

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, July 26, 1951.

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

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption of Address in Reply.

(Continued from July 25. Page 91.)

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern)—I join with other speakers in congratulating the mover and the seconder of the motion on their excellent speeches. I am sure every member of this Council could learn something from them. The speeches we heard yesterday, too, were of a high order. Mr. Bice, by reason of his long experience in Parliament and the important administrative offices he has held during his career, is well fitted to deal with many of the subjects which are of such importance today. Mr. Edmond's speeches are always full of commonsense and to the point.

It is gratifying that you, Sir, continue to hold your dignified office, and I assure you that members on both sides appreciate your rulings and are anxious to show you the greatest respect. We trust that you will live many years and continue to hold your high office. His Excellency the Governor delivered his speech with his usual dignity, and it contained much on which members can enlarge. In this Chamber we have men capable of speaking on a wide variety of subjects, but I intend to concentrate my remarks mainly on primary production, a subject I know a little about.

We are all delighted to know that Their Majesties, the King and Queen, accompanied by Princess Margaret, will visit Australia in the near future. Last year, when speaking on the Address in Reply, I expressed the hope that they would be able to visit Eyre Peninsula. The residents of that province are delighted to know that they will have the opportunity to see Their Majesties. The geographical position of Eyre Peninsula is such that children in particular are unable to come to the mainland on such occasions, and for that reason the itinerary arranged for the Royal tour is much appreciated. The people are asking for a public holiday on that occasion and it is to be hoped that the Government will grant their request.

We appreciate the many visits made by Sir Willoughby Norrie and Lady Norrie to the country areas, and the magnificent job they are doing as His Majesty's representatives.

Wherever they go they are given a warm welcome, and the good they do on these visits is of great value to the State. I pay a warm tribute to the late Sir Charles McCann, Agent-General for South Australia in London. It is almost impossible to assess the value of the work he did for South Australia. One of his greatest ambitions was the betterment of our livestock. He was the means of introducing many valuable animals to our flocks and herds, although this side of his work seems to be unknown to a great many. His knowledge of people was remarkable. He could recollect people and incidents far better than most men and, although he has set a very high standard for his successor we hope that whoever is appointed to this important post will carry out his duties in a similarly dignified manner.

Jubilee year has involved many people in a lot of work, and in this connection I pay a tribute to Mr. Geoffrey Clarke, a member of another place, for the magnificent work he has done as Deputy Chairman of the Jubilee Celebrations Committee. Amongst the various celebrations which have been arranged, one which appeals to me very much is the planting of trees to mark this Jubilee Year. They will remain as living memorials and something on which we can look back in future years with pride and satisfaction.

The opening of the season is one of the best I can recollect in my long experience and every part of the State has shared in the excellent rains we have enjoyed since April. There were many who forecast another drought comparable with that of 1914, but the season has turned out remarkably well. With the dry autumn months the dry feed kept well and retained its nutriment until the opening rains commenced. Certainly gardens suffered through the lack of reticulated water, but the primary producers in the dry areas benefitted. South Australia is still, first and foremost, a primary producing country. I was interested to hear Mr. Anthony yesterday refer to the encroachment of home building on valuable land near Marion. There are plenty of areas nearer the metropolitan area which could be used for the purpose without encroaching on valuable land. I have in mind the 3,000 acres near Gawler which are to be used for a satellite town. Recently the Soil Conservator (Mr. Herriot) said that in England people have to get the permission of the agricultural commission before they can use land for house building. Evidently in England they consider it worth while to retain as much of the agricultural land as possible. Suitable land is

available south of Adelaide for building instead of highly productive land being acquired.

