

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, July 17, 1962.

The SPEAKER (Hon. T. C. Stott) took the Chair at 2.7 p.m. and read prayers.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a commission under the hand of His Excellency and the Public Seal of the State, empowering me to administer the oath of allegiance or to receive the affirmation necessary to be taken by members of the House of Assembly.

DEATH OF MEMBERS.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from Mrs. Edith Anthony:

34 The Crescent,
Brighton.
20/4/62.

The Hon. T. C. Stott,
Speaker,
House of Assembly,
Parliament House,
Adelaide.
Dear Mr. Stott,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your kind letter of April 12 advising me of the tributes paid by the House of Assembly to the memory of my late and beloved husband on the first day of the new Parliament. These expressions of sympathy and affection will be cherished by me always. Would you kindly convey my deep appreciation to all members of the House of Assembly? Your personal thoughts are highly valued, and may I take this opportunity of wishing you well in your new high office.

Yours very sincerely,
Edith Anthony.

I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter, dated May 5, 1962, from Mrs. Nellie Edmonds, of 12 Allen Avenue, Brooklyn Park:

The Hon. T. C. Stott, C.B.E., M.P.,
Speaker of the House of Assembly,
Parliament House,
Adelaide.

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I thank you for your letter of April 12 conveying a resolution of the House of Assembly expressing regret at the recent death of my beloved husband. These expressions were a source of great comfort to me and the members of the family, and I desire to thank you and the members of the House of Assembly for them.

Yours sincerely,
Nellie Edmonds.

QUESTIONS.**PARKSIDE MENTAL HOSPITAL.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Before asking my question, Mr. Speaker, I desire to know whether you will consider making arrangements so that, on other occasions when we may be awaiting your presence in the House, the mace will be placed on the table so that the business of the House may proceed as soon as practicable after 2 p.m.

Recently, in company with some members of this House and members of the Rotary Club, I visited Parkside Mental Hospital. I was indeed pleased to find adequate accommodation and comfort provided in Cleland and Paterson Houses, but was sadly disappointed with the accommodation and facilities in much of the remainder of the hospital. I hasten to commend the staff, both male and female, for the work performed in the interests of the patients under these inadequate conditions. I do not know whether the Premier is aware of these unsatisfactory conditions, but, prior to the next Loan Estimates being submitted to this House, will he arrange for an inspection of the hospital by members of the present Parliament so that they may be acquainted with the existing conditions and thus assist the Government with any plan it may envisage for future improvements?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government is always anxious to facilitate the inspection of institutions by members—and that, of course, covers all types of hospital. For some time the Government has not been satisfied with the mental institutions in this State. The new Director of Mental Health and senior architects from this State have visited places as far afield as New Zealand to see what modern ideas can be introduced into our buildings for the complete reorganization and, if I may use the word, rehabilitation of our mental hospital buildings. Many of these buildings are old and have served a purpose not in accordance with present methods of treatment. Unfortunately, we have been informed that there are no advanced mental hospital buildings in Australia, although there are some in New Zealand. Possibly that was why the Director and the architects went to New Zealand. It is not possible for this matter to be included in the Loan programme this year, as the Public Works Standing Committee has not reported upon it; indeed, the committee could not have reported upon it until it had proper plans. I am reserving a sum for building purposes and

I shall see that Parliamentary approval is obtained as soon as the Government can legally introduce the Estimates. Money is being earmarked and held for that purpose, and as soon as possible the Public Works Committee will have plans before it for early consideration. The Government will do its utmost to expedite this matter. I understand that complaints have been made regarding the number of staff employed, although I am not sure to what extent those complaints are justified. I have noticed a statement made on that matter. Steps are already being taken to have the whole staffing position reviewed.

HOUSING TRUST BUILDING SCHEME.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Can the Treasurer say whether the Housing Trust intends to erect houses under the £50 deposit scheme in country areas; if it does, when building will commence; and whether applications for these houses are being considered?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The £50 deposit is not necessarily a flat rate: it is a minimum. Houses will be built in areas where the trust normally builds rental houses. With such a small deposit it is not possible to have a system of six-monthly or three-monthly repayments: it involves weekly repayments. Under those circumstances it is not practicable to introduce this scheme in places where there is not some organization already established for the collection of rents. The Advances for Homes Act and other Acts will apply to all areas.

PRUNING COMPETITIONS.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I understand that it is rumoured that the pruning competition which has been sponsored by the Department of Agriculture with, I believe, great advantage to those engaged in the fruitgrowing industry and some advantage to the economy of the State, is being discontinued. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether there are plans to discontinue these competitions and, if there are, whether he will reconsider the decision?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Pruning competitions are generally run by branches of the Agricultural Bureau. At one stage the department supplied judges for these pruning competitions, as well as for crop, carcass, and other competitions. It was then found that tremendous time was being spent by departmental officers in travelling around the State to judge at these competitions. Many were judging amongst people who were alive to the

need for improvement and expert in their line of primary production, and it was felt that by discontinuing this judging the department's resources could be used more economically. That decision was made four or five years ago, and it has been adhered to, I think with very little disadvantage. One difficulty about pruning competitions is that the techniques of pruning have changed radically in the last few years. Although the department does not now provide judges for these competitions, it does not intend to try to stop them or in any way to interfere with them. One change in technique is that winter pruning in some kinds of tree has ceased. For instance, apricot pruning in the winter is almost invariably discouraged because of the danger of gummosis. Pruning techniques have also changed in other ways, but there is a demand for people who are adept with pruning tools for various kinds of winter pruning, and as such the pruning competition provides, I think, a valuable extension service.

The only thing is that we have a problem, in that one does not know quite what attitude to take about the techniques of pruning. On the one hand, we have the enthusiasm and interest in a district which is used to winter pruning; on the other hand, the latest techniques are changing rapidly. So, although the department does not in any way try to stop them, it is not providing judges for the winter pruning competitions at the moment. If there is any specific inquiry that the honourable member would like to make of me about that, I will try to get the information for him.

AIR POLLUTION.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Living in the hills, I have the opportunity daily of looking out over the city, and I have noticed in recent months and years an increasingly heavy and dirty pollution of smog or haze (or whatever you like to call it) over the metropolitan area and the Adelaide Plains generally. It seems obvious from this that the air of the plains is becoming increasingly polluted, and this can become and is becoming a serious problem. That being so, does the Government intend to take any action in connection therewith and, if so, what action will it take?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This is not a problem, by the way, that is purely incidental to South Australia and there has been legislation establishing advisory committees provided in one or two other States at least. The Government is at present introducing legislation to provide for an advisory

committee in connection with this matter. The modern problem is changing also. There are now fewer fires in the metropolitan area because of the increasing introduction of electricity and gas, and wood fires are becoming a thing of the past. But the real problem arises from diesel and petrol transport—railcars, motor cars and buses—and that, I think, is much more of a problem than any arising from fixed installations at the moment. However, legislation is being prepared to deal with this.

THIRD PARTY INSURANCE.

Mr. McKEE: Several of my constituents have complained that they have difficulty in obtaining third party insurance cover from some insurance companies. As third party insurance is compulsory, would the Minister representing the Attorney-General in this House explain what action could be taken against companies that decline to accept applications for third party insurance?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This matter is controlled by the Treasurer as, under the legislation in force, he has to approve of the insurance companies that can take compulsory insurance. I have had difficulty on two or three occasions where a company has refused to take third party insurance premiums. The difficulty usually arises because a person gives his comprehensive insurance to one insurer and proceeds to take his third party insurance to another. The third party (or Act) insurance is unpopular, and the comprehensive insurance is looked upon as an offsetting advantage. The action I have taken in proper cases where I have investigated the matter and found that the company has not been playing the game has been to notify it that, unless it takes all cases, I will mark it off the list of approved insurers.

