

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, July 24, 1951.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

ASSENT TO ACTS.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the Appropriation No. 1 and Supply No. 1 Acts.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL (NORTHFIELD WARDS) ADDITIONS.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the report of the Public Works Committee on the Royal Adelaide Hospital (Northfield Wards) additions, together with minutes of evidence.

FREE MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The Hon. E. A. OATES—Have contracts been accepted for the supply of straws and pasteurized milk in connection with the free milk for school children scheme? If so, when will the scheme come into operation?

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—Contracts have been let for the supply of straws and tenders called for the supply of milk. The tenders received, however, do not cover all schools and negotiations are now in progress to make arrangements for those not included. It is hoped the matter will be finalized at an early date.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—You mean all schools in the metropolitan area?

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—Yes.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—I move—

That three months' leave of absence be granted to the Clerk of the Legislative Council, Mr. Redman, on account of ill-health.

I know I am expressing the feelings of all members when I say how much I regret that Mr. Redman's health makes it necessary for him to absent himself from duty. I trust that long before this period of leave has expired he will have made such progress as to enable him to be with us again.

The Hon. E. A. OATES—I second the motion, though regretting the necessity. As I said on the opening day, the services of the Clerk of the Legislative Council are missed by all members personally, because he was always ready to assist them. I hope he will be with us again at the end of his term of leave so that he may continue to render his much-appreciated services to us.

Motion carried.

CARGO CLEARING COMMITTEE.

The Hon. E. A. OATES (on notice)—

1. Who are the members of the Cargo Clearing Committee, and whom do they represent?

2. Has the committee any authority in allotting berths for vessels arriving at Port Adelaide or the Outer Harbour?

3. Has it any authority to give priority to any particular ships arriving at the anchorage?

4. If not, what are the functions of the committee?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN.—The replies are:—

1. The members of the Cargo Clearing Committee and the organizations they represent are:—Hon. M. McIntosh, Minister of Marine, Chairman; H. C. Meyer, Commissioner and General Manager, South Australian Harbors Board; J. R. O'Loughlin, Collector of Customs; G. Allen, representing Overseas Shipping Representatives Association; W. E. Kelly, representing Australian Shipowners' Federation; Captain W. H. Clingly, representing Adelaide Stevedoring Co. Ltd.; W. S. Goudie, representing Stevedoring Industry Board; Captain F. R. Miller, representing Director of Navigation; F. H. Stevens, representing South Australian Road Transport Association; A. M. Simpson, representing Adelaide Chamber of Commerce; A. A. Whicker, representing Port Adelaide shipping clerks; S. J. Butler, representing Port Adelaide Chamber of Commerce; F. B. Harvey, representing South Australian Railways; C. S. Bertram, representing Adelaide Chamber of Manufactures; R. Whitfield, and in his absence, S. M. Cooper, representing Port Adelaide Waterside Workers' Union.

2. No.

3. No.

4. Its function is to examine the various activities associated with shipping at Port Adelaide and to explore and advise on measures that can be adopted to ensure more rapid turn around of vessels. Its efforts to date have produced an improvement based mainly on a policy of co-operation of efforts of the shipowners, waterside workers, consignees, carriers, and the South Australian Harbors Board.

BETTING TAX.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (on notice)—

1. What amount of winning bets tax has been collected since the operation of the Lottery and Gaming Act Amendment Act (No. 1), 1950, to June 30, 1951?

2. What amount did the Government receive from the tax?

3. What amount have the racing clubs received?

4. What amount have the trotting clubs received?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—The Betting Control Board reports:—

1. £342,287.
2. £229,341.
3. £52,665.
4. £16,255.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: HON. C. R. CUDMORE.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD moved—

That three months' leave of absence be granted to the Hon. C. R. Cudmore on account of his absence from Australia.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech:—

May it please Your Excellency:

1. We, the members of the Legislative Council, thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open Parliament.

2. We re-affirm our faithful allegiance to the Throne and express our great pleasure at the approaching visit to the Commonwealth of Their Majesties, the King and Queen and Her Royal Highness, the Princess Margaret. We convey our assurance that a most affectionate and spontaneous welcome awaits Their Majesties and the Princess in South Australia.