During the last four years, with natural increase and the arrival of migrants, Australia's population has been increased by 500,000. This has involved the taking over of land to accommodate them. The Government and the Australian Mutual Provident Society have awakened to the possibilities of development on the Coonalpyn Downs. I recently prepared an article on the question and was astounded to learn of what was being done. The society has obtained 300,000 acres of leasehold land and intends to make blocks available to settlers ranging from 1,000 to 1,600 acres which will have a carrying capacity of 1,500 sheep and 25 cattle. Those who will be allotted the land are engaged on the actual work of preparation. The society has laid it down that the maximum age of applicants shall be 35 years, because by the time the land is ready for allotment an applicant who was 35 would then be about 40. Five years will elapse before the pastures of subterranean clover, phalaris, veldt grass, and primrose are established. The application of trace elements such as zinc and copper at the rate of 7 lb. to the bag of superphosphate has produced wonderful results. For lucerne, copper is the element used. The rainfall averages between 15in. to 20in., and underground water is to be found at a depth of about 50ft. The society will provide married men with quarters. It was determined that wages were not to be the only incentive for these men. It requires applicants with a love of the land. The society is prepared to offer many privileges, including meat at 6d. a pound and free milk, and the settlers will be allowed to keep fowls and grow vegetables. The men are engaged on developmental work during the week, but are allowed to go home at week-ends. The society has already erected over 30 cottages and another 30 are under construction.

Wheatgrowers are becoming fed-up with the concessional price for wheat allowed to stock feeders. Under the international wheat agreement, Australia's export quota for each harvest is arrived at according to the production from that harvest, but the maximum price overseas is to be 16s. 1d. a bushel. At the moment the free market pays 17s. 6d. to 18s. 6d., but the home consumption price is only 7s. 10d.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Are you advocating 17s. for home consumption?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—No. Wheatgrowers are not objecting to the concessional price for wheat for human consumption, but

for stock feed. Many woolgrowers are buying wheat at the concessional price to feed their sheep. Although poultry keepers agree that the wheatgrower is carrying the burden of the cheap wheat, they say that they will have to get a higher price for their product if the concessional price is increased. Wheatgrowers claim that they have contributed £86,000,000 during the last three years by the concessional price—for human consumption in the form of flour and breakfast foods, £51,000,000, and for stock feed £35,000,000. The pig industry is also enjoying the lower price. When wheatgrowers take their last load of wheat into the market they often bring home another load at the concessional price. That is a bad state of affairs. A farmer may get a net return of 10s. a bushel on his harvest, but he can still buy wheat for use on his farm at 7s. 10d. This year cornsacks will cost about 6s. or 7s. each, and in addition the grower is faced with the high cost of superphosphate. Owing to the very wet season a big acreage in the better districts will not be planted.

In yesterday's *News* was an article by the manager of the Barley Board, Mr. Tomlinson, who said there was a limited quantity of A grade barley available in this State. Barley growers appreciate the work of the Barley Board up to a point, but the board is somewhat to blame for the existing quality. For several years they have graded barley into A, B, C, and feed grades. There is no difference in the payment for A, B, or C grade barley, and therefore there is no incentive to grow better barley.

The Hon. L. H. Densley—The barley sent overseas was bringing good prices.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Yes, but in time markets overseas will be looking for quality and not quantity. That is what the barley industry will be up against.

Mr. Rowe referred to bulk handling and the silo to be established at Ardrossan. That will relieve the position of cornsacks somewhat. When the silo is built it will be the thin edge of the wedge in introducing bulk handling into this State.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—How much wheat is handled in bags in South Australia at present?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I do not know. The grower must find sacks for his grain and new sacks must be used for barley and wheat delivered to market. I am keen on growing quality grain because the day will come when overseas markets will require quality.

The same can be said about the system of grading wheat. The same system exists today as 100 years ago.

Dairying is the most contentious section of primary producing today. Procrastination in granting an increase in the price of butter may lead to the collapse of the dairying industry. It does not pay to produce butterfat and people will not engage in an industry where they are losing money. I was interested to hear Mr. Bice refer to a valuable heifer and he told us how many heifers we had in previous years compared with now. Sentiment is attached to certain animals but people generally are getting out of the industry. The position regarding whole milk is not so bad, as producers can make ends meet. In today's press Sir George Jenkins gave figures relating to butter, which showed that our exports declined from 4,900,000 lb. to 3,500,000 lb. in the past year. The imports were 3,000,000 lb. in 1949-50 and 7,351,000 lb. in 1951.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Where is that imported from?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Mostly from Victoria. In 1949 the cheese exported was 21,600,000 lb. and last year only 18,000,000 lb. To subsidize butter will cost over £20,000,000 this year. The consumers will ultimately have to pay more for butter. People on farms will not make their own butter when they can buy it for 2s. or 2s. 2d. a lb. and sell their butterfat for 2s. 11½d. Taxation people go to farms and investigate what profit is being made from the butter sold during the year.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—You do not suggest they should get out of taxation.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—No. If the profit was made during a 40 hour week it would be different but the hours worked in the dairying industry are more than 40. The dairyman rises at five in the morning and works well into the evening. He should be rewarded for the extra hours he puts into his industry. His own standard of living is being reduced in an effort to remain in the industry. He will not continue under those conditions but will get out and enjoy income available from other sources on the land. Labour is one of the biggest problems associated with primary producing but migrants are being diverted to secondary industries. Mr. Herriot referred to what Canada is doing in that respect. They have introduced complete families and their houses from Holland, and have overcome their man-

