

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, July 31, 1951.

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

POLIOMYELITIS EPIDEMIC.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—As the poliomyelitis epidemic will soon be in its third year, can the Chief Secretary say whether further steps can be taken to combat its spread, which has become serious? Over 200 patients are in the Northfield Hospital, which is being over-taxed.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—Everything possible is being done. Certain research is carried out here and investigations are continuing. More attention is being given to poliomyelitis, in the way of manpower and money, than any other disease. The honourable member referred to the epidemic being in its third year. It is alarming but it has apparently ceased to be an epidemic and would appear to be endemic. No-one has the answer and as experts cannot assist us in any way I am afraid I cannot say what further action will be taken. The only assurance I can give the honourable member is that everything possible is being done by the best medical and research authorities. It is a problem of hospitalization. Road accidents are running very close to it. Poliomyelitis has the greatest claim on permanent beds, and is more embarrassing than anything else we have experienced.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Will the Government consider sending overseas the scientists engaged in the research work so that they may become conversant with the latest developments and methods of research?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—No opportunity is lost by the Government in obtaining information, and we are already represented by two people overseas. The history of the epidemic is being examined. Money was provided for research work to enable the authorities to find some new avenues of approach which might give some assistance. The amount of work performed has been colossal.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Have they found a new avenue?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—With research work often they don't know where they are going and not unusually they stumble on something unexpectedly. In this research work one often sets off on a certain course and then comes to a cross road. You do not know which way to go, but follow the road you think best until you come

to a dead end. You retrace your steps and take the other road until you run up against something else. I can assure the honourable member that every worth-while suggestion is being examined, and there is no restriction as to expenditure on necessary investigations.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Can the Chief Secretary state what amount has been expended upon research from the £10,000 voted by Parliament for the purpose?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—I cannot give the exact figure. I know that, although every recommendation which has come from the committee has been met, the whole of the money voted has not yet been expended.

BRITISH MIGRANTS AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FRANCHISE.

The Hon. E. A. OATES—Can the Chief Secretary say whether British migrants who have fulfilled residential qualifications are entitled to be enrolled as voters for the Legislative Council?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—I shall refer the matter to the Attorney-General. If they are British migrants, as soon as they have completed the residential and other qualifications they will be eligible to become enrolled.

RETRENCHMENT OF FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVANTS.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Can the Chief Secretary say whether it will be possible to employ retrenched Federal public servants in State departments which are understaffed?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—I am not aware of any great shortage of staff in State departments. In fact, I might suggest that if there were fewer people employed in the Federal departments it would alleviate some of the work of State departments. From experience it would appear that a great number of officers are kept in Federal departments for the purpose of carrying out investigations and compiling reports and tabulating information for other Commonwealth officers. If the Commonwealth Public Service were smaller it might relieve State departments of some of the work they are now carrying out.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Is there any shortage in the staff of the Public Service of South Australia? If so, what does the Government intend to do to remedy it?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—I am not aware of any shortages which are worrying the Government at present, but any vacancies will be filled in the usual way by the Public Service

Commissioner, after they have been properly circularized and advertised, and every application will be considered on its merits.

“HALT INFLATION” CONFERENCE.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—The Premier is at present attending the “Halt Inflation” conference being held in Sydney, on behalf of South Australia. Can the Chief Secretary say whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce legislation this session for the purpose of conceding full powers to the Commonwealth Parliament for the control of prices?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—The matter of legislation to be introduced will be the decision of the Cabinet. From what I have read in the morning newspaper of the proceedings of the conference it would appear that one State which probably did as much to assist inflation as any State has indulged in throwing bricks and introducing a sort of party political approach to the issue. I am inclined to think that if that is the attitude of the conference I would not expect much result. Until we know what happens at the conference nothing can be put before the Cabinet, and at present there is no decision to introduce legislation to transfer any power to the Commonwealth, of which, I am sure, everyone is rather suspicious.

PORT ADELAIDE WATERFRONT POSITION.

The Hon. E. A. OATES—Does the Government intend to lay upon the table the report of Mr. Bishop, who is inquiring into the waterfront position at Port Adelaide?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—A report has not yet been received and under the circumstances I am not able to inform the honourable member what will be the result of the report.

RENMARK INFANT SCHOOL.

The PRESIDENT laid upon the table the report of the Public Works Standing Committee on the Renmark infant school, together with minutes of evidence.

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (on notice)—

1. How many properties have been allocated to ex-servicemen, approved under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme?

2. Is it the intention of the Government to reconstitute the existing committee as a lands appeals board, so that the board shall consist

of a stipendiary magistrate (as chairman), a Lands Department nominee, and one appointed by the settlers?

