

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, July 26, 1961.

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

QUESTIONS.**FOOTWEAR.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Questions about the quality of shoes have been brought to my notice. I have examined some of the shoes in question which, I understand, were made by a prominent manufacturer who advertises widely. The quality of the material used in the inner sole is not up to a standard that permits of satisfactory repairs. Will the Treasurer ascertain whether the quality can be brought up to an efficient standard without added cost to the public? Any person desiring to have his shoes or boots repaired should be able to have that work done without the added cost of replacing an inner sole with leather.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the honourable Leader will supply me with the name of the organization concerned, I will have the Prices Commissioner examine the whole position.

FURNITURE.

Mr. DUNNAGE: The relevant Act says that all furniture manufactured in this State must be branded. Does that provision apply to furniture from other States and furniture imported from overseas? If it does, how is the legislation policed?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The legislation at present applies only to furniture manufactured in South Australia. An amending Bill will be presented to Parliament this session.

PORT RIVER CAUSEWAY.

Mr. RYAN: On July 22 an article appeared in the *Advertiser* indicating that a causeway might be built on the lower reaches of the Port River instead of a low level bridge, and that the Highways Department had supplied alternative plans to the South Australian Harbors Board and the Housing Trust for their consideration. It was stated that a causeway would be of particular use if the Jervois Bridge were closed while a new bridge or tunnel was being built. The Premier has made a telecast and a radio speech on this matter. Is he aware of the importance of placing another bridge there in the event of something happening to the Jervois bridge and, in view of the dis-

cussions now taking place between the Highways Department and other departments not relative to the bridge, will the necessary finance for the building of this alternative bridge be included in the Loan Estimates this year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I saw the press report but this matter has not come to my notice. I presume it arises from the Public Works Standing Committee's investigation of bridges for the Port Adelaide area. This matter has not been submitted to Cabinet. In fact I do not believe that the Public Works Committee has yet come to any firm conclusion on it.

Mr. Ryan: It has in respect of the alternative bridge in the lower reaches.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That report has been accepted by Cabinet and has been submitted to the Highways Department with authorization to proceed with the work. The project the honourable member is speaking about is, I understand, for a bridge further up the river.

Mr. Ryan: I am speaking about the Public Works Committee's interim report.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That has been accepted and the Highways Department has been authorized to proceed with the work. The latter part of the question does not arise as all motor taxation, vehicle registration fees and petrol taxation is paid into the Roads Fund for this type of work to be undertaken.

WOODCHESTER BRIDGE.

Mr. JENKINS: Last year I asked questions about the building of a new bridge near Woodchester to take the place of the bridge over Rodwell Creek, and was told that it was expected to build this bridge during 1961-62. Will the Minister of Works ascertain from the Minister of Roads whether plans are in hand for that work to be commenced?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask for that information and give the honourable member a reply.

MOTELS.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Recently I toured interstate by car and stayed at a number of motels in South Australia as well as in other States. I met many travellers and discussed motels with them. In South Australia we have some first class motels, but some of lesser standard. The latter could affect our tourist trade. Will the Premier consider having motels and caravan parks registered so that they can be controlled as are hotels, thus bringing them to a standard that would encourage tourists?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I should not like to commit myself. I have had no complaints about the standard of our motel accommodation. I will submit the question to the Director of the Tourist Bureau for his comments. At present I do not think any legislation controls the establishment of motels or, for that matter, boarding houses. I doubt whether legislation would be necessary, but I will have the matter examined.

TRANSFER OF PRISONERS.

Mr. LOVEDAY: I have had some correspondence with the Chief Secretary regarding the means of conveying prisoners in remote areas. The last letter I had was dated March 23 and it intimated that the question had been referred to the Commissioner of Police and would be further considered. Can the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary, say whether it has been considered and what is the reply?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have no first hand knowledge of this matter and it has not come to my notice, but I will get the information required and advise the honourable member.

YOUTH CLUBS.

Mr. COUMBE: Many youth and boys' clubs have been formed recently in the city and country in conjunction with the Returned Soldiers League, the Young Men's Christian Association and other bodies. At these clubs the boys have been taught boxing, gymnastics, and principles of citizenship. In view of the Juvenile Court's report emphasizing the need for after-work activities to combat juvenile delinquency this training is important. Some clubs have been turning boys away because of limited space and they desire to work towards building new halls. Unfortunately, they are hampered by lack of finance. Will the Treasurer, when preparing this year's Estimates, consider providing a subsidy to these clubs on lines similar to that granted for the building of swimming pools?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will have to examine this question when the Estimates are being prepared to determine how much money is available for general distribution outside departmental commitments which are not yet known. This matter is not new to me. Indeed, I have once or twice helped establish a club and in those cases the local council was prepared to take some responsibility in connection with it. I shall have the matter examined.

SCHOOL LEAVING AGE.

Mr. FRED WALSH: The school leaving age in South Australia is 15 years but provision has not yet been made to enforce that provision. Before it operates a proclamation is required. Some factors that have caused a delay in that proclamation have been a shortage of teachers, lack of school accommodation, and possibly one or two economic factors. I believe that the school leaving age in New South Wales is 16 years but a scheme of optional attendance at school for a further 12 months is now under consideration. Will the Minister of Education consider the provision of optional attendance at South Australian schools for a further 12 months on lines similar to those proposed in New South Wales?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: If I am correct, the school leaving age in New South Wales is 15 years, not 16. The Wyndham Commission considered for some time whether it should recommend that the school leaving age should be increased to 16, but Cabinet in New South Wales decided last week that the school leaving age should remain at 15 years. Rather far-reaching provisions are involved in the New South Wales decision to provide for six years of secondary education or five years with an optional sixth year before matriculation. The whole question is being considered at present in South Australia and the Premier and I are particularly interested in this matter. In addition, the University Council set up a sub-committee to examine the whole position. It has had several meetings and has made two interim reports to the University Council and the matter was recently referred to the Public Examinations Board for further investigation and report. That board is at present considering the matter and in due course will make its report and recommendations. No doubt that report will come to me and will be considered by Cabinet later in the year.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yesterday the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads and Local Government, kindly supplied some information in answer to questions I had put on notice regarding the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council's activities since May, 1960. The Minister indicated in the answer to the last question that there might be a reference to the committee shortly, but he did not elaborate. I see no reason in the legislation for any secrecy about this matter and I ask the Premier whether he can say what the reference

will be? If he cannot say, will he obtain the information from his colleague?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is a matter that has been receiving much consideration by Cabinet. I do not intend to elaborate on it now but, if decided upon, it would require an extension of the terms of reference of this council under the Act. Until the matter has been decided I think it would not be in the public interest to go any further with it.

SPRAY IRRIGATION.

Mr. STOTT: In January 1960 I introduced a deputation to the Minister of Irrigation (Sir Cecil Hincks) regarding spray irrigation growers in the Waikerie area. There had been a complaint that spray irrigators had been penalized by a charge levied against them during the 1959-60 season. The Minister's decision was appreciated and favourably received by the spray irrigation growers. I know the spray irrigation committee at Waikerie requested the advisory board to have the rate reduced as promised by the district officers who introduced the charge. That has not been done and the committee is still being pressed by the local growers who have waited beyond a reasonable time for a reply. They have asked me again to approach the Minister of Agriculture, as Acting Minister of Irrigation, to see whether this matter can be taken up so that the promise of the Minister may be honoured. This matter goes back to January, 1960.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will obtain a report on this matter.

COMMUNISM.

Mr. HALL: It is true that in recent years we have had a transfer of some powers held by the States to the Commonwealth Government and this is unfortunate. However, under the direction of the Minister of Education, we have retained a most important power: the training of our youth. We are hard pressed internationally and locally by vicious Communist attacks in many directions. These are masquerades in many disguises and ultimately they take a vicious and often slanderous and seditious form. To enable our youth to appreciate the dangers they face and so that they may be trained for their own survival, I ask the Minister of Education whether he will have instituted in a suitable place in the State school curriculum some well defined teaching on the dangers within and without faced by our society from

materialistic, international, and atheistic Communism.

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: I shall certainly consider the question, but it is a matter of high policy whether such a course of study should be instituted. I remind the honourable member that in the course of social studies matters somewhat cognate to that are considered at various levels of education.

HAWKER BORE.

Mr. CASEY: In view of the recent failure of the bore that was sunk at Hawker to supplement the water supply for that town, can the Minister of Works say what the Government intends doing further about a satisfactory water supply for Hawker?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have not seen reports indicating that the bore actually failed, although they could have come to hand during my absence in the north. I was present there twice during the course of the attempt to supplement the water supply, and the indications at that stage were that there was no reason to believe that the bore would not succeed. In view of the honourable member's comment, I will bring myself up-to-date with the position. I do not know at this stage—nor do I think the honourable member himself could suggest—what could be done quickly or satisfactorily to improve the water supply, but I will discuss the matter with the Engineer for Water Supply and let the honourable member have a report on the result of that discussion.

PROVISION OF SERVICES.

Mr. JENNINGS: I recently asked the Premier a question about the provision of additional fire stations, police stations and ambulance services in the rapidly expanding northern suburbs in my electorate. Has the Premier the reply he promised?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have a report from the Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board as follows:

The board's forward planning is to re-site the present fire station at Prospect to a site on the Main North Road between Irish Harp Road and Grand Junction Road. It is expected that such change would be made within the next three years. The area mentioned by Mr. Jennings is at present covered by the Prospect and North Adelaide stations with support from head station. This is regarded as satisfactory protection. At a later date the Norwood station will be re-sited in the Payneham area, which will give added protection to the expanding area immediately north of the River Torrens.

Mr. JENNINGS: I thank the Premier for the information regarding the provision of fire stations in the northern metropolitan area, but I remind him that that answered only one of the three matters raised in my original question. Therefore, will he pursue the question of ambulance services and police stations?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

SOLOMONTOWN OVAL.

Mr. McKEE: Can the Premier say whether a letter I wrote him some time ago on behalf of the Port Pirie council, requesting financial assistance for improvements to the Solomontown oval, has been considered?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government does not normally assist in the provision of amenities for ovals. There are, however, cases in which special conditions arise, and this is one instance where those special provisions may arise, as this oval has always been generously made available for public school children. While no provision has been made in the Estimates for a payment of this description, the matter has been examined and the department concerned has reported that the corporation has been most sympathetic in providing assistance for children's playing areas. The authority concerned has been asked precisely what it contemplates doing and what is involved in the proposals, and when that information has been received the matter will be further considered.

