly fortunate in having at the head of our great Commonwealth a family that puts into true perspective values so vitally important to us and to the whole world. I concur heartily in the sentiments expressed by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, referring to the Royal Family in a special resolution on the first day of this Session, when they said that the Royal Family gives to all of us a lead in placing home life and the home unit in its right perspective. I feel that the very basis of good living is on a foundation of values when it takes into account the high importance of the home.

For seven years we have been served wonderfully by our former Governor, Sir Robert George, and Lady George. After their arrival they soon won a special place in the hearts of all South Australians, and I feel sure that when they left us we all felt that we had suffered a personal loss. Sir Robert has rendered an invaluable service in further cementing the bonds that bind Crown and Commonwealth, and I feel that there is no more potent factor in promoting and maintaining an essential atmosphere of family cohesion and common interest as between the Commonwealth nations and the Crown than Governors appointed by Her Majesty from England.

May we ever have gentlemen of the calibre of Sir Robert to be Governors of this State. As I pay a tribute to Sir Robert, I am mindful of the magnificent performance of Vice-Regal duties by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Mellis Napier) whenever he has been called upon to discharge the high duties of that office. We may indeed be proud of gentlemen such as he because citizenship, as he reveals it, is a guide and an inspiration to all of us.

I wish to refer briefly to the untimely passing of our former colleague and friend, George Hambour. His death cast a heavy shadow of gloom over Eudunda, the surrounding districts, and in fact, over the whole of his electorate, as well as over this House. I know that his family found deep solace in the very moving tributes paid to his memory in this House and in another place on the first day of this session, and also in the magnificent tribute paid his memory at his funeral at Eudunda. Through many years of association with the late member I grew to have a deep personal regard for him. He was one whom I felt always performed extremely well in whatever he did, and I trust that such as he will ever take part in the public affairs of our State. To him I pay my humble tribute today.

I congratulate the Minister of Lands (Sir Cecil Hincks) on the high dignity conferred upon him by Her Majesty, and wish him and Lady Hincks many years of health and happiness in the knowledge that his good work has been recognized. I have no doubt that this is the source of much gratification to the many folk who have come to know Sir Cecil through the years. I am delighted to see the honourable the Minister of Education, the member for Semaphore (Mr. Tapping), and the member for Enfield (Mr. Jennings) back in their places hale and hearty.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I find that His Excellency's Speech is a most interesting and revealing document. The most striking deduction, which is crystal clear, is that we have attained a balanced economy. That, Sir, is made abundantly evident when we consider that having passed through the worst season in the history of this State there has not been the great recession or widespread unemployment that would have been the case had this disastrous season befallen us, say, 10 or 12 years ago. The fact that we have achieved this balanced economy has given us a stability that this State never enjoyed prior to the

encouragement of industry to come to South Australia. This resulted from the initiative and drive of the Government in ensuring that we did not have all our eggs in one basket and that we had an economy with the two sectors—primary and secondary—complementary one to the other. This collectively ensured to us the ability to maintain the economic security and the welfare of the whole State through the benefit arising from a diversified economy that was not totally dependent on one section of production.

When one realizes how drastic has been the reduction in production during the last season—with wheat production falling to 10,000,000 bushels from an average of 25,000,000 bushels, the barley crop reduced from 35,000,000 bushels in the previous harvest to a board intake of 7,500,000 bushels, the oat crop reduced from 18,000,000 bushels to 2,000,000 bushels, and the amount of hay cut reduced to 115,000 tons, or half the normal amount—one could well expect the decreased spending power in the community through these decreased volumes of production to have a major impact on the general retail trade and commerce of this State, but we have found that the retail figures in January and February of this year have been higher than those of the previous year, and the highest ever, which is quite amazing. I have that information from a valid authority.

Mr. Lawn—How do you account for that?

Mr. LAUCKE—Because of the balanced economy, the strength we have arrived at through having many interests, primary and secondary, and the good husbanding of resources by the farmer, both in the matter of fodder and in monetary savings, to withstand a storm such as arose in this case.

Mr. Lawn—If there is less purchasing power prices shouldn't rise.