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—The replies are:—

1. Six hundred and sixteen ex-servicemen have been placed on the land; this number includes allotments and allocations. In addition, 135 have been selected for the allocation of blocks now being developed.

2. In 1949 the Commonwealth and State Governments appointed a committee to make recommendations with regard to certain matters arising in connection with the scheme. The R.S.L. is represented on the committee and the only alteration under consideration is the appointment of additional representatives comprising ex-servicemen from World War II., one for irrigation areas and one for dry lands.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption of Address in Reply.

(Continued from July 26. Page 121.)

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON (Northern)—I would like to associate myself with other speakers who have congratulated the mover and seconder and subsequent speakers upon the excellent standard of the debate. I am sure that the atmosphere and the manner in which His Excellency delivered his speech augured well for a continuance of that dignity and decorum which we appreciate in this Chamber. I also wish to associate myself with other references to the proposed visit of their Majesties the King and Queen, and Princess Margaret. Not only are we delighted to know that they propose to visit us, but the fact that we can reasonably expect His Majesty's visit indicates that he has made great progress in recovering his health, for which we are all gratified: the latest picture we saw of him indicated that he has made great strides towards recovery.

As a people we appreciate very highly the work which Sir Willoughby and Lady Norrie are doing for the State, and as a representative of the Northern District I express appreciation of the tour he recently conducted on Eyre Peninsula extending to the remotest corner, even as far as Fowlers Bay, to meet people who are, to some extent, particularly the younger ones, isolated by the gulf and distance.

I regret that our Clerk, Mr. Redman, is not with us, and assure him that we are all looking forward to the time when he may

be fully recovered. I am very appreciative of the services he has always rendered to me as one of the younger members of this Chamber, and it is pleasing to know that his work is being carried on very ably by the Acting Clerk and his Assistant.

The programme outlined by His Excellency may appear somewhat ambitious, but the Government, to its credit, has always looked ahead and made provision for emergencies. We had an example of this only last week. We are again extremely short of coal and I regret that for a day or two Eyre Peninsula steam trains will not be running to carry produce to the market. However, we are assured that by the early arrival of a cargo of coal from South Africa and the diversion of coal to Port Lincoln that difficulty will be remedied early next week. To govern a country a programme cannot be arranged from day to day, because consideration must be given to the future. This applies to our Government departments, particularly to electricity and water supply. Some speakers have said that the programme outlined by the Governor in his Speech cannot be carried out in our lifetime. However, that programme shows that the Government is looking to the future.

I was somewhat perturbed by the statement in that speech that it was expected there would be a drop in the acreage to be sown to wheat. That has since been confirmed. It is estimated that it will drop to 1,620,000 acres this year. This problem is exercising the minds of producers because they realize that a recession in acreage generally means a reduction in the quantity of wheat available for export. Australia's acreage has been considerably reduced because of floods in New South Wales. In Australia we have a home consumption price for all wheat consumed within the Commonwealth. Because of the growing population, the proportion of wheat used for human consumption and stock feed is increasing, whereas that for export is falling off. Today's price for wheat for export under the International Wheat Agreement is 16s. 1d. a bushel, 20s. 11d. for bagged wheat sold outside that agreement, and 19s. for f.o.b. bulk wheat. The home consumption price for wheat for human consumption and stock is 7s. 11d. a bushel. It will therefore be seen that it is important that the proportion of wheat for export should be kept up. A question was raised by interjection during the debate regarding the effect of the price of wheat on the price of bread. To make a

ton of flour 46.3 bushels of wheat are necessary, and 778 lb. of mill offal are produced in the making of a ton of flour, which will make 1,330 loaves of bread. Computing it on that basis, an increase of 3d. a bushel means adding one-tenth of a penny to the cost of a loaf of bread. Allowing for mill offal to take its proportion of the price, for every 5s. increase in the price of wheat 1½d. is added to a loaf of bread. With wheat at 7s. 11d. per bushel, its value in a loaf of bread is 2½d. If the price is increased to 17s. 11d., the value of wheat in a loaf of bread is increased by another 3d. The difference is brought about by the cost of labour and overhead charges.

In looking into the question of wheat production in South Australia I find that the position is not so alarming as we are led to believe. Although our wheat acreage has dropped by 50,000 acres, actual production has been increased. Last year on 1,846,000 acres we produced 30,935,000 bushels at an average of 16.76 bushels an acre. Whereas the area has progressively declined from 2,519,000 acres in 1946-47 to 2,375,000 the following year, 2,063,000, 1,896,000, and then 1,846,000 in 1950-51, over that period we have averaged more than 30,000,000 bushels a year. The acreage production has increased from 10.52 bushels in 1946 to 16.76 last season. This increase has resulted from a wider rotation of crops and the improved fertility of the soil. I also admit that seasonal conditions have an important bearing on production. Over the last nine years our aggregate yearly return has dropped by only a few million bushels.