MOUNT GAMBIER GAOL.

Mr. RALSTON: At the opening of the new Mount Gambier hospital a few days ago the Chairman of the Hospital Advisory Committee, Mr. Duffield (who is also an alderman of the city council and can speak with some authority on these matters) expressed the view of most of the citizens of Mount Gambier, including the civic leaders, church leaders and the member for the district, when he stated that it was desirable to remove the gaol from its present site in the centre of the city to a less prominent site. Has the Government considered this matter and, if not, will it investigate it with a view to removing the gaol?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government has considered this question on a couple of occasions, and it believes that there are more urgent works at present than merely removing one institution from one place to another. Mount Gambier has been extremely well treated regarding hospitals and schools, and some other areas have not yet been provided with such amenities. Cabinet believes

that there is a case for other districts to be considered as well as Mount Gambier, when it is only a question of shifting an institution from one site to another where it will be less obvious.

FERRY CROSSINGS.

Mr. BYWATERS: In reply to my question yesterday the Premier stated that he believed that the system of free ferry crossings was already in operation, but when I rang one of my constituents—a ferry man—last evening I was told that it was not yet working. That ferry man was the one who requested me to ask about the procedure to be adopted. The Premier said he would obtain a report on the matter. Has he anything further to tell me?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The report is not yet to hand. As I stated yesterday, Cabinet directed the Commissioner of Highways to make the necessary alterations which involved individual contracts in individual districts. I understand that it would take some time because some contracts had lapsed and it was a question of renewing them. Other contracts had a period to run. I will obtain a report as soon as possible and advise the honourable member.

MILLICENT PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. CORCORAN: Can the Minister of Education say whether negotiations that have been proceeding for some time on the purchase of the site for the new Millicent primary school have been finalized? If they have been finalized, will he name the proposed site? Further, can the Minister give an approximate date when work is likely to be commenced, and is there any prospect of the building being completed during the current financial year?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Negotiations have been completed for the purchase of 15 acres at Millicent South, eight acres of which it is proposed to develop as a joint scheme in conjunction with the Millicent district council. Only formalities remain to complete the purchase. Preliminary planning for the new school has been commenced, but it is too early to say when building is likely to be commenced. Because of the heavy programme, there appears no prospect of the school being completed during the current financial year.

CONDEMNED HOUSES.

Mr. TAPPING: Has the Premier a reply to my question of June 21 about applicants for trust houses who are living in condemned houses?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Chairman of the Housing Trust reports:

Whilst the Housing Trust has, on occasions, been able to assist various councils in housing families occupying condemned premises, it is obvious that, in view of the trust's many commitments for rental houses throughout the State, there is a limit to what the trust can do.

If the occupier of a condemned house were more or less automatically housed by the trust, it would follow that the very many deserving applicants who have waited years for their houses would have to wait still longer. It is also likely that the number of house condemnations would increase to a stage when the trust would find the position unmanageable.

Furthermore, whilst the trust has not particulars of the 29 families referred to, some are known to have applied to the trust for rental houses who were previously most unsatisfactory tenants of emergency dwellings and these are unlikely to be regarded as suitable tenants of the trust's rental houses.

It is accordingly considered that each case in question should be dealt with on the merits of the particular application. The trust cannot undertake to re-house the 29 families for the sole reason that the houses occupied by them have been condemned.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I noticed recently in the press that it appeared that the Deputy Public Service Commissioner had been appointed Chairman of the Public Service Board, but subsequently he resigned. I have not seen any report of a subsequent appointment. Can the Premier give me an assurance that an appointment will soon be made to this important industrial authority? I seek the further assurance from him that the chairman who is appointed to this authority will be an independent person, satisfactory not only to the Government but also to the Public Service Association on the grounds of his independence.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This problem has been giving the Government very much concern. The present Public Service Commissioner is Mr. Schumacher and, although he is now absent from duty not because of sickness, he has a considerable period of sick leave before his appointment as Public Service Commissioner terminates. So at present we have a Public Service Commissioner who has not yet retired but who is on sick leave and is absent from duty on that account. We have Mr. Pounsett acting as Public Service Commissioner at the present moment. It is not possible to pay Mr. Schumacher in lieu of sick leave as we have no authority to do that other than through the Estimates. The matter raised by the honourable member has been the subject of some discussion with the Public Service Association.

The first discussion was general and, as a result of it, Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Pounsett to act as chairman during the interim period. He was to retire when the full appointment of Public Service Commissioner was made, when the matter would be further considered. However, the Public Service Association did not consider that that arrangement complied with the Act and, accordingly, Mr. Pounsett handed in his resignation and retired from the position. Since then, we have had discussions with the Public Service Association, but no agreement has been reached, and this morning a further letter was received from the Public Service Association in connection with this matter in which it suggested for the appointment a number of persons, all of whom in the Government's opinion are completely ineligible, because of other duties, to undertake the position. For instance, in the suggested list were judges of the Supreme Court. The honourable member would know that at present it would be impracticable to provide a judge of the Supreme Court as chairman of this tribunal. The matter is under the direct and active consideration of the Government. Already I have replied to the letter of the Public Service Association although I received it only this morning. Under the Act the Government is obliged to confer with the Public Service Association before it makes any appointment, but it is not obliged to accept the recommendation of the association, although naturally it would be influenced by, and like to hear, the views of the association. The association, however, takes the general stand that the Public Service Commissioner is a person who would be unfit for the Public Service Board chairmanship. The Government cannot accept that submission, for two reasons. First, although the Public Service Board has the function of recommending salaries, it also has the large duty of administration.

Mr. Dunstan: You have a member on the board as well as the chairman?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I did not hear what the honourable member was mumbling about but, whatever it was, I think I would probably agree with it. However, I say that the Public Service Board does have the duty, for instance, of the re-organization of departments, quite apart from fixing salaries. That is of fundamental importance to the satisfactory functioning of the Public Service. To sum up, I hope that we shall be able to reach agreement with the Public Service Association

soon and make an appointment. In the meantime, several matters of considerable importance are being held up.

WHEAT EXPORTS.

Mr. QUIRKE: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on June 20 about payments to be received by Australian farmers for wheat sold to Communist China?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: At my request the Minister of Agriculture obtained the following reply from the Australian Wheat Board:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 26, 1961, with which you enclosed an extract from *Hansard* dealing with a question by Mr. Quirke, M.P., on wheat exports, upon which you requested our comments. In the first place, we would advise that the terms of payment indicated in the Premier's reply are correct. The first advance payments to growers are financed by means of an overdraft by the Commonwealth Bank, guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government. Subsequent payments are made from Pool Realizations after the overdraft is liquidated. The point which seems to be implied in the question is what action is likely to be taken in relation to the final payment to growers in the event of the pool being finalized before final payment is received from the buyers. This matter will be considered at the time this possible eventuality occurs, with a view to expediting the final payment. Meantime, it is mentioned that the growers will suffer no eventual financial loss by reason of any delay, because the interest being paid by buyers on the deferred payments exceeds the interest in which the board is involved in its dealing with the bank.

SCHOOL CANTEENS.

Mr. CLARK: Can the Minister of Education indicate what financial assistance the department gives to school committees or other bodies associated with schools in establishing school canteens?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Those bodies are entitled to apply for the ordinary pound for pound subsidy. A number of canteens have been established in recent years.

WALLAROO HARBOUR.

Mr. HUGHES: Can the Minister of Works say what progress has been made with the investigation into the deepening of berths and the channel at the Wallaroo harbour?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Some time ago the honourable member introduced to me a deputation on this matter. Its case was well presented and has been considered since. Last night I discussed this matter with the General Manager of the Harbors Board and I also studied the docket about it. Two factors are involved, as was pointed out by the deputation:

firstly, the deepening of the berths at the jetty, which is probably the more urgent of the two projects and, secondly, the deepening of the channel leading from the open sea to the jetty area. The General Manager points out that although it would be possible to deepen the berths separately from the channel it would not be desirable because a dredge would have to be sent there, the workmen would have to be accommodated while the work was done, and it would be extremely costly. He is, however, taking steps to investigate the channel. He believes that it would be better, if the channel is to be deepened, to adopt a new route from the sea. However, this work depends largely upon the type of soil in the sea bed along the route chosen. Tests of the sea bottom will be made as soon as possible, but that will probably not be until the weather and summer tides permit. As soon as that information is available he will be able to cost the scheme and bring me a report which Cabinet can consider.

MILLICENT WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. CORCORAN: Can the Minister of Works say whether the laying of pipes to supply water for the township of Millicent is likely to commence shortly? When will the whole of this work be completed and is there any prospect that water will be available to the public during the current financial year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have discussed this matter with the Engineer-in-Chief and he has advised me that five bores have been sunk, of which three have been tested and found satisfactory. The other two will be tested shortly. As the honourable member stated, a large quantity of the pipes required to serve at least the Housing Trust area of the town has been supplied and the laying of those pipes will commence in three or four weeks' time. I think the honourable member may be assured that at least that part of the town will have a water supply for the summer. I doubt whether it will be possible to complete the whole scheme during the present financial year, but progress will be made as rapidly as possible toward that objective.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

Mr. RALSTON: Under section 108 of the Workmen's Compensation Act it is compulsory for an employer of labour to obtain an employer's indemnity policy in accordance with the terms of the Act. Penalties are provided for non-compliance with these requirements. I have been informed that insurance

companies operating in South Australia have refused to accept this type of insurance. As it is compulsory for the employer to insure and because there is no State insurance office to provide an alternative service can the Treasurer say whether these insurance companies are required to accept policies as provided by the Act?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No instance of an insurance company's refusing workmen's compensation policies has been brought to my notice. If any employer has difficulty in that connection I shall be pleased to take the matter up and I am sure I can get an amicable arrangement quickly with the association. Approved societies are obliged to accept accident policies dealing with compulsory insurance of motor cars. That is one of the conditions attaching to them.

GERARD MISSION STATION.