3. We assure Your Excellency that we shall give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

4. We earnestly join in the prayer of Your Excellency for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE (Southern)—I express my appreciation of the compliment in being asked to move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's speech. We all subscribe to the sentiments expressed in the second paragraph of that speech and also to the second paragraph in the draft Address in Reply to that speech. I am sure all South Australians will welcome the opportunity to demonstrate their affection and loyalty to Their Majesties the King and Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret when they visit Australia next year. We hope the Princess will be able to visit a number of the more important towns in South Australia and thus take her father's place. We sincerely hope that his health will improve

during the visit. I stress the high regard in which His Excellency the Governor and Lady Norrie are held in this State. We cannot too often express how keenly we appreciate their efforts in the interests of the State. The people enjoy their presence at the numerous functions they attend. I feel, Mr. President, that members should express their extreme gratefulness to you for permitting them to be seated during the speech of His Excellency the Governor in opening this session. The dignity always apparent in this Chamber was in no way impaired by the innovation.

Unfortunately, during the last few months South Australia has lost several of her prominent citizens, among whom was Sir Charles McCann, who had been our Agent-General in London for many years. When Acts of Parliament were introduced to extend his term members took the opportunity to express the high regard in which he was held throughout Australia. He gave service not only to South Australian primary producers, but also others elsewhere. He was always keen to give of his best, not only when he was Trade Commissioner but later when he became Agent-General. Sir Charles and Lady McCann were ever ready to give a helping hand to visitors who called at South Australia House, London. I have a vivid recollection of the time when Sir Charles was Trade Commissioner and how at every week-end his services and those of Lady McCann were available to provide a measure of enjoyment to Australian soldiers in England during World War I. We cannot allow this opportunity to pass without showing the tremendous regard in which Sir Charles was held and to express our condolence to Lady McCann.

While our secondary industries have continued to expand, the Government has also recognized the importance of primary production and the necessity to build up our undeveloped land. It was pleasing to notice in His Excellency's speech that it is expected that 100,000 acres of undeveloped land will be brought under pasture this year. I pay a tribute not only to private individuals who are improving scrub land, but also to the Australian Mutual Provident Society for the work it is doing in the South-East under a special Act passed a year or two ago. For many years prior to World War I, I had often ridden over this most uninviting plain. In January last I called at the headquarters of the society in the South-East and was very impressed with its pasture developmental work. I do not want to give all the credit to the society, because I know that the settler who owned this land

just prior to the society purchasing it had developed it to some extent and established lucerne on it. Undoubtedly this encouraged the society to go ahead with the project. This type of country requires much capital to bring it into production. While there is a possibility of people with moderate means developing the heath plains in the upper South-East that does not apply to the heavily timbered land and mallee country. I speak with some feeling as I have had personal experience in handling this type of country and know the traps for young players.

I compliment the Government on the work being carried out on Kangaroo Island. Late last year I visited the Island and saw the development taking place. As a result of the work of the Lands Development Executive and certain settlers who went there prior to the development by the Government, this huge area of Crown lands which was practically non-productive is no longer a dead asset to the State.

Much of our lighter soil in the upper South-East and on the Island has sand ridges running through it. Although it is possible to develop legumes on that country it is sometimes difficult to handle light sandy country. Whilst in Western Australia recently, in company with the Western Australian Minister of Lands, I had the opportunity of seeing some very light sandy land around Gingin which had practically no subsoil, but on which lupins are being grown. The Western Australian lupin does very well in the deep sand and the New Zealand lupin does well on the shallow sand and subsoil. Something worth while might be accomplished if South Australian officers visited Western Australia and examined the possibilities of growing lupins on our deep sandy soil and Western Australian officers examined what we are doing with lucerne growing. It is worth investigating because in Western Australia four sheep to the acre can be fattened on lupin country. They are growing lupins at Geraldton which has a 15in. rainfall, and at Gin Gin with a 20in.-25in. rainfall.

I pay a tribute to the work of the Waite Institute, the C.S.I.R.O., and the Department of Agriculture. I have often stressed the value of the work done by the Department of Agriculture through agricultural bureaus. Had we not had the benefit of these institutions and the value that science has given to the primary producer, we could never have hoped to develop these lighter soils with their trace element deficiency.