The production of barley in South Australia has increased over the last 15 years from 5,500,000 bushels to 16,750,000 bushels last season. It is expected that the area sown to barley this year will be 775,000 acres, compared with 764,993 last year. Rain has a big bearing on the estimation of crops. A crop could vary by 2,000,000 bushels in two months, depending on spring rain. It is expected that oat acreages will be increased by 17 per cent this year.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Isn't there a falling off in the planting of wheat?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—Yes, it dropped from an average of 3,096,000 acres for the five years ended 1938-39 to 1,846,000 acres in 1950-51. Although during the last five years the acreage planted has dropped considerably, we have been able to maintain our crops. Superphosphate has been applied to a smaller area.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Then the shortage of superphosphate is not a serious question?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—It is a vital question.

The Hon. E. A. Oates—Why are they increasing barley acreages?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—Barley is a crop which does not need fallowing and is a change crop from wheat. It can be grown on lighter soil where it would be dangerous to fallow. The price for barley is good and there is a demand for it in export markets. I pay a tribute to the officers of our Agricultural Department and the C.S.I.R.O. In Sir George Jenkins we have a man who has considerable drive and judgment. He goes about his work with a zeal which would do credit to a much younger man. The Soil Conservation Branch should be complimented on the excellent work it does. A few days ago there was a report in the *Advertiser* of a visit made to the northern agricultural areas. They visited the farms of Mr. S. K. Moore, at Jamestown, and Mr. S. Larwood, of near Yacka. The report states:—

Mr. Larwood said that in 1942 his farm was so badly eroded by water and wind that it was practically worthless and he could see no prospect but to abandon it. Then he had a visit from Mr. Herriot, and from that time the picture began to change. The hilltop soils were now held by contour banks and the gutters below them were beginning to heal. Despite the exceptional rains this season, no water had run off the contour-banked land. Members of the party said that the lucerne pasture on this land was the best they had seen during the trip.

In America 13s. 8d. per capita is being spent on soil conservation as compared with 8d. in South Australia. America is on a different basis, as she pays the farmers to do the work, which results in a colossal waste of money. In South Australia the Agricultural Department supplies the technical knowledge and carries out surveys and the farmer does the work. The fact that we are not doing more is not a question of economics, but we have not the technicians to carry out the work. Of all the graduates from Roseworthy Colleges this year, only one joined the department. Production of milk has fallen from about 74,000,000 gall. in the period July to March, 1949-50, to 70,000,000 gall. in 1950-51. Butter production slumped from 15,200,000 lb. to 13,800,000 lb. in the same period and cheese from 21,000,000 lb. to 18,000,000 lb.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Would you tolerate the 40-hour week in the dairying industry?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—If the dairying industry was worked on a 40-hour week it would fail unless consumers paid the additional cost of production. I do not see why dairying industry costs should be computed on a 56-hour basis.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Then you believe in the 40-hour week?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—If the 40-hour week is a recognized condition in the country the dairy industry should not be asked to base its prices on a 56-hour week. In 1949 there were 42,900 dairy heifers, but in 1950 the number had fallen to 37,300, a decline of 5,600. South Australia has for many years been an importer of butter from Victoria and Queensland, but at other times we have had a surplus. From being an exporter we have turned into an importer, with an excess of 3,850,000 lbs. of butter over exports. The decline in butter production is attributable to the two dry seasons we have experienced, and to the fact that the price of butter for home consumption has been fixed at 2s. 2d. a pound. The Commonwealth Government guaranteed price to producers based on bulk butter of the choicest quality is 2s. 8.44d. a pound for commercial butter. The British contract price is 2s. 9.8d. a pound. This means that butter in Australia is about 10½d. a pound cheaper than the export price. In South Australia factories pay farmers 2s. 5.8d. a pound for commercial butter, which equals 2s. 11¾d. a pound butterfat.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Who makes it up—the taxpayer?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—The Government has subsidized butter to the extent of £20,000,000 so that consumers can buy it at 2s. 2d. a pound. If we control the price of butter at 2s. 2d. a pound when it is worth 2s. 8½d. for export, we are not paying the cost of production. The two dry years had a bearing on the matter. When cattle have to be hand fed it is impossible to produce at a reasonable figure. During that difficult period prices were pegged and growers were not compensated for that additional cost. A survey was made two years ago to ascertain the cost of production, but no decision has been reached. While Nero fiddled, Rome burned.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Then the present Federal Government is not doing a good job after all?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—It was not in office two years ago. In Roman history we

find a similar parallel. There was a shortage of milk for children so the milk was taxed. People then produced butter, and then butter was taxed. Then a tax was put on cheese and they killed the cows; or, if I may be pardoned for mixing my metaphors—killed the goose that laid the golden egg.