power shortage in primary production. Australia could launch out on similar lines. Mr. Herriot said that Dutch people are anxious and waiting to come to Australia to engage in primary production.

Last session Mr. Oates gave a lengthy address concerning immigration and detailed the conditions existing at Rosewater hostel, but he did not elaborate the position. Recently I was asked to go to the Finsbury hostel and address ex-service personnel. I had political questions directed at me but as I was representing a non-party political organization I would not answer them.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—What organization was that?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—The R.S.L. At their request I went down a week later, accompanied by a Federal member, and I can assure members that the conditions are bad and the complaints justified. They are surrounded by a lot of moisture in that low-lying country, and they have no means of providing warmth. Their food is not what Australians would like to have.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Is it not a Federal responsibility?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—It is, and that is why I took the Federal member down with me. As State politicians we should see what is going on in our own State. The food is cooked by New Australians and much good food is being spoilt. If we believe that Communism is so alarming, could there be a greater breeding ground for it than under these conditions? I venture to say that that organization is making full use of its opportunities, and I earnestly hope that something will be done for these people.

I commend the Government for sponsoring the Rural Youth Movement. This is a step in the right direction because I foresee a big movement back to the land, and in its education of the young people the Rural Youth Movement has much to commend it. We do not hear so much about the fruit fly because no outbreak was reported last year. I think the officers of the Department of Agriculture did a wonderful job in eradicating it.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—It cost a great deal of money.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Some people complained about losing their fruit, but it is better to have minor losses than to have a total loss. It appears that we now have the pest under control and it is to be hoped that the authorities will watch very closely any

fruit that is brought into the State, for in some other States it is almost impossible to buy fruit which is not infected. I endorse what Mr. Edmonds said in regard to the extravagant waste of cereals so greatly needed by other countries, simply because we are unable to transport it to the seaboard. When we produce a commodity we expect to be able to get it to market, but unless our rolling-stock and our roads are improved we will not get very far.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Why is there likely to be a shortage of wheat in New South Wales when there is ample in South Australia?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I cannot say. Our roads were not built to carry the heavy loads now expected of them and they are breaking up under the strain and will have to be rebuilt. This is a problem facing the Government, but it will have to be tackled. Lack of cement has been another of our troubles. It is used not only in house building, but to a great extent on farms, but we are pleased to know that there is likely to be an improvement in the supply in the near future.

I was particularly interested to read a statement by the Premier on what could probably be obtained from Osborne through Leigh Creek coal. It is expected that it will be possible to produce between 5,000 and 7,000 tons of cement a year, thereby effecting a saving of £75,000 on imported cement. I do not understand the process, but it illustrates that Leigh Creek coal is capable of providing something more than energy and warmth. The output of the field today is 15,000 tons a week, but the Commonwealth railways can haul only 8,000 tons weekly, although it is expected that it may be possible to bring down 9,000 tons this week. We are all anxiously awaiting the verdict of the Royal Commission which is examining the question of the proposed new route of the railway from Brachina. Coal is the key to production of every kind and without it the State cannot progress.

We are pleased to know that our reservoirs are practically full already, but with our increasing population we cannot be too complacent about the position even next summer. Until the South Para reservoir and the trunk main from Mannum are completed we cannot consider ourselves to be safe. The expanding secondary industries are using enormous quantities of water, and our increasing population is imposing further strains upon our supplies. Eyre Peninsula would have

been absolutely out of water in the past summer but for the Uley-Wanilla scheme inaugurated a few years ago. The scheme has stood up to the test and proved a boon to Eyre Peninsula. The area it serves is a highly productive part of the State, but without adequate water supplies it is useless to try to develop more country. The residents of Tumby Bay expect to have a water supply within a few weeks. They have waited long and anxiously for it, and when the main along the east coast of the Peninsula is completed I assure members that production in that area will be greatly increased.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—What is the position of the Tod River reservoir?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—It is about one-third full. The recent intake was the first in about three years. Jamestown and Caltowie are other towns in my electorate urgently requiring water supplies. Strangely enough, although Jamestown, more than most towns, is subjected to flooding in years of good rainfall, it has a very poor supply in the summer, and the underground water is of very poor quality; supplies for both Jamestown and Caltowie are long overdue.