On one occasion I had to do that, and that action quickly brought the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. If the honourable member will give me the names of the persons unable to get insurance cover and the company to which they applied, I will investigate the matter for him and let him have a report.

PAPER PULP MILL.

Mr. HARDING: My question, which concerns the proposed paper pulp mill in the lower South-East, and mainly in the Mount Gambier district, is in two parts: First, has the site been purchased and, if so, by whom? Secondly, are negotiations still proceeding concerning the establishment of a paper pulp mill?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: A company named Harmac was legally formed and purchased a site for the establishment of a mill. As honourable members know, an Indenture Act was passed to enable the company to take water from Eight Mile Creek, and also to have the right of the disposal of effluent. Since then the Canadian company, which was a major partner in the undertaking, has intimated that it does not desire to proceed with the undertaking—not because of any problem here but, as I understand it, because of a problem at the other end. The company has been involved in a merger and I understand there has been some internal problem in Canada in connection with it.

At present, negotiations are proceeding to establish whether it is possible to get a suitable substitute for the Canadian company. In fact, I have been told that a decision may be reached in this matter next week and I have no doubt that, although the Canadian company will not be associated with the project, it will go ahead because there is a big local demand for the material that would be produced, and South Australia is the only State with timber of sufficient tonnage to enable the project to go ahead. Indeed, we have many good features to help with the establishment of it.

PINUS RADIATA.

Mr. CORCORAN: In view of the restrictions passed on the import of certain softwoods recently by the Commonwealth Government, can the Minister of Forests say to what extent this will affect the sale of *pinus radiata* produced in the forests of the South-East? Will this mean an improvement in the employment situation in this industry?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The restrictions are mostly applied to imported hardwoods. The effects upon the Woods and Forests Department's activities would not be harmful; if anything, they might be indirectly beneficial. There may be some improvement in its trading activities. In general, it is getting along fairly well although we have more difficulty in dealing with some of its lines, such as case timber, and I do not think there would be much effect upon that line.

RICE.

Mr. JENKINS: Yesterday I was reading an article in a periodical that referred to the rice crop grown on the Murrumbidgee areas. From the season just completed about £3,000,000 worth of rice is available for export

and £2,000,000 for local sale. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the Government or the Agriculture Department has any information on the suitability of land in the Murray Valley of South Australia for growing rice and whether the climatic conditions would favour such a crop?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I do not think there is much scope for rice production in South Australia but I will get an expert report from the Director of Agriculture and let the honourable member have it.

MURRAY BRIDGE CROSSING.

Mr. BYWATERS: On Saturday night a fatal accident occurred at the railway crossing four miles south-east of Murray Bridge. This crossing has been the scene of many accidents and since May 27, 1961, five people have been killed and 15 injured there in accidents. Other accidents have happened in which no-one has been injured. The Government recognizes the dangerous nature of the crossing and has stated its intention of building an overway bridge. The ambulance driver on Saturday night, Mr. Wardle, recommends additional warning devices until this bridge has been erected. A Highways Department spokesman said that the bridge had been planned for some time, but that difficulty in securing right of entry to property had delayed the work. I raised this matter in Parliament last year and was informed that the work would commence this year. Will the Minister of Works obtain a report to see whether this work can be expedited?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member telephoned me this morning about this matter and I requested that he ask the question so that I would have time overnight to get the information for him. As the House knows, my colleague, the Minister of Roads, is also Minister of Railways so I will refer the matter to him and ask him to let me have a report for the honourable member tomorrow or as soon as possible.

ELECTRICITY SUBSIDIES.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: My question relates to the subsidy to be paid to electricity consumers in country areas. Can the Premier say whether this subsidy will be paid at Kimba, Cleve, Cowell and Arno Eay where the electricity plants are privately-owned? Will subsidies be paid to consumers of electricity from privately-owned plants?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Legislation will be introduced this session to enable the Government to make an arrangement with the Electricity Trust whereby the price of electricity in the country will be related more closely to that in the metropolitan area. When I speak of the price of electricity I am referring to tariffs and not to surcharges that are applied in providing electricity. The trust has agreed that over a five-year period, with the aid of a subsidy from the Government, it will bring the tariff on country electricity to within 10 per cent of the metropolitan tariff. The Government subsidy will be large in the first year and will decrease to a smaller sum in the final year. I will go into the details of the agreement when the legislation is introduced. The Government perceived that it could be unfair to public electricity undertakings that have been given a franchise to supply areas outside the range of the Electricity Trust, so in addition to subsidizing the trust it will provide a sum to enable a somewhat similar subsidy to be applied to public supplies. Some public supplies are provided by district councils and others under a charter controlled by district councils. The Bill to be introduced will be ready early in the session and I hope it will be available for consideration as soon as the Address in Reply debate is completed. To answer the honourable member's specific question, if the supplies he mentioned are public supplies that have a charter under the Local Government Act for their introduction they will be covered, but if they are merely private supplies to private properties they will not be covered.

TAPEROO RAILWAY CROSSING.

Mr. TAPPING: For over a year the Port Adelaide council has made numerous requests to the Commissioner of Railways urging the speedy installation of a warning device at the Gedville Road railway crossing, Taperoo, which is near three important schools—the Taperoo High School, the Taperoo Primary School and the Roman Catholic Primary School. Last April the Commissioner was again asked whether he would consider this important matter. He acknowledged the letter, but nothing further has been heard. I have been approached by the local progress association, the high school association and parents of the scholars who use the crossing. They are all concerned lest fatalities occur. There are about 1,500 scholars attending the three schools. Will the Minister of Works take this matter

up with the Minister of Railways and obtain a report? Will he also express my grave concern?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will endeavour to obtain the information.

DISTRICT COUNCIL BOUNDARIES.

Mr. CURREN: Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Local Government, a reply to the question I asked on April 18 regarding what is known as Taylorville Ward in the Waikerie District Council area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Commissioner appointed by the Government under the Local Government Act to inquire into this matter made a recommendation but was subsequently asked to reconsider it. He, however, saw no reason, at that time, to depart from his original recommendation. The next step could be an appeal to the Minister of Local Government. The Minister informs me that, in his opinion, the matter might remain as it is until the end of this calendar year when, if a review is desired, he will be prepared to re-examine the matter.

MORPHETT STREET BRIDGE.

Mr. COUMBE: Some time ago the Premier announced that he would take up with the Adelaide City Council a proposal to reconstruct the Morphett Street bridge over the River Torrens and the railway yard. Will he say whether those negotiations have taken place and, if they have, whether anything has come of them? If they have not taken place, when are they likely to take place?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government formally offered to provide half of the capital cost of widening the Morphett Street bridge so as to make it a main outlet from the city. Although I have little knowledge of this, I understand that the matter has been discussed by the Adelaide City Council and that it does not intend to accept the offer. However, I will check the position.

GAWLER BY-PASS.

Mr. CLARK: Will the Minister of Works ascertain from the Minister of Roads when it is expected that the new by-pass road around the city of Gawler will be ready for traffic?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask my colleague for a report.

FIBROMA VIRUS VACCINE.