Concern is being felt, not only among our primary producers but in Western Australia, regarding the shortage of superphosphate. We hope that the Nairne project which has received the support of the Government and various private institutions will result in some success.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—It has been recommended by the Industries Development Committee.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—I am glad to hear that, because if we can reclaim sulphur from pyrites we will achieve something worth while and relieve the extreme shortage of sulphuric acid. An industrial chemist handed me a publication dealing with the possibility of securing sulphuric acid from gypsum. The scheme was originally developed in one of the German States. The moisture content of gypsum was evaporated and sulphuric acid reclaimed from it. In latter years this process has been further developed, particularly in Great Britain.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—The cost of production is very high.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—It may be, but one must look at the possibility of the indirect benefits to be derived from such an important industry.

I have spoken a great deal about developing our land, because it is continually being impressed upon us how our population is increasing. At present it is about 8,000,000, but it is estimated that in 1960 it will be 10,000,000, and unless we develop our primary industries and increase their production we will have serious shortages. One of the main difficulties in building up primary production is the shortage of various materials. For instance, annually we require 39,000 tons of fencing wire. The capacity of plants is 21,000 tons, but the actual production is only 8,300 tons. The position in relation to wirenetting is somewhat similar. Thirty thousand tons are required; the capacity of Australian plants is 24,000 tons, but actual production only 9,500 tons. We require 21,000 tons of barbed wire but only 6,700 tons are produced against a potential of 18,000 tons. These figures are taken from the April issue of a publication called *The Coalminer*.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Why are you worrying? The Menzies Government is in power.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—I am not concerned with who is in power. What I want to see is that we so increase our primary production that we may be able to feed our growing population

and maintain our export trade at the same time. I have been impressed by the good work done in the Mother Country in this respect. I was amazed to read in the press recently that, under adverse conditions, Great Britain has built up her production of dairy produce to 46 per cent of her requirements—an amazing performance. Quite recently the Public Works Standing Committee visited the Upper Murray areas and the need for emphasizing the urgency for increased production was borne out. I was surprised to learn that, because of the shortages of both labour and materials, the dried fruits pack for the whole of Australia has dropped from 104,261 tons in 1939 to 55,300 in 1951. In addition, stone fruit, instead of being dried, is picked up from the blocks and carted long distances by motor transport for canning purposes. If the River Murray people want to establish industries in their own localities they should see that canning factories are provided in the areas where the fruit is grown. At some time in the future the fruitgrower will experience considerable difficulty in re-establishing his markets, for we have had experience of how readily others rush in and build up markets for their dried fruit.

Much has been heard in recent months about the position of the dairy farmer. This is a very involved question, and although we are told that the 68,000 dairy farmers in Australia are still maintaining an output of 1,254,000,000gall. of milk a year, and that the production was up by 41,000gall. during the past 12 months, we must remember certain figures quoted by the Minister of Agriculture at a recent conference which were very disturbing to those associated with the industry. He disclosed that heifers of one year of age and over, and heifer calves were down by 9,500 in the past 12 months in South Australia. In Victoria, one of the major dairying States, these figures were down by 24,000. One of the bad features about the deterioration of numbers in South Australia is that many of these heifers are the progeny of subsidy bulls, and that to establish a dairy in any country is not simply a matter of buying a heifer or a cow or two at a saleyard; much culling is necessary to establish a good herd. It is asserted that many dairymen have turned to sheep because of the attractive prices for wool, and that their dairy herds have been slaughtered. Apropos of this, however, I should like to relate an incident which suggests that this may not be going on to quite the extent that some imagine. When driving along South Terrace