It is disconcerting to the agricultural industry to learn that there will be a reduction of about 17 per cent in the quantity of superphosphate available for the coming year. Some 18 months ago the Government realized that this was likely to happen as we were making insufficient sulphuric acid for our needs, and negotiations were entered into with the Broken Hill Associated Smelters at Port Pirie for the building of a plant to recover sulphuric acid from the gases emanating from those works. In the meantime, to tide over the difficulty, it was proposed to treat brimstone, but as U.S.A. has tightened up on the supply of brimstone to Australia, this project could not be proceeded with, and this has thrown the programme somewhat out of gear. The Government is also, in association with the B.H.P. and the superphosphate companies, exploring the possibilities of developing the pyrites deposits at Nairne, but here again it will not be possible to achieve any production for about two years. In the meantime, of course, a smaller acreage must be sown, and this is very disappointing, especially at a time when we are in the process of developing some 100,000 acres of virgin land per annum. The shortage of superphosphate will not only result in a diminished area, but its increased cost will add materially to the capital cost of development. The price of superphosphate this year will be about £15 a ton, which will have a big bearing on the cost of bringing virgin lands into production and must add materially to the capital cost of the blocks to be allotted.

Last summer brought home to us all, particularly residents in the metropolitan area, the value of an assured water supply. It is pleasing to know that by tomorrow all the reservoirs supplying the city and suburbs will be filled, but although the very dry summer brought home to the people of the city the value of a water supply, it was not a new experience in country districts. Quite a number of our old established towns, although they have been in existence for a hundred years, are still without water supplies, and I feel sure that the experience city people went through last summer will cause them to be much more sympathetic towards those in the country.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—To what district is the honourable member referring?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—In his speech His Excellency referred to Noarlunga, Yankalilla, Normanville, McLaren Vale, all old established towns in the south, and Meningie, Milang, Lameroo, and Karoonda in the district of Albert. I could enumerate many other towns in the northern district, such as Melrose, Cleve, and others.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—This Government has been in power many years. Why did it not make provision?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—I am pleased to know that steel is being received to enable the Jamestown supply to be proceeded with. I have been assured that enough steel has been secured to make 4½ miles of pipe, and it was thought that sufficient would come along to enable the project to be completed. Recently in Jamestown the hotelkeeper told me that during last summer it cost him £6 a week to provide water. During a recent trip to Eyre Peninsula I was very pleased to see that the new pipeline from Uley-Wanilla had been laid to within a mile or so of Tumby Bay, and I understand that the work was completed early this month. I am sure it will bring great pleasure and profit to the people of that district.

Within the last six months 29 motor cyclists have lost their lives and 380 have been injured in motor accidents. During the last five years there have been more deaths and accidents on Australian roads than there were Australian casualties during the war, so it is advisable to do all we possibly can to reduce the accident rate.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—I tried to reduce the speed limit but did not get much support.

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—When the honourable member moved for a maximum of 30 miles per hour in the metropolitan area I supported him, and if it can be proved that speed is the cause of death I will support him again.

I can sum up by quoting the words of Longfellow which, with certain adaptation, can be applied to the State:—

“The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not achieved by sudden flight;
But they, while their companions slept
Were toiling upwards through the night.”

As a people we can maintain our high standard of living only by working for it. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—Firstly, I compliment the mover and seconder on their speeches. Although I do not agree with every sentiment they expressed, their speeches were up to the usual high standard for which this Chamber has become noted. I compliment our President on his action in connection with an episode which took place last session. In seeking further advice with regard to a ruling he gave on that occasion his action was characteristic of the impartial manner in which he presides over the business of this Chamber and signifies his desire to live up to the traditions of the high office of President of this Council. He has admitted that his ruling was wrong and that in future, in similar circumstances, he is prepared to allow the responsibility to rest upon members. I commend him for it. It is one of those actions which go a long way towards breaking down the criticism levelled at Parliament by those not conversant with its doings, but who are ever ready to criticize an institution which is the creation of democracy.

I join with other members in lamenting the passing of the Right Hon. J. B. Chifley. I know that all members, irrespective of political creed, join with me and the people of Australia generally in proclaiming him one of Australia's greatest sons. I regret, too, the passing of Sir Charles McCann, who was in the same category, although in another realm of public service. He proved himself a remarkable South Australian. He ever had the interests of the State at heart; his ability was unchallengeable, and his judgment was such as to be admired and emulated. I regret, too, the indisposition of our Clerk, Mr. Redman. Ever since I have been a member of this Council, Mr. Redman has been courteous in the extreme. He has always been willing, even outside his office hours, to assist members. Consequently I join with others in expressing a wish for his speedy return to health so that he may be with us again to carry on his duties, at present being so efficiently performed by the Acting Clerk, Mr. Combe, and his assistant. I join with other members in adding my felicitations to the Royal Family in their projected visit to Australia. I have always said, and I reiterate, that our British system of government consists of the elected Parliament with a Government on one side, and members of the Opposition on the other, and with the Crown exemplified by His Majesty the King and the Royal Family. It is to be hoped that as a result of the visit to Australia His Majesty's health will continue to improve.