Improvements to the Port Lincoln harbour are likewise long overdue, for I cannot recall any money being spent on harbour facilities on that port in the last 30 years. Consequently I am pleased to learn that the Government proposes to provide better accommodation. The new Wanilla and Tumby Bay settlements will increase the volume of production on the peninsula by at least one-third and improved facilities will be greatly needed. I pay a tribute to the Education Department for the progress it has made in the last 12 months. When we realize that there are 95,300 pupils in the State we have an idea of the colossal task involved in educating our children, and I congratulate the Minister on the excellent job he is doing. The transport of children to schools has been greatly improved. This has been a contentious subject in my district and it has not always been easy to find transport facilities where small schools have been closed. The department has launched a scheme for training persons between the ages of 21 and 50 in proximity to their own homes, for a period of six months, in order that they may be capable of assisting the department to overcome the shortage of teachers.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—How are they to be trained?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Provision is made to train persons for six months sufficiently to make them capable of assisting in the schools nearest to their homes. Mr. Herriot gave some alarming figures in regard to soil erosion. He said that America, with a population of 150,000,000, was spending an average of 13s. 8d. a head for the control of erosion, but on a population basis Australia was spending only 8d. a head.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—They are doing the job much more extensively than we are.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Sand drift in the Murray mallee is not the only danger. Water erosion has a far worse effect, particularly on high land, for it not only takes away the soil but takes the fertility away with it for ever; whereas with sand drift, although one man may lose his top soil, another may gain it. Therefore water erosion is something to which we must pay great attention in future.

I do not intend to deal with housing at great length, but will refer to an anomaly which exists in respect of war service homes. The maximum advance for war service homes is £2,000. The applicant can select his house from a series of plans, which provide for homes averaging approximately 11½ squares. The best price which can be obtained from a building contractor for such a home ranges from £2,500 to £2,600. The owner also has to buy a block of land, and a good site costs £300. In addition, he must pay for the erection of fences. Efforts are being made to have the advance increased to £2,500. An applicant must first find about £1,000 before he can get a contract, therefore, many applications are being withdrawn.

I congratulate the Hospitals Department on its wonderful work. Mr. Oates will say that the Government should establish a lottery to provide more hospitals, but we are making good progress without a lottery. The Chief Secretary will be opening a new hospital at Cummins in August. The original tender was £11,500, but the contractor could not complete the work and now it will cost £40,000, including nurses' quarters and furniture. When people are prepared to help themselves, the Government is willing to assist. I am sure the Minister will feel proud when he opens this magnificent building.

The Government has done a national service under the war service land settlement scheme. Land is developed and put under production before it is allotted. In his speech the Governor said that 616 settlers had already

been allotted holdings and a further 135 were under allocation, making a total of 751. The contentious question often asked is "How many applicants are still waiting allotment?" It is difficult to arrive at the total.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Why?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Because of apathy among many of the applicants themselves.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—You would not be game to tell them that at a meeting.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Yes I would, because what I said would be based on facts. Many of them are working under farming agreements and making thousands of pounds a year, but still want to leave their names on the application list. Often they will not answer the inquiry by the Minister of Lands whether they want land or not. It is therefore difficult for the department to be sure who really wants land. Those engaged in the development of the holdings are entitled to first preference. The Kangaroo Island project is one which every member should see so that he can appreciate what has been done. Most spectacular results have been achieved and an area of 28,000 acres has been seeded. It is expected that 25,000 acres a year will be seeded for many years to come. I visited the island recently, and although there are at the moment shipping difficulties I believe they will be overcome. It is no use producing unless suitable transport is available. With the assistance of the C.S.I.R.O. that land will be among the best pasture land in the State.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—What is your opinion of the work being done by the settlers in clearing and ploughing the land?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—It is excellent. I was amazed at the fine spirit existing on the settlement. The men have something to work for, and those who get land under the scheme will be privileged because they will come into possession of properties already in production. One of the striking features of the development is the spreading of 650 tons of superphosphate by aeroplane. The work in charge of Mr. Rowland Hill has been highly successful and economical. When the Government knows how much land is wanted for soldier settlement, its ambition will be to secure it.