some time ago I overtook a motor truck on which there was a beautiful cow with calf at foot. I happened to know the name on the truck and the driver knew me when I hailed him and stopped him. I asked him if he were taking the cow to the abattoirs and he replied, "I am not allowing this heifer to be killed. It is going to a dairy farmer." That was very pleasing to me and I believe that, notwithstanding all we read in the press, particularly in newspapers published in the hills districts, of the numbers of dairy cattle advertised for sale quite a number are going to dairy farms. I therefore hope that the figures I have disclosed need not be quite so disturbing, for I believe that we are not losing so much milk as I thought we were before I made this analysis. I can offer no solution of the dairy farmer's problem and I think few members could. I trust, however, that when the Prices Ministers meet in the near future they may be able to find some way out of the difficulty. Although the local price is a matter for State Governments the Commonwealth Government is involved by virtue of the export prices which have been determined over the years, and these must be taken into the picture. It is a matter about which we must be practical. Dairy produce is essential to the community, but the return which the dairy farmer receives for a seven-day week does not offer any attractions to him.

The recent increase of 13s. a week in the basic wage has caused consternation on all sides, but I think the Federal Government has adopted an attitude which is to be commended.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—What has it done?

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—It has called a conference, and the outcome may be something worth-while. All parties at this conference will need to exhibit a good deal of co-operation. I do not wish to be sectional or Party-minded in any way, but we must all realize that if we are not prepared to do a bit of work Australia cannot maintain the marvellous conditions her people enjoy today. I do not suggest that this applies to any one section more than another; we must all pull our weight and do a bit more work so as to keep some value in the purchasing power of our money. That thought brings me to the coal position. I believe that increased production of coal is the greatest problem facing Australia today. I do not attempt to apportion the blame, and I do not fear to take my share of any responsibility, but Australia cannot afford to import 1,000,000 tons of steel annually when it is realized that

prior to the war we were exporting this commodity and landing it in Great Britain more cheaply than either Great Britain or the United States of America were able to produce it.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—You can still buy Australian steel more cheaply than imported steel.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—That is another question. We have also to import 50,000 tons of steel rails at a cost of £35 a ton compared with the local price of £15. Where are we to get the steel plate to make the pipes to bring the much-needed water from Mannum? It is all very stupid. We have both the steel and the coal in the country and it must be somebody's job to produce them.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—Tell us something about potatoes.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—I might say that in 1932 I was growing potatoes at £3 5s. a ton, and they had to be picked over three times before they would be accepted in the market. It is unfortunate that South Australia should have to import coal from South Africa and India when supplies are available so much nearer home. South Australia has been very fortunate in having coal available from Leigh Creek to enable it to maintain employment.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Is not the demand too great to be met from Australian sources?

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—I admit that, but we must develop our mines in order to overcome the shortage.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—You would not say that the Coal Board has fallen down on its job?

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—I think it has. Because of favourable seasonal conditions, we can expect to experience fire hazards next summer. The use of diesel engines would be an immense advantage in reducing time on the Adelaide-Murray Bridge railway division, and lessening the risk of fires. I suggest that the Minister of Railways and the Railways Commissioner should consider the possibility of utilizing these engines also on the South-Eastern division from December to March so that the fire menace will be lessened to some extent. The Browns Well district council has approached members for the Southern District in connection with a bituminized road from Loxton through Pinnaroo to Bordertown. This proposition was under consideration in 1941, but in view of the development in the South-East since that date the council feels that this

project should be proceeded with to provide a direct access to the South-East from the Murray lands. This will enable fresh fruit to be delivered direct to the South-East. About two years ago Mr. Fleming, who at the time was Highways Commissioner, mentioned to me the possibility of a direct road communication from Halfway House, on Anzac Highway, through to the Flagstaff Hotel on Tapleys Hill, and the erection of a bridge across the River Sturt at Marion. This would relieve much congestion on the highway through Edwardstown. This is an urgent project and I hope the Minister in this Chamber representing the Minister of Local Government will bring under his notice the proposal for the construction of such a bridge.

I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the Housing Trust for the excellent work it is doing. Its importation from overseas of prefabricated homes will help to meet the housing position by supplementing the dwellings which can be built from locally made materials. With the number of houses constructed by the trust in recent years, I was hopeful that by now we would almost have met the demand.