Mr. LAUCKE—I am not referring to prices rising, but to the volume of retail business which was higher than for the same months in the previous year. There is no definite impact on the retail trade in the State generally following on the bad year. Having indicated what the impact of the adverse season has been on production, I stress that the returns from the various items of production, as low as they were, still constituted a magnificent achievement by farmers. The effective rainfall we had was indeed put to good use. I can discern the hand of the Agriculture Department, which through its research branches, extension officers and so on, gives to a receptive farming community

the benefits of research, and which enabled farmers to make the most effective use of the meagre rains which fell last season. I find in my activities in country areas that the work of the department is appreciated by the rural community. Bureau meetings are held regularly, and are well attended by all types of primary producers, who are keen to hear the latest approach to any line of production. The primary producer is prepared to make good use of all that he hears at the meetings, and the information he gets from the extension officers who go to his farm investigating the troubles he is experiencing. The ability of the farmers and assistance from the department enabled the production volume of last season to be achieved in spite of the low rainfall.

The ability to maintain production, although we have come back in sheep population from 15,000,000 to 12,500,000, is due in no small measure to our water reticulation schemes. Take, for instance, the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline, which *en route* serves a large area. Provided there is a given amount of feed available, water is the determining factor as to whether stock can be maintained. In providing water reticulation systems there is the ability to produce rural wealth. We can maintain present sheep numbers largely because of the availability of water in a large area. Rural economy is of vital importance to the State, as it is to Australia. It is rather disconcerting to note that over the past 10 years Australia imported more than she exported, to the tune of £1,100,000,000. Were it not for an inflow of capital investments of £1,200,000,000 from overseas we would have been down the drain in our overseas reserves that enable us to finance purchases vital to our development.

When it is noted that South Australia has consistently returned favourable credit balances in overseas trading, averaging between £50,000,000 and £60,000,000 a year, two things suggest themselves. One is that this State has achieved wonderful results in rural production generally, and the other is that the writing may be on the wall that, as our population increases, the State ultimately will find itself in the position of having to keep most of its production for its own requirements instead of having surpluses for export. Eastern States have not been able to return favourable balances over the years and one wonders whether the writing is on the wall that in this State we shall eventually have the same position and be unable to earn sufficient overseas funds by sales to enable us to purchase the essentials for the maintenance of our stability and to further

progress. We cannot expect to have the flow of capital into Australia that we have had in recent years: we must earn overseas reserves. In the past, primary production has been a great factor in our earning overseas credits but in the last 10 years there has been a terrific growth of secondary industries in South Australia. Whilst there is still the same production for export to provide overseas reserves, very little of the secondary industry output provides it. About 85 per cent of the overseas balances comes from our primary production. Secondary industry should have to export a certain portion of its manufacture. Unless we have assistance in earning overseas reserves through our secondary industries I cannot see how we can hope generally speaking to continue to be a prosperous nation.

Mr Dunnage—Could we expand our primary industries?

Mr. LAUCKE—Yes, but we must expand the field for disposing of our secondary industry manufactures. That is a greater worry to us than our primary production. It is high time that we were more enthusiastic about our sales promotions on overseas markets and did more through Government and private industry channels in order to ensure that we took advantage of every possible opening on those markets. I have no doubt that nations and States are the same as individuals when it comes to business. We must get off our seats and go out to sell in order to be progressive. Although we have a rising appreciation of the need to go out for markets we must further accelerate that activity, without which I can see troubles looming up because of our inability to pay for the things we need for our way of life and to properly develop our economy.

Mr. Dunnage—Are we subsidizing our secondary industry exports?

Mr. LAUCKE—To a degree we subsidize many of our manufacturers through tariff protections. Generally speaking, I do not like subsidies if they can be at all avoided, and I deplore the fact that some countries sell lines of production uneconomically by subsidizing them, so adversely affecting some of our primary production lines. I am loath to refer to anything that requires more money, because of the stringent conditions in this State arising from the adverse season that has resulted in a cost of £1,250,000 for pumping water, increased costs arising from wage adjustments and reduced railway and harbour revenues, but I am compelled to mention—while there is still time to provide for them—the lack of recreational areas and open spaces in

this State. The National Fitness Council of South Australia in 1954 inquired into what was the minimum requirement for recreational areas, and decided that 12½ acres was necessary for each 1,000 people. That figure is the same as that decided on by the Melbourne town planning organization. The 12½ acres recommended is made up of:—