Much has been said in the House of Assembly about the purchase of single unit farms. Under that scheme no new land is brought into production; it is only a matter of taking one man off and putting another on. There is no

writing off on single unit farms unless developmental work and improvements are made by the Lands Development Executive. Under the war service land settlement scheme rentals cannot be increased but can be reduced, and that is a point in favour of the scheme compared with the purchase of single unit farms. The marginal lands legislation was one of the finest pieces of legislation passed by Parliament.

The Hon. R. J. Rudall—The present position is due not to legislation but to administration.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—It would be a combination of both. Much hardship was suffered in these areas, but because of the activities of the Marginal Areas Committee in enlarging the holdings, many of the disabilities have been overcome. In his speech the Governor said that 330 holdings were below the original plan of standard size and 80 were barely adequate. I have often been asked to approach the Government to have the areas reduced as they were considered too large. Although that would appear to be so in good years, it would not apply in average years. I commend the Government for increasing the areas rather than reducing them.

It is to be hoped that this session a Bill will be introduced to provide for a national war memorial in connection with World War II. Mr. Laybourne Smith has prepared plans associated with the present memorial, which involve taking over one side of the boundary fence adjoining the present memorial. When His Majesty the King visits the State next year it is to be hoped that the scheme will have been so far advanced that he will be able to unveil the memorial. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY (Southern)—I associate myself with other members in expressing loyalty to and pleasure at the continued improvement in the health of His Majesty. We listened with interest to the Speech with which His Excellency opened this Parliament. There are few people held in such high esteem and so universally appreciated throughout the country areas as are His Excellency and Lady Norrie. It is to be hoped that they will gain much pleasure from their associations with South Australia.

His Excellency's Speech pointed out keenly the wide ramifications and activities with which the Government is associated in the development of this State. There are tremendous activities throughout the variety of measures associated with this development, and we are

amazed when we consider the work undertaken and that still to be done. We hope that steps will be taken in the near future to get other works under way. I am pleased with the excellent seasonal conditions we are experiencing and it is satisfying to know that while we are having a good season we are enjoying high prices. Often when products are plentiful prices are poor and when products are scarce prices are good.

His Excellency mentioned a strong demand for meat, dairy produce and eggs and the growing need for further investigation in these fields. It is obvious to the most casual observer that everything is not right with primary producing. We are getting high prices but they cannot continue indefinitely. Changes are taking place in the country which are not to the full benefit of the industry. Land which was developed for a particular type of production is being converted to less arduous and more profitable purposes. With the tremendous competition for labour and the granting of a shorter working period on farms, in common with other industries, more work is being thrown on the proprietor. Instead of having a leisurely week-end he is called upon to carry out many jobs which normally are shared by his employees. Is it little wonder that when a man is called upon to milk his cows, feed his sheep, stock and poultry on a mixed farming proposition there is a tendency to go into sideline industries which do not entail such arduous labour and long hours? It is a sign of the times and one which we must correct in the near future if we are to have a balanced economy which will be in the best interests of the State and Commonwealth. With the growing population there will be a tremendous increase in the demand for those products. If it is a matter of prices we should endeavour to meet the position at the earliest opportunity and not wait until the industry has reached such a low ebb that it will be difficult to reinstate.

In this State we have an Agricultural Department with a Director who has a dynamic personality and a tremendous capacity for work. Whilst I have the highest regard for the Director there are ways in which the department might be improved. There is an Advisory Board of Agriculture consisting mainly of practical men—citizens who have carried out various types of production in their own districts and who are leading exponents in those fields. In spite of our wonderful set-up, there is a feeling that primary producers have not received the fullest possible