I am looking forward with interest to the report on the Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents) Act by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. W. C. Gillespie, S.M. I always thought that primary producers could obtain possession of houses erected on their properties, but I am told that that is not so. I therefore hope that when the Act comes before us for consideration Parliament will give particular care to this question, because it is necessary that we should strive to achieve the greatest production possible on these properties. This would be possible if primary producers could secure such homes for their employees. I am particularly interested in the money made available to the Education Department. I have often marvelled that the Minister of Education has been able to meet the needs of our school population, which has grown to 93,500 scholars. Coupled with the difficulty of the shortage of schools, there is also a shortage of teachers. I hope the Government will be able to import prefabricated aluminium schools from overseas, as was recently recommended by the Public Works Standing Committee.

I was pleased to note when the Supplementary Estimates were submitted that an amount of £30,000 has been made available to the Children's Hospital, a special grant of £22,000 for accommodation for poliomyelitis sufferers and a grant of £10,000 to the Queen Victoria Maternity Home.

I commend the Government for its continued sound and effective administration. Its object has been to increase the prosperity of the State and it has undoubtedly accomplished magnificent results. I hope that the estimated £200,000 surplus will become an actual fact even under existing conditions. I have pleasure in formally moving the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS (Northern)—I, too, desire to express my appreciation in having the honour of seconding this motion. I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the mover concerning the projected visit of their Majesties the King and Queen and H.R.H. Princess Margaret early next year. I reiterate the hope that the health of His Majesty will sufficiently improve so that a comprehensive programme can be arranged for the Royal party to see as much of the State and as many of its citizens as is possible in the time available. The people of Eyre Peninsula have learned with a good deal of pleasure that Port Lincoln is to be included in the Royal tour itinerary. They will endeavour to make the visit worthy of so auspicious an occasion. This visit will be the first that a reigning monarch has made to this country and that, in itself, is a matter of some moment. More important still—it will give the people an excellent opportunity to demonstrate in no uncertain manner their loyalty to the throne and His Majesty and their heartfelt kinship to the people of Great Britain. There is no question of their loyalty to the British Commonwealth of Nations nor of their responsibility in the part they have to play in its maintenance.

As usual, the Governor's Speech covered a wide range of our activities throughout our whole social and economic set-up. It gave a resume of Government projects in hand and contemplated, and reviewed the proposed legislation for this session. I do not know members' reactions to the speech but mine was to wonder just how far we would be able to implement the programme outlined. We have all sorts of difficulties ahead and are going to have the same difficulties as we have had in the past. In practically every branch of our State's activities progress has not been as rapid as desired. So far as I can see the reasons for that state of affairs still exist and have become emphasized over the last 12 months—certainly over the last six months. Now we have reached a stage when we cannot deny that we must keep our feet on the ground, measure up and stand four-square and review the position.

With the object of having something in the nature of a post mortem on existing conditions and endeavouring to find a solution of our difficulties a conference is shortly to be held. That is the responsibility of everyone and not of any one section of the community. It is a matter that must not be approached from a political point of view. It is a responsibility outside any allegiance we may have to any political creed. It vitally affects our social and economic set-up and it behoves all of us to use what influence we may have in our own spheres of activities to make a success of that conference and to get from it some solution of our difficulties. As a nation we have been living far beyond our means. We have been courageous and have undertaken enormous works programmes and an enormous policy of immigration which has been necessary and desirable, because we must have the people, but this policy has emphasized our problems.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—You wouldn't like to see them brought in and put on the dole.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS—I do not believe in bringing them out and making them live as they are doing. Apart from the humanitarian aspect it is not economic. We have progressed too fast in our immigration programme. It is regrettable that there are sections of the community—and they include men who claim to lead the great Labor movement in this country—which are unwilling to participate in the proposed conference. They are saying "No, we won't have anything to do with it. We won't go along and listen to what they have to say." I am not suggesting people should be asked to sign a blank cheque but it is everyone's responsibility to assist in seeking a solution.