	Acres per 1,000 people.
Field sports	4
Children's playgrounds	1½
Parks, gardens and reserves	2
Golf courses	4
Additional for horseracing, bowls, archery, foreshore development, shooting, cycling, and stadia for indoor games	1

The population of Adelaide's metropolitan area increased by 70,000 from 1954 to 1958 and therefore, based on the accepted standard, Adelaide should, in that time, have secured an additional 875 acres of recreational space, but in fact it acquired only 143 acres. Based on the estimated population in 1973 the area required would be 12,089 acres, and 316 acres would need to be acquired each year. In fact, over each of the four years from 1954 to 1958 only 36 acres was acquired. Current acquisitions are therefore 280 acres behind the estimated actual needs in 1973.

I have already stated that I do not wish to suggest additional expense knowing as I do that fundamental works are crying out for cash, but I believe that we can become too materialistic. We may forgo for the time being that which we feel we should have, but we afterwards feel sorry for not acquiring it at a time when the need obviously existed and could be satisfied. Each year the demand for land in the metropolitan area increases and ideal sites are subdivided. Houses are being erected on smaller allotments and people are being pushed together without enough space for outdoor recreation. People living in confined spaces must be enabled to get into the open spaces where they can healthfully enjoy nature and actively participate in sport. Natural scrubland, within a reasonable distance of Adelaide, is becoming scarce and it is essential that the State have natural Australian scrubland with natural fauna for our own pleasure and for the pleasure of tourists.

Last year I referred to a section of land, 17 miles from Adelaide and ideally situated with the South Para Reservoir as a background. This typical Australian bushland country with kangaroos, opossums, parakeets and other varieties of birds, is ideally situated for a Sunday afternoon's rambling. I hope that

money may be found to purchase land like that and to ensure the provision of adequate playing grounds for our children's children. This is an important matter because, as the years go by, materialism runs riot, whereas pleasure in the very humble things is what really matters. Recreational facilities give happiness and pleasure and develop character. Of my old school friends I have found that those who were good sports grew into good men and were able to take the knocks of life. This State must have adequate playing fields and space for this and future generations.

Mr. Riches—That applies to the country as well as to the city.

Mr. LAUCKE—Yes. Natural reserves should be kept for the future of our people. I was grateful to the Premier when he agreed last year to facilitate the purchase of land by councils for recreational purposes. It was agreed that the Government would subsidize councils on a pound-for-pound basis where land approved and valued by the Government was purchased. Although that was a good offer, it could be used only in few cases because of the lump sum required of the council in the first place. A typical case is that of the Tea Tree Gully District Council, which desires to acquire open land in the Tea Tree Gully-Modbury-Highbury area, which I have the honour to represent. The council has many demands made on its revenue and cannot spend much on parks and reserves. I ask the Government to consider lending the money required for such purchases and to allow a long-term period for repayment. I offer that as a constructive criticism because it would enable councils to purchase the land they consider necessary for this purpose.

Magnificent work is being done by the Electricity Trust. The provision of water, power and roads is basic to the welfare and contentment of country people and to industry in the country. The rapidity with which the trust is supplying power to the rural areas, with the single-wire earth return system, is indeed good to see, 8,000 being added each year to the number of consumers of the trust, with a cost to the consumer within an economic bound—much cheaper than the three-phase system we had for years before the implementation of this system.

May I refer with pleasure to the 10 per cent reduction made in rural tariff charges. This will assist farmers at a time when costs are rising against the farmers left, right and centre. It is good that the trust can see fit to reduce the tariff rates for a certain purpose

to those consumers. I hail that announcement happily as a move towards offsetting the rising tide of costs against the primary producer, who cannot pass on his increased costs; he must accept overseas prices for his goods.