Mr. KING: I understand that negotiations are proceeding for the Government to take over the Gerard mission station at Winkie. Can the Minister of Works amplify his previous statements?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Negotiations have proceeded satisfactorily. Following a recent conference, the United Aborigines Mission advised me by letter of its acceptance in principle of the Government's offer. I acknowledged that letter and advised the mission that immediate steps were being taken to give effect to the arrangement. The Chief Executive of the Aborigines Board (Mr. Bartlett) has had further satisfactory discussions with the mission and progress has been made on details. Mr. Bartlett intends to go to the mission this week together with his senior superintendent, Mr. Goodhand. The present superintendent of Point Pearce and his wife will go to the mission, remain in residence and, in effect, take over the mission from the date of their arrival. Arrangements will then take shape for the Government to administer and control the mission. One or two minor matters remain to be discussed but the honourable member will see from what I have said that negotiations have reached the point of acceptance and action upon that acceptance has been taken already.

LEFEVRE PENINSULA FIRE STATION.

Mr. TAPPING: About a fortnight ago I asked the Treasurer about a proposal to build a fire station on LeFevre Peninsula. Has the Treasurer a reply to my question?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The chairman of the Fire Brigades Board has reported that the board's planning includes the re-siting of the Semaphore fire station to a site reserved for that purpose at the junction of Victoria Road and Wandilla Street, Draper. It is not intended to make this change soon as the present protection afforded by the Port Adelaide and Semaphore stations is regarded as satisfactory for the present.

SUPERPHOSPHATE PRICES.

Mr. HALL: Has the Treasurer a reply to my question regarding differential prices for superphosphate in new bags and in old bags?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Prices Commissioner reports:

The price of superphosphate is reviewed each year by the Prices Department and prices are fixed for each season. Approved prices for the 1960-61 season are:

	Per ton ex Works.		
	£	s.	d.
Unbagged	11	3	0
In farmers' own sacks	11	12	0
In new cornsacks	12	13	0

The price in farmer's own sacks is arrived at by adding 9s. a ton to the unbagged price. The amount which the farmer pays in excess of the unbagged price has nothing to do with any allowance off the new cornsack price but is purely to cover the additional handling costs. He forwards his bags to the superphosphate works and the bags are filled and returned to him for which he pays 9s. a ton above the unbagged price. This amount has remained unaltered for a number of years.

For the price in new cornsacks, 30s. a ton margin over the unbagged price was allowed. This allowance was based on superphosphate manufacturers' average landed costs of bags required for the season and does not provide for a profit margin on bags.

Superphosphate manufacturers buy their bagged requirements independently of merchants and at different times. For example, the buying by superphosphate manufacturers for the 1960-61 season was completed in September, 1960. In addition superphosphate manufacturers were required to absorb a small increase in landed costs to enable superphosphate prices to be kept the same as the previous season.

Landed cost of bags for the forthcoming season have increased considerably above last year's level. The effect of the current higher landed costs will be applicable to the new season's prices but it is not expected to be as great as earlier anticipated. Final figures will not be known until purchases of bags for the season's requirements have been completed.

PORT PIRIE SCHOOLS.

Mr. McKEE: Can the Minister of Education say whether the proposed Port Pirie technical high school and the extension of the existing high school on the land recently acquired from

the corporation are likely to be included in this year's Estimates, and, if so, when work is likely to commence on those buildings?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: The whole Loan programme, including the Education Department's building programme, is at present being considered, and I understand that the Treasurer will introduce it in the next few weeks. I am not, therefore, able to give details at present.

MYPOLONGA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BYWATERS: On June 21 I asked a question about the stock and domestic water supply for Mypolonga. Has the Minister of Agriculture, as Acting Minister of Lands, a reply?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes. Cabinet will shortly be considering the proposal, following a further report from the Engineer-in-Chief.

NAVAN WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I understand that Cabinet has approved the scheme for a reticulated water supply for Navan and Giles Corner. Can the Minister of Works say when the scheme will be undertaken and, if not, will he obtain that information?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member mentioned this matter to me yesterday and I have already called for a report on it. I have not yet received a report, but immediately I do I will inform the honourable member.

TEACHERS' "REMOTE" ALLOWANCES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Can the Minister of Education say whether the Public Service Board has yet made any decision regarding "remote" allowances for teachers and, if so, what that decision is?

The Hon. B. PATTINSON: Only last week the Deputy Public Service Commissioner sent on a report to the Director of Education stating that the board had made a determination regarding the Public Service, but that as teachers did not come within that category it would be necessary for the department to make its own decision. The Director of Education is now considering the position in the light of that intimation and will be making a report and recommendation to me soon.

ROAD SEALING.

Mr. JENKINS: Will the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, ascertain whether there are any plans for

the sealing of the Langhorne Creek to Wellington road? If there are no such plans, will the Minister of Roads consider sealing at least two or three miles from where the bitumen now ends at Langhorne Creek? In addition, nearly two years ago it was intended to seal the road from Ashbourne to Double Bridges during 1961 or 1962. Will the Minister ascertain whether the acquisition of land (which was holding this matter up at that time) has been completed, and whether it is planned to seal this road in the coming year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I shall endeavour to obtain that information for the honourable member.

BUSH FIRES ACT.

Mr. RALSTON: The Bush Fires Act came into operation on July 1 this year, and some concern has been expressed by district councils in my area as to the exact requirements and how it will work. Section 36 defines "officers", subsection (2) states that the Workmen's Compensation Act shall apply, and subsection (3) sets out three methods of computing the compensation. The interpretation of some authorities is that the maximum amounts payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act could become the amounts payable under the Bush Fires Act. As this matter is causing some concern to the councils and should be clarified, will the Minister of Agriculture refer it, if necessary, to the Attorney-General for an opinion as to how this section operates?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As the honourable member will recall, Sir Edgar Bean drafted the legislation with the exception of this subsection which was inserted at the insistence of the Opposition. At that time Sir Edgar Bean recommended against the acceptance of this amendment. The honourable member will recall that, but nevertheless it is now in the Act, and I am ready to look at it to see what the trouble is that the honourable member refers to.

RIVER MURRAY BRIDGE.

Mr. BYWATERS: In the matter of the painting of the road bridge over the River Murray, the last correspondence I had was that tenders would be called some time in the spring, the reason being that painting is done in the warmer weather. Can the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads in this House, say whether it is time for tenders to be called, and can he advise me as to the likelihood of that?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Speaking as a country member, I hope that the spring is not quite with us yet, but I will take up the matter with the Highways Department.

FINANCE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES.

Mr. LAWN: Yesterday afternoon I was called out of the House by one of my constituents who handed me a copy of his agreement with one of the finance companies here, which discloses that in January, 1958, he borrowed £1,500 to build a house. He has to make repayments of £20 each month and he has not missed a payment, which means he has paid hundreds of pounds over three and a half years. He is now able to pay off the balance and has written to the credit company asking what his balance owing is so that he can pay it off. When in January, 1958, he borrowed the £1,500, he received a card on which appeared the words "In response to your request we advise on the back hereof the net amount required should you desire to pay your account on the date shown." It shows £1,540, which is £40 more than the amount he borrowed three and a half years ago. I rang the company and discovered there was no question that he had made the monthly payments. The person at the other end of the 'phone told me that considerable interest had to be paid. It was £150 the first year; he has paid £240, so that is £90 off his capital. After discussions between us, the person at the other end of the 'phone was quite adamant about it. My constituent had been in and argued with him—he told me that. The person at the other end of the 'phone argued with me and finally when I told him that I was not satisfied with those figures and said they did not work, he said, "There might be some mistake." Obviously had this man not come to a member of Parliament or taken the matter somewhere else, the company would have got away with it. If I send the particulars, including the agreement, to the Treasurer will he have the matter investigated and advise me later?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. If the honourable member will refer the correspondence to me I will have the matter investigated by the Prices Commissioner's office to see what is involved and what are the facts of the case. I will ask for a recommendation.

MURRAY BRIDGE PARCELS OFFICE.

Mr. BYWATERS: It has been promised that the Murray Bridge railways parcels office will be altered, because of congestion, to allow for more room. Will the Minister of Works,

representing the Minister of Railways in this House, take up this matter with the Railways Commissioner as to when this work will be done?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

WARREN-PASKEVILLE TRUNK MAIN.

Mr. HUGHES: Because of the anxious time experienced by some farmers in my district during the last two summers with respect to water reticulation to their properties, will the Minister of Works outline the progress being made on the Warren-Paskeville trunk main? Is it expected that the work will be completed by 1962?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member was good enough to intimate to me yesterday that he desired a report on this matter. I have not yet got it but it will be to hand within a day or so, and I will see that he has it.

BREAD WRAPPING.

Mr. LAWN: I receive complaints in writing about the wrapping or the non-wrapping of bread. The regulations prescribe, I understand, that bread should be wrapped but do not define just what wrapping is. Consequently, some shopkeepers are putting a piece of paper like toilet paper round the loaf and that seems to satisfy them. I have been told, even by members of this House, that shops sell bread with a piece of toilet paper or something similar wrapped around it. Others use pieces of paper about half the length of the loaf of bread. Will the Treasurer have this matter examined to see whether the regulations are being observed or whether they should be amended so as to define "wrapping"?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I think the regulations referred to are local government regulations. Some councils have made regulations covering the wrapping of bread; other councils have made no regulations. I will confirm this for the honourable member. I believe that this matter is under the control of the local corporations and district councils. They have made regulations under their own regulation-making power. When a regulation was made in the first instance, there was an application to the Prices Department for an increase in the price of bread to cover the cost of wrapping. If my memory is correct, it was some years ago that the Mount Gambier district council made the first regulation. I believe that the wrapping of the bread caused the price there to increase by one penny.

Mr. Ralston: One halfpenny.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In any case, I believe that the regulation is a local government regulation and, therefore, its policing would naturally come under the council.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

Mr. LAWN: On June 21 I asked the Premier whether it was Government policy that employees who had met with an accident working for private employers—and I instanced a case of an employee who had had a hernia operation and was refused employment by the South Australian Railways because of that fact—were considered unsuitable for Government employment. The Premier said that if I gave him the facts of the case he would investigate the matter and advise me later. Has the Premier that information?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Railways Commissioner reports:

It is required that all applicants for employment in this department be accepted by the railways medical officer. I referred the matter to Dr. Stewart, who has now submitted a report dated July 3, a copy of which is attached. Where the evidence indicates that a hernia has been caused by employment, the injury is acceptable under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The report states that the person concerned was examined by the Chief Medical Officer. I am not sure from the report whether he does come within the qualifications or not. I will make the report available to the honourable member.