South Australia, in concert with other Australian States, is facing a crisis. In saying that I am not being an alarmist, but am speaking as a responsible member of this Council. Since the change from a Labor to a Liberal Government in the Commonwealth Parliament, that crisis has been accentuated to such an extent that we find today the Leader of the National Parliament, the Right Hon. R. G. Menzies, calling a "halt inflation" conference in Sydney to define a policy for his Government. I say that without political acrimony. Parliament is the forum provided by democracy where we as representatives of the people can say these things.

The Governor's Speech contained nothing but vacuous promises. All the proposed public works mentioned in the speech cannot be attributed solely to the Playford Government. Members know that all Government works costing more than £30,000 must be referred to the Public Works Standing Committee for report, and that when industries require Government financial assistance their proposal must first be considered by the Industries Development Committee. The Government has taken unto itself much of the reflected glory for the establishment of certain industries here.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—Not all projects are referred to that committee.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—That committee makes exhaustive inquiries on projects before forwarding its reports to the Government. If there is any glory attached to the work performed by this Government, then part of it should be extended to and shared by every member of both Houses of Parliament, because the provisions under which those committees work were determined by Parliament. It is futile for the Government to bask in the reflected glory of those committees and say, "This Government has done a remarkably good job to the advantage of the people of South Australia."

This afternoon Mr. Robinson mentioned the production of brimstone for use in the manufacture of superphosphate. It is generally known that there is a world-wide scarcity of this commodity. He commenced to tell a story, but did not complete it. The Industries Development Committee had submitted to it by the Government a proposition for the development of pyrite deposits at Nairne. It is true that the Broken Hill Pty. Co. and the major superphosphate companies in South Australia have agreed to form a company to develop those deposits so that much needed phosphate can be made available to primary producers. It is not for me to disclose the committee's

recommendations, but I can say that it wholeheartedly endorsed the proposal. Provision is made for the protection of the interests of South Australian producers. Some credit should have been given in the Governor's speech to members of both the committees mentioned. No Government, whatever its political complexion, has the right to take all the plaudits on the development of this State, when it is remembered that such committees are doing the major proportion of the work.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—Nonsense!

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I will now deal with the "halt inflation" conference called by the Prime Minister in Sydney. It is useless for members to say that this is a Federal matter and does not concern the people of this State.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—Who said that?

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—Mr. McGirr said it.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—No. He admonished the Prime Minister for not calling a more comprehensive conference, and I agree with him that the conference was not wide enough in its representation. He wanted to know, and I think the people would want to know, why the personnel of the conference did not include representatives of local governing bodies. Laws are passed in our Parliaments concerning the health of the community and it is left to the councils to administer them. I mention that to show the importance of council operations. I reaffirm that the situation confronting the Australian people is most acute. The conference in Sydney can be characterized as a farce, sham and political fraud. I say that because only a few months ago the Federal Government, after being in office for about 16 months, came to the electors of Australia and asked for a reaffirmation of its policy which it said it was prevented from giving effect to by a hostile majority in the Senate. The electors of Australia accepted that advice of the Menzies Government and gave it every opportunity, by returning it not only with a majority in the Lower House but with the majority in the Senate it desired. That is the genesis of our Commonwealth Government, and yet we find, after two months in office, and after having a fresh mandate from the people of Australia, the national leader—

The Hon. C. D. Rowe—Adopting democratic means.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I am not saying he did not have the right, but I have the right to criticise what I consider may have been his intentions in calling this conference. It appears to me that by the calling of this conference in New South Wales the Menzies Government is preparing the way to abdicate from the responsibility of government because it has not the courage to place a policy into operation, an anti-inflation policy which the people desired. The Government is now appealing to all sections of the community and shelving the responsibility given to it only a few months ago. It is appealing to leaders of all sections of the people to hammer out a policy because it is bereft of any policy in the interests of Australia. Whilst we in this House may have different shades of political opinion, all of us are imbued with a desire to maintain our Australian way of life and it is inconsistent for any Government or leader of a Government to attempt to hoodwink the people by calling this conference and enumerating the items to be discussed at the conference as set out in this morning's *Advertiser*. Amongst other things, Mr. Menzies said that the last war and all wars had to be paid for. No Australian citizen, unless allied to some foreign power desiring to submerge our way of life, would deny that, but there are ways and means of paying for wars.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—Another economist.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I do not profess to be an economist, but later I will quote Dr. Swan, an economist, to support my contention. After the 1914 war there was a succession of Liberal Governments. They changed their names on various occasions—the "Win-the-War" Party, the Nationalist Party, and the United Australia Party—but it was still the same old firm. During these chameleon changes the Australian Labor Party maintained its charter and name. Since the 1914 war we have had a succession of Liberal Governments, but notwithstanding that we find the same Party now telling the people, some of whom were not born in 1914, that wars have to be paid for. Nobody denies that, but it is the responsibility of Governments to devise ways of paying for them without placing an undue and heavy burden upon the people.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—The Prime Minister said taxation would be reduced.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Yes. Mr. Menzies goes further and says:—