Included in the matters referred to in the Governor's Speech are many affecting primary production. In common with the rest of the community primary producers have their problems. There is a tendency at present to emphasize all the good things associated with primary production, especially high prices. Something in the nature of a false impression has got abroad in this connection because our press generally emphasizes the maximum prices received for primary products and no reference is made to the net or average return. It is understandable that people get the idea that all primary producers are participating in the extraordinary high prices. Prices have been relatively high only. Unquestionably the costs of production have sky-rocketed and are almost keeping pace with the prices of our main primary products. In connection with wheat I have only to mention the price of

superphosphate and cornsacks. Labour is also hard to obtain. The average primary producer has no objection to paying a good wage for a good day's work nor to preventing those assisting him in participating in the prevailing good prices. One of the difficulties which enters into the question of migration is labour for rural areas. Ever since our migration policy was inaugurated I have complained that insufficient regard has been paid to the securing of suitable types for the agricultural and pastoral industries, and I have endeavoured, so far without success, to get figures from the authorities showing what percentage of migrants has gone into rural pursuits. However, from my own observation in various districts I would say that very few have gone into these very necessary avenues of production. One of the reasons is, I think, that efforts have not been made to get the right type of people. Members probably have met people from overseas who are performing tasks for which they are utterly untrained. There seems to have been no attempt at sorting out. We find those with academic qualifications performing menial tasks, and this lack of discrimination is perhaps one of the reasons why more have not gone into the agricultural industries.

The Hon. E. O'NEIL—Is not lack of accommodation one of the reasons?

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS—It has some bearing on the problem admittedly, but even the accommodation available is not being used to the fullest extent. I was associated with a property on which a migrant and his wife were employed. They had been brought up in one of the big European capital cities and, although they certainly did their best, they were like fish out of water. Surely in the British Isles, or even Ireland, there are thousands with an agricultural background who would be only too willing to come here and engage in agricultural pursuits, working not only for someone else, but with a view to becoming ultimately their own masters. Incidental to this is the industrial development which has taken place, principally in our cities and big towns. This has drawn off many who would be normally employed in the rural areas. I am sure members have personal knowledge of the children of agricultural families who have been attracted to the seemingly better conditions prevailing in the metropolitan and urban areas, forsaking their normal way of life and adding to the ever-swelling percentage of city dwellers. Although migration is purely a Commonwealth responsibility I hope that our position can be met by our Government making overtures to

the appropriate authorities to get something done in the direction I have indicated. Admittedly lack of accommodation aggravates the problem to a great extent, but much as the landholder may desire to provide a decent residence for his employees, he, in turn, is hampered by shortages of materials, and so we enter the vicious circle; it almost resolves itself into the age old question of which comes first, the hen or the egg.

These are some of the matters which have to be considered, for we must maintain our primary industries. We have a migration policy which, I understand, aims at procuring for this country a given number of migrants in a given period. Doubtless members have received, as I have, a very interesting publication issued under the auspices of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce, being a copy of a lecture given at the Adelaide University on April 29 of this year by Professor P. H. Karmel, Professor of Economics at the University. It contains some reference to the point I have just made. Professor Karmel said:—

At the moment we are engaged in an intensive migration policy. We aim to raise our population to 11,000,000 by 1960, and if we can achieve this we should probably reach 16,000,000 by the end of the century.

He said further:—

If we achieve our target of 11,000,000 in 1960 and if we are to maintain the increase in our standard of living and our level of exports we must increase our production of pig meats by 78 per cent, mutton by 58 per cent, beef by 40 per cent, milk by 37 per cent, sugar by 28 per cent, lamb by 23 per cent, wool by 11 per cent and wheat by 7 per cent—all by 1960.

He added:—

Sobering thoughts and a challenge indeed. These increases are not impossible, but unless we face up to them and plan for them our standard of living will inevitably suffer.

I take those to be authoritative figures which emphasize the point I have made as to how much we are dependent upon primary products and how necessary it is to use every endeavour to overcome the difficulties I have enumerated. Not only is it necessary but it is absolutely imperative if we are to continue to pursue our present migration policy. The only alternative—and it has been seriously suggested—is to review the whole policy, and possibly curtail migration until we pick up some of the leeway. Incidentally, increased primary production depends upon adequate superphosphate supplies, and next to a supply of labour this is of the greatest importance, not only for

cereal growing, but for the development of our pastures in the new areas now being so satisfactorily dealt with, as well as in the older settled districts. An enormous addition to our superphosphate supply will be necessary during the next 10 years, and it is gratifying to know that our Government and its officers are using every endeavour to augment supplies.