Mr. LAWN: Will the Premier read the medical report so that it can be recorded in *Hansard*?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have no objection. I do not think the applicant's name is material. The medical officer said that the man was of small stature, being 5ft. 4in. tall. His report states:

In his medical history he told me he had had a right inguinal hernia operation about two years before but he had been all right since. During the examination I noticed that he had a right inguinal hernia scar present which showed some weakness. There was no actual hernia apparent but on testing him a definite weakness was revealed and I considered that a recurrence of his hernia was likely if he performed heavy work. As far as I remember Mr. — told me that he had not done any really heavy work since his operation.

Mr. — was applying for a job as a skilled labourer. This would involve him in pick and shovel work, and the lifting of such things as concrete pipes and heavy wood and metal details. I considered that the effort required

to perform these tasks could be sufficient to cause a strain to the weakened groin area and allow his hernia to recur. If this had happened then the Commissioner would have been liable under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

In my pre-employment examinations I endeavour to detect those conditions which are present and to anticipate any condition which may break down and interfere with the performance of the job applied for and I am responsible for rejecting new employees who may become liabilities. Mr. — was, in my opinion, unfit for heavy work on account of the possible recurrence of his hernia. He would have been fit for lighter type of work not involving heavy lifting or straining.

Mr. LAWN: The Premier was kind enough to read to the House a medical report which made it clear that the workman concerned had suffered a hernia in his previous employment and was now at a disadvantage in that he could take only light employment. Will the Premier refer this question to the Workmen's Compensation Committee to enable it to consider whether a workman who has suffered a hernia and therefore has a restricted capacity for future employment should be compensated? That committee could decide whether hernia should be included in the schedule to the Workmen's Compensation Act, which provides a percentage of total incapacity in other cases but not for hernia. From the medical report the Railways Department obviously could not accept this man for employment on heavy work because he had had a hernia. In the opinion of many people, including me, hernia should be included in the schedule to the Workmen's Compensation Act. Will the Premier refer this matter to the committee for consideration and report?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am not sure whether this matter is an appropriate one to refer to the committee, but I will have it examined.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: COUNTRY CLOTHING FACTORIES.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When the House was discussing the Wallaroo clothing plant on June 20 I said it was one of a number of clothing firms that had established in the country and that it was the only one still continuing operations. My attention has been drawn to the fact that the Port Pirie clothing factory is continuing its operations, and very successfully. In fact, it is expanding

them. When this was drawn to my notice I wrote to the firm, apologized for my statement, and said I would take the opportunity in Parliament to correct it. The Mastakraft Clothing Company, commenced at Port Pirie during the war, is carrying on successfully and expanding.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 25. Page 86.)

Mr. KING (Chaffey): It gives me much pleasure to second the motion so capably moved yesterday by the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe). As he did, I felt much pleasure listening to the Governor reading his first Speech to this Parliament. Sir Edric Bastyan has continued since his arrival in South Australia to endear himself to the people of this State by the way he has carried out his duties. This occasion was no exception.

We have suffered in the past few months three sad losses in the deaths of Mr. Condon, Mr. O'Halloran and Sir Malcolm McIntosh. These three people rendered wonderful service to this State. Sir Malcolm McIntosh was actually my representative in this House in the days of the three-member electorates. All these men at various times have been of great assistance to me, particularly when I was a new member.

I cannot let this occasion pass without also congratulating the Premier on representing us as our Leader in this House for so many years. His announcement of a record surplus speaks well for the good housekeeping and management with which he has looked after the finances of this State since becoming Premier. I congratulate my friend, the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon), whose faithful service to this State, particularly as chairman of the Public Works Committee was recognized last year.

River Murray fisheries were referred to in the Governor's Speech. I have been interested in these fisheries for many years both from the viewpoint of one who sits on the bank and dangles a line and from the viewpoint of the professional fisherman. With the co-operation of the Honourable Ross Story I have helped in the formation of the Upper Murray Fishermen's Association which has already proved its usefulness. It is working in active co-operation with the newly-appointed Director of Fisheries and its members are anxious to undertake scientific research work. Fishermen are optimists.

They believe there is a big future for fishing in the river and are prepared to take every possible step to assist in the promotion and development of fisheries—the introduction of species and the scientific work that entails. They have already acted in relation to net and fish sizes and in formulating questionnaires that will be available to assist the Director in determining policy.

Work is proceeding in New South Wales where some large fish hatcheries have been established and where the habits of fish indigenous to these waters will be closely studied. While we have not contributed to the cost of that work, it is being undertaken in co-operation with South Australians. As a result of this, the fishing industry, which could be an important part of our life, will be further developed. The proposed dam at Chowilla will, of course, add another facet to the fishing industry, because when it eventuates it will provide a large expanse of permanent water which could be used as a laboratory and, if the processes of fish farming carried out successfully in smaller areas are implemented, could produce additional revenue for the State.

In 1958 I said that I had been studying Australia's water resources for many years and that I thought the Murray Valley could be used as a reservoir for the State. I did not realize then that that time was just around the corner. I was taken to task somewhat by the member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters), but his fears have since been allayed because, when this dam is constructed, the people whose country is inundated will be adequately compensated. There is legislative provision for that.

Australia is, unfortunately, a dry country. Its geographical position shows that, according to world-wide hydrological surveys, it can never be otherwise. The theory of precipitation in land in the vicinity of large areas of water has been exploded when one realizes that the north-west part of Australia has been adjacent to the Indian Ocean for centuries and that it is such a dry area. If that theory were tenable that district would have a higher rainfall. It was also claimed that when Lake Eyre was filled there would be regeneration. Lake Eyre has been filled twice in recent years and there is no sign of precipitation.

It is obvious that we must look to our natural water resources and in South Australia we must look over the border because our permanent sources of supply originate in areas over which we have no direct control. The control of the River Murray catchment areas is in the hands of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

There are 414,000 square miles of country where rain can fall to serve the catchment area, and we must look there for our supplies. Today the quantity of water coming into South Australia through the Murray and its tributaries is gradually decreasing. We need only examine the various tributaries. The River Murray Commission has no control over them and the States that do have control can dam that water off and they are losing no opportunity to do so.

The Menindee Lakes scheme on the River Darling, which will hold 2,000,000 acre feet of water, has reduced the flow of the Darling to a mere trickle so far as South Australia is concerned. That once famous river that river steamers used to use when collecting goods from Wilcannia and Bourke is no longer navigable. Any vessel slightly larger than a rowing boat could not get as far as Menindee. A similar situation applies on the River Murray. Steamers cannot use it because in some places there is less than two feet of water. A river steamer today cannot go to Mildura. In fact one Renmark man claims that he cannot get his launch up to Lock 6 for that reason. The Menindee Lakes, which will take a long time to fill, will keep from South Australia the water that once improved the quality of the Murray and reduced its salt content. That is important to us because of our irrigation needs, and eventually it will affect the industrial use to which that water can be put. The Menindee Lakes scheme is 50 miles long and comprises a number of shallow lakes. It is claimed that the water lost through evaporation will represent 250,000 acre feet a year. That is more than we use today for our irrigation areas.

We must ensure that water available from other sources is used to its best advantage. The Murray is a river of moods. In the 1956 flood the flow past Overland Corner was 139,000 cusecs. Yesterday, Mr. Coumbe said that by 1965 the capacity of our reservoirs would be about 42,000,000,000 gallons. At the rate of flow past Overland Corner in 1956 we could have filled those reservoirs in 14 hours. Today the river is flowing at 4,000 cusecs. Last year it flowed at 1,300 cusecs. Indeed, were it not for the locking system the River Murray would be a mere trickle across which one could wade at almost any point. The need for conservation of the water available is even more important. In 1942 the water taken from the River Murray for irrigation purposes was 145,000 acre feet, but in 1960 that had increased to 203,000 acre feet.

For private pumping, household and domestic and pipeline use, the increase was from about 2,500 acre feet in 1942 to 70,000 acre feet last year. In the dry year of 1959 it was 120,000 acre feet, whereas 70,000 acre feet would be about a normal year's use, but the total usage has risen from 147,000 acre feet in 1942 to 273,000 acre feet today. That gives members an indication of the progressive drain on the water of the Murray.

The member for Torrens stressed the need for the conversion of water for domestic and industrial expansion in South Australia but we also need to make our best use of it for expansion of irrigation. Water is important for each of these purposes but particularly for irrigation it is essential that the quality of the water be preserved. That is a matter of prime importance. If the flow of water in the upper reaches of the river is retarded there is a tendency for strong salt springs to seep in and pollute the water. If that pollution becomes too strong it will mean the end of irrigation and it will ultimately affect the use of water for domestic and industrial purposes.

We believe there is still room for plantings on new areas along the river by means of irrigation. The Government will make assistance available under the Advances for Settlers Act and under private irrigation Acts. If the Government feels disposed to buy into new schemes the opportunity still exists. Sooner or later the tremendous demands made on the water needed for irrigation schemes will make this a matter of much concern. The Berri irrigation area waters about 8,000 acres on a 30-acre inch requirement. For every acre foot used 272,000 gallons of water are required. We pay £9 10s. an acre for the water but if that figure is passed the cost is so high that irrigation is almost out of the question. In terms of quantity the amount of water used by all irrigation areas in South Australia worked out at about 200,000 acre feet and that means that we are using far more water than we may have available in 10 or 15 years' time.

Mr. Bywaters: The sprinkler systems have cut the consumption down.

Mr. KING: Less water is used on each operation but more sprinklings are required.

Mr. Bywaters: It has been proved in my district that water can be saved in that way.

Mr. KING: That could be done with trees but I do not think it could be done with vines. There is a limit to the amount of water available and we must make the best use of it. I

believe the best time to make a thorough study of it is now. The use of the Murray Valley as a storage basin has been considered by people for many years. I have had letters from people saying that they suggested this in 1908 and it is obvious to people living on the river between the high banks that this situation affords a natural reservoir. I believe that ultimately the valley will have to be used for that purpose and it will provide several hundred miles of river storage at a depth that could be regulated from 50 to 60 feet. Water storage in this manner would reduce evaporation and that is a loss we have to contend with. Australia is throwing a tremendous quantity of water away. I refer particularly to the Menindee Lakes scheme and I have inquired into this matter. Earlier this year New South Wales announced that it was going to put in three more dams on the River Darling which would be 30 to 40 miles long and the building of a bank at Brewarrina was considered. There they would have long shallow stretches of water but much evaporation would probably occur in a normal year. The only time there would be a flow in the river would be when there was a sufficient rain in the catchment areas and when the Menindee Lakes scheme could receive a sufficient flow to overcome the colossal evaporation. No water from that scheme will come to South Australia until it has passed the Anabranch because of evaporation.