Huge post-war demands for needs postponed under war-time controls—houses, furnishings, water, power and transport. An investment boom leading to an extraordinary competitive demand for capital buildings and equipment. A building boom—in 1947, 39,209 dwellings (houses and flats) were completed; in 1950, 63,429 were completed.

He uses these specious arguments to show why there is an atmosphere of inflation.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—An atmosphere of inflation?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Yes, and it is a very real one. He uses specious arguments as a necessity for calling the halt inflation conference.

The Hon. C. D. Rowe—They are not specious arguments; they are real.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—They are specious because two months ago he said “If you return our Party we have a policy and the men to carry it out which will be in the interests of the Australian people.” Over 49 per cent of the electors did not fall for that. In his speech to the conference the Prime Minister told the accredited representatives attending that inflation was due to the high cost of some of the items mentioned. But look at the other side of the medal. Last week, Professor Swan, who is Professor of Economics at the Australian National University and who, because of his position should be capable of expressing an opinion on this matter, was reported as follows:—

Inflated overseas prices—and not internal conditions—were responsible for post-war inflation in Australia, Professor T. Swan, Professor of Economics at the Australian National University, Canberra, said last night.

Professor Swan, who was addressing the Victorian Economic Society, said there was no evidence to show that post-war inflation was a “demand” inflation—one caused by a demand in excess of production within Australia. The main cause of rising prices had been due to high prices being obtained for exports and being paid for imports, he said. I wonder what some of the wool barons have to say in reply to that.

The Hon. A. J. Melrose—He sounds more like a blue duck than a swan.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I also wonder what those who export overseas have to say about it. I do not deny the right of the primary producer to get full value for his labour, but in championing the right of the primary producer to receive the full product of his labour it ill-becomes any representative of

the primary producer to castigate the worker in industry and urge him to give greater production, when he is giving all the production it is humanly capable of giving.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—No.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I will not belabour this question other than to advise my honourable friend to examine statistics compiled over the last five years. If he does so I am sure he will agree that where there has been any falling off in production it has not been due to laziness on the part of artisans but has been primarily due to a *laissez faire* attitude adopted by the employer in not modernizing his machinery and not meeting the impact of the 40-hour week and other conditions given to the worker by properly constituted tribunals.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—That does not apply to coalminers.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—The more the honourable member talks about coalminers the blacker it is for his party.

The Hon. C. D. Rowe—Which industry do you think has not modernized its plant as much as it reasonably can, consistent with prevailing difficulties?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—My honourable friend does not live in the metropolitan area and does not know the problems metropolitan members have. I could name a number of industries where, because a father has established it his sons adopt the attitude “If it was good enough for father it is good enough for us” and with the high costs obtaining for their products they have no desire to increase production. Where an essential commodity is involved the worker is blamed for not bending his back further and not giving greater production. There are some things which we urgently need and we cannot shut our eyes to that fact. The worker is not responsible for the present chaotic inflationary conditions in which we find ourselves or for the policy of the Menzies Government, but, in order to find some scapegoat so as to deflect the attention of the people to the inactivity of the Government the Commonwealth Government raises all these bogies because it realizes that the people desire consumer goods of which there is a scarcity and it endeavours to create the impression that the workers are solely to blame.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—Were they responsible for the Chifley Government?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—People realize that was a good Government and are finding, to their sorrow that it was a black

day when they returned the Menzies Government. Mr. Menzies also mentions the 40-hour week. Ever since I have been in this Parliament I have heard the 40-hour week criticized as being inimical to Australia's welfare. The 40-hour week was granted by members of our arbitration judiciary after exhaustive investigation and hearing. They gave their decision and it ill-becomes some members of the community to criticize that decision, because it would not have been given if the Court considered it to be inimical to the people's welfare. The same applies to all legislation we pass here and to everything in every walk of life.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—The employers said the same thing when the 48-hour week was introduced.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Every time there has been an improvement in industrial conditions, every time any progress towards democracy has been made we have heard the old catch cry that it would sound the death knell of our economy. I am reminded of the promise by the Menzies Government that it would introduce legislation to provide for an excess profits tax.