Much has been achieved in our road programme over recent years and great foresight is being shown in the approach to road-making in South Australia. I have in mind at the moment the magnificent two-lane highway on the Main North Road. What a boon this is to those in the north! Great credit is due to the Minister, his engineers and workmen. It is good to see, too, the amount of heavy equipment being used in road construction by the department. "To move mountains" is an old saying, and it seems that mountains are being moved now by using these huge modern machines that are doing a wonderful job, ensuring to our road traffic generally safe highways over many miles. I am pleased to note that over the last three years £4,500,000 has been made available to district councils for road construction and maintenance, and that a further £1,000,000 has been made available to them for capital equipment. I hope an ever-increasing amount will be allocated to district councils because I feel that at the hands of councils one receives good value for money. Where maintenance of highways can be handed over to the local councils, I should like to see more of that maintenance work delegated to them if they have the necessary equipment. The Highways Department has gangs and camps in various parts of the State and, although I consider that good policy, I should like to see further delegation of work by the department to the district councils.

I now refer to the efficacy of the traffic islands at main road junctions in country areas. There are two in my electorate, on the Main North Road at Gawler Belt and Daveyston, I have seen no evidence of an accident at those points, although they are particularly busy traffic locations. Traffic islands there are excellent and I should like to see more of them used as our highway programme proceeds. I refer also to the retention of trees along the Main North Road in the centre strip, north of Pooraka, where some gums were left by the department when building this new road and are now a feature of it. When the *Advertiser* scheme is added to what has been left of natural tree growth, we shall indeed have in the Main North Road a thing of beauty. I hope that councils throughout the State will follow the fine lead

of the *Advertiser* in encouraging and facilitating tree-planting along our highways.

Travelling on country roads as I do, I am concerned to note the number of fatal accidents that occur through motor cars running into the rear of lorries and trailers. It seems that the trailer is of such a height as to allow the bonnet of a motor car to get under the tray and, consequently, decapitation is inevitable. Attention should be given to the provision of some system of bumper bars behind trucks and trailers that would prevent a motor car from diving underneath.

Deputations have referred to the urgent need of water in the Tea Tree Gully, Highbury, Modbury, and Golden Grove areas. The subdivision that has gone on apace in that district is compact and will lend itself admirably to the provision of essential services—water and power. I point out that since 1952, when subdivision started, the Tea Tree Gully ward has had 2,106 allotments, and the Torrens ward, in the same council, has had 2,040 allotments, which means that there are 4,146 allotments for which final plans have been made. Since January this year, plans have been approved to subdivide 800 acres at Modbury, which will provide for about 3,000 allotments. All this housing potential will fly along when we have an adequate water supply in that district. I am grateful to the Minister for the expedition with which he is endeavouring to have the pipeline from Mannum to Adelaide completed, as a major water scheme is basic to a major reticulation scheme for the district. As those areas are near to Adelaide and are compact for the purpose of supplying essential utilities, I hope that a water scheme for the whole of the area will be provided for in next year's Estimates.

Another matter is civilian land settlement. I have the honour to have in my electorate Roseworthy College from which graduate with a diploma excellent farmers, qualified young chaps who know farming, in many cases with a background of farming on their parents' land and with further experience and knowledge gained at Roseworthy. Often the high cost of land and the high capital cost involved to establish a farm prohibit these desirable young men from becoming farmers. I should like to see an approach by the State Government to the Federal Government for more assistance to sponsor a civilian settlement scheme which would take into account particularly the qualities of the prospective farmers, including their characters and their ability, especially when they were not in a position to supply security

to a bank. I have in mind areas amounting to more than 1,000,000 acres in the South-East which with certain treatment could produce excellent pastures, and which could be allotted to young men who could become farmers, but are prevented from doing so now because often their fathers cannot supply the necessary capital. We find that some of the best type of men are not able to enter this industry because of their inability to get a farm of their own. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. HUGHES (Wallaroo)—I support the motion and in doing so commend the mover and the seconder for their contributions to the debate. This is the third occasion I have heard a member move the motion and without reflecting on the previous two I should say that the member for Albert really excelled himself. The effort put into research must have cost him much time. It was the type of speech that one could term thought-provoking. I join with previous speakers in expressing regret at the death of Mr. George Hambour. No member had taken a more active part in discussions on our legislation than the late member, and I pay a tribute to a man whom I consider gave sterling service to the State. Irrespective of Party politics, one cannot live, move and have his being from day to day with his fellow men without gaining some affection for them, and that is how I felt about the late Mr. Hambour. When he was speaking of the late Mr. Don Michael, Mr. Hambour said:—

I hope that when I am no longer the member for Light I shall be held in the same high regard as he was at his retirement.