In addition, evaporation may result in increased salinity. There has been talk of the Menindee Lakes scheme salting up. It had been suggested that this storage would be used to supply water, under the River Murray Waters Agreement, to South Australia and that New South Wales would be able to use the water coming down the Murrumbidgee for Leeton and other schemes on that river. If that is so it may be necessary to re-examine the Menindee Lakes scheme to see whether it will provide that State's requirements and our requirements under the River Murray Waters Agreement. As the pressure on the water conserved becomes greater there will be more and more reluctance to alter the terms of the River Murray Waters Agreement in our favour. We must encourage anything that will increase the quantity of water coming into the River Murray. It is pleasing to note the work of the Murray Valley Development League, which worked hard in connection with the catchment areas in New South Wales and Victoria, particularly on the Snowy grazing leases, and its work has brought some fruit.

They are the catchment areas from which the Murray waters originally come. The 1959/60 report of the River Murray Commission states:—

During the 1960/61 season grazing will not be permitted in the general area of Mount Hotham, Lock, St. Bernard, and the southern portion of the Razor Back.

The New South Wales authority reported:

The withdrawal from grazing at the end of May, 1958, of those parts above a general elevation of 4,500ft. has been very effective. Already there are signs of a build-up in the density of the vegetation, with a corresponding reduction in the area of bare ground. This beneficial effect can be attributed largely to the withdrawal of stock, although the success of the fire control measures being implemented under the Hume-Snowy Bush Fire Prevention Scheme is an important factor in the restoration of the vegetative cover.

Later, the report states:

It suggests that considerable improvement in catchment performance would result from management practices which encouraged succession from the widespread depleted and re-growth conditions towards more or less natural forest, snowgum, snow-grass, and alpine herbfield vegetation.

The next point is interesting:

It is further reported that studies on snow hydrology have been carried to an advanced stage, and the final report is approaching completion. The studies indicate that a strong positive relationship exists between tree cover and wind breaks, and the accumulation and persistence of snow. Deforested areas accumulated 30-50 per cent less snow than areas with trees, and lost it up to a month earlier during the thaw. This loss of snow, much of it into lower catchments, and the more rapid melting, represents appreciable losses in hydro-electric values, and suggests that re-afforestation would materially improve the amount and distribution of snow water yield . . . An investigation into canopy interception and fog and cloud drifts is at present being finalized. Above 5,000ft. it has been found that trees strain out considerable quantities of water from rain-clouds moving through them; increases of up to 30 per cent compared with treeless areas having been measured.

That is interesting because it means that, if we can encourage those people to continue with that work, the very sources from which the Murray draws its supplies and from which its springs originate will be improved and thus more water will be conserved. Our water has to come a long way from Albury down to South Australia, but this work that has been done (actively supported by the Murray Valley Development League which, I think, originated it) has borne fruit in that respect, and consequently we should commend the people concerned for what they have done.

Other work done in South Australia by the Mines Department on this most important mineral—and water is described as a mineral—was in the publication this year of the hydrological survey done by Mr. O'Driscoll and issued by Sir Lyell McEwin and the Director of Mines. The Murray basin in South Australia commences a little way below Broken Hill; it runs down the railway line and takes in Morgan and the area behind the Adelaide Hills; it covers practically the whole of the southern part of the State. This was a monumental piece of work. I think that these people examined 10,500 bores, and from the examination they have been able to tell us the depth at which water can be found, the volume at which it could be available, its quality, and also the rate of flow of water that comes from Victoria. The time will come when we will have to use this advanced study, and it will help tremendously in developing the southern part of our State, a large part of which is in Mr. Nankivell's district.

The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) dealt rather extensively with desalination of salt water. We shall have to make the best use of everything we can lay our hands on. I recently read a book on population trends, in which it was stated that the present population of the world was 2,500,000,000 and represented about one person for every 50 acres of land above the sea, including Arctic land, desert land and all other types of land. The author claimed that if the population continued to expand at the present rate there would be only one square yard of land for each person. I do not know what we are going to do with our water then. However, that is in 1,000 years' time, whereas we are concerned with what will happen by the turn of the century. I still think the time is ripe for Australia to set up a board to investigate the water resources of the whole country and to see that they are put to the best use in the interests of the nation. We in South Australia, being on the receiving end of the River Murray, have a vital interest in this matter.

Mr. Quirke: It is almost true to say that all the heavy industry in Australia depends on the River Murray.

Mr. KING: Yes. Water is fundamental to the domestic and industrial growth of every country. England is running short of water. I read yesterday that in one area in Germany, on the River Elbe, two-thirds of the water used is water that has been cleaned. The sewage from adjacent towns is discharged into that area, and two-thirds of the water that

those people are using is cleaned sewage water. What has got them really worried now is the use of detergents; it is easy enough to get soaps out, but now these detergents are being used the people are greatly worried. The problem of water is world-wide and, whereas in the past everyone has taken water for granted and has obtained it by merely turning on a tap, the time may come when it will not always be so easy.

Mr. Casey: The steel industry at Newcastle is not dependent on the Murray water.

Mr. Quirke: Yes it is: Iron Knob and Whyalla depend on it.

Mr. KING: We take water to Whyalla and Iron Knob and can say that water is helping to provide the iron ore for Newcastle, so it can be said that the steel industry depends on the use of Murray water.

Another aspect of the economy to which I should like to refer is the fruit industry in my district. Two sections of industry in particular that have been concerned are the wine industry and the fruit canning industry. The action of the Government in rejecting the request for a Royal Commission last year was completely vindicated by the Prices Commissioner's investigation and the confidence that has been put into the industry as a result of his report. It has brought additional revenue to growers, and in the two years—1960 and 1961—that were reported on by the Prices Commissioner an amount of £500,000 has gone to the growers' pockets that they would not have received had we waited for the rather laborious processes involved in a Royal Commission. The growers in the wine industry are selling at prices at which, as far as the Prices Commissioner can possibly determine, they are covering their basic costs, including their costs of living. The buyers feel that price cutting has been virtually eliminated; they have a common basis for purchasing grapes and for selling the products of their wineries. Consequently, there is a feeling of confidence in the industry that we have not had for many years.

This incursion into the industry of what might be called commercial arbitration by a Government official is a new departure. It has been very successful. The evidence has been given in secrecy and the people concerned—the producers, the winemakers and the distributors—all have great confidence in the Prices Commissioner. I feel we have established something that may be of great use in other industries.

There is one other aspect of the wine industry that is, I think, of interest to the House, and

that is the effect of the drinking habits of the migrant population. For many years we have had local producers and people in our district who have come from southern Europe and who have been making their own low-strength wines. They are permitted to do so. They do not sell them but merely make them for their own consumption, from year to year. With the big influx of more southern European migrants there has been a demand for that type of wine which previously was not made by the winemakers who were making wines based more or less on the traditions established in Europe—Spain, France and Germany. Consequently, there has been a sudden upgrowth of what have been termed backyard wineries to cater for this. There is nothing wrong with this because it is an outlet for grapes which in some cases have been hard to dispose of, but the danger of it is that those people may produce wines that are not up to the health standards that we demand for our own wines. In some cases, they experiment with their recipes. They add sugar and develop some very high strength wines for which, when the Excise people catch up with them, they pay heavy penalties. The big danger is this, too, that out of the by-products, the skins of these wines that they have been making, illicit stills have been set up, and they make a particularly ferocious and vicious type of spirit called "grappa", which is not a light wine by any means. It is anything but. That sort of thing should be stamped out. These people should not be allowed to lower the standards that we have built up over many years by producing these inferior spirits. The Commonwealth people are on their wheel and there have been prosecutions—eight, I believe.

In this demand for these light wines, these people have shown us something that we needed to be told—that we have to make wines that they want. It is traditional for them to have wines with their meals and they have shown that a market is there. I am pleased to say that some of our local wineries have experimented with this and are producing a wine for the taste of these people. For those who are not conservative in their tastes, many people who have not tried these wines before find they are low strength, and they are pleased with them. I think that a market will be developed for some of this wine for the benefit of the industry generally.

As far as other uses for wine grapes are concerned, the House will be interested to know that last year a quantity of 800 tons of grapes was processed for the canned grape juice trade,

which represents over 80,000 gallons of grape juice. It is a market that is continuing to grow. Recently, I was told that one of our Barossa wineries was producing a wine that had been de-alcoholized. I do not know how they do that; but the point is that there is a growing outlet for the products of the vine which are not necessarily all alcoholic. In fact, up the river three wineries I have in mind have spent £200,000 in the last three years on refrigeration and other plant catering for the production of high-quality light wines, and they are meeting with a ready market.

On the canning side, I will not elaborate to any great extent other than to say that the position forecast by the South Australian Canning Fruitgrowers Association and the Department of Agriculture is being realized so far as production is concerned. This was started in 1957-58. The main variety about which we are worried is peaches. The plantings of peaches in South Australia along the River Murray have continued. They now stand at about 414,000 trees, of which 250,000 are not yet bearing. Anybody knowing anything about fruit production knows that that represents a great amount of fruit. Other States have also kept up with their plantings and have 830,000 trees not yet in bearing. In the three principal States there are 690,000 peach trees of bearing age, and 1,083,000 trees that are not yet bearing. It is estimated by the various State authorities that by 1966 peach production in Australia will have reached 105,000 tons, double the present figure, of which 16,000 tons will eventually be produced in South Australia; so the potential here is a big one.

Apricots and pears in South Australia have not shown such a spectacular increase in plantings. I am pleased to say that the products of those two trees—the apricot in particular—are, generally speaking, being marketed; the canneries are taking some. There has been a spectacular increase in dried apricots, which the market has been able to absorb. The main thing is that the final success of this industry depends not only on price but on quality, and the comparative freedom in South Australia from disease. In quality we have a natural advantage, and I was pleased to hear from one of our Victorian producers the other day that peaches in South Australia need never fear competition from other States, that with our quality we would always have a good market for them.