Mr. LAUCKE: As myxomatosis has been of extraordinary value in controlling rabbits in this State, it is disturbing to note that there is

no restriction on the sale of fibroma virus, which protects rabbits from myxomatosis. The Commonwealth Minister for Health (Senator Wade) has said that distribution of fibroma virus is a matter for the States to decide upon. As there is a real danger that commercial rabbit farmers may inoculate their animals against myxomatosis and that these animals may escape to wild rabbit locations, there could be a breakdown in the protection from the plague of rabbits in South Australia, or throughout the whole of Australia. Will the Minister of Agriculture state the Government's policy regarding the use or availability of fibroma virus in this State?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Government does not permit the use of fibroma virus vaccine against myxomatosis, and regulations to that effect were approved some time ago. This State has discouraged other States from allowing its use. Although there is some doubt on whether or not this vaccine protects wild rabbits, it seems only sensible, while there is any doubt, to discourage its use by any means possible. Dr. Shope, the originator of the vaccine, came to Australia recently and made a statement that cast doubts on the safety of its use in view of our rabbit pest problem.

NAILSWORTH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM.

Mr. JENNINGS: Recently, in reply to a letter I wrote to the Minister of Education in response to an application by the Nailsworth Boys Technical High School Council for a gymnasium and change rooms to be established at that school, the Minister wrote a letter to me in which he said:

Change rooms for secondary schools are at present being re-designed by the Public Buildings Department in order that a less expensive type of change room could be provided.

Does the Minister know whether that design has been approved by his department? The Minister also stated:

It is still the policy of the Education Department not to provide gymnasiums and change rooms except on a subsidy basis.

Since the Minister wrote this letter, has the policy of the department in this regard been changed? In the final paragraph of his letter he said:

If the Parents and Friends Association of the Nailsworth Boys Technical High School wish to erect a gymnasium and change rooms, consideration will be given to the provision of a building on a subsidy basis.

Will the Minister say whether, if an application is made, it will be granted?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: How- ever desirable gymnasia and change rooms may be (and I do not dispute that they are desir- able), in view of the pressing need for still more classrooms, the Director of Education a few months ago took up vigorously the question of altering the department's policy on this matter. He thought that we should postpone construct- ing gymnasia and change rooms as straight-out items of expenditure by the Education Depart- ment, and suggested that their design should be altered so that they would be much cheaper. He asked the Director of Public Buildings if his department could design a cheaper struc- ture. He also recommended to me that, for the time being at any rate, these amenities should be provided on a subsidy basis. Accord- ingly, I notified several applicants of my new policy, which was arrived at on the recommen- dation of the Director of Education. The reply received by the honourable member is one of several I wrote. As far as I am aware, the Public Buildings Department has not yet been able finally to design the amended structure. As soon as the Director of Public Buildings is able to do so, he will forward the amended design to the Director of Education. Concerning the fourth question, I would not only consider, but would con- sider most favourably, any application by the Nailsworth Boys Technical High School for a subsidy for this purpose.

RAIL STANDARDIZATION.

Mr. CASEY: I understand that when the Premier came back from the Loan Council meeting in Canberra some mention was made of extra grants being made available to South Australia for railway construction. Will the Premier say whether the Government intends to construct a broad gauge line from Terowie to Peterborough so that it will be the same gauge (5ft. 3in.) as the Adelaide-Terowie line? If it does, will this line follow the same route as the present 3ft. 6in. gauge from Terowie to Peterborough?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Fol- lowing on the decision of the High Court in the railway standardization case, I discussed this matter with the Prime Minister. As I interpret it, the High Court's decision does not enable this State to set the pace at which rail- way construction work may proceed. I have submitted to the Prime Minister a proposal for the standardization of the railway line from Port Pirie to Broken Hill. There is, of course, an alternative open to the Common- wealth Government in connection with the

Silverton tramway, but the proposal I have submitted is for the standardization of the railway between Port Pirie and Broken Hill to be completed in seven years. This involves an expenditure of a little over £2,000,000 a year. As a feature of that proposal, I have also recommended to the Commonwealth that the 14 miles between Terowie and Peterborough should also be converted to broad gauge so that there would not be a break of gauge at Terowie and then another break of gauge at Peter- borough for any goods going to the Eastern States. A committee of Commonwealth Liberal members came here and investigated this matter and, as a result, I think it will feature in the Budget Papers to be laid before the Commonwealth Parliament next month.

PUBLIC SERVICE SALARY INCREASES.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Can the Premier say whether it is the intention of the Government, following on a submission by the Public Service Association, to negotiate a general claim for wage increases by the Public Service Associa- tion rather than to allow the matter simply to go to the Public Service Arbitrator? I under- stand that the Premier has had a submission for negotiations before him for some time now. Can the Premier say whether the Government intends to provide in the Budget for a general level of increased wages for public servants in South Australia? As I understood his announcement some time ago relating to the extra cost to South Australia of Public Service salaries—I think he mentioned the figure of about £1,000,000—that contemplated more than the increases that have been granted by the Public Service Arbitrator: and in fact, a figure close to the sum that would be provided were the Public Service's general claim to be granted. As there was a Budget surplus at the end of the past year and as the Premier has had something in mind about this figure for some time, can he say whether it is intended to make some general provision in the Budget for Public Service salary increases?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In reply to the latter part of the honourable member's question, the procedure that I have adopted over many years now in preparing the Budgets for presentation to the House has been to provide for the amounts that have been actually granted. In that way, when the Budget is presented it provides for salaries that have been granted by a wage-fixing authority. The Appropriation Bill, introduced after the Estimates have been considered, contains a clause that enables me to pay any increases

provided by any appropriate authority after the Budget for that financial year is passed. The Budget Papers provide for the actual amount that has been approved, and Parliament gives me an authority to pay any supplementary sums that may be granted. The amount of £1,000,000 mentioned by the honourable member was purely and simply a figure that was more or less taken out of the air. In regard to teachers' salaries, the Teachers Salaries Board had made a fairly important decision, the total cost of which until June 30 next would be some £750,000. Speaking from memory, about £200,000 of that was for retrospective payments. I knew that the Public Service Association had lodged a claim and I assumed that some alteration would be made, so I had been considering that probably by the time the Budget Papers were presented there would be an increase of about £1,000,000.

Concerning the first part of the question, this matter has been before the newly appointed tribunal, which has asked the Public Service Commissioner and the Public Service Association to confer in order to agree on the key positions in the Public Service so that comparisons may be made. I understand that the Commissioner is facilitating compliance with that request. As far as I know, the Public Service Commissioner considers that, as Parliament has appointed a tribunal, it is not his job to usurp its function. This matter comes under the Chief Secretary, but I am informed that the Public Service Commissioner is prepared to consult, and probably is consulting, in order to establish key positions for the purpose of granting an award.

BIRKENHEAD BRIDGE.

Mr. RYAN: Following an article in the *Mail* of June 16, in which it was stated that the redecking of the Birkenhead bridge would take place some time this year and that no traffic congestion would occur while this work was being done, I was approached by several bodies and organizations in my district. On approaching the Highways Department, I was informed that this matter had been misreported and that there would be some traffic congestion while this work was being carried out. As there is terrific congestion on this bridge, will the department consider carrying out this work outside of normal hours? As the Minister of Works knows, I have pointed out to him on a number of occasions that the bridge is up and down all the time like a yo-yo, and the men who will be working on the span portion of

the bridge will be seriously inconvenienced by its opening and closing while the work is being done.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask my colleague for a report on that matter.

UMEWARRA MISSION SCHOOL.

Mr. RICHES: In spite of representations that have been made in this House and assurances that have been given over more than two years concerning the inadequate facilities for teaching children at the Umeewarra Mission, I am greatly concerned at the delay that has taken place in the erection of a school. I was given to understand that the building would be erected by the beginning of this school year, and then that it would be erected by the beginning of the second term. I understand from a press statement that it was stated later it would be erected at the beginning of July, that the school was to be brought down from Radium Hill. Nothing has been done yet at Port Augusta in connection with this matter, and the conditions under which the teachers are trying to labour are, to my mind, a scandal. Can the Minister say when that school will be provided and what has caused the delay in re-erecting this building from Radium Hill?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Speaking from memory, I think the last information I conveyed to the honourable member on this matter was by letter and not through the press. It may have been commented on, but I think I wrote to him and informed him that a building was available at Radium Hill; I said that, as soon as it was able, the department would transport it to Umeewarra and erect it there. I also told him that that could not be done before July. It is now July and I know the honourable member has been concerned about this matter, as I have been, for some time. I know he also knows that there was some delay in the general education policy there. That matter has been resolved. I do not necessarily suggest at this moment that it has added to the delay although it did in the initial stages.