The widespread representation at the funeral of our former member left no doubt in our minds that he was held in the same high respect as his predecessor. I pay a tribute to the excellent work done by Sir Robert and Lady George during their stay among us as representatives of Her Majesty the Queen. Their visit to the Wallaroo district last October will always be remembered, because of their kind and understanding attitude to a district which has seen better days. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Lands, Sir Cecil Hincks, on the knighthood conferred upon him and I trust that he and Lady Hincks will live many years to share this high honor.

I was very pleased to hear Mr. Laucke mention that something should be done regarding heavy transports and that some form of bumper bar should be compulsory to be placed at the rear of such vehicles in order to prevent so many tragic accidents happening. Paragraph

15 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech states:—

The total estimated expenditure on road improvement and maintenance during the current year is £9,500,000.

In view of the many tragic accidents on our main roads I suggest that the Government seriously consider allocating a sum each year to provide for a long-range programme to build check points to enable road transports to pull off the road when they meet trouble or the driver is engaged in checking his load. As it is today, the driver of a heavy transport when in trouble or when checking his load is loath to leave the bitumen, especially at night if it is wet, for fear of becoming bogged. With many roads built up as they are, it is impossible for the driver to take the vehicle off the road, with the result that he stops on the left-hand side. This may be all right during the day-time, although even then it can be dangerous. Only recently I passed a heavy vehicle within half a mile of Two Wells which had stopped on the bitumen and the driver was standing on the road hauling upon a rope. If that rope had become chafed on the journey, when the driver placed a strain on it it could have easily broken and he could have fallen in the path of an oncoming car. It could have meant the loss of life or perhaps a permanent mental injury to the driver of the car. I understand that my predecessor, the late Mr. Heath, for whom the whole district of Wallaroo mourned, met his end because he collided with a heavy vehicle stopped on the side of the road.

Only a few weeks ago a young couple in the bloom of life who were returning from their honeymoon to live at Paskeville met a similar fate. Recently a man and his wife were called to Adelaide late at night to be at the bedside of a sick person who had only a short time to live and on the way down there loomed up a heavy transport still on the bitumen road without even a light burning. Had the motorist not been in such a hurry he would have stopped and taken the number of the vehicle and reported it to the police. I am not advocating anything elaborate in the establishment of by-passes, because I know that someone would say that vehicles could give trouble anywhere along a road. However, I feel confident that once drivers learn that check points are available they will do everything within their power to reach such points. This matter was brought before the Minister of Roads some time ago, but it was then felt that the onus was on the driver of the vehicle to take every

care and drive at a speed, especially at night, that would provide reasonable safety to other road users.

Another point made by the Minister was that it would cost an enormous sum of money which could be used to better advantage in building more roads in the interests of the State as a whole. I agree with this up to a point, but it is our responsibility in the interests of all road users to adopt every possible method of road safety to prevent loss of life. In building these check points we would be assisting the progress of the State: firstly, by continuing to allow road transport to travel at night; secondly, by giving peace of mind to transport drivers, who would know they had a haven to which they could run and give complete safety to others; and thirdly, by partly removing a road hazard which, if left unchecked, will continue to grow as the State grows.

Mr. Nankivell—You mean by providing parking bays?

Mr. HUGHES—That is the correct name; I thank the honourable member. In paragraph 19 His Excellency said:—

While the number of teacher trainees is increasing the department is still labouring under staff shortages.

I thought that the public was told that by the year 1960-61 the Education Department would have met staff shortages, but apparently it has not met them. More than once I have heard sharp criticism levelled against those in authority because the department is sadly lacking in administration. The bungling that has been going on with the transfer of teachers leaves me with no alternative but to agree. I should have thought that in such an old department as the Education Department the administration would have been such that, in the interim between closing schools in the old year and opening them in the new year, headmasters and head teachers would have received notice of transfer and simple arrangements would have been made so that every school would have had a headmaster or head teacher present on the opening day of the school year. That is not so, however, and when these teachers are not present not only is the school concerned disrupted but other schools are also affected. This must ultimately be reflected in the number of students caught up in bad administration.