The Riverland Cannery, which was promoted by the growers in my district and put into

operation by a company formed with Government assistance, has paid dividends in more ways than one. This year the whole of the 1961 pack has been sold. The growers were all paid by July 7 and provision has been made for the payment of interest, full depreciation and a first instalment on the loans-to-producers loans. This is from a cannery that in July of 1957 was bare paddock, and it processed in 1958 its first pack. So, thus far, the confidence shown by the Government, by the Victorian co-operative which has put money into it, and by the growers has been fully justified. The only fly in the ointment up there is the appearance at Renmark of a pest known as the Oriental Peach Moth. So far this moth has been found only at Renmark. The growers believe they can eradicate it and have spent much time and money on an eradication programme. The Department of Agriculture has also assisted. It has been shown that it can be controlled and eradicated. The growers can combat it provided funds are available. If it gets away from the Renmark area and spreads to other river settlements and through the hills it will ultimately be a worse pest than the codlin moth. Every assistance should be given to the growers in their attempts to eradicate it.

It is interesting to note how one industry will attract others. In the last three years on the river, following the establishment of the cannery at a cost of about £500,000, the Berri Co-operative Packing Union has spent about £50,000, Gadsden's has established a can-making plant costing about £200,000 to serve that co-operative, Containers Limited has spent £200,000 for a plant to serve Riverland, and a carton factory is at present being established at a cost of about £250,000. In all, about £1,250,000 is being invested and permanent employment will be provided for about 100 people. That all flows from processing products where they are grown and is a credit to the enterprise of local people who were prepared to expend money and effort, thus justifying the assistance given by the Government after a thorough investigation had been made. Improvements costing about £200,000 have been made to wineries, and engineering and brickmaking factories have also been set up. The Housing Trust has played its part in providing accommodation for the increased population.

Unfortunately, the problems of the river are reflected in drainage. I thank the Government for the assistance it has so far rendered in draining the Cooltong irrigation area. As

a result of an arrangement with the Renmark Irrigation Trust, Block E has been drained and a £100,000 tender has been let to drain another section of the Renmark irrigation area. Recently the Public Works Committee examined the need for draining the Ral Ral division of the Chaffey irrigation area, which work is extremely urgent. The need for drainage has been accelerated because of the damage caused by the 1956 flood which pushed salt to the surface. I hope the Treasurer will leave room on his Estimates to enable this work to be undertaken this financial year.

I agree with Mr. Coumbe that the Government has done a tremendous job in meeting the State's education needs. I am pleased that retarded children have been taken under the ample wing of the Minister of Education and that arrangements have been made for the opening soon of an occupation centre on the River Murray for those children. A survey has been made by Mr. Piddington and the district is proud that this forward step is being taken. I congratulate the Minister on appointing Mrs. Kaufman to Minda Home as Principal working with the Education Department. I met her when she was at Shepparton and later at Oakleigh and I am sure that her appointment was a wise one. We hope that the Minister will be able to continue with his proposal to commence an opportunity class at Berri soon.

If the object of good Government is to provide the basic framework on which the enterprise, energy and capital of the people can be best employed (and this includes transport, power, water and education) then this Government has been manifestly successful. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): The Speech with which His Excellency the Governor opened Parliament this year is similar to previous Speeches we have had from time to time. Any criticisms I make are not intended as reflections on the Governor, because the Speech is aimed at presenting the Government in the best light possible. As members are all aware, the present Government is open to many shortcomings, and my criticisms are directed towards these matters. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Bastyan have already endeared themselves to the people of South Australia, and recently I had the opportunity of paying a courtesy visit to His Excellency.

I found that already he has gained a great knowledge both of the people and of South Australia generally. I wish him every success in his high office, and I am sure that he will carry out his duties with the same distinction as his able predecessors. I was privileged to speak with the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Mellis Napier) prior to the arrival of His Excellency, and I congratulated him on behalf of the Opposition for the efficient way he carried out his important office.

Whilst the late Viscount Dunrossil, Governor-General of Australia, was not in such close contact with the people of South Australia, his untimely passing was most unfortunate, and I extend my sympathy to his widow and the members of his family. In our own Parliament we have lost three great leaders in the past year: Mr. M. R. O'Halloran, Sir Malcolm McIntosh, and the Hon. F. J. Condon. The sterling qualities of Sir Malcolm will be long remembered. As a Minister of the Crown he was most approachable and courteous, very loyal to his staff, and I regret that it was not his privilege to have paid a visit overseas during his long association with the Ministry of South Australia.

I should like to refer briefly to my late Leader and colleague, Mr. M. R. O'Halloran. Already many tributes have been paid as to the sterling qualities which he possessed. He was a great man in the full sense of the word, and South Australia as a whole suffered a severe loss in his passing. As recently as yesterday, we paid our tributes to the late Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition in the Legislative Council, the Hon. Frank Condon. Whilst their respective families have had the sympathy not only of Parliament but the people of South Australia generally, I think it will be agreed that these losses occur too frequently and that the Party these men represented has suffered a severe loss in their passing.

Since taking office, I have found it very difficult to efficiently carry out the duties of Leader of the Opposition due to insufficiency of staff, but I wish to place on record my thanks for the sterling services provided by the Director of the Government Reporting Department (Mr. S. R. Parr), who, over a period of many months, made available the services of a very efficient shorthand-typiste, Miss Audrey Smith. She performed many of her normal duties in her own section relating to committee work and, at the same time, rendered invaluable help to me during a very difficult period. The Government has realized the importance of the office in that a new office

of shorthand-typiste was created on my staff recently, and it is being very ably filled by Miss Zita Nalty.

We have already extended a welcome to the member for Frome (Mr. T. M. Casey). Undoubtedly, the member for Frome will have further reference to make regarding his particular by-election, but I give a firm indication that the Opposition will seek an amendment to the Electoral Act concerning postal votes during this session.

I shall have something to say later on the question of desalination of water. The member for Torrens created a wrong impression when he referred to the Electricity Trust and the use of black coal and Leigh Creek coal. The important ingredient that he missed was how much oil the Electricity Trust infuses into the coal for the production of electricity. I do not wish to decry the efforts of the Electricity Trust but when I have to deal with the many cases that come before me relating to unemployed people and deserted wives who are trying to make homes for themselves and their children I wonder how far the honourable member would go with me when I suggest that a reduction in tariff should be provided to help such people. That would help to solve some of the anxieties that affect these people.

I commend the member for Chaffey particularly in relation to his comments on the conservation of water for irrigation purposes along the Murray. That will receive full support from the Party I represent. We must seriously consider how much more of the water that runs into the sea could be conserved to add to the prosperity of this country. We have a low rainfall and the present position is serious, but Nature may still help us this year. However, whether we are members of the Government or of the Opposition we must seriously consider this point.

The reference to south-eastern drainage works does not reveal the full picture. The Governor's Speech states:

To date 350 miles of new drains have been constructed in the Western Division.

This sounds very well, but other factors come into this matter. The construction of these drains was authorized by Act of Parliament in 1948, but construction was not commenced until 1950. Therefore it has taken the Government 11 years to construct 350 miles of drains in this area. To June 30, 1960, 342 miles had been completed, which means that the Government constructed only eight miles of drains in this division during the last financial

year. I do not consider this to be a very remarkable achievement by the Government.

Another factor which reveals tardy action by the present Government in this matter is in relation to the assessment of lands which have been improved by the drains. Assessing was commenced in 1949, but these assessments have not yet been completed, and as no mention has been made of the fact in the Governor's Speech I can only assume that these properties, which have been considerably improved by the drains, will not be rated for betterment even this year.

In view of the fact that the Government was scrambling for additional revenue last year by increasing its taxes and charges for water, sewerage and rail fares, it should also have taken the opportunity to obtain some reasonable return from the £3,750,000 it had spent on the drains in the western division of the South-East.

The longer the Government leaves this problem the harder will be its solution, because I can see that the settlers in this area will be justifiably angry if the additional interest charges on the scheme, brought about by the postponement of the rating, are capitalized and made an additional burden on these settlers.

Another matter which needs clarification respecting the drains is that certain of the lands in the western division have been allotted under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. The rents fixed in relation to these lands include a certain amount equivalent to the betterment factor, but—and this is the point I wish to emphasize to Government members—these rents are payable to the Commonwealth Government under the terms of the War Service Land Settlement Agreement. Following my explanation to its conclusion, it seems that the Government of South Australia, over a period of 11 years, has gradually built drains in the western division, and has then turned around and paid the Commonwealth Government increased rent for war service land settlement land which has been improved by the drains. I think it is stupid to carry out and finance a scheme from State funds and then pay the Commonwealth Government additional rent because we have improved their land by drainage.

Instead of the bald statement that 350 miles of drains have been completed in the western division, I would certainly have preferred to see these matters enumerated in the Governor's Speech together with an explanation of the Government's proposals for the coming financial year to satisfactorily solve these problems.

I was pleased to see a reference that our State forests are expected to have a log production of 194,000,000 super feet because I consider that the prosperity and development of the State forests are vital to the advancement of this State. The point that caused me some confusion, however, was the reference that steps were in hand to increase the annual acreage of new plantings from 4,000 to 6,000 acres, because I was under the impression that in 1959 nearly 6,000 acres of plantings were made in the State forests. It was heartening to read in the press recently of the proposed establishment of a £15,000,000 pulp mill near Mount Gambier, and undoubtedly this must assist in decentralization; but we should never lose sight of the fact that it was an earlier Labor Government that had the foresight to institute the forestry project in the South-East in the first place.

Although we may be justly proud that another industry is to be established in the country, I am still perturbed that it is an industry which deals with timber that has been pulped. Naturally, in any forest a certain quantity of timber is not suitable for use in its existing form and can be best used by pulping. However, I consider our forests in the South-East have greater possibilities than this. What I have in mind is that timber from our forests should be used more fully on construction work in the building industry than is done at present. I realize that a large quantity of our timber is used for flooring, but I will have something further to say on this a little later. What I should like to know (and this matter never seems to be raised in the Governor's Speech) is what proportion of the processed South-Eastern timber from the mills could be guaranteed as suitable for house construction. In regard to this, I do not wish to criticize the operations of the Housing Trust, which is doing a commendable job on housing, but apparently it is a matter of Government policy not to use local timber in house construction, because my information is that in the construction of Housing Trust brick veneer houses, where there is great scope for the use of the local product, certain imported timbers have been specified. The mills should be able to guarantee the local product for use as scantling timber, as there would be great possibilities for its use as framing material in the internal walls in these brick veneer houses.