When this matter was first raised I acknowledged the need for a building, inspected the school, and said I would endeavour to obtain a suitable building. A number of factors have been involved. Now that the honourable member has reminded me again, I will find out when the school will be at Umeewarra. The last assurance I gave was that the matter would be attended to in July, and I have not been

advised of any reason for altering that time table. I will try to obtain a reply by tomorrow.

STOVES FOR SCHOOL RESIDENCES.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My question concerns the provision of electric stoves in Education Department houses. Representations have been made to me that some schoolhouses in the country are still fitted with wood stoves, even where electric power is provided. In view of the moderate cost of electric stoves, will the Minister of Education consider installing electric stoves in country school residences now fitted with wood stoves?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have considered this matter from time to time and taken it up with my colleague, the Minister of Works. We have had some discussions about it in Cabinet, most recently as the result of representations made to me by the member for Stirling (Mr. Jenkins). Finally, a system was evolved whereby these stoves would be installed in an orderly fashion upon proper expert reports from the Public Buildings Department. I think that my colleague, the Minister of Works, has evolved a policy on that. It would be more concise if he or I wrote to the honourable member setting it out in more detail, in the form of a docket.

CIGARETTE PRICES.

Mr. LANGLEY: I have been approached by a constituent, a grocer, who has complained to me that his supplies of cigarettes have been stopped by the manufacturer's agents because he has been offering them to the public at less than the recognized retail price. However, in the same street a nation-wide chain store is selling these cigarettes for even less. Will the Premier have this matter investigated by the Prices Commissioner, to whom I am prepared to hand all the relevant information?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. If the honourable member will let me have the name of the person concerned so that the Prices Commissioner can follow it up, I shall be pleased to do that.

STICKERS ON WINDSCREENS.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Recently, it was reported in the press that the Whyalla City Council had approached the Municipal Association in the matter of seeking advice on the legality of placing stickers on motor cars. I will not debate the question of the legality of sticking these notices on motor cars, but I am

concerned about the practice obtaining in Adelaide, where the notices are not stuck on the windscreen but are placed behind the windscreen wipers. Often, when this is done by the inspector the windscreen wiper is strained and in some instances the rubber is displaced. I know of two instances, one concerning myself, where the windscreen has been damaged as the result of the displacement of the rubber; it has become impaired to such an extent that it affects the resale value of the car. Also, if it were on the driver's side, it would affect his vision. Will the Premier take up with the Adelaide City Council a request that, if the placing of stickers on cars is legal, instead of their being placed behind the windscreen wiper, as is the present practice, they be stuck on the near side of the windscreen?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

FLAGS.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Recently the Australian Institute of Builders has been making available to South Australian schools Union Jacks and Australian flags mounted on poles that are suitable for displaying in corridors and halls. These flags are deeply appreciated by parent and friend bodies, school councils and school committees and, I should imagine, by the Minister of Education. They do much to inspire a civic and national pride in the students and foster a greater appreciation for the value of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Will you, Mr. Speaker, approach this body to see whether these flags could be presented to this Parliament and displayed in the foyer of this House?

The SPEAKER: I will consider the matter.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I understand that when tenders were called for the erection of new schools at Gilles Plains, Seaton Park, Campbelltown and Magill, Mount Gambier stone was to be used in the construction. My information now discloses that other materials will be used instead of Mount Gambier stone. Can the Minister of Works confirm that it was the Government's intention to use Mount Gambier stone for these schools, and, if it was, can he say why Mount Gambier stone is not to be used?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I was informed by telephone this morning that a member of the Legislative Council intended to ask this question and I said that I would try to have a report tomorrow. The same reply applies to the Leader's question. I will make the information available as soon as I have it.

KANGAROO ISLAND SETTLERS.

Mr. HARDING: I understand that the Under Treasurer recently visited Canberra to obtain finance to enable this Government to assist some Kangaroo Island war service settlers. Can the Treasurer report on Mr. Seaman's visit and the results?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No. Following on reports that were submitted by the member for the district, the matter was investigated and it has been discussed in Canberra. We await a decision from the Commonwealth Minister. I do not know when it will be available.

PENSIONER FLATS.

Mr. HUTCHENS: In recent issues of the *Mail* and the *Advertiser* articles have referred to the unfortunate living conditions of many aged people who are paying exorbitant rents because they have nowhere else to go. Because of the limitations of the Landlord and Tenant Act these tenants have been forced to sign agreements and pay high rents. Although I appreciate what the Housing Trust has done in trying to accommodate these people, will the Premier obtain a report on the number of applicants awaiting pensioner flat accommodation and on the number of flats that have been allocated to these people?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I know that the honourable member realizes that frequently it is a financial rather than a housing problem. The rents are unsatisfactory, although the housing is not. I will try to get some general information for the honourable member. Much accommodation was provided initially under the State subsidies scheme and, latterly, under the Commonwealth subsidies scheme.

TRANSPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

(1) What amount has been paid as remuneration for their services since May 5, 1960, to members of the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council pursuant to section 9 of the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council Act, 1954-1960?

(2) What matters have been referred to the Metropolitan Transport Advisory Council pursuant to section 12 of the said Act since May 5, 1960?

(3) What reports have been made by this council pursuant to section 12 of this Act since May 5, 1960?

(4) What other duties, if any, have been carried out by the members of this council in their capacity as members since May 5, 1960?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The replies are:

(1) For the period May 5, 1960, to June 30, 1962—£1,619.

(2) None.

(3) None.

(4) None.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Port Lincoln Hospital Additions (final),
 Tailem Bend to Keith Trunk Water Main,
 Trunk Water Main from Myponga Trunk
 Main (near Morphett Vale) to Seacliff,
 Highways and Local Government Department
 Office Building, Walkerville,
 Modbury-Para Hills Water Supply and
 Sewerage Scheme,
 Robe Boat Haven,
 Lenswood Water Supply,
 Kangaroo Creek Reservoir,
 Conversion of Former O.B.I. Building for
 Use by Education Department,
 Kingscote and Central Kangaroo Island
 Water Supply,
 Royal Adelaide Hospital Additional
 Buildings (progress).

Ordered that reports be printed.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Consideration of Committee's report.

Mr. FREEBAIRN (Light): It falls to the lot of a member of this House only occasionally to have the honour of moving the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech. I am conscious of the honour paid to the District of Light and me, a new member and the youngest member in this House, in having this responsibility given to me.

Whatever comments may be made about Parliamentarians, it must be remembered that we who are assembled here have a certain privilege—we represent directly the people who send us here. Whatever our shortcomings, whatever criticisms may be made of us, we have to remember that we have a special function to perform in the community, in that we are selected by a free vote of a free people to represent those who send us here.

In moving the adoption of the Address in Reply, I first affirm my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As a loyal subject I look forward with great joy to the visit to Australia next year of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

In this, my maiden speech, I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to your office. The office of Speaker is the highest that this House can bestow and, as a senior member of this House who has given almost 30 years of service to Parliament and State, your elevation is well-earned. Your contribution to the economic betterment of the farming community is well-known and widely respected. Possibly no-one in South Australia's history has done more for the wheat-growers than you have done. I congratulate you on your elevation as Speaker, and have no doubt that you will fill your office with distinction. I also congratulate the member for Angas on his election as Chairman of Committees.