The Hon. C. D. Rowe—Has there been a Budget session since?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—No, but a lot of legislation has been passed. This State, in unison with others, will have to watch the activities of the national Government. All these projected public works are contingent upon the good-will displayed by the Federal Government, for all States are tied to it financially through the financial agreement, so whenever the State Government is tempted to take credit unto itself for what it has done and is doing it should pay due regard to the respective committees and to the Parliament of South Australia.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD (Central No. 2)—I know I voice the feelings of all members in saying that we were happy to learn that the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen, accompanied by Princess Margaret, may be looked forward to early next year. The profound disappointment caused by the postponement of the visit has given way to relief and pleasure, and the people of this land are grateful to Providence for His Majesty's recovery in health.

I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion on the quality and scope of their speeches. It is a matter of great regret that the Clerk of this Council, Mr. Redman, is

suffering such indisposition as to prevent his attendance, and I trust it will not be long before he is once more able to be present at our sittings.

With the passing of time I become increasingly convinced of the value of the Address in Reply debate, and feel sure that it gives an opportunity for the expression of views and opinions which later make for the improvement of our legislation. The mover and seconder both gave us much to ponder upon and so made no mean contribution to the duties that confront us. The Governor, early in his speech, referred to the unusually favourable conditions of the opening of the season in the settled areas. As we have all been uncomfortably aware, the two previous years at least were both marked by a substantial shortage of rain. Earlier this afternoon Mr. Robinson indicated that there had been two good seasons, but the drop in the rainfall figures was very disadvantageous to primary production. Even allowing for the great expansion of secondary industries we cannot forget that we are still directly dependent upon primary production for our well-being. Consequently, the conditions which have marked the opening of the 1951 season are cheering to all of us.

I am inclined to think that many South Australians do not realize how severe were the droughts that enveloped our State in the past two years. Towards the end of 1950 even the metropolitan areas were uncomfortably impressed by the imposition of water restrictions, and the relief felt by all when the season broke and copious rain fell was both heartfelt and general; but the year 1949 had also been a patchy and dry one throughout South Australia. However, as we know—for I suppose there is no part of the daily paper to which more attention is directed than the rainfall statistics and the weather map—the rainfall for Adelaide is not a high one, the average for 112 years being only 21.03in. That is little enough, but during droughts averages do not help us much, and in 1949 the amount of rain gauged at Adelaide was only 18.23in. I am quite aware that in quoting Adelaide figures I am laying myself open to the criticism that this may not be representative of the rainfall generally, but it is a very good indication of what the movement may be up or down for the whole of the State. As a matter of fact, the rainfall for Adelaide at 21.03in. is somewhat more than the average of all the rainfall gauging stations in South Australia. The rainfall in 1949 was 18.23

against an average of 21.03, but in 1950 it fell to 16.16 inches. The cumulative effect of two consecutive under-average rainfall years was that the subsoil became dry and thirsty with an inevitable adverse effect upon primary production. If the seasonal improvement we are now experiencing continues we may reasonably hope for an increase in rural output, with the direct benefit which invariably accrues to all residents of South Australia as the result of a good year experienced by the man on the land.

His Excellency directed attention to the lack of farm labour and to the seriousness of the conditions arising therefrom. The Government has approved, therefore, of the establishment of Young Farmers Clubs, and I feel sure this move is justified by the experience of many other countries which have embarked upon this experiment, as well as, to some extent, the experience of other States of the Commonwealth. In any case the necessity for action in this matter is so urgent that every possible assistance should, and I feel sure will, be lent to stimulate and encourage interest in rural pursuits. For the benefit of members who may not be informed on what has already been done in this direction I point out that the Royal Agricultural Society, of which you, Sir, were its President for over 20 years, last September entertained at the Society's grounds about 20 representatives of the Junior Agricultural Bureaus. Those young men were housed and fed and looked after and had the opportunity to see the judging and of making themselves acquainted with what progressive agriculture should represent in South Australia. That experiment is regarded as having been eminently successful; so successful, indeed, and so satisfied has been the society with the results, that it has decided not only to entertain a further 20 visitors selected by the Junior Agricultural Bureaus again this year, but to extend invitations to one junior member from each State of the Commonwealth. Assuming those invitations are accepted—and it is hard to imagine that there will be any disinclination to take advantage of the offer—these young men will come from as far north as Queensland, and their expenses will be paid from the time they leave home until they return. I feel sure that the Young Farmers' Movement in the other States will be stimulated and encouraged by this step by the society. It will be seen that a definite start has been made in the desired direction and I feel sure that it will have universal support.