Mr. Ralston: It was used exclusively in the new State Bank building at Mount Gambier.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I do not deny that. Even if there were only a 50 per cent preference for scantling timber in our Housing Trust houses in this State, there would be no need to fear unemployment here. I do not wish to argue in regard to its suitability for roofing, because Oregon, with its long grain, has demonstrated its particular suitability in this field, but there is still great scope for the utilization of the local South-Eastern timbers in house construction. Another matter in relation to our forests concerns flooring. Without being too critical of our efforts in supplying flooring, but with the sole object of obtaining the greatest possible use of our local product, I point out that it has come to my notice that looseness of the tongue and groove is causing some concern in the building industry. I emphasize that we must pay particular attention to the question of the tongue and groove in flooring, because there is nothing more aggravating to a person going into a new house than to find a squeak in the floor, which in 90 per cent or more of instances is due to the tongue and groove becoming loose. Is the trouble caused by the type of timber, the milling, or the kiln drying? It is for the Government to ascertain where the trouble is occurring and to rectify it so that the future of our forestry industry in the South-East is not jeopardized.

I have noticed in many modern houses around Adelaide that meranti or some other similar imported timber has been used extensively in the internal and external timber panelling. I have also seen some instances where our local product has been used, and in my view, both from appearance and durability, this work done with the local product has been equal to, if not better than that done with the imported timber. The challenge is there for us to overcome and turn out a product from our forests and our mills which compares in standard with the imported timber. I have expanded on this problem of the use of our local timbers because I consider the future of our State forests to be vital to the general advancement of South Australia.

Whilst dealing with the South-East I should like to raise one other matter. I do not agree with the Government policy which provided, because it was necessary to improve the water supply at Nangwarry, for an increased charge upon the residents. Nangwarry, after all, is only a settlement, in association with an industry, which has limited facilities for the family man. After having erected the tank for reticulation purposes (and, incidentally, some of the fringe

settlement still has not an adequate supply of water during the summer months), the residents were informed that increased charges would be levied, and those increases have been levied. The same applies to increased tariffs on their electricity accounts, because the Government has considered it necessary to install more modern equipment for electric power. In neither instance do I oppose the provision of improved facilities, but my point is that the Government has used the Nangwarry and other South-Eastern timber mills to obtain income for the general revenue of the State. Therefore, the Government, instead of increasing the tariff and charges on these people, and at the same time paying surplus profits from this industry into the general revenue of the State, should use some of that profit from the forests and the mills to provide improved facilities for the employees in the area, who have been just as responsible as the Government for building up this industry.

Mr. Ralston: The Broken Hill Proprietary Company does it at Whyalla, as does the Electricity Trust at Port Augusta.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I was speaking of the South-East. I shall now deal with a matter affecting my own electorate, where the Housing Trust is building many houses. The last roll of electors, published about six weeks ago, shows that there are 29,500 electors in Edwardstown. That is not as many as my colleague, the Minister of Education, has in the district of Glenelg (which has been static at about 32,000 for the last three or four years), but there is every indication that the numbers are increasing. When development takes place transport facilities must be provided. I have discussed with council officers the matter of constructing a heavy duty road about mid-way between the South Road and the Marion Road. Part of the work has already been done, but it should be completed. I think that the Housing Trust and the Tramways Trust would be ready to discuss the matter further, but I want to know how far the Highways Department could go towards meeting the additional cost of completing this road.

In the Town Planning Act, which the Housing Trust must abide by in the same way as other people, roads are mentioned. In some trust areas roads have been constructed and the estimated cost to the home purchasers is 30s. a foot. The Local Government Act also provides for a charge of 10s. a lineal foot in connection with roads, kerbing and water tables combined. The council may charge a portion

of that amount. We know that in one instance 30s. a foot has been added to the amount to be paid by the home purchaser, but the Act provides that if the council has not charged for the road-making it can make an additional charge of 10s. a lineal foot for kerbing and water tables. If the footpath has been sealed 1s. 6d. a lineal foot can be charged.

The Government introduced the Town Planning Act Amendment Bill last session but it ended up in Annie's room. The Opposition had several amendments to move, but the Bill was shelved. They should be included in the legislation this session in order to meet the position of people coming under the Town Planning Act. There could be an intersection where traffic turns both left and right but there is nothing to say that a road with added strength shall be constructed. Often we find that within six months such roads are nothing but potholes. The Town Planning Act Amendment Bill was not proceeded with last session and it should be introduced this session so that proper amendments can be made to it.

The Governor's Speech referred to the money to be spent on buildings for educational purposes, in which matter I am very much interested. In my area the Forbes primary school has an enrolment of about 1,800 children. Originally there was a solid construction building for about 320 infants, but since then timber buildings have been added. If the schoolmaster had a scooter to use in getting around these many buildings it would be well after school closing time before he finished the job. It is time that we considered erecting all solid construction buildings at the Forbes school, and the same can be said about the South Road school, which still comprises all timber frame buildings.

I was under the impression that I had an honourable understanding with the Premier in connection with a piece of land that is especially referred to in an article in the *News* today under the heading "Council 'No' to land offer at Mitcham". I thought he would have given me an opportunity to get information on the matter, but I had to get it from the press. I shall be pleased to discuss with him the future of the land mentioned. The South Adelaide Football Club would like to establish an oval on it, and the South Australian Trotting Club would like to have an interest in it also, but I doubt whether 20 acres or even 25 acres would be sufficient for its purposes. I mention these matters because both organizations are referred to in the *News* press report. I know that some shopkeepers

in the area are worried that there will be less revenue coming to them because once an oval is built fewer houses will be erected. It will be interesting to know how far the South Adelaide Football Club and the South Australian Trotting Club want to go in this matter.

I inform the Premier that there is a complete disagreement with his proposal about a hospital in the south-western suburbs. It comes from the Marion Corporation in particular, and from the residents who will be expected to pay something towards the cost of the drainage of the south-western suburbs. I have been requested, both verbally and in writing, to say that residents and organizations desire a hospital to be built forthwith by the Government and for it to be known as the South-Western Districts Hospital.

There is another matter of great concern, not only in my district but in many others. I understand that the Highways Department, if it has not already negotiated, is in the course of negotiating to acquire certain land for a freeway. It is not a question of selling vacant land. If the Highways Department wants a freeway or the widening of a road, now is the time to acquire the land. In fact, it is long overdue. The longer it is left, the more costly it will be. The Government should make up its mind quickly.

Turning to water supply, I was pleased to hear the lengthy remarks from the member for Torrens yesterday, for he demonstrated clearly that he is now a convert to our way of thinking regarding the possibilities of desalination. We have raised this matter for several years, but our suggestions appeared to be falling on deaf ears and, as I said, it is pleasing to know that we have led the thinking of one of the members opposite along the right channel. At present the Government proposes to duplicate the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline, and the latest estimate available of anticipated costs on this project is £18,500,000. This is certainly a colossal expenditure for the provision of a water supply. I am not disputing that additional water supplies are required in the northern areas, but what concerns me is that we have been hearing for at least eight years of the necessity to augment the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline. The only thing that has been done over the years is to provide a re-assessment of the estimated cost of meeting the water needs of the northern areas. About a year ago the estimated cost was approximately £12,000,000, whereas now the cost has increased to approximately £18,500,000.

I admit that the new scheme provides for a much greater supply than was previously anticipated but, even so, it will meet the water requirements of the area for only the next 20 to 25 years.

When the scheme for the duplication of this pipeline was first introduced, we sought to have a route different from the original pipeline in order that more towns could be served by the line. But the further this scheme progresses, the more definite the Government seems to be that the duplication will exactly follow the route of the existing pipeline. When the original pipeline was constructed, the costs of desalination were excessive and it was more economical to construct the pipeline than it was to consider the establishment of desalination plants. However, in recent years, the costs of desalination have fallen considerably so that now the cost by pipeline could become greater than the cost of desalinated water.

The Government said previously that it was watching developments overseas with this process, but we require something more definite than this because the lack of adequate supplies of water is a major factor retarding the complete and balanced development of South Australia. As a matter of fact, the Commonwealth Government has established a desalination plant in the Woomera area, and my information is that they are producing water in small quantities, but I have not been able to obtain reliable information on the costs involved. I admit that, at the present time, they are obtaining the majority of their water requirements from the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline at Port Augusta, but my point is that they are processing desalinated water in a remote area. Senator Spooner was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on April 7, 1961, as follows:

Firm costs of desalination under Australian conditions are difficult to establish. Using the latest distillation technique it is expected in the United States of America that sea water, converted in a new one million gallons a day plant being installed, may cost as low as one dollar a thousand gallons (U.S.)—

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Does the honourable Leader say that he is having difficulty in getting the Woomera costs? If so, I can tell him that they are 6½d. a gallon.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I have tried to obtain information and the Treasurer has given us more information than I could get out

of the Commonwealth people. The report continues:

—equivalent in Australian measures and currency to 10s. 10d. a thousand gallons (imp.). I think the Treasurer would agree that that figure was about accurate.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: I think it is an accurate figure on present assumptions.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: The report continues:

Developments in Great Britain seem to support this cost level and indicate that a distillation plant of 2,000,000 gallons a day capacity might be erected in Australia at a capital cost of £A.1,000,000 and convert sea water or any saline water at about 9s. (A.) a thousand gallons.

This figure is substantiated by reports from various parts of the world where desalination plants are installed. There are particular advantages in some areas where the cost has been about 3s. to 4s. a thousand gallons. However, the indications for Australia at present would appear to be approximately 9s. a thousand gallons with conventional power.

Another factor that has not received much publicity is that there are great possibilities for the minerals which are separated from the sea water, which the honourable member for Torrens mentioned yesterday. Reputable hydrologists predict that the proceeds from the by-products of water conversion could easily cover the operating costs within the next five years. In that case, processed water would be free.

Not being an expert in this field, I have had to rely on reports from countries and persons who have carried out this process, and all reports I have seen recently point to a proportionately low capital input for the quantity of water processed with the great potential of reducing costs appreciably in the very near future. There is the added advantage that the installation of these plants is more flexible than our conventional methods of obtaining water in our northern areas.