benefits. The department is not fully effective. I pay a tribute to the work of the C.S.I.R.O. and the Waite Research Institute. They have both done a tremendous amount to develop the pastoral and agricultural areas of this country. We have more to thank the C.S.I.R.O. for than the Department of Agriculture because its work has been more spectacular. Perhaps that is primarily because a larger amount of money is available to the C.S.I.R.O. for the work they are engaged upon. If it is a matter of finance I hope the Government will make available the necessary money to enable the Department of Agriculture to give the fullest service in the promotion of proper agricultural practices. The work undertaken on soldier settlements will be of tremendous advantage to ex-servicemen and the State. It is opportune and desirable for the Director to devote his full time to his position of Director and not engage in other activities which may be relative to his position but which may occupy a considerable amount of his time. I was pleased to hear mention of further investigations and advisory services to be established. As we have many new settlers it is desirable that they should be set upon the road they are to travel in the best possible manner. We are inclined to place too high a value on academic qualifications and not enough upon practical application. I do not belittle academic qualifications but it is essential that combined with those qualifications men should have the ability to impart information in a practical manner to primary producers. In recent years young officers appointed to the department have rendered excellent service in expounding the various practices which are desirable in the country. They have been of great assistance to the producers generally. By feeding and fattening stock on the farms before marketing we will go at least half-way to solving the problem of fodder conservation. This season we expect a fodder surplus. There are excellent prospects with unprecedentedly good feed conditions everywhere. It is time departmental officers stressed on every possible occasion the desirability of fodder conservation, which has been neglected largely because of labour shortages. The labour position on farms has been met to a degree by mechanization. Many farmers who own tractors and big machines are neglecting sidelines and having an easier time.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—Would you call potato-growing a sideline?

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—In many instances I would. In recent months potato

growers have been greatly criticized. If a working man was employed at £10 a week and found he could get £12 a week across the road he would leave his job. If potato growers can get £2 a ton extra for their potatoes in the country districts of N.S.W. and have delivery taken on their farms who will blame them? In 1948 a Potato Marketing Board was established, consisting of nine members. Two were Government nominees, five were potato growers and two were merchant representatives.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—How many represented consumers?

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—That depended upon what arrangements the Government made but I assume it looked after the consumers when making appointments. The board was established to provide an even flow of potatoes to the market and to do away with congestion. Under the Act the board was empowered to control the sale, delivery and price of potatoes, but there was one proviso; the price was subject to the maximum price fixed by the Prices Minister. I am not sure that that was in the best interests of either the country or the potato growers. Had the board had that power without the proviso it would have been much easier for it to function properly.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—Did the board have power to grade potatoes?

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—Potatoes have to reach a certain standard to be acceptable to the board, but in recent months I think consumers have been glad to buy potatoes whether they were A1 or A2 quality; they would have had a *bona fide* complaint had the board rejected potatoes which it normally would not have accepted. The point I make is that it would be desirable to give the board full powers in regard to the sale, delivery and price of potatoes. The board has had some difficulty in regulating deliveries into store. It can be readily understood that if a grower is told to bring in one ton and brings in two it is not easy to turn them away and consequently there have still been some gluts. If the board had had power to dock the price of the excess deliveries it would have influenced growers to keep them at home. It must be realized, however, that when growers have to store their potatoes they have to pick them over in order to eliminate waste, but they are paid nothing extra to cover the cost involved, and it cannot be done for nothing. It is obvious that the grower is anxious to get his product on the market as early as possible.

The board made an attempt to reduce the price with a view to easing the flow, but that was immediately seized upon by the Prices Commissioner and made the reduced the maximum price, and it proved very difficult to raise the price again. This is, I believe, an anomaly in our Act which I would like to see corrected this session.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—Is that why the growers adopted direct action?

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—I do not know what direct action they adopted beyond trying to sell their product to the best advantage, just as the worker tries to sell his labour. The Act empowers the Minister of Agriculture to make a decision in any dispute which may arise. If that provision were retained and the price fixing power taken from the Prices Commissioner and given to the board we would find that the potato industry would benefit to the advantage of both the grower and the consumer.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—That is in conflict with the policy of your leader, Mr. Menzies, who wants to control prices.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—I do not think he is half as anxious to control prices as the honourable member's Party. Potato growers have rather an unpleasant job, particularly in wet seasons like the present, and the people owe the gardeners who have put potatoes on the market something for having provided a reasonably cheap article—at least cheaper than potatoes we could buy from Tasmania or Western Australia.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Was it not a fact that they were getting full value only while the Labor Government gave it to them?