It was pleasing to learn from the Governor's Speech that there are reasonable grounds for hoping that the fruit fly has been eradicated. The Government is to be warmly commended for its prompt action in this matter. We reflect that efforts to eradicate it have cost much money. Last year the Chief Secretary said that it was expected that the cost up to June 30 last would be about £118,000. Had the fruit fly not been subdued the loss to this State and its orchards must have been disastrous. Much energy and capital have been expended in developing our orchards, and South Australians are rightly proud of the standard of its fruit production.

During this debate it is usual to refer to our forestry operations. In spite of the aridity of much of South Australia, certain parts have been found to be suitable for forestry operations. Year by year the area planted has been increased and the acreage proclaimed as forest reserves has grown to 254,000; and of that total 109,000 acres are planted with softwoods. This is an increase in the last 12 months of about 4,050 acres. Thinning operations last year amounted to 3,051 acres, which indicates that forestry management is keeping up with the expanding area coming into production. As was to be expected, timber production last year was a record. More than 82,000,000 super feet of softwood log timber was produced, of which 75,000,000 represented *pinus radiata*. Of that total, 74,000,000 super feet was sawn by departmental and private sawmills and the bulk of this production was supplied to the housing and the case-making trades of South Australia. A total of 5,000,000 super feet was made available to the cellulose industry in the South-East for the manufacture of cardboard and 3,000,000 super feet was supplied to the match and veneer industries.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Those figures show the great achievement with a 40-hour week.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD—Unfortunately for the honourable member those figures refer to trees which grew some time before the 40-hour week was introduced. If a longer week were worked more timber would be cut. I have yet to learn how we can increase production by shortening the working week. Sufficient processed flooring timber was obtained from our forests during the year to meet requirements for more than 4,000 houses and nearly 1,000,000 dried fruit cases. More than 1,000,000 citrus cases were produced and nearly 2,000,000 super feet of fitch timber was sent to the metropolitan area for case

manufacture. These figures give some idea of the results achieved by the Woods and Forests Department. Previously I have referred to the prejudice which seems to exist against timber frame houses in South Australia. In other parts of the Commonwealth timber for home building is used to a much greater extent. The chimneys are usually of brick and the roofs of tiles or slate. They provide comfortable dwellings, which certainly look attractive. Such homes can be built more quickly and are in every way as convenient to live in as those made of other materials. In this direction there is much scope for an extension of forestry activities.

His Excellency specially referred to the high price of wool and the strong demand for meat and other farm produce. At the beginning of World War II. the United Kingdom was our best customer. Indeed, it was buying more of this country's exports than the rest of the world combined, and even today Australia is selling in different lines all her surplus to the Mother Country, which is still buying more from us than all foreign buyers together. The figures for the Commonwealth apply proportionately to South Australia. There is a greater income reaching South Australia from purchases made by the United Kingdom than from any other source. The capacity of a customer to pay prices naturally depends on his prosperity. With prosperity in the United Kingdom, increasing trade with Australia will result, but if, on the other hand, the Old Country experiences harder times, then we may have to look in other directions for markets for many of our products. By making comparisons with the figures of our secondary industries we are able to see, perhaps a little more clearly, what has occurred in regard to their capacity for production and, at the same time, the larger number of mouths to be fed from the primary industries in our State. In 1941 in South Australia there were 2,230 factories. By the end of last year they had grown to 3,046. The persons employed in 1941 were 50,844 and in 1950, 78,598. The value of the output

in 1941 was £43,600,000, and in 1950, £141,528,000. In under 10 years the value of the output has multiplied by about three and a half and, although allowance has to be made for the increase in prices, there has been a very great expansion in secondary industries. To the Government in power must be accorded great credit. It has displayed vision and courage and the people of this State have benefited thereby.

The Session upon which we are just embarking will have its times of difficulties, but although our problems may be of a new form we can, I am sure, and will deal with them confident of success. Before concluding I wish to mention a matter which has been touched upon by two earlier speakers. Mr. Condon referred to an incident which occurred on the final day of last Session. I am sure that every member appreciated, as did Mr. Condon, the fact that you, Mr. President, took the trouble during the recess to investigate the matter at issue. Everyone listened with great interest to what you said with further reference to your ruling and I felt the words used by Mr. Condon, "I voice the opinion of members of the Opposition when I say we greatly appreciate your action"—were completely expressive of my opinions. I fully agree with the views expressed by Mr. Rowe and, indeed, he completely removed the necessity for any further reference to the subject. In the absence of Mr. Cudmore, whose name was used last week, I am bound to say that should the necessity arise for him to refer to the point at issue he will be able to deal quite effectively with it. For me it supplied yet another example of the extreme care always taken by you in vindicating the rights of the Chamber whose privileges are so confidently reposed in your care. I support the motion.

The Hon. A. A. HOARE secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.5 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, August 1, at 2 p.m.