I thank the people in the Light district for electing me as their representative in this House. I assure all sections of the community in Light and the electors, whatever their political views may be, that while I am their member I will co-operate with and assist them at all times. I should like to mention generally the members who formerly represented the district. Since the creation of the single member electorate of Light in 1938 there have been five members, including a former Premier. All gave attention to the problems of their constituents and represented their district well. I trust that I shall be able to give similar satisfaction to the people of Light.

I now turn to the contents of His Excellency's speech to the thirty-seventh Parliament at the opening of its first session. His Excellency gave a picture of progress and prosperity. His résumé of the Government's stewardship and achievements under the authority of the last Parliament makes an impressive record. The Speech also gave us a brief preview of legislation that we may expect to be brought down in the future. The overall pattern is one of prosperity and encouragement. During the life of the present Government the State has made great industrial expansion. In my own short lifetime, South Australia has progressed from a simple primary-producing State to an industrial State with a strong and varied economy.

I should like to mention some points in His Excellency's speech that apply in a general

way to the Light electorate. The problems in Light are those which one would usually associate with a relatively lightly populated rural district. In area, Light is large: it extends from the Adelaide Plains to the River Murray. Every economically important rural industry, with the exception of forestry, is well represented—the wheat farmlands of the Hundred of Alma, going north through the increasing rainfall districts of Riverton, Saddleworth and Auburn to the high rainfall area of Watervale with its vineyards and orchards; going east across the rolling country, taking in Marrabel, Kapunda, Hampden and Eudunda; still east across the Murray Plains to Morgan and Cadell on the River Murray. It is my privilege to represent a rural people whose lives are bound up with rural industries—pastoral, farming and fruitgrowing. We acknowledge, however, that a prosperous secondary industry community is essential to the overall stability of this State.

I wish now to talk about the particular problems that affect the people in the district of Light. As I see it, the development of these industries and the towns that depend on them are affected by three main factors—water, power and transport—which are all matters of State administration. I intend to deal briefly with these three services which mean so much to the continuing development of the Light district.

Part of the district is well served with reticulated water, but in certain areas this is not so. The old geological land forms of the northern Mount Lofty Ranges, although they cause a good precipitation of natural rainfall and in the main are fertile and productive, present problems of costs for hydraulic engineers. To illustrate the difficulties of the region, I will give some detail of a scheme to supply the town of Marrabel. Marrabel is a smallish town in the centre of my electorate; it is the centre of a fertile district with an average annual rainfall of about 20in. The Engineering and Water Supply Department recently completed investigations of approximate costs involved in serving the township and district. The scheme would involve pumping water from the Warren trunk main near Riverton to Marrabel, a distance of seven miles, and the water would have to be pumped through the comparatively high lift of 375ft. The estimated cost of the scheme is £44,300, of which £36,000 would be represented by mains alone. Expenses of operation are estimated at £860, and, inclusive of interest and depreciation, they total £4,310.

The revenue from country lands rating along the seven miles of feeder main would be about £528 annually. The township revenue, based on rating that applies, I understand, to certain country towns including Clare, Jamestown and Yorke Peninsula towns, would be about £206. The total revenue from this scheme would be about £745, equivalent to 1.68 per cent on the gross capital outlay, and insufficient even to pay the working expenses of the scheme. While I give the Government full credit for trying to supply the needs of rural communities, I believe that future policy must be very much more liberal than in the past. As the position stands, water will be supplied to country districts that are prepared to guarantee about 2.5 per cent of the capital cost in revenue. Even this amount can be an imposition, and in many cases it is beyond the capacity of the landowners to pay. On the face of it, the landowners and townspeople of Marrabel would be required to meet a rate loading of 50 per cent to be given a reticulated water service. The point I want to make is that many farming areas must, of necessity, be limited in their productive capacity unless a guaranteed supply of good quality reticulated water is available. The areas of South Australia enjoying a good natural rainfall and fertile soils are not numerous, and I believe that we cannot afford to have their contribution to the national wealth restricted by failing to supply an essential service. I submit that the capital cost of providing services should be a charge borne by the whole community.

Mr. Speaker, I turn now to the matter of electricity. I would not be honest if I did not congratulate the Electricity Trust on the excellent work being done in my district. Through my work as a member, and previously as a private citizen, I have had many contacts with officers of the trust, and I pay a tribute to them and to their work. The story of the trust's programme in its activities in the rural areas is one of achievement. In the last 10 years, some £10,000,000 has been invested in providing electricity services in the rural areas. In this period, about 8,000 miles of transmission lines have been built in rural areas and about 30,000 consumers connected. Taking into account the methods of construction in current use, it is estimated that a further 13,000 rural consumers can be connected to the trust's network. This will involve the construction of a further 8,000 miles of transmission line at a cost of more than £6,000,000, and the programme is expected to be practically completed within the next five years.

Of course, it is the introduction of the single wire earth return system of electricity reticulation that has made possible the great extension of rural electrification. In the last three years, 2,000 miles of single wire transmission line have been constructed. This method of supply, which virtually halves the capital cost as compared with the conventional 3-phase service, will provide, eventually, an amenity and a means of production to some 10,000 consumers in this State who would otherwise not have an opportunity to be supplied with power. In particular does this apply to the Electorate of Light. The mantle of the single steel wires carrying high tension current already extends over almost all the better farming areas. Indeed, Sir, I am informed by the trust that it is expected to have completed almost all the services to consumers in Light by the end of 1963. The sparsely settled areas of the State present a problem for the trust in providing an economical return from power supplied. The people of Light are grateful—and I wish to publicly associate myself with their sentiments—for the untiring work done by the late George Hambour, M.P. in the promotion of electricity supplies through the district.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a brief mention of transport. Transport in today's language means good roads. I refer particularly to the need for good lateral roads in the Lower Mid North of the State, and I do acknowledge the assistance the Government has already provided to local government authorities to commence this work. The need for such a road from the defence consideration alone is sufficient justification to press on with it.

The New South Wales Government is in the process of sealing the Hay-Wentworth road and improving the Wentworth-Renmark road. The South Australian Government has sealed the Renmark-Eudunda road (known as the North of the River road), and five miles has been sealed by the District Council of Eudunda on the Eudunda-Marrabel road. I would urge increased grants to local government to complete the sealing from the boundary of the Eudunda council to Saddleworth and for the sealing of a road to connect Saddleworth and Balaklava. The link road between Balaklava and Port Wakefield is already sealed. The programme of a completely sealed road between Port Wakefield and the North of the River road would relieve the north-south roads of the heavy traffic from Western Australia to the Eastern States, and would provide for intrastate traffic from the Mid North and from Yorke Peninsula

to the Murray Valley. From my own personal observation of stock movements, this road would be of immense benefit. It would also facilitate the freer movement of perishable fruit from the Murray Valley to the western side of the State.

Mr. Speaker, the last point I would mention is the matter of the bulk handling of grain, and of it I make only a brief mention. His Excellency's Speech foreshadows a Bill to guarantee repayment up to a further £200,000 by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited as part of an additional loan of £400,000 to be made by the Commonwealth Trading Bank. The company proposes to extend its facilities for bulk shipping of barley under arrangements with the Australian Barley Board. While I shall have an opportunity to speak on this Bill when it comes before the House, this clause does quietly acknowledge the immense strides that have been made in improvements to the effective handling and marketing of our wheat and barley. It is to be hoped that the abnormally dry conditions prevailing over the State will not persist, and that a good season and bountiful harvest will follow.

I conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker, by thanking the staff at Parliament House and the members on both sides of the House who have received me with courtesy and helpfulness. The balance of forces in the House is such that I am sure we shall have an interesting and lively session. I formally move the adoption of the Address in Reply.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER (Angas): I wish at the outset to associate myself with the remarks of His Excellency the Governor in paragraph 3 of the Speech with which he opened Parliament, when he paid tribute to the late Francis Joseph Condon, Rex Whiting Pearson, Ernest Anthoney, and Ernest Harry Edmonds. I also express sorrow at the recent demise of James Ernest Stephens. It may not be generally known, Mr. Speaker, that these late members between them gave 141 years' service to the State, to Parliament, and to the public of South Australia. They gave the best years of their lives in unstinting service to the people of this State.

Since the opening of Parliament by His Excellency, we have been acquainted with the news that both Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip will be visiting Australia, and I am certain that we, as members of this House, and the people of this State will give Her Majesty and Prince Philip a warm,

affectionate and loyal welcome. I naturally trust that during their brief stay in this State an opportunity may be afforded them to visit the Canaan of Australia, the area better known as the Barossa Valley, which I have the honour to represent.

We have indeed been fortunate for many years past in the choice of Governors for this State. I would say, I think without fear of contradiction, that in the choice of Sir Edric Bastyan this State has again been honoured with a Governor of outstanding calibre. During the short time that they have been in South Australia, Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan have travelled far and wide and made every effort to meet as many people as possible both in the metropolitan and in the rural areas of this State. They have endeared themselves to the hearts of the citizens of South Australia. I wish them well during the rest of their stay in South Australia.

As Commander of the British Forces in Hong Kong prior to his coming to South Australia, Sir Edric was *ex officio* official member of the Executive Council and of the Legislative Council in Hong Kong. By virtue of that office he is fully qualified to carry out the responsible duties associated with the office of Governor of this State. We are all gratified that he was recently honoured in the Birthday Honours List by the award of the K.C.M.G.

May I also take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation of this House of another distinguished gentleman, the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Mellis Napier), who so efficiently and in such a dignified manner has carried out the duties associated with the Lieutenant-Governorship in the interregnum between the departure from this State of Sir Robert George and the arrival here of Sir Edric Bastyan. We are indeed fortunate that we have a Lieutenant-Governor as capable of discharging his duties as Sir Mellis Napier is.

My congratulations go also to the Minister of Education (Sir Baden Pattinson) upon the recent honour bestowed upon him by Her Majesty. We all know that during the hegemony of Sir Baden as Minister of Education from December 1953 onwards he has performed a Herculean task. Since then, the school population of this State has increased from, I think, about 115,000 to 183,500.

Mr. Ryan: You can't blame him for that!

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I certainly do not. As I have said, he has performed a Herculean task in providing the necessary

requirements for the accommodation of those children, the necessary teaching staff, and so forth. It is well known that provision has been made for secondary education exhibitions and scholarships, which, to use the Minister's own words, will ensure that no student with sufficient ability and desire to complete his secondary education will be debarred from doing so through lack of means.

I now congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon your recent elevation to the Speaker's Chair of this House. Realizing, as I do, the importance of the parliamentary institution, particularly in the eyes of the public, I trust that you will have the co-operation of the honourable members of this House in bringing to fruition your recently enunciated desire to maintain the dignity and decorum of this Chamber in the conduct of the proceedings of the House, qualities for which it has been noted in the past.

I should like to say one or two words in connection with my own term of office in the Chair from 1956 to 1962. I take this opportunity of thanking honourable members of this House for the consideration shown to me during that time. I appreciate it very much. If I have failed in my endeavour during that time to fulfil the requirements of a Speaker as enunciated by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir William Harcourt) in the House of Commons in 1895, when he stated:

We expect dignity and authority tempered by urbanity and kindness, tact, patience and judgment, a kind and prudent counsellor, then I express my thanks to the House for its tolerance of me during those past six years.

I also express to the Clerks at the Table my appreciation of the assistance given to me during that time. As honourable members know, our procedure and Standing Orders are based on the practice of the House of Commons. I refer in particular to Standing Order No. 1, which says that, if there is no provision in Standing Orders in respect of a particular matter, then regard must be had to the practice of the House of Commons. I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the House of Commons provides an opportunity and the facilities for study and participation in tuition at Westminster for parliamentary officers. A number of States of the Commonwealth have taken advantage of that provision and facility, particularly New South Wales (several times) and Victoria. I believe the Commonwealth Parliament has also. They have on occasions sent to the House of Commons at Westminster parliamentary officers, one

or other of their clerks, so that they may gain practical experience in the procedures and practices of the House. I suggest to the Government that the time may be ripe for the Clerk of our House (Mr. Combe) to be sent to Westminster to gain that additional experience that other clerks or parliamentary officers in other States have been able to gain by their presence there.

I would next refer to the mover of the motion before the House, the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn), and congratulate him on an outstanding maiden speech. It is seldom that we hear such a maiden speech in this House. I congratulate him sincerely. As he has stated, it is usually regarded as an honour to the district a member represents if he is asked to move or second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. So I, too, regard it as an honour to have been asked to second the motion on this occasion, the more so because my own electorate of Angas is named after a man who was intimately associated with the foundation and colonization of South Australia—I refer to George Fife Angas. He was also a member of the Legislative Council in this State from 1851 onwards for some years. His eldest son, George French Angas, in September, 1846, wrote concerning South Australia as follows:

South Australia is destined to be a great country for it contains within itself all the integral elements of a wealthy and prosperous State. Its mines, its corn, wool and oil, with all the other various productions it yields, if turned to good account by a free and enterprising population, cannot fail to ensure it increasing prosperity and ultimate wealth and importance.

By the industry of an enterprising people this State has, over the years, attained pre-eminence and, Cassandra-like, the prophecy of George French Angas has been fulfilled. He referred to mines. Our mineral production for 1961 was the highest on record, namely, £31,300,000. In corn this State produced over 100,000,000 bushels and the wool clip was almost 177,500,000 lb. While, no doubt, George French Angas when he mentioned oil referred to the olive oil produced here in 1846, I venture to suggest that with the energy that is being put into boring for oil in South Australia the time is not far distant when this State, too, will produce oil in large quantities.

In secondary industry the achievements have been no less spectacular than those in the primary industries, but while the people through their enterprise have been so successful in accomplishing spectacular results,

nevertheless Governments can assist to achieve fine results by creating favourable economic climatic conditions for the industries to flourish. Over the years that the present administration—the Playford Government—has been in power it has striven to do that—to create favourable economic climatic conditions. Through its visionary foresight and its far-sightedness so much has been accomplished.

It has been said of the planner of the city of Adelaide, Colonel Light, that no monument is really necessary to honour him because the well-known words of old, *si monumentum requiris circumspice*, apply to him—if you require a monument to perpetuate his memory, look around. He planned the city of Adelaide that has grown to such proportions. That is his monument. I would say of the present administration—the Playford Government—that it, too, requires no monument. Its monument may be seen if one looks around the State. All its achievements are a monument to what the Government has done in the past. It has attracted to this State industries by the dozens, and the other States of the Commonwealth have frequently been jealous of this Government's achievements so far as industries are concerned. Let me refer to what has taken place since 1938 when the Premier came into office. In 1938-39 we had 2,067 factories employing 43,371 persons with an output of £35,000,000. For the year ended June 30, 1961, the figures had more than doubled: there were 5,042 factories employing nearly 100,000 persons and the output was £402,000,000. We have had the best record of employment in the post-war years. In industrial disputes, we have been the lowest of the mainland States. In the years 1960-61 only 33,284 days were lost through industrial trouble with a loss of £128,605 in wages, whereas in New South Wales—the State concerning which we hear so much so often—735,391 days were lost and over £3,000,000 in wages.