I think that every member will agree that when children start at the beginning of a school year with a certain teacher they have settled down to his ways at the end of the

month. If that teacher is then transferred and a complete stranger takes over, the normal activities of the classroom must be seriously disrupted. The former head teacher of the Moonta Mines school received notice of transfer on the eve of the 1960 school year and this left the school without a head teacher. The senior teacher from Wallaroo school was asked to go there and consented to do so; this left Wallaroo school without a senior teacher. After this arrangement had operated for about a month a man was appointed to the Moonta Mines school and the Wallaroo teacher returned to his own school. On the arrival of the head teacher to the Moonta Mines school, a lady teacher was transferred and another was appointed in her place. Surely the House can see that the non-appointment of the head teacher to the Moonta Mines school at the beginning of the year disrupted the normal activities of five schools.

I think that the department will be labouring under a shortage of teachers for years to come, even though, as reported in the paper last Monday week, 230 more students are training to be teachers compared with last year, because young teachers are not encouraged to speak highly of the department. I have a reason for saying these things. On investigating what I considered bad administration I found that the man whom I have referred to and who helped the department out of its difficulties did not receive a penny over his normal salary as he was returned to his own school two days short of the time entitling him to an increase in salary. If ever a regulation needed amending, this one does! The teacher to whom I am referring does not even know of my interest in the matter but if this type of regulation is allowed to continue I do not know how the department hopes to overcome staff shortages. When this sort of thing gets around, brilliant young people who are deciding what type of career to follow will be lost to the teaching profession.

The 1960 school year had been going only a few weeks when the headmaster at Wallaroo received notice of his transfer to Whyalla to take place in the May holidays. This will mean a serious disruption of the normal activities of several schools, as the headmaster's wife is also a teacher at Wallaroo. The lack of vision on the part of those responsible is most disturbing and in the interests of a rising generation I hope that the Minister, for whom I have the utmost regard, will take strong measures to prevent so many transfers from taking place after the beginning of a normal school

year. Other members can speak for their own districts but I am most anxious that the children in my district receive the maximum education possible. As there is little prospect of their being employed in the district, it is necessary for them to be fitted to match themselves against their city brothers and sisters, because it will be necessary for them to come to the city to gain employment. I have no fault to find with the teachers (I have spoken highly of them more than once); but I strongly object to what I consider to be unnecessary transfers throughout the year. In paragraph 17 His Excellency said:—

During the year 1959 the rate of increase in employment in South Australian industries was much higher than that in any other State.

I only wish those figures applied to the whole of the State and not to the metropolitan area. I was not present in the House last Wednesday when the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) made his contribution to this debate, but I read the report of it in the following day's *Advertiser* which quoted the honourable member as saying that country towns were not decaying, but flourishing.

Mr. Hall—So they are.

Mr. HUGHES—I thought that was a typical statement of a person who had never taken the trouble to do a little checking outside his own electorate. The honourable member quoted figures concerning new homes built in the district of Light, but apparently he either did not take the trouble to find out the type of people occupying those homes or thought it inadvisable to bring that point before the House. I assure him that those homes were not built to house additional workers. Small country towns like Owen in the honourable member's district might, of course, be flourishing, but the honourable member should take a broader view and look at other country towns. I invite him to come to the Wallaroo district and examine the trend of population and employment, and then, I think, he would feel compelled to withdraw his statement.

Mr. Hall—What about the Housing Trust building there?

Mr. HUGHES—If any honourable member closely examines the population figures for the Wallaroo district he will find that there has been very little fluctuation there. Members of the Government will say, "How do you account for that after repeatedly stating in the House that hundreds of people have left the district?" During the last few years hundreds of able-bodied men, women and children have left the Wallaroo district. I assure the

member for Gouger that those people are still leaving, not because they want to leave, but because of the employment position. They have no option but to leave, and in making this move to the city some will be in debt for the rest of their lives. They may own a nice, tidy little home in the district, but when they endeavour to sell they find that they can get only a very small price for it, and they come to Adelaide and have to pay £3,000 to £3,500 for a home and will be in debt for the rest of their lives. The number of electors on the rolls in my district remains fairly static, because people over 65 years of age are coming to live in the district. Those people come to live in our towns because they can purchase a cheap home, and, apart from that, it is a very nice place in which to live. We welcome those people and try to make them happy as they tread the western way of life. We have no objection to their coming into the district, but what community wants to lose the cream of its young and middle-aged families? Shame on the Government for allowing this state of affairs to continue!