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—Like the dairy farmers, if they had waited for benefits to come from the Labor Government they would have waited a long time. Another matter of particular interest is transport. His Excellency's Speech contained a reference to orders which have been placed for railway rolling-stock. Without adequate transport, whether by ship, rail, or motor vehicle, we cannot hope to progress in this primary producing country as we should. The majority of superphosphate users have experienced delays of two to three months in deliveries, and those who were not able to get their supplies by the end of June will have to pay an additional £4 a ton, due wholly to two factors; one, a strike, and the other, inadequate transport.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—Could the manufactures have put it out more quickly?

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—Yes. At almost any time, by paying £5 a ton more for motor transportation, superphosphate could have been obtained in the South-East from Geelong, showing clearly that it was a matter of transport.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—Are you on a quota basis?

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—Yes.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—Controlled by the Government?

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—Controlled by the availability of supply and determined by the companies.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—There is no guarantee that your quota will be fulfilled.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—It was fixed on the basis of supply and the only thing which held it up was lack of transport. I congratulate the Government on its foresight in taking action to maintain deliveries of superphosphate in the coming years. Members are aware that because America has tightened up on the supply of sulphur to Australia there has been some fear about maintaining adequate superphosphate supplies in this country. Consequently it is a matter of great satisfaction to know that the Government has made arrangements with manufacturing and mining companies to develop the pyrites deposits at Nairne. I hope this project will be brought to satisfactory fruition, as I am sure it will be of great benefit to primary producers in about two years' time. One member referred to the project for producing sulphur at Port Pirie. Unfortunately that has not been developed sufficiently to afford any immediate relief, but sulphur will ultimately be available from that source.

A great deal of land development has taken place in my district. I appreciate what has been and is being done in developmental work on Kangaroo Island and in the South-East. I do not think any member of Parliament, or any ex-serviceman, can cavil at the work being done by various organizations to prepare land for settlement and it affords great pleasure to see how the work of the A.M.P. Society has progressed in the last year. I understand from its representatives that it is hoped within 10 years to have sufficient land available for about 300 settlers, and this will be a great achievement. I pay a tribute to the work of the Highways Department. Until a month ago the department had effectively met the heavy wear and tear which was taking place, but owing to the last very wet month the roads have deteriorated and are now in a very sad

state. The time has arrived when something will have to be done to limit either the weight or the speed of motor transport vehicles, or both. I believe in the greatest possible freedom for motor transport services, and I sometimes wonder what would have happened if we had not had good motor transport services in recent months. However, if the cost of road upkeep is going to be so tremendous we will have to do something to eliminate the terrific waste caused by high speed. We know that road hauliers are making good incomes, but road transportation has the effect of increasing the cost of all commodities brought to South Australia by that means. For example, the transportation cost on a consignment of piping brought from the eastern States recently by road added 36 per cent to the cost, so although road transport is helping us a great deal it is also putting up our costs.

We have heard a lot recently about price control and we have had quite unhappy experiences of it in recent years. I shall not attempt to blame any section of the community, or give any opportunity to my friends of the Opposition to say that I blame the workers. I believe every Australian has some responsibility in building up an adequate production in order that we shall not be called upon to take action in regard to prices. We are perfectly well aware that the import market is a dear market, but we have been trading more and more on it.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—And exporting more.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—In some cases.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—In total value, and money is worth the same whatever its source.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—We are well aware that the price of wool will not stay at the present fabulous figure which has created part of our tremendous overseas credit. The price of wool has already dropped to half the highest value brought. On the other hand imports have not dropped, but rather increased, and this has resulted in our present difficult position. It is up to the Australian people generally to set to work and produce more. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition took Mr. Menzies to task for not putting value back into the pound. We must remember that at a recent election Australians indicated that they wanted the Communist menace removed, and it was made clear by the Government that ultimately the value of the pound would be increased through the elimination of Communist influences. However, the Opposition majority in the Senate adopted delaying tactics when a Bill was introduced to deal with Communists and weeks elapsed before it was passed at the eleventh hour. Almost immediately, the legislation was challenged in the High Court, which held the view that it was unconstitutional. Once again Mr. Menzies has been returned to power, and it is the duty of every Australian to do his best to help the Government which has been elected, among other things, to put value back into the pound. If given full support it will not be necessary for the Government to adopt artificial measures to keep the cost of living within reasonable bounds.

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.35 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, July 31, at 2 p.m.