Reference was made in His Excellency's speech to the development of our pyrites deposits. When I heard that I wondered what had become of the project for the treatment of some of the waste products at the Port Pirie smelters. Two years ago I understood that efforts were to be made to establish plant at the smelters of the Broken Hill Associated Smelters at Port Pirie for the extraction of sulphur and other chemical elements from the dumps. I hope that project is not dead, although I have not heard much of it of late. It is necessary to explore every avenue to overcome the existing acute shortage. We have always imported the greater part of our sulphur requirements from overseas, but the sources of supply appear to be drying up for reasons of which I am not aware; probably the producing countries are experiencing an expansion similar to our own and are therefore conserving their own resources. They cannot be blamed for that, but it emphasizes the need for our making use of what Nature has provided.

Other projects such as waterworks and harbour improvements were also mentioned in the Governor's Speech. Water conservation is a necessity and, although I fear that the whole of the programme may not be achieved, if there has to be any curtailment I think we can rely on the authorities to give attention to the things which matter most. If we are to continue our development we most certainly must have a water conservation programme. Although progress may have been slower than we would desire, we know the reasons for it, and once again I say that our task is to remove some of the obstacles. It is useless throwing the blame on this section or that; it gets us nowhere. We need a positive approach and then perhaps we will get somewhere. We are fortunate to have our reservoirs full once again. Whereas in years gone by we could view that aspect with a good deal of complacency, we have to remember that our consumption has increased enormously and what was adequate five or six years ago is not necessarily adequate at present. We certainly have nothing up our sleeve. It is therefore gratifying to know that every effort is being

made to push on with the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline to relieve the demand on city reservoirs and obviate water restrictions. It is also gratifying to know that good progress is being made in providing water supplies in my district. This relates particularly to the extension of the pipeline from the Uley-Wanilla basin along the eastern coast. The people there are highly appreciative of the Government's efforts. They are reaping their due reward after years of battling along to overcome all kinds of difficulties and hardships arising out of an inadequate water supply.

In addition to harbour improvements under construction and projected at Port Adelaide, the Government has projects for improvements at outports. It is good to know that preliminary steps at least have been taken to provide adequate berthing facilities at Port Lincoln. This town has long since progressed beyond the stage when such facilities are necessary. Their absence has caused not only inconvenience, but considerable loss. Recently I travelled along the two railway lines on the West Coast and was appalled to see the losses being sustained in the wheat stacks, which contain wheat from the last two harvests. Hundreds of thousands of bags are still stored and many of the stacks are badly infested with weevil, mice, and in some cases rats.

The Hon. E. Anthony—We should send some of it to India.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS—It gives one a sad feeling to see all this valuable foodstuff going to waste when it is so sorely needed in other parts of the world. It does not matter to me whether the people are black, brown or brindle—they are human beings and we have some responsibility in seeing that they are fed. I do not claim to be able to put my finger on the trouble, but one of the difficulties has been that shipping has not always been available to transport the wheat. Also, the lack of manpower in the railways, the shorter working week and to some extent badly depreciated rollingstock have been contributory factors. It is not unusual to see wheat from stacks 100 to 130 miles from the seaboard being carted on roads parallel to the railway line and restacked at a minor outport. One cannot put his finger on one spot and say, "That is where the trouble lies and it is simple to rectify it."

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Many of our railwaymen are working 48 hours a week.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS—There are all kinds of contributing factors. It is an

elementary truth that we cannot have a shorter working week and still produce as much as before. The highest industrial tribunal in the land has said that a shorter working week was right, and so we have to accept it; but that does not prevent us from analyzing the position to see what part the shorter working week plays in our present unsatisfactory position.