In 1958 I was told in this House that I was writing my district down by telling the House the true position, and that I was using wrong tactics. I am the type of person that is always ready to listen to another's viewpoint, and I thought on that afternoon, and for some time after, that perhaps I was wrong. However, the same position continues. For two years I have worked steadily, hoping that the Government would do something to stop this drift to the city, but it still goes on, with the result that the towns of Wallaroo, Moonta and Kadina—particularly the first two—are becoming what we call "old folks' homes." We are losing the younger working population of my district. We have been told more than once that the Government believes in a policy of decentralization, yet districts like Wallaroo are allowed to go unnoticed. We have been told that industries will not establish themselves in the country because they cannot compete with those in the city where all goods are bought and sold at city prices, but I do not think that is true. We have a clothing factory at Wallaroo which started in a small way, and under good management and with loyal service from its employees it has grown from a handful of employees until today it is a hundred strong, employing mostly young girls. The assistance received from the Government was negligible. The old Wallaroo hospital building is owned

by the Government and let to the company. Surely the Government is able to encourage a similar industry or factory to set up in business in such large country towns as those I represent.

Mr. Hall—What do you mean by “encourage”?

Mr. HUGHES—Encourage them by offering something in the way of freight concessions or that type of thing. I think that the Government could do something in that respect. I point out, for the benefit of the honourable member, that indirect assistance is given industry in the city by providing public facilities. This same point was raised in this House by the member for Whyalla (Mr. Loveday) only last year and, anticipating the honourable member’s attitude, I purposely looked up the reference in *Hansard*. The member for Whyalla said:—

It has been suggested many times in this House that industries cannot be induced to go to the country because it is not an economic proposition for them to go there and that it would be wrong to give them some sort of subsidy or economic assistance whereby they might establish themselves in country towns, but it seems to be overlooked that we are in effect subsidizing indirectly most of the big industries in this city since we are running so many public facilities at an increasing loss, public facilities without which these industries could not exist. Because we have to run these public facilities, we are in effect subsidizing private industry, which is congregating around one point in this State. The larger the city becomes the greater the problem to provide all these services—transport, schools, sewerage and so forth. The problems are all increasing as the city spreads outwards. We are subsidizing industry in this way, and that is accepted; yet, when we discuss the question of endeavouring to decentralize industry, we are told it is not economic to do so because it means some special form of assistance to induce industry to go out to the country. It would be hard to analyse the exact amount that this assistance represents, but one has only to glance over these many facilities the Government has to provide in order to realize that the assistance given indirectly to private industry amounts to a great sum each year, assistance without which private industry could not function.

I think that answers the honourable member’s question.

Recently 300 to 400 people from Kadina and Wallaroo—and many of those people were staunch Government supporters until recently—met in the Wallaroo town hall to consider means of alleviating the present unemployment in the district. Invitations were sent to the four Liberal members who represent my district in another place. Although we have been told that they support a policy of decentralization of people and industry not even one of them came to the meeting to discuss the problem. One did not have the decency to acknowledge his invitation. Surely one of the four could have been present. Senator Hannaford accepted his invitation, and he was the only man with Liberal ideas on the platform that night. He said that it disturbed him to see an empty wharf, that he thought Wallaroo and district was a go-ahead place, and that it was distressing that there were 200 men unemployed at Wallaroo. He also said that he could not see why the power alcohol building could not be used as an abattoirs, and that he did not think the bad position existing in the Wallaroo district could be attributed to one bad year. What affects Wallaroo affects Kadina and Moonta.

At the meeting the Mayor of Kadina said that Wallaroo had all the potentialities of a port and that he was astounded at the inconsistency in the State Government’s attitude towards decentralization. In 1958 the average weekly wage of a waterfront worker at Wallaroo was £22 8s. 6d. In 1959 it was £18 7s. 9d., but in 1960, up to March 24 when the meeting was held, it was down to £7 10s. These figures were quoted from the platform by the Mayor of Wallaroo. It can be seen that Wallaroo district should have some of this more balanced economy that we hear so much about. I support the motion, but suggest that it is up to the Government to do something about what I have said.

Mrs. STEELE secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.22 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, April 27, at 2 p.m.