So far the use of nuclear power in these plants appears to be in the experimental stage. However, in South Australia, we have the Radium Hill project which has contracts expiring early next year. To the best of my knowledge—and the Premier can correct me if I am wrong—the American Atomic Energy Commission has not renewed or extended its contract to purchase our uranium oxide as, I understand, there are at present plentiful world supplies of this material. If this is still the case, then the future for the Radium Hill people and our uranium industry is very unstable. Surely if our product has not an

overseas market we should look to the local utilization of our uranium product, and to what better use could it be put but to supply ample water for domestic and industrial consumption in country areas.

When members on this side of the House discovered that the Playford Liberal Government was intervening in the differential basic wage case for Adelaide, we considered the intervention to be unjust and strongly criticized the Government for its actions. Now the Full Bench of the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission has confirmed the views of the Labor Party, which we expressed strongly prior to the prorogation of Parliament last year, as a combined application of the employers and the Government has been rejected by the Commission.

The hearing before the Commission resolved itself into three main points: first, an application by the Federated Enginedrivers and Firemen's Association of Australia to eliminate the differentials in country areas which make the basic wage for country areas less than the metropolitan basic wage; secondly, an application by the Chamber of Manufacturers, Employers Federation and the present State Liberal Government, for a differential basic wage for South Australia. What the employers and the Government sought to achieve was that the basic wage in Adelaide would eventually be only 90 per cent of that in Sydney, whereas at the time it was 95.8 per cent of that in Sydney. The reduction would be achieved on any future adjustments to the basic wage by paying South Australian workers only 75 per cent of any adjustments paid to Sydney workers until the Adelaide basic wage was 90 per cent of the Sydney basic wage. The third item sought by the employers and the Government was that employees in country areas should be granted 25 per cent less than the amount of any increase allowed for Adelaide in any future variations until the country basic wage was 12s. a week behind that of Adelaide.

Several interesting facts emerged from the findings of the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission on these matters. The unions, through Mr. Hawke of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, supported the Federated Enginedrivers and Firemen's application and opposed the South Australian Employers' application. The South Australian Liberal Government appeared as a party in all three cases and opposed the unions' application for the abolition of the country differential by giving general support to the employers, and it also

supported the South Australian employers in their application to have the Adelaide basic wage reduced in relation to that of Sydney.

Regarding the country differential wage, employers submitted evidence as to increased freight, raw material, repairs and power costs away from the metropolitan area. However, the Commission took into account that these increased costs would be outweighed by lower costs of land and buildings. The employers also tried to establish that employees had cheaper living conditions in the country by giving evidence as to lower housing, transport and general living costs. However, on the evidence submitted, the Commissioners came to the conclusion that the costs varied from town to town. They also considered that it was proper to take other factors of living into account. They considered that community services, such as specialized medical treatment and metropolitan facilities for shopping, were things which people living outside the metropolitan area should be able to enjoy whenever the need arose. They considered that employees living in the metropolitan area had all these things within easy reach, and also the whole range of cultural and entertainment facilities which went with city living. By bringing these other factors to account, the Commissioners' final conclusion so far as employees were concerned was that there was no advantage in working in the country which could be expressed in the form of a basic wage lower than that of the appropriate capital city, and therefore they abolished the 3s. lower differential which had applied to country wages since 1934. I consider it an achievement by the unions concerned in having this wage injustice rectified.

I turn now to the matter of the Adelaide basic wage which the employers and the Government sought to have eventually reduced to only 90 per cent of the wage payable in Sydney. The case by the employers for the comparative reduction in the Adelaide basic wage resolved itself into two methods of attack, namely: (1) on a cost of living basis (that is, the relative cost of living as between Adelaide and Sydney), and (2) on the capacity of industry to pay. It was on the matter of the cost of living basis that members on this side were so critical of the Government because we maintain that taxpayers' money should not be expended in aiding employers to lower the living standard of any employees in this State. Highly paid public servants were employed for a considerable time in compiling information to

strengthen the employers' case, and to substantiate this contention I quote from the reasons recently issued by the Commonwealth Conciliation Commissioners. In the following quotation Mr. Robinson was the representative for the employers and Mr. Seaman was the highly paid public servant who endeavoured to build up a case to support the employers. The quotation is:

We turn now to consider the argument about cost of living which we do without making any decision on principle regarding the relevance of such an argument to the fixation generally of the basic wage. Whether Mr. Robinson (representative of the employers) succeeds or fails in this argument, depends almost entirely on the view which we take of Mr. Seaman's evidence because he can succeed only if we agree that Mr. Seaman has achieved such a better or more precise result than the present one and that we are prepared to act on it. Although Mr. Seaman was called by the South Australian Government, Mr. Robinson relied on Mr. Seaman's material for this branch of his argument.

The Commission thoroughly examined the submissions of Mr. Seaman on the relative cost of living between Adelaide and Sydney but rejected his submissions in the following terms:

we have come to the conclusion that we cannot act on Mr. Seaman's measurement of the relative living costs for the purposes of this case. We do so, conscious of the effort and thought which Mr. Seaman put into the matter, even more conscious of the fact that the kind of exercise undertaken by Mr. Seaman on the material available cannot furnish the answer precise enough to establish the applicants' case. There were involved too many acts of judgment and too many estimates to enable us to use this exercise as a ground of changing the basic wage differential.

Permit me to make a few observations. The Premier, during the last session of Parliament, tried desperately to avoid the issue that his Government was supporting the employers' application to reduce the living standard of workers in this State, but the current findings of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commissioners on this matter state that the South Australian Government did support the employers' application. The highly paid public servant who prepared the evidence to support the employers was Mr. Seaman, who is Under-Treasurer of this State. In other words, he should be a servant of the people rather than of vested interests. When we consider the number of his own personal judgments contained in his case we should ask ourselves just how much of his time was utilized in the preparation of a case to support employers (because we paid for this time by way of taxation) and I ask members how he was able

to continue his duties as Under-Treasurer whilst he was preparing this case for the State Liberal Government.

In my opinion, the employers in this case had only themselves to blame for any rejection by the Arbitration Commission relating to wage reduction because, instead of increasing profits by means of increased turnover, they prefer to increase profits by raising prices. Employers base their prices on a percentage mark-up on costs and naturally employees object to the reduction in their living standards brought about by increased prices without any compensating increase in wages. Employers should be attempting to increase the prosperity of this State as well as their own material gains by way of increased productivity rather than crying poverty to the Arbitration Commission, and the Government should foster increased productivity, which would provide the basis of advancement for our State, rather than align itself with vested interests at the expense of all employees in this State. In view of the foregoing, I move to insert in the Address in Reply the following new paragraph:

1a. This House condemns the unjustified action of the Government—

- (a) in making available officers of the Crown to prepare evidence and to appear before the Federal Arbitration Commission in support of a differential Federal basic wage for Adelaide so that eventually it would be reduced to 90 per cent of the Sydney basic wage,
- (b) in joining forces with the Employers Federation of South Australia and the South Australian Chamber of Manufacturers in their application to reduce the living standards of the people of this State.

I do not wish to say any more about the amendment, as I have already given an outline of my reasons for moving it. I now turn briefly to His Excellency's Speech, paragraph 5 of which stated:

The past season proved to be one of the best ever experienced in the State, the harvest yielding an all time record of one hundred million bushels. This has been accompanied by prolific pasture growth, substantial improvements in livestock numbers and excellent conditions in the fruit industry.

This Speech was prepared by the Government. I have already indicated that the Government cried poverty when it appeared before the Federal Arbitration Commission, but not one word was mentioned in this Speech about what the rural production of this country would do to assist the State. The fat lamb position is not mentioned. The Government knows this as well as I, and I am not a primary producer by any means, yet the

Speech does not indicate what the Government intends to do. Much fuss was made about the terrific harvest, but would we have been able to dispose of it had Red China not decided to buy Australian wheat? Where are the big woolgrowers? I do not know if the member for Frome is so big, but others in this House are fairly big growers. When I look around at some functions at the costumes worn by the spouses of wool barons and others, I notice that they are made of nylon and therefore do not advertise wool. I would have thought that the responsible Government of today would indicate what it intended to do to assist the people of this State in what appears to me to be our present unsavoury position.

This Government has set out to earn increased revenue and I believe that we can claim that in the process it has imposed certain hardships upon the people who are unable to meet many of the commitments that have been imposed upon them. I refer in particular to the increase in rental values for the purpose of increasing water charges. Until now this Parliament has not been given full information regarding the additional revenue that has been received by the Government. We have not been given any explanation as to how some of this revenue is to be used in assisting to solve the problem with which we are confronted, not only in this State but throughout Australia, as a result of the credit squeeze that has been imposed by a like type of Government.

Early this year it caused me great concern. I communicated with the Prime Minister of this country requesting that a certain conference be held after the Loan Council meeting. I communicated with the Treasurer of this State on the importance of convening a conference representative of industry, commerce, and the trade union movement, but both the Treasurer of this State and the Prime Minister have avoided those conferences suggested in an endeavour to lessen the hardships imposed upon the people of this country.

I know that the Treasurer will agree with me that we are still a developing country.

I am positive he will also agree that we have the manpower, the materials and the demand, and also that there should not be the other obstacle to overcome, namely, that of the implementation of a plan to provide employment—to give the right of full employment to all those persons who desire to be employed. If he believes in these matters, why were my representations ignored? Must he rely upon his Treasury officials or is he imposing his own views on them? Probably it could be likened to the opinion he sought from the Crown Solicitor on the Frome by-election, which opinion was entirely contrary to an opinion I obtained from a prominent Q.C. of this State.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Does your Q.C. live at Norwood?

Mr. FRANK WALSH: If the Treasurer is referring to my colleague, the member for Norwood, he should know that the member has not attained the distinction of taking silk. I should not like the Premier to reflect on the qualifications of the member for Norwood or on those of the members for Glenelg or Mitcham because they have all yet to prove themselves and attain that distinction. I do not know who is responsible for bestowing the honour.

We have unemployment in this State and there is no greater hardship imposed upon any person, particularly with a family, hirings and other commitments which he may have, than unemployment. We on this side will be looking for some positive action by the Government in the Loan Estimates to be brought down to relieve the present position. I recommend the adoption of the Address in Reply as amended.

Mr. CLARK (Gawler): I second the amendment.

Mr. LAUCKE secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.14 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, July 27, at 2 p.m.