In the field of water reticulation, to which the member for Light referred, five years ago there were 7,777 miles of mains in this State reticulating water and there were 243,809 assessments. For the year ended June 30, 1961, the mileage of mains was 9,293 and the assessments were 319,108. I particularly appreciate what has been done in my own electorate in this regard. The linking up of the Warren reservoir with the Mannum-Adelaide main and, in recent years, the laying down of a new and larger trunk main from the Warren has

made the position secure in that portion of my electorate which comprises the Barossa Valley and the adjacent district. Whereas about seven years ago it was necessary to impose water restrictions during the summer, these restrictions have been out in recent years. Although we suffered the driest year on record two or three years ago, it was not necessary to impose water restrictions. A short time ago I was in another State and was surprised to hear that in Victoria water restrictions were still being imposed five or six weeks ago. We are indeed fortunate that South Australia, through the visionary foresight of the Government, is well supplied for the time being with water and that there are still some major schemes ahead to ensure adequate supplies for the future.

Because of the bold policy of the Government in the early 1940's when the Leigh Creek coalfield was opened, it has been possible to proceed energetically with the development of electricity supplies in this State and at present we have almost 300,000 consumers. The price of electricity has remained stable. Indeed, several reductions have been made. In most other States the position has been entirely different: there have been increases in electricity tariffs.

Likewise one could talk of the considerable development of roads and highways in recent years. In His Excellency's Speech mention is made of major projects to be completed in the ensuing three years.

South Australia has had a very favourable trade balance for many years, but I shall refer only to the last five years. The average per annum for this period is no less than a favourable trade balance of £47,000,000—the excess of exports over imports. Savings Bank deposits last year averaged £173 a head of population, being second only to Victoria with an average of £175, while the Commonwealth average was £151. We are able to boast that for each thousand of population we have 234 motor cars, which is the highest in the Commonwealth, New South Wales being the lowest with 173.

Much is said from time to time about our housing position, but may I remind the House that the active policy of the South Australian Government is unsurpassed in the Commonwealth. We are providing more homes, proportionately to population, than the other States. I find from figures that I have taken out from the records of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics that New South Wales for the year ended June 30, 1961, built 92 houses and flats per 10,000 of popula-

tion, Victoria 89, Queensland 70, South Australia 106, Western Australia 87 and Tasmania 76, the Australian average being 86. Lest it be said that I have picked out one particular year, I point out that the average per 10,000 of population for the five years to June 30, 1961, was New South Wales 78, Victoria 86, Queensland 62, South Australia 95, Western Australia 85, Tasmania 79, and the Australian average 80. These figures should show conclusively that the effort made in South Australia towards the solution of the housing problem is proportionately much greater than that in any other State.

I commend the Housing Trust for its energetic efforts in providing homes since its establishment in 1927. To the end of June last no fewer than 46,575 houses were built by it; and it is a pleasure to note that no fewer than 163 country towns were included in the trust's building programme, and that in 32 country towns homes were built to assist their industrial development. I commend the Government for its action in allocating to the trust in 1958 its special Commonwealth grant of £368,000, which enabled the trust to build smaller type homes in country towns to assist people unable to pay an economic rent; and also so that war widows, deserted wives, pensioners and incapacitated ex-servicemen's families have been able to benefit as a result of that action. Subsequently, a sum of £100,000 was made available by the Government some time ago, providing further assistance to the trust in that direction. Under this scheme 175 houses have been built in 37 country towns, the minimum rental for which is £1 a week. This has enabled widows and others to continue their residence in communities that are well known to them. I hope that the trust will continue to provide homes of this kind in country towns.

I now refer to paragraph 4 of His Excellency's Speech, portion of which reads:

My Government continues its policy of extending and increasing research and scientific services in all fields of primary production and is doing its utmost to ensure that the best use is made of all available resources in the light of scientific and technical advances.

I consider that it is of paramount importance that the beneficial scientific practices be utilized wherever possible by primary producers with a view to obtaining higher yields at lower costs. It is indeed gratifying that the results of the research work carried out by the Agriculture Department are disseminated to primary producers through the many agricultural bureaux in this State. I repeat that it is particularly

important, in view of the competition we have to meet from overseas that we endeavour to increase our yields and, if possible, at a lower cost. That is of particular importance when we bear in mind the likelihood of Great Britain's joining the European Common Market. If any worthwhile concessions are gained for Australia from the Common Market countries, then it would have been due to the unremitting efforts of the Prime Minister and of the Minister for Trade, both of whom so forcibly presented Australia's point of view to the United Kingdom, the Common Market countries and to the United States of America.

I consider that the time is overdue when we should seek markets elsewhere, particularly for our primary products, whether the United Kingdom joins the Common Market or not. Since the end of the Second World War it has become apparent that a number of countries have endeavoured to obtain increased economic self-sufficiency. That is perhaps understandable, because during the war years, when some of the sea lanes were closed, it was impossible for Great Britain to import the quantities of goods usually imported before the war. I think one can understand that greater production of primary products at home then became necessary. When one considers that the population of the United Kingdom has increased by less than 5,000,000 since 1939, which is no more than 10 per cent, and that over that period the increase in the quantity of food supplied from home sources has been much more than 10 per cent, one realizes that there must be a dwindling market in the United Kingdom for the products of Australia and other overseas countries. The agricultural net output from all holdings in Great Britain was up 72 per cent on the pre-war average. The pre-war average wheat yield in the United Kingdom was 1,651,000 tons; this had risen to over 3,000,000 tons in 1960-61. In the same period barley production rose from 765,000 tons to over 4,000,000 tons, beef and veal from 578,000 tons to 786,000 tons, mutton and lamb from 195,000 tons to 239,000 tons, pig meats from 435,000 tons to 684,000 tons, eggs from 385,000 tons to 722,000 tons, and milk from 1,556,000 gallons to 2,444,000 gallons—a considerable increase.

It is interesting to note that the pre-war average butter consumption *per capita* in the United Kingdom was 24.7 lb., whereas in 1960 it was 18.1 lb. Margarine consumption rose in the same period from 8.7 lb. to 15.2 lb. Egg production increased by 96 per cent on the

pre-war average, and by 1957 nearly all eggs consumed in the United Kingdom were produced there. In the United Kingdom a new and expanding industry is the mass production of broilers (chickens 8-11 weeks old), and I understand that over 100,000,000 were sold in 1960. Bearing that in mind, it is no wonder that the egg market of South Australia and other States of the Commonwealth has collapsed.

Before the war Britain produced about one-third of her food requirements and, in 1960-61, produced about one-half. Is it any wonder that there has been such a big decline in the proportion of Australian exports to the United Kingdom? In the early 1950's about 36 per cent of the Australian exports went to the United Kingdom, but last year exports to the United Kingdom had dropped to less than 22 per cent. In 1952-53 South Australia exported to the United Kingdom 45 per cent of what she produced, valued at £55,500,000; but last year those exports had dropped to 27 per cent, valued at £26,700,000.

Representing as I do a viticultural district, I am naturally concerned about the effect of the Common Market on the wine industry. It is noteworthy that there has been a considerable reduction in exports to the United Kingdom compared with pre-war years. I believe that before the war we were exporting about 3,000,000 gallons of wine to the United Kingdom annually. In 1951-52 Australia exported 773,000 gallons of wine in casks to the United Kingdom. Admittedly, that had increased by about 50 per cent in 1960-61 to 1,162,000 gallons but, if we consider imports to the United Kingdom from other countries, the increase is insignificant. Britain imported from France 1,693,000 gallons in 1951-52; this had increased by 153 per cent to 4,397,000 gallons last year. Spain exported to Britain 2,229,000 gallons in 1951-52, and 5,705,000 gallons last year—an increase of 156 per cent; Italy exported 462,000 gallons in 1951-52, and 1,822,000 gallons last year—an increase of 294 per cent; and other foreign countries exported 308,000 gallons in 1951-52 compared with 1,239,000 gallons last year—an increase of 302 per cent. The increase in Australian exports in the same period, however, was only 50 per cent.