The fishing industry is one of the bright spots on the primary production horizon. We have evidence of big developments in the industry in South Australia. I give full credit to the State Government for the part it has played in fostering that development. All that is necessary to gather the harvest from the sea is sufficient initiative and in some cases courage. I am looking forward with considerable interest to the launching in the near future at Port Fairy, Victoria, of a purse-seine fishing boat. I was personally associated with this project whilst a member of the Industries Development Committee in that, this committee was instrumental in recommending, after full consideration, that financial assistance should be given by the South Australian Government to the Haldane Bros. to build and fit out this ship. I think every honourable member associated with me on that enquiry will agree that no small factor which influenced the committee in making its recommendation was its appreciation of the type of people interested in the enterprise. The boat has been built by a family of young men and, remarkably enough, they are, in many respects, only amateur boat builders, although I understand their father has some knowledge of the trade. They had no up-to-date machinery, and it is impressive to see what they have achieved with the resources available to them. Far better authorities than I have expressed the opinion that the boat will be equal to anything of its kind anywhere in the world. It is to be stationed at Port Lincoln and will be equipped with purse-seine nets and gear to enable it to venture into the deep waters of the Southern Ocean to investigate fish supplies. Complementary to the running of this ship is the establishment of treatment works at Port Lincoln to deal with its catches. Here again, the South Australian Government has shown enterprise in assisting the people concerned. It will result in a very valuable industry being established. I am hopeful that the public will have less difficulty in obtaining canned fish once the industry is under way.

Another important aspect of the industry is the provision of havens for fishing boats. A big percentage of the fishermen at Eyre Peninsula ports are what might be termed "one man shows," and they have only small boats. Their enterprise and good example might well be followed by others. These people have set up little co-operative processing plants and freezers, and thereby established a profitable industry. Often their life savings have been invested in their plants. At many of the harbours where they operate no shelter is provided for their craft, but on the West Coast a few slipways have been provided by private enterprise. However, I am aware that the Government has made provision for slipways to be erected at various outports and I hope that this work will be proceeded with speedily. In support of the policy of helping those who help themselves, the Government should assist these people wherever possible.

I am pleased to notice that steps are being taken by the Government to protect the interests of our aborigines. I have always contended that it is our responsibility to do what we can for the remnants of these unfortunate people. Those people who go beyond the ordinary bounds of travel in South Australia can see ample evidence of the necessity for something to be done for them. His Excellency referred to the purchase by the Government of Yalata Station in the Fowlers Bay district with the object of setting up a mission to aid these people and enable them to enjoy a fuller life. I have had some association with the outback and the aborigines, and know that anyone who sets out with the idea that he is going to suddenly convert these people and take them away from their native haunts, thinking they will remain in the one place, will find himself mistaken. It is not in their nature to do so. We have heard a good deal concerning the natives who congregate at Ooldea on the East-West line. The mission station at Yalata is being established primarily to take them away from Ooldea, which is a permanent watering place with which natives of the northern and north-western areas have a spiritual affinity. No matter where these natives are placed, periodically they will drift back to that area. For countless years it has been a meeting place and high ceremonial ground. They regard it not merely as a camping place where water is available. It is not only a local show, and on the occasions appointed for ceremonial gatherings natives come from hundreds of

miles—from the Everard and the Musgrave Ranges and the Western Australian border. They do not get on the East-West train and arrive within a day. Their movements may be dictated by the seasons and they may take 12 months to reach their destination. That cannot be taken away from the aboriginal overnight. A different outlook may be built up in future generations, but it will be impossible to keep the older people in one place. The cardinal feature behind the establishment of this home is to make things easier for them and to preserve water and game. It is our bounden duty to do something and the least we can do is give them an opportunity of living a better life. It is doubtful whether the older aborigines, who are naturally nomadic, would regard it as a better life, but if we can inculcate in the younger generation a sense of responsibility regarding the maintenance and working of the mission we may get them away from old habits of when there is plenty of natural food they are all happy, but when it gets scarce instead of

going further afield for it, they flock to the centres of civilization and become mendicants. If we relieve that situation we will be doing our duty.

A large list of undertakings is mentioned in the Governor's Speech and it is impossible to review them comprehensively. I have touched on one or two matters about which I claim to know a little, but I hope to hear more from other members on some of the other points I have not mentioned. I join with the mover in hoping that the Session will be fruitful. I also add my expression of regret at the absence of the Clerk, and join in hoping he will be restored to health and strength and soon be back with us. I formally second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.56 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 25, at 2 p.m.