I realize that that position may worsen, and it is imperative that we endeavour to find markets elsewhere. Fortunately, a report recently received from Canada was encouraging. We are exporting about 750,000 gallons of wine

to Canada at present. Canadian consumption is 10,000,000 gallons a year, of which she produces about 7,000,000 gallons and imports 3,000,000 gallons. I understand that, recently, the licensing laws in all the Canadian provinces except one were altered so as to enable liquor and wine to be consumed with meals and that, as a result, an increase in the sale of Australian wines to Canada is expected. Our wines are favourably received there, and it is expected that within the next five years Canadian consumption will increase by 5,000,000 gallons. This may be of considerable advantage to Australia.

We need new export markets for our products, both primary and secondary. Additional and bigger markets will enable us to increase production, which in turn will enable us to keep down costs and compete more successfully with overseas competitors. I suggest that such markets could be found in countries north of Australia, South-East Asia in particular. In all these countries higher living standards are being attained and, as living standards increase, there should be a greater demand for many of our products. As Sir Douglas Copland once said, "Our destiny depends on gaining the respect, admiration, even the adoration, of millions of people to our north." Already Japan has become one of our most important customers, and she will become more and more important to Australia if the United Kingdom enters the Common Market. I suggest that we conduct more trade promotion missions to the countries to which I have referred with the idea of selling our products and establishing reciprocal trade.

Mr. Frank Walsh: Are you going to use our ships to convey the goods.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I understand that there are excellent shipping services, particularly between Hong Kong and Australia, but I shall come to that in a moment. We should study the likes, dislikes and idiosyncrasies of potential consumers in those countries. I have heard it said by persons who have visited those areas that not sufficient attention is given to those matters. Senator Buttfield, who recently returned from New Guinea, said that the native population of New Guinea preferred orange juice made in Japan to that made in Australia because, they said, it was sweeter than the juice made in Australia. I understand that there is a market in South-East Asian countries, and that the Chinaman likes a red tomato juice. He disapproves of the South Australian tomato juice because its com-

plexion is too shallow. I suggest that these matters should be given attention so that our trade can be increased.

Mr. Frank Walsh: How would you conduct the trade mission—by ship?

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: In the past some missions to other countries have been conducted by means of ships, and some by representatives in the countries concerned.

Mr. Frank Walsh: Where did they get the ships?

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: They have got them in the past.

Mr. Frank Walsh: Where would they get them now?

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: One mission went to South America.

Mr. Frank Walsh: We must get someone else to ship and advertise our goods?

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: We could send the goods in the usual way. There would be no difficulties in that regard.

Mr. Frank Walsh: I am not ashamed of our goods. It is how they will get there that I speak about.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I understand that many people in those countries are bewildered by the variety of brands under which our commodities are sold. I refer to a press statement that appeared following on the return of Mr. R. M. Fowler from South-East Asia. The report was as follows:

Several Australian companies should form a marketing organization and sell their products in South-East Asia under one brand . . . Mr. Fowler has returned to Adelaide from a 10 week visit to Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Formosa, Japan and the west coast of the United States . . . Everywhere he went he found people interested in stocking Australian products, but they said customers wanted only well known brands. Canned fish, meat and fruit sold freely but only if they were the one brand. It was almost impossible for one type of product to break into the market because the cost of promoting it was too high. The U.S. had solved the problem by using one brand for a variety of products.

I suggest that one place where there is a possibility of increasing trade between it and Australia is Hong Kong. There should be excellent possibilities of furthering trade. I refer to a trade mission report which appeared last year. This mission visited Australia from Hong Kong and it suggested ways in which Australia could increase its share of the Hong Kong market, and these points were made in the report:

(1) With a population growing at a rate of 100,000 a year, Hong Kong is an expanding market for foodstuffs, and there is a dietary trend among the Chinese population towards western foodstuffs, which offers Australia an expanding market.

(2) Vigorous marketing, competitive prices and packing suitable to the specialized Hong Kong market, could stimulate the import of Australian fresh, canned and frozen fruit and vegetables.

(3) Australian exporters should consider holding stocks in Hong Kong for rapid distribution to Asia, Hong Kong's free port status, excellent facilities, low cost of handling, and good communications with the rest of Asia making this a worthwhile proposition.

I now refer to certain commodities that are imported by Hong Kong. In 1960 the imports of live animals for food were valued at 248,000,000 Hong Kong dollars. Imports from Australia of these commodities were valued at only 2,749,000 dollars, or about one eighty-third of the total imports. The value of dairy products imported in that year was 128,000,000 Hong Kong dollars. From Australia the imports were valued at 14,847,000 Hong Kong dollars, or only one-eighth of the total imports. The value of the fruits and vegetables imported in 1960 were 264,000,000 Hong Kong dollars. Australian imports were valued at 4,228,000 Hong Kong dollars, or about one sixty-third of the total imports. The 1959 imports of meat and meat preparations were valued at 84,353,000 Hong Kong dollars. The value of the Australian imports in 1960 were 6,615,000 Hong Kong dollars; or one-twelfth of the value of the 1959 imports. In 1960 the United States of America supplied Hong Kong with fruit and vegetables to the value of 50,000,000 Hong Kong dollars, which was 12 times greater than the value of the fruit and vegetables that came from Australia. We have excellent shipping facilities between Australia and Hong Kong and we are considerably closer to that place than is the United States of America. I think there is every reason why we should be able to increase our trade in these commodities if we set about the business more enthusiastically than we have done in the past.

I commend our Government for commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the achievement of the noted explorer, John McDouall Stuart. His exploratory penetration of the north-western parts of this State in 1858 opened up thousands of square miles of land for pastoral development and settlement. Several attempts from 1859 to 1862 to reach the northern coastline of the Northern Territory *via*

the dead heart of Australia were crowned with success on July 24, 1862, just a century ago. The material results of this epic exploratory expedition are obvious today. One historian summed up the importance of Stuart's achievement admirably when he wrote:

In no time or country has any geographical pioneer more directly advanced the material interests of a colony than Mr. McDouall Stuart has done those of South Australia.

In paragraph 12 of his Opening Speech, the Governor referred to the Eyre Highway. This reminds me of the important project that has been commenced in your district, Mr. Speaker, and in mine. I refer to the Blanchetown bridge, which will join my electorate with yours. It may not be generally known that Eyre, the famous explorer, in 1841, accomplished an overland trek from Adelaide to Albany, Western Australia, and that in October 1841 he was appointed resident magistrate at Moorundie (now Blanchetown) to establish friendly relations with natives as they had exhibited open hostility towards the whites and had murdered several of them. Eyre was successful in his mission at Moorundie (or Blanchetown) and I suggest to the appropriate

authorities that it might be a fine gesture to commemorate the service that Eyre rendered to the State as an explorer if the bridge now being built across the River Murray at Blanchetown were named the Edward John Eyre bridge.

I have spoken longer than I had intended to speak, but I conclude my remarks by exhorting all of us to bear in mind and ponder over the words of a famous United States statesman (Daniel Webster), words that are inscribed behind the Speaker's Chair, high on the Chamber wall of the House of Representatives of the United States of America:

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its power, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests and see whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.32 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 18, at 2